

Linden Unit staff failed our brother

Killer's family tells inquest they missed clear signs of his poor mental health

SIBLINGS of killer Percy Wright have spoken of their disappointment of hospital staff who failed to detect their brother's deteriorating mental health.

The inquest into the fatal stabbing of mother-of-three Colette Lynch, 24, at the hands of her estranged lover Wright in 2005 heard this week from June Smith and Vendon Wright.

They spoke about their concerns over their brother's mental state which, they said, were not shared by staff at the now defunct Linden Unit at St Cross Hospital.

Speaking to the jury at Leamington town hall on Tuesday (November 10), Mrs Smith said that in 2004 mental health workers decided her brother was free of any major mental illness, despite his increasingly

erratic behaviour concerning both his GP and his family.

"You could tell his mental state was starting to deteriorate. He was saying certain things about hearing the transmissions from the television which he knew wasn't normal, but to him it was reality," Mrs Smith said.

"Before he was warm, loving, caring - the sort of person who would give his right arm for you. He would always be there for me."

The inquest heard how in 2003 Wright had been caring for his sister who died of cancer, an event which had a big impact upon him and left him as the guardian for his 14-year-old nephew, who Mrs Smith and Vendon Wright described as difficult.

In 2004 he began suffering with back pain and started taking his

medication in higher dosages than recommended to ease his suffering, along with regularly drinking alcohol and smoking cannabis on occasions.

Mrs Smith, who recalled how on one occasion Wright told her daughter she had died and that he had brought her back to life, said: "The drugs made him very short-tempered and angry. He found himself shouting more instead of being his usual calm self and he didn't like it."

Vendon Wright said: "He started believing people were always out to get him and that he was hearing voices from the radio or that the light bulb was talking to him."

Mrs Smith decided her brother needed help and accompanied him on an appointment with his GP, who was worried by Wright's anger and

paranoia and referred him to the Linden Unit for psychiatric help.

But there he was not diagnosed with a mental disorder and was instead told to go back to his GP for anti-depressants, a decision which Mrs Smith and Vendon Wright

said they were disappointed with.

Wright's condition worsened and, without any intervention by the police or mental health workers, he was left free to fatally stab Colette on February 3 2005.

The inquest continues.

Village church opens its new gates



Archdeacon The Venerable Ian Watson and church warden Gordon Collett open the new gates. 45.09.063.rug.jm1

VILLAGERS were pleased to see the opening of the new gates they clubbed together to buy for their church.

People living in Dunchurch saw the decorative gates leading to the courtyard of St Peter's officially opened last Wednesday (November 4) in a ceremony led by Archdeacon The Venerable Ian Watson.

They were paid for by donations and the fund-raising efforts of villagers who contributed several thousands of pounds towards the cost of the gates.

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