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WEEKEND

Southsea skatepark born again

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Fabulous costumes get a second lease of life with kids' drama group



MOVING ON
Val Higham with some of the costumes Below, handing them to Pam Marshall

by ELISE BREWERTON

The News
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MORE THAN 100 intricately made theatre costumes have been given to a young drama group – thanks to *The News*.

Val Higham appealed to readers for a special theatre group to donate the handmade costumes too after she decided to retire from helping out her local theatre group.

The 63-year-old was inundated with requests but it was Youngstars, who raise money for Hannah's Holiday Home, who impressed her most.

The charity was set up by Pam Marshall in memory of her daughter Hannah Westbrook, who died aged 10 after suffering from Hodgkin's disease.

Mrs Marshall and drama teacher Sue Stokes are now in possession of dozens of fairy costumes, kings, queens, some court jesters and a Friar Tuck outfit.

Mrs Higham, from Westbourne, said: 'I had at least

Fairies, kings queens and jesters outfits are given to Youngstars group

half a dozen calls after I was featured in *The News* – it was an amazing response.

'We've managed to find them a good home where they will be well used and well looked after.

'We had a lot of interest but I was struck with Hannah's Holiday Home. Pam and Sue are so enthusiastic and Pam does a really splendid job.

'I've told them my husband and I would love to go along to the productions. We can't wait to see the costumes on stage.'

Hannah, pictured, died in 2004 after battling cancer for two years. Her mum set about raising enough money to buy a holiday home in a picturesque corner of the New Forest where families of children who are ill can get away from it all and relax together.

Each February Youngstars put on a big show with a week-long run to aid for the holiday

home. This year they handed over a cheque for £2,000.

Mrs Marshall, from Horn-dean, said: 'The costumes are really good. It's truly amazing to have them.

'Val gave us so much, including yards and yards of fabric and props. They're all so well made. We've invited her along to the next show.'

In return for the costumes Mrs Higham accepted a donation to Help for Heroes and Canine Partners.

The Youngstars meet at Cowplain Social Club every Monday from 6.30pm to 8pm for four to 18-year-olds.

We can't wait to see them on stage

Val Higham



Firm raises cash for The Rowans

COLLEAGUES of a Fareham man who received care at The Rowans Hospice have raised thousands of pounds for the Dorothy's Dream appeal in his memory.

Staff at Grant Thornton began fundraising for the appeal after colleague Danny McMullan, 59, from Fareham, died from terminal cancer.

They have held numerous fundraisers and collected donations and have so far raised £2,250.

The most recent event was a charity quiz which 40 employees attended and helped raise more than £250. Other fundraisers have included sponsored silences and events in the pipeline include football matches, and fundraisers for employees, clients and the public.

Jennie Cook, from Grant Thornton, is leading the charity campaign. She said: 'We are delighted and we are well on track to reach our goal of £10,000 by the end of the year, if not sooner.'

Man admits to damage at shop

A MAN has been fined for criminal damage at a shop.

Richard Mordle, from Billy Lawn Avenue, Havant, pleaded guilty to damaging a door and bottles of drink at the One Stop store in Middle Park Way, Havant, on April 11.

The 47-year-old was given a six-month conditional discharge and told to pay £50 compensation to the shop by Portsmouth magistrates.

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