

Community

Christmas hampers form part of lessons for life

TWELVE Year 7 children from Friesland School, Sandiacre, said they felt "privileged" to have been chosen to visit Venn Court, Beeston, to present Christmas hampers, a gift from the school to the Venn Court Friendship Club.

There are 240 pupils in the year group, and several hampers containing non-perishable foodstuffs and other items had been created, thanks to donations and contributions from

parents and children as part of the year group's PHSE curriculum.

Form Tutor Mrs Anna Brealey said: "The Christmas hampers were put together by the year group over a few days and, in order to select the young people who would deliver them, we asked them to write a letter explaining why they felt they in particular should be chosen to visit Venn Court."

Margaret Bowen organises the Venn Court Friendship

Club through the Helpful Bureau, Stapleford. She said: "The Club is one of the many activities run by The Helpful Bureau every Monday.

"The school approached our Community Outreach Adviser, Ann Rigby, with the idea of giving hampers to vulnerable older adults. However, we have 1,380 on our database and couldn't just pick out a few.

"The Venn Court Friendship Group is probably

one of our most frail and vulnerable groups, and we generally get between 15 and 20 attend each week. So we thought it would be easier for the kids and the ladies to all be in one place at one time," and a solution to the logistical dilemma was found.

Pupil Alice Smith (11) said: "Venn Court is clearly a warm and caring place, and I feel very privileged to be here." Her friend, Georgina Chapman, also 11, agreed.

"It's nice to be helpful," she said, "and I particularly wanted to be here to see the expression on the ladies' faces when they opened the boxes."

Friendship Club member Pearl Wilkinson was delighted to discover, amongst other things, a box of 80 tea bags nestling in her box. She said: "I've got a bit of a reputation for using each of my teabags three times – my friends here rib me relentlessly – and I'm

delighted to have a fresh supply!"

Pupil Georgina Chapman quickly calculated that Mrs Wilkinson had received enough tea bags for a further 240 cups of tea.

After sharing afternoon refreshments at Venn Court, the young people wished the ladies of the Friendship Club a happy Christmas before heading back to school in the school's mini-bus.

'Goodwill to all' as boxes of Christmas cheer delivered to local care homes

Bramwell Care Home

COLLEAGUES from Sainsbury's at Beeston visited Bramwell Care Home for Older People at Bramcote earlier this week to deliver delightful hampers of Christmas goodies and gorgeous bouquets of flowers – roses and lilies – which had been donated by staff at the store to bring Christmas cheer to residents and day visitors at the centre on Chilwell Lane.

The hampers and flowers were to be raffled at Bramwell through the sale of tickets to visitors and residents, thus raising funds for extra resources for the people at the centre, many of whom have dementia or Alzheimer's.

Nina Morley is one of two Team Leaders at the Centre. She said: "We would like to say a big 'thank you' to the Sainsbury's colleagues for the great support they give us here at Bramwell, both for these Christmas hampers and flowers, and for their support for our Christmas Fair, where we raised a wonderful £735. The Centre has been open for six years now, and Sainsbury's colleagues have supported us ever since we opened. We can't thank them enough."

There is talk at Notts County Council that the Bramwell Care Home will be sold off to private investors, along with 12 other homes across the county, to save money in the council's coffers. Signatures

are being collected on a petition at the home.

Challenge House

The next port of call for the Sainsbury's colleagues – Amanda Oliver, Alison Johnson, Debbie Kirby and Wendy Marson – was Challenge House in Beeston, the Red Cross care home for residents with learning disabilities.

The home, on Devonshire Avenue, Beeston, has 14 full time residents and three respite visitors. This is the first year that Sainsbury's has supported the home, and Challenge House manager Sharon McCluskey was delighted with the gifts donated. She said: "Thanks to the Christmas treats in the

hampers and the beautiful flowers, Christmas will be just that little bit extra special for our residents this year. I would like to thank everyone at Sainsbury's who has contributed, and say 'thank you' for thinking of us."

Attenborough Nativity and Church Fayre

ATTENBOROUGH Church Pre-School held its annual Nativity and Fayre on Saturday, December 5.

The Fayre was a great success, enjoyed by the families and friends of the group. Raffle prizes included

a luxury hamper, and there was tombola to be enjoyed, along with face painting, cake stalls, refreshments and things made by the children for parents to buy.

The organisers would like to thank everyone who made

donations to make the event such a success.

Spokeswoman Sharon Briggs said: "A huge thank you to all involved and to everyone who continues to support us!"