

PICTURE: SAM STEPHENSON

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ICING ON THE CAKE: Prize winners Charlie Robinson, left, and Harrison King with their books

Bat interest wins boys book and bakery goodies

A CHILDREN'S book and a box of cakes and biscuits were snapped up by two young prize winners.

Charlie Robinson and Harrison King saw off competition from scores of entries around the county to win first prize.

The competition was run by Forfars Bakers, who joined forces with local

author Emma Andrews to offer children a chance to win a signed copy of her book, *The Adventures of Baby Bat*.

Charlie, five, and Harrison, four, had to answer an online question about when bats are awake and were entered into a draw.

The pair collected their prizes when

they visited the Forfars Bakery in Market Street, Brighton.

Marketing manager Patrick Sandford said: "They had a great time.

"As well as picking up their books we gave them a chance to fill up a box with any cakes and biscuits they wanted, which they enjoyed very much."

Family flee fire which wrecked loft

A FAMILY were left in shock after a fire in their home.

East Sussex Fire and Rescue Service crews were called to the terraced house in Sussex Street, Brighton, at about 8.25pm on Sunday.

Fire crews said a mother and her three children escaped the building as the fire, which started in a converted loft, spread.

Four appliances attended the fire that destroyed one bedroom.

A spokesman said: "The family were suffering shock but they did not go to hospital.

"The flames were coming from the roof quite severely. It was a serious fire."

He said the blaze was started accidentally but investigating officers are still trying to establish what caused it.

Hippodrome tales in book

MORE than a century of backstage tales have been collected for a new book.

The Heyday of the Hippodrome tells the story of Eastbourne's oldest theatre.

Mark Jones, the theatre's former front-of-house manager, will launch his book at the Seaside Road venue from 6.30pm on November 18.

Care worker's strenuous denial Theory 'sick and stupid'

by REBECCA EVANS

A CARE worker said it was "sick" to suggest she killed an elderly resident by setting her room on fire so she could "act the heroine".

Rebecca Reasbeck, 20, told police she would never harm 85-year-old dementia sufferer Irene Herring. She said the claims against her were "sick - plain and simple".

Bedridden Mrs Herring was rescued by firefighters from her top-floor room at Ancaster Court in Hastings Road, Bexhill, on February 1, 2009.

She was treated by paramedics and taken to Conquest Hospital in St Leonards but died of pneumonia brought on by smoke inhalation the following day.

Yesterday police statements given by Miss Reasbeck after she was arrested during which she strenuously denied starting the fire



COURT: Reasbeck

were read out at Lewes Crown Court.

On the day of the fire she said she smelt a "Tarmacing, plasticky smell" but presumed it came from roadworks being carried out nearby.

Asked by police in interview whether she started the fire but had not intended to kill Mrs Herring, Miss Reasbeck said: "I didn't intend to do anything because I didn't do it."

Pressed further, Miss Reasbeck was asked whether she had tried to "act the heroine"

so that she could have been seen to have saved Mrs Herring.

Reasbeck told officers: "I have never heard anything so stupid in my life and I'm sorry if that sounds nasty. It's sick - plain and simple."

Miss Reasbeck, of London Road, St Leonards, denies the manslaughter of Mrs Herring, who was unable to communicate verbally after a series of strokes.

Prosecutors say she started the fire deliberately in two separate places at the Bupa-run care home when she was aged 17.

Jurors have been told that the fire raged out of control, generating so much smoke in the three-storey building that none of the staff could reach Mrs Herring.

Firefighters arrived and rescued her from the room and she was rushed to hospital, where she died at 6.45am the next day with her husband by her side.

The trial continues.

Road safety show tour

A HARD-HITTING stage show aimed at reducing the number of people killed on the roads is touring Sussex.

Safe Drive Stay Alive combines film footage with real life stories of people who have been affected by car crashes.

The show was launched by West Sussex Fire and Rescue Service, Sussex Police, South East Coast Ambulance Service and the NHS in 2006.

Chris Bowles, the fire service's watch manager for safer communities, said: "Safe Drive Stay Alive tackles many of the common dangers for young people - bowing to peer pressure,

drink driving, speeding, not wearing seat belts, the distraction of mobile phones - but it is delivered in an engaging way that the students can really relate to.

"The show has a very emotional impact on the audience because the speakers who come on stage and share their experiences aren't actors, they are the people who have been directly affected by, or seen first hand, the devastating consequences of a car crash."

For more information on where the show is touring visit www.westsussex.gov.uk/fire or call 01243 642878.

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