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Holiday park gives £30,000 boost to cancer charity

More than £30,000 has been raised to help people with cancer after a caravan community pulled out all the stops to make a difference.

From pulling 18-seater coaches to building cowboy-themed wagons, caravan owners at Bunn Leisure Holiday Park in Selsey have put their heart and soul into helping MacMillan with a variety of money-spinners.

The fundraising drive has taken place over three years, raising well over £30,000.

The first year raised £10,000, last year's effort raised £11,000 and this year the team have surpassed all expectations by amassing a whopping £12,000.

The team comprises around 20 caravan owners at the coastal resort in West Sussex, helped along by the hundreds of holiday makers who get involved with some of the fundraising activities during their stay.

Lynn Higginbottom, 60, a grandmother-of-three and hospital healthcare assistant from Windsor, said this year's record amount has taken dedication.

"We give our lives up for six months," said Lynn.

"Every weekend is for MacMillan.

"Every Saturday we are at the doorway selling tickets for the main draw.

"Nobody knows how much we have collected until the grand total is totted up in August.

"When we saw the final amount, we were so chuffed.

"We are a group of women who do all the organising – it's a fantastic team and we all work together."

One of the big fundraisers this year was a MacMillan coffee morning, with a variety of raffle prizes.

A local pottery school made up clocks featuring the Bunn Leisure Bunnies and an auction of the clocks raised more than £1,000.

Meanwhile, a charity walk around the holiday park took on a 'Cowboy and Indians' theme with scores of people dressing up for the occasion.

"One of the guys, Rob Marchant, built the wagon out of a double bed," laughed Lynn.

"It looked amazing!"

Another memorable money-spinner involved an 18-seater coach – donated by caravan owner Barry Allenby – being pulled along a three-mile route.

A charity football match saw caravan owners take on staff to raise cash.

Meanwhile, caravan owner and mum-of-two Samantha Gwyn-Griffith, from Bracknell, ran four marathons this year. She donated all her sponsorship to MacMillan, but as part of a separate fund to the £12,000.

Lynn said there had been lots of laughs this year, as well as emotion.

“So many people have been touched by cancer,” she said.

“We just thought it was a marvellous cause.

“It’s a cause close to many people’s hearts.

“I lost my mum to cancer and MacMillan were brilliant.

“When you are there with a bucket, people come up to you with so many stories. They come up and thank you for your help.”

Other caravan owners who have been instrumental in the fundraising include Sam Tobin, who organises the cake stall, Abby Gardner, and Georgina Hillier.

John Bunn, director of Bunn Leisure, said: “We are over the moon that our caravan owners, helped by our guests, have raised a phenomenal amount for MacMillan.

“It makes us very proud.”

The fundraisers are now preparing for next year’s effort when they would like to help MacMillan, as well as another charity to be decided at a later date.

Bunn Leisure is an award-winning holiday park which has won top prizes in Tourism South East’s Beautiful South Awards for Excellence for four years running.

For more information, see www.bunnleisure.co.uk or call the booking line on 01243 606080



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