

30 July 2009

## Good news for local charity

There were dark clouds in the sky, but the sun shone on the Wimbledon Village Fair in June.

Russell Humphreys, CEO of the Wimbledon Guild, reports that despite fears for the fundraising climate, the Fair brought in a very respectable contribution to funds of over £30,000.

“It’s down on last year, because of the inevitable drop in sponsorship and programme advertising – it’s thanks to the steadfast support of local people, especially the businesses, and of course our Fair organiser Jane Bretton’s determined efforts that we had any sponsorship and advertising at all in such a difficult year. Our staff and volunteers worked fantastically hard, so that the stalls were sold out far in advance, and the money we took on the day, such as from the raffle, was as good or better than ever.”

The Fair’s success means that many vital services can carry on at the same level. Many people aren’t aware of how much the Guild does in our area: here are just two examples.

Two teenaged sisters found safety at a local women’s refuge after being abused by their father and brother. They had no confidence, no money and nowhere else to go. The girls were given donated clothing, as well as food from the Harvest Festival and thoughtful gifts from the Christmas collection. Three years on, and after help from the Guild’s counselling service, the sisters have been provided with accommodation by the council, which the Guild has helped to furnish with donations collected from local people.

Pensioners Mr & Mrs F’s cooker was condemned by British Gas on a routine visit. They ate cold food only for some time. As well as providing a new, safe cooker, the Guild guided the couple to the many low-cost social and activity clubs for older people. Once a week, the new cooker has a rest, as Mr & Mrs F enjoy a hot lunch with new friends in Guild House.

“We’re proud that we can help local people in so many different ways” says Russell, “and we know that many would really suffer if we had to cut back in any of the areas.”

*To make a donation or find out more about the Wimbledon Guild, please call 020 8946 0735, or see [www.wimbledonguild.co.uk](http://www.wimbledonguild.co.uk)*