

Katy's name day

BY SOPHIE HAZAN

STORIES of days gone by have inspired the naming of an ultra-modern £5m health centre for Armley.

Over the years Katy Howarth, now 15, who lives in Armley, Leeds, has heard countless tales of Armley Moor –the oldest part of the town – from her grandmother Elaine Jennison, 57.

Invitation

So a competition inviting pupils from local schools to choose a name for the new health centre on Armley Town Street hardly stretched the West Leeds High pupil's imagination.

To her amazement her entry won and the Armley Moor Health Centre, which looks out over the moor, was officially opened yesterday by John Battle, Labour MP for West Leeds.

Elaine, who once lived on the site where the centre was built but now lives on The Wythers, told the Yorkshire Evening Post: "Armley Moor is a very important part of the town. It belongs to the people and I think this building is just fantastic for the town."

The centre would bring nurses, dentists, doctors and specialist services including speech therapy, a pharmacy and minor surgery clinics, to an area that needs it, said Coun Janet Harper (Armley, Labour) at the ceremony. People in the town have a life expectancy on average that is 15 years shorter than in nearby Calverley – a gap the councillor hopes will be closed with the opening of the health centre.

It was a milestone in the regeneration of the area, said Mr Battle, who praised the world-class facilities which will reduce the number of people travelling into the city centre for treatment.

The building is a first step for the West Leeds Gateway regeneration scheme, which is anticipated will attract £72m in public and private money to the area, bringing an improved railway station, shopping parking and access to Armley.

Mr Battle said: "Our new health centre proves that the NHS provision can really be locally provided and it is a tremendous boost of confidence in Armley and West Leeds."

Part of the new building is the Armley Moor Children's Centre, run by Leeds City Council's Early Years Service.

It offers an extra 80 childcare places for children aged three months to five years.

Katy also won prize money for herself and her school.

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HEALTHY OUTLOOK:
Leeds West MP John Battle
with Katy Howarth who
officially named the Armley
Moor Health Centre

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