

# HEALTH MATTERS

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

## UPDATE FROM THE CHAIR

**As I write this we are in our second lockdown. Nonetheless we continue to operate as normal using Zoom conferences to make our committee decisions on grants.**

This is even more important at this time with grants to victims of domestic abuse to provide basic essentials moving into protected accommodation, and assisting families of disabled children and adults struggling to afford what most of us would regard as the basics at a time when family income has been impacted by Covid.

Local hospices have been struggling with a marked

reduction in income resulting from closure of their retail side and fundraising events being cancelled. As a result we have donated £25,000 to hospices in the area. We have over the last 18 months successfully reached many more individuals with health-related needs often with smaller grants but to great benefit as attested to by the many letters of thanks we receive often for the smallest amounts of money.



We are anxious to reach as large an audience as possible, so please do let friends, families and professionals know of the WPH Charitable Trust so that we can benefit more individuals in need within our local communities of Coventry and Warwickshire.

Our committee has a panel of medical experts and lay people so that you can be assured that charitable funds are distributed to those most in need.

Peter Handslip  
Chair

[WPH Charitable Trust](http://www.warwickshirehealthcharity.org.uk)

## WPH CHARITABLE TRUST HELPS TALENTED JAKE PURSUE HIS DREAM



**A teenager with autism who discovered a talent for drumming after struggling in mainstream education has been given a helping hand in pursuing his passion by the WPH Charitable Trust.**

The Trust paid almost £5,000 for an electric drum kit and a purpose-built shed for Jake Smith, who has a diagnosis of Autism Spectrum Condition.

Jake, now aged 19, shut himself away in his room between the ages of 13 and 14 after

struggling at secondary school. For two years he would sleep all day and stay awake all night.

Family liaison officers advised his mother Angie to take him to Leamington LAMP – a specialist centre which provides a creative environment for young people with Autism Spectrum Condition and anxiety, encouraging self-expression through the arts.

Then a new centre, Jake was amongst the first students and during his time there he has flourished.

He has gained a maths GCSE and Level 2 and Level 3 music qualifications, built a social circle and is regularly undertaking work experience with

Leamington music shop Dr-um.

Jake is now keen to pursue a career in music. His mother Angie said his progress since discovering the drums had been immeasurable.



**Do you know someone struggling with health related issues, who could benefit from additional financial support?**

**See our website for details of how to apply.**

[warwickshirehealthcharity.org.uk](http://www.warwickshirehealthcharity.org.uk)

## AWARD FOR WARWICK'S HIGHEST ACHIEVING STUDENT

Dr James Sweatman - Warwick Medical School's highest achieving graduate of 2020 - has been presented with an award by the WPH Charitable Trust.

The annual H Singh award is in memory of former trustee Harjinder Singh and is presented to Warwick Medical School's highest performing final-year student.

James, who graduated early so he could join the fight against Covid, said the award came as a complete surprise.

Now based at St George's Hospital in London, James said: "I was terrified when I joined medical school. My background was in history so I was worried I wouldn't even pass the first year exams.

"To go from that to winning the award was the icing on the cake. It reassured me that I'd made the right choice in becoming a doctor and I hope provides the confidence for others to do the same, whatever their background."

As well as three financial bursaries a year to Warwick Medical School students the Trust provides grants for medical research, buildings, equipment and other forms of medical care for residents of the region.



## £3,000 AWARDED TO BEELINE PATIENT TRANSPORT SERVICES

WPH has awarded £3,000 to a North Warwickshire community transport service taking patients to and from medical or healthcare appointments.

Atherstone-based Beeline Community Transport is open to anyone in the area, with one general requirement that they are

unable to get to and from appointments by any other means.

The service costs £18,000 to £20,000 annually, with grants and booking fees to help meet costs.

There are 27 volunteers, each with their own cars, who receive mileage expenses directly from service users.

The majority of bookings are for hospital appointments, doctors, chiropodists, dentists, physiotherapists and opticians. Beeline will also take service users to visit relatives or friends in hospitals or care homes and, if bookings are quiet, to clubs or social events, though healthcare appointments always take priority.

Gemma Wilson, co-ordinator, said: "We are grateful to WPH for this money and helping us to keep this vital service running. Last year we completed 3,573 journeys which shows there is a real need for such a service in North Warwickshire.

"Sadly it can get harder to raise funds. So to receive £3,000 gives us a good chunk of the money we need to keep going."

## HOSPICES THANK WPH FOR HELP DURING PANDEMIC

Hospice teams awarded £5,000 each from the WPH Charitable Trust to help meet extra demand and a substantial loss of income during the pandemic have spoken of their experiences.

The Trust made £25,000 available to be equally divided between The Myton Hospices in Coventry and South Warwickshire, The Mary Ann Evans Hospice in Nuneaton and North Warwickshire, The Shakespeare Hospice in Stratford, Zoë's Place Baby Hospice in Coventry, and Acorns Children's Hospice, for its children in Coventry and Warwickshire.

The awards came as the rising demand for services, coupled with the cancellation of events and closure of shops, resulted in added financial pressures.

WPH awarded the money to underpin the provision of care to patients at home.

Kay Greene is the Mary Ann Evans Hospice's director of clinical services.

She said the money had helped provide round-the-clock care for almost three times as many people as before the pandemic - adding this really would not have been possible without WPH's support.

Ruth Freeman is CEO of The Myton Hospices. She said its money was used for enhanced care by the Myton at Home team, particularly with more demand for care for patients in the last days or weeks of their lives.

She added: "Thank you to the WPH Charitable Trust for helping to make this possible."

Karen Davies, head of income generation at The Shakespeare Hospice in Stratford, said the spread of the virus had a 'devastating' impact on the ability to generate income for the hospice, with demand for services as high as ever.

She added: "The incredible donation from the WPH Charitable Trust helped to ensure we could continue supporting some of the most vulnerable people in our community - thank you."