

FORDINGBRIDGE: Charity to benefit after special edition bottle sells for a fortune

Cheers to £42,000 bottle of whisky

AS drinks go, they do not come much more pricey than this – and you definitely wouldn't want to buy a round.

With a price tag of £42,000 a bottle of whisky has become one of the most expensive drinks in the world.

Although buying the bottle may have set one firm back almost the price of a new BMW X5 it has helped a Hampshire charity with its work in the Third World.

The bid by the World Duty Free Group was for one of 11 bottles of Glenfiddich, a 55-year-old single malt commemorating the life of Janet Sheed Roberts, granddaughter of the distillery's founder, William Grant. Janet reached the age of 110, the oldest



By Echo reporter

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living woman in Scotland, before she died last month.

The money was given to Women in Travel, which chose the Fordingbridge-based Lotus Flower Trust as its beneficiary.

Surprisingly, the special edition Glenfiddich is not the most expensive bottle of whisky ever. The last bottle of The Dalmore 62, released from the personal collection of master distiller Richard Paterson, was sold at Changi Airport in Singapore last September for £125,000.

The trust was set up by John Hunt, 71, towards his projects,

TRUST FOUNDER: John Hunt who set up the Lotus

Flower Trust and, right, the very expensive bottle of whisky.

which have seen him building homes and schools in the remotest and most poverty-stricken regions.

Mr Hunt, a former Army captain and Marks & Spencer boss who lives in Hyde, in the New Forest, founded the trust three years ago. He has since spent three months a year in India overseeing projects and meeting the children he hopes to benefit.

In that time he has helped create more than 15 schools and buildings. He is currently working on building a home and school for 50 to 100 mentally and physically disabled children in the foothills of the Himalayas, which will enable them to attend school for the first time.

The foundations are being dug and it is hoped it will be open by November. To find out more about how to get involved in the Trust, go to lotusflowertrust.org, or contact Mr Hunt on 01425 650498, or at johnhuntingto@lotusflowertrust.org.



Inspector throws out depot plan

CONTRVERSIAL plans to transform a commercial site in a New Forest town have been thrown out following a three-day public inquiry.

Government-appointed planning inspector Colin Bell has rejected an application to redevelop a building supply depot in Grove Road, Lynton, by building 23 flats and houses on the land.

He ruled that the proposed development would harm the distinctive character and appearance of the area, which is next to a conservation zone.

The applicant, Pennyfarthing Homes, lodged an appeal after New Forest District Council rejected the original proposal last year.

Objectors attending the public inquiry in March claimed that the new homes would create extra traffic problems in the area. They also warned that some of the properties would be too close to Alma House, a Grade II listed building.

The land is currently occupied by builders' merchant Travis Perkins, which is planning to move to a larger site on the edge of Lynton.