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Big Winners: Shirley Stewart, 75 (left) and fellow People's Postcode Lottery winner Denise Howard, 62 with Lottery ambassador Judie McCourt.

**Shirley Stewart had always dreamed of going to Disneyland but couldn't scrape together enough money to fund her trip.** At 75, the retired dinner lady was beginning to think she'd never get to see the world. But thanks to a spectacular £71,427 win with People's Postcode Lottery she's now planning the holiday of a life-time!

Shirley was one of 15 lucky winners whose postcode scooped a share of a £1 million European Postcode Millions prize pot. She said: "My luck has really turned round! Now I can afford a passport - and my first stop will be Disneyland Paris!" Shirley also plans to make a donation to the local St Catherine's Hospice where she volunteers.

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# How could my normal girl become a drug addict at 14?

**EXCLUSIVE:** She had the perfect childhood, but at just 14, Lottie Pauling became a heroin addict. After spending £1,000 a week on drugs she finally turned her life around.. By Amanda Revell Walton

Britain's **BEST** real life

**Lottie Pauling had what most people would call an idyllic childhood. Loving parents, a nice home and close friends at school.** So when she ran away at 14, her family were distraught. But worse was to come.

Within months, Lottie was addicted to heroin and begging on the streets to fund her next drugs fix.

At the lowest point of her addiction, 5ft 11in Lottie weighed just six stone and was spending £1,000 a week on drugs. She was sent to prison seven times.

So what went so wrong for the once so promising teenager? Lottie, now 23, thinks the problems started when her parents split up 10 years ago.

Mum Kay, a company hire coordinator, went to live with new partner Phil Bennett, who she later married.

Her little brother Thomas, then nine, moved in with them while Lottie opted to stay with her dad, who is a farmer.

"For me it was a complete no-brainer," she says. "I loved living with my dad."

But that all changed when Lottie was 13 and she moved from her dad's home in the countryside to live with her mum on a housing estate in Witney, Oxfordshire.

Within a year, as she struggled to adjust, Lottie started experimenting with drugs.

"Mum and me started to drift apart," she recalls.

"I started to hang around with older kids who were doing drugs such as cannabis, coke, and pills.

"My stepdad and I were arguing all the time and I blamed



medics on their way to work," she recalls. "It was horrendous, I was terrified."

After that ordeal Lottie, then 17, agreed to go home to her mum's.

"It did no good," admits Kay. "Phil and Thomas couldn't deal with her behaviour so she left again. I said to her, 'I don't particularly like you, but I'll never stop loving you. I'll always be here for you.'"

Back on the streets, Lottie turned her hand to begging once more.

"I was good at it," she says. "People saw me as this well-educated girl sitting on the street and they'd chat and give me money."

"Within half an hour I could have £20 in my pocket. I slept in car parks, doorways, hostels, sheds. By now my addiction was so bad I was ill all the time."

"My skin was horrendous. I was covered in track marks - you could follow my veins by the dots marking my skin. It was like a road map."

When Lottie was 19 she signed up to a methadone programme to try and come off heroin and Kay allowed her to come home.

But one day Kay discovered £1,000 had been withdrawn from her bank account.

"I felt sick when I realised it was Charlotte," says Kay. "I'd thought I could cure her addiction myself, obviously I couldn't."

Unbelievably, despite her addiction, Lottie managed to get four GCSEs through an Oxford college course for homeless people and even got through to the second round of TV show X Factor.

But her success was short-lived. Despite battling to get off heroin, she couldn't break from its grip.

"At my worst I was spending £1,000 a week on drugs," she says. "I was making more money than people who worked, only I was waking up clucking for drugs."

"I didn't feel happy or sad or lonely or even hot or cold. I didn't feel anything."

Kay heard scraps of news about her daughter from friends of friends, and once even heard Lottie had died after suffering an overdose.

"I was frantic," she says. "I rang round everyone we knew until, to my utter relief, I found out she wasn't dead. She was in prison."

Lottie describes her time behind bars as a respite, but admits she was back on drugs as soon as she got out.

One day, Kay opened the paper to find a mugshot of Lottie staring back at her, with an article about her daughter - breaking an Asbo by begging. "I felt sick," says Kay.



"I also felt totally inadequate as a mother. I blamed myself and ended up having a nervous breakdown."

Not long after she turned 21, Lottie came to the attention of filmmaker Gordon Wilson and she agreed to be filmed for a documentary. It was to prove to be a turning point.

In August last year, Lottie made the decision to turn her life around for good.

"I think the film helped me to come off heroin because it gave me purpose and made me think, 'My mum will see this one day'. I didn't want the story to end with me dying."

So Lottie sought help again. In November she was given keys to a council flat in Oxford and three months later she called her mum.

Kay says: "My immediate thought was, 'Thank God, she's alive!' As I listened to her chatter I was blown away - she actually sounded normal. When she said she loved me, it melted my heart."

Kay arranged to see Lottie sing at a pub gig in Oxford.

"It was emotional seeing her for the first time in four years," says Kay. "I was a blubbering wreck because I was so proud of her performance."

Lottie adds: "When I came off stage I hugged mum and told her I was sorry."

"That's why my singing is important - it's something for her to be proud of."

Lottie is now preparing to do more gigs and is also making a CD of her work.

The premiere of her documentary, Lottie's Story, will be held in London this month.

Kay says: "It's been a long roller-coaster ride, but at least Charlotte is happy and healthy; that's all I've ever wanted."

"I never thought this would happen to me and my family, but it did."

"If it happened to me, it can happen to anyone."



BRIGHT FUTURE: Lottie shortly before she started using drugs