

» Marie Curie Hospice Winter Fair Picture special



■ Sophie Shulman, nine, and Eliza Copland, eight, guess the weight of the cow



■ Alison Cork with her son Ethan, seven, opens the Winter Fair at Marie Curie Hampstead Hospice



■ Janet Byrne with her Christmas tree fairies

Fundraisers' ideal winter warmer for hospice care

Delight as fair makes a record-breaking £5,000

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» Marie Curie Hospice in Hampstead raised a record amount at its winter fair so it can continue providing free care to those at the end of their lives.

Alison Cork, the home expert on ITV's *This Morning*, and a *Ham&High* columnist, opened the event in Lyndhurst Gardens on Saturday.

The event went on to raise an amazing £5,000, which is more than the fair has ever generated in its seven years.

Natasha Sadaoui, community fundraiser at Marie Curie, hailed it as a "huge success".

She said: "It went really well.

"It was brilliant to raise more than we have ever raised before.

"We were very well supported with donations by the community and local businesses, and we're very grateful to all our sponsors and those who came along."

Enthusiasm

Stalls sold toys and gifts and hourly raffles kept the excitement going, with the prizes including restaurant and cinema vouchers.

Another highlight was the ever-popular mulled wine made by dedicated hospice worker Ken Gardner whose "secret ingredient" continues to elude and entice.

Entertainment included an Irish band and songs from the Angels of Chaos choir.

The success of the day was attributed to the hard work of members from the fundraising group, who organise a summer and a winter fair each year.

"This year they have really pulled out the stops and we've had the most donations ever," said Miss Sadaoui.

"They never seem to run out of ideas or enthusiasm."

The £5,000 raised will go towards the £5.3million annual cost of running the Hampstead hospice, so it can continue to provide free end-of-life care for cancer sufferers and people with terminal illnesses.



■ A mother and daughter at the fair



■ Sisters Suzi Lewisohn and Jill Lubetkin, of Betty Vintage Knits



■ Carrie Rose paints the face of volunteer Graham Robertson at the Winter Fair



■ Alyson Walsh, left, Helen Duncan (Property Divas), Alison Cork and Sharron Nachoom (Property Divas) Property Divas sponsored the event