

HEALTH MATTERS

The newsletter of **The WPH Charitable Trust** – A charity supporting health related projects for individuals, groups and organisations across Coventry and Warwickshire

WPH trust helps make life easier for William

A £10,000 grant from the WPH Charitable Trust has helped make a huge difference to little William Lamont and his family.

William, of Church Lawford, was about six weeks old when his parents Emma Hawkins and Paul Lamont started noticing problems with his development.

Now aged 5 he spent the first 12 months of his life being closely monitored by paediatricians. Shortly after his first birthday he was diagnosed with a rare genetic disorder, Kleeftstra Syndrome which causes intellectual disability.

Following WPH's £10,000

donation, William's family were able to proceed with a purpose-built, £58,000 ground floor bedroom and adjoining wet room allowing William more independence in his own home.

The couple received a £35,000 disability funding grant, on the condition they raised the remaining £23,000 themselves.

Emma said: "As William started to grow it became increasingly difficult to carry him upstairs



and even if I could have continued, it was still a danger to both William and me."

Adaptations for William include an adjustable high low bed with a ramp, a high low sink with stand support, a hoist, a toilet chair fitted over his toilet, and a stretcher table over his bath. Doorways have been widened and the

driveway and front door entrance improved.

Emma added: "These adaptations have made it so much easier for us in our daily lives. Daily tasks such as putting him to bed, bathing him and helping him around the house are no longer any more of a struggle for us than they would be for any other family."

Two life-saving defibrillators for Coventry Cathedral



WPH Charitable Trust has given Coventry Cathedral £4,200 to buy two defibrillators, as well as some First Aid units, 3 wheelchairs and a tri-wheel evacuation chair to help people up and down

the stairs in case of an emergency.

An existing device was purchased by the Freeman's Guild following the death of one of their members from a heart

attack during a concert at the Cathedral.

WPH's donation follows an incident in which a second man almost died in the Cathedral last year.

The Dean of Coventry, the Very Reverend John Witcombe, noted that with more than 300,000 visitors each year there was a need to have a more concentrated coverage of the area.

One of the new devices will be used inside the Cathedral, while the other will be used within the vicinity of the ruins.

Dean Witcombe said: "I am hoping that we never have to use these new life saving devices, but it is a great comfort to know that all our many visitors have access to the latest version of this amazing equipment."

TAMMY'S SOUND SLEEP

The family of a young Kineton girl living with a range of special needs have been awarded £3,269 to help improve her quality of sleep. The money has been used for the purchase of a safety sleeper for 12 year old Tammy O'Sullivan.

It means Tammy and her family can now look forward to a trip to Disney with mum Becky saying the safety sleeper should help Tammy sleep more safely and comfortably at night.



She said: "Up until now, when we have gone away on family holidays it's been hard as there are no beds to suit Tammy. She sometimes would end up rolling off the bed, so usually I would have to sleep in with her but that was never ideal

"With the safety sleeper she can sleep better on her own, I know she's safe."

Becky said this had been the third time she had received financial help from the WPH Charitable Trust having previously paid for a P Pod – a big bean bag with moulded seating which provides postural support for disabled children or adults – and a postural chair for meal times.

PILGRIMS CHRISTIAN FARM

Animal therapy given a helping hand by WPH Charitable Trust

The Leamington-based Pilgrims Christian Community Farm, which uses horses to help provide therapy for adults and children with mental health difficulties, has been awarded £2,000.

The facility costs some £9,000 a year to run. The money will help meet the cost of sessions, each lasting between one and two hours, free to families or individuals attending the farm. Those who attend live with a range of issues including depression, anxiety, personality disorders and autism and can be of any age. Visitors can also benefit from interaction with any of Pilgrim's animals.

Run entirely by a team of volunteers, all funds raised



go directly to the animals' upkeep, or any other equipment or resource needed to run the sessions.

Alice Evans, who established Pilgrims with her husband Steve, said the object of the farm is to validate the difficulties and experiences of visitors, and to give them encouragement, helping them to make changes and improvements.

Drawing on their own previous experiences with mental health issues, the volunteers have devised a series of activities with the horses to explain techniques used in psychological therapies. This enables people to understand more about their own difficulties and gain the confidence to try new strategies.

Alice said: "Here, in a safe environment, we teach people how to communicate and interact with the animals, which is particularly important for those with autism. We provide a facility in which people can be fully involved and valued in their own little community."

The historic Lord Leycester Hospital has been awarded £50,000 from the WPH Charitable Trust



Founded almost 450 years ago by Robert Dudley, Earl of Leicester, the aim was to help 'Poor and Impotent Persons...as shall be hereafter maimed or hurt in the Wars, in the service of the Queen's Majesty, her heirs and successors'.

The money will go towards renovating a self-contained home for a wounded ex-serviceman within the buildings in Warwick town centre.

Currently eight Brethren, all ex-service personnel, live in the flats – and one

wounded warrior, John Dawson, a former Guardsman who was shot in the head whilst on duty in the Helmand Province, Afghanistan, in 2012.

Heidi Meyer, the Lord Leycester Hospital's first female Master, said working in partnership with organisations such as SSAFA, Help For Heroes and Blesma, the Hospital aims to provide more accommodation for wounded warriors like John in the future.

"The £50,000 grant from WPH is fantastic as it allows us a start to provide the right accommodation for more wounded ex service personnel."