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BETTY'S LEGACY

COUNTY SHOW
See centre page spread

A Nottingham woman passed away recently leaving a generous donation to the care home in which she spent her final years

By Gemma Allen
Betty Swift was 94 when she sadly passed away, whilst living at the Oaks Residential Care home in St Ann's and she certainly left with positive feelings about the care she received having left £2,400 of her savings to the centre in her Will.

Betty first moved to the centre after falling at home and spending some time in hospital back in 2012 and The Oaks worked with Betty to get her back onto her feet again and confidently. Unfortunately after another fall it was decided that a

care home was the safest and most suitable option for her. The fiercely independent Betty insisted on moving back to The Oaks residential care home because she had received such good care there previously and had a truly positive experience.

The home provides care for those with or without diagnoses of dementia and evidently provides excellent levels of service. Betty had written in her Will that when she passed away, she wanted her remaining money to be paid as a donation to the care home as her wish was to support the centre in providing the excellent levels of care she had received throughout her time at The Oaks Residential Centre.

Armandeep Bhattal, manager at The Oaks, said: "We are extremely thankful that Betty would leave us such an important legacy, the money will really make a difference to our resident's lives, not just now but in the future. Betty's daughter Gina met with me to talk about the donation and the great work that the centre had done for her mum. She told me the staff here really helped to

wheelchairs which will mean that residents can get out on trips, due to the chairs being up to safety standards and the rest will be spent on improvements to the outside social area.

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Celebrity Visit

Armandeep Bhattal, manager at The Oaks, said: "We are extremely thankful that Betty would leave us such an important legacy, the money will really make a difference to our resident's lives, not just now but in the future. Betty's daughter Gina met with me to talk about the donation and the great work that the centre had done for her mum. She told me the staff here really helped to improve Betty's life and indeed prolonged it." With Betty's selfless donation, the centre is planning to spend the money on 6 new



SEE PAGE 31

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Nottinghamshire **FOCUS** 31

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Celebrity Guest

Pupils at Hollygitt School were treated to a special celebrity visit last week from former Blue Peter presenter Helen Skelton

By Gemma Allen

The School won a national competition as part of this year's Red Nose Day activities that required schools to submit photos of their pupil's funniest faces and wackiest hair from Red Nose Day, plus a 250 word summary of what the school did to mark the day.

Hollygitt's entry was picked as the overall winner out of over 20 entries across the country and the grand prize was a visit from the Comic Relief supporter and former Blue Peter presenter, Helen Skelton.

During Helen's visit, pupils welcomed her with beautiful songs performed by the Junior School choir, a wonderful assembly where the children were able to ask Helen about her personal achievements and her fundraising for Comic Relief. She was treated to a celebrity lunch with pupils in the winning photographs. The day ended with a showcase Geography lesson led by Mrs Howlett and supported by Helen. Pupils in Year 5-8 were split into teams and asked to consider the essential supplies they would need to take on an expedition to one of eight extreme environments, for a challenge similar to the one's Helen has done. They could only choose 5 essential items to take with them. Helen helped the children with their ideas and was greatly impressed by their final presentations.

All of the pupils were in awe of everything Helen had to share with them in the assembly, she was a truly motivational speaker, sharing her tales of running 80 miles in under 24 hours, explaining not to put your energy into proving someone wrong but to instead force that energy into

what you are doing. The pupils at Hollygitt School are brilliantly motivated already so I can only imagine how meeting Helen will push them even further.

Helen told the Nottinghamshire in Focus: "The kids here are great, what a lovely school to be part of, it seems like a lovely atmosphere, the kids have been telling me about their Comic Relief day and that for

we appreciate that it can sometimes be difficult, which is why we try our best to make it fun with Comic Relief. Teachers have a lot of work to do and we know how busy they are so that's why we hope that fundraising for Comic Relief is fun, not a chore. Let your hair down, lighten the mood and have a laugh." "I haven't had much experience of independent schools but I am blown away



them it just seemed like a lot of fun." I asked Helen what she would recommend to any schools that may be thinking about fundraising. She explained: "These days there are so many calls from charities to fundraise and

and impressed by Hollygitt School." explained Helen. "There's a lot of pressure on teachers and education and here they seem to be dealing with that in a very determined and unique way so I am really impressed."



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