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PRESS RELEASE

National award for midwives

Two midwives from Russells Hall Hospital have been given a national award after their intervention proved life-saving for a dad-to-be who attended a routine antenatal appointment.

Midwives Julie Hughes and Tracey Jones received the national Cavell Star Award from Anne Groucutt, after Julie and Tracey spotted that her son Sam Hutchins was clearly poorly and insisted he was seen by doctors straight away.

Sam, 24, of Quarry Bank, has been diagnosed with aplastic anaemia and mum Anne, a staff nurse at the hospital, says that without their action Sam would not be alive.

She nominated them for a Star Award from the Cavell Nurses' Trust and was delighted to make a surprise presentation to them.

"If it hadn't been for the midwives, Sam wouldn't be here today. They followed their gut instincts, and I cannot thank them enough," says Anne, who works on surgical outpatients. "I was thrilled when I got the call to say they had been approved for the award."

Edith Cavell was a British nurse during the First World War. She is celebrated for saving the lives of soldiers from both sides and in helping over 200 Allied soldiers escape from German-occupied Belgium. In 1915 she was put to death by a German firing squad, despite international pressure for mercy. In 1917 a fund was begun in her memory and this is now the Cavell Nurses' Trust.

The Trust provides help to nursing professionals in hardship but also has a national awards programme, Cavell Star Awards, which are given to nurses, midwives, nursing associates and healthcare assistants who shine bright and show exceptional care.

Sam, who is a chef at Hickory's Smokehouse in Wall Heath, has been cared for on Georgina ward and is now due to have chemotherapy and a bone marrow transplant. Anne had her head shaved in aid of the ward and breast care, raising £1,159.61.

She is also raising awareness of how to join the stem cell register, which can be found at www.dkms.org.uk

Aplastic anaemia is a rare condition in which the bone marrow stops making new blood cells.

CAPTION

Anne Groucutt presents the Cavell Star Awards to Tracey Jones (left) and Julie Hughes

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