

WORD ON THE  
**WEB**

**You have your say on stories published on the Mail's website each day:**

**BRANSTON BEES DRIVING RESIDENTS TO DESPERATION**  
**Posted by Pointingwest**  
Swarming bees are relatively harmless as that's when they are most docile. They are a vital part of the ecosystem that are on the decline. Respect them and they'll leave you alone, plus it's only for a short part of the summer.

**Posted by branmis01**  
I had a swarm outside my house the other day – I just closed the windows and they moved on. No doubt it would be a bit scary for young children. At least the bees in Britain are fairly harmless, unless you get an allergic reaction to their stings. Without the bees we would not have the flowers in our garden or the fruit on our trees.

**Posted by Birdlife**  
Bees are essential for pollination and without them the human race would be in big trouble. They are a key part of any ecosystem, and although I can see to a point why the residents of Branston are concerned they need to let nature take its course. We need to remember that we share this planet with other forms of life and we need to have more tolerance and understanding about the world we live in.

**NEW REGIMENT WILL NOW KEEP ITS LINKS TO THE AREA**  
**Posted by Pointingwest**  
Great news. I was proud to be among the hundreds welcoming the 3rd Battalion into Burton last week. I'm especially pleased to hear the historic name of the 'Staffords' will live on.

**Posted by branmis01**  
This is great news for those from 3 Mercian (Staffords) who will soon join their new battalions, either 1 or 2 Mercian, both of which will have the Staffords' name in their title. This is also great news for all ex-Staffords and ex-3 Mercian soldiers.

**FIREFIGHTERS JOIN MAJOR STRIKE PLAN**  
**Posted by Matthew Long**  
While I have yet to be convinced that those in the emergency services like firefighting and policing should strike, their cause in a just one. If they are joining forces with teachers and council workers who are striking at this time then this is a clear statement to the Government. Nobody wants to see widespread industrial action.

**POPULATION BOOST AS MORE MOVE TO SOUTH DERBYSHIRE THAN LEAVE**  
**Posted by rbc872**  
They won't be content until every last piece of greenery has a house built on. Swadlincote was a nice little backwater not so long ago, but is now turning into an overgrown bottleneck.

**TURNING AROUND BROKEN LIVES OF ADDICTS**  
**Posted by Matt Long**  
This is both moving and inspiring. We can learn through the graphic honesty of David Murphy. Well done.

**@**  
**PASSIONATE ABOUT LOCAL NEWS**  
burtonmail.co.uk

# Aimee Dunn decides to share her story after seeing the Mail's Take Five Minutes campaign to boost donors

# Aimee's turned her tragic loss into a mission to save lives

**L**OSING a parent when you're just a teenager must be beyond comprehension.

But for Aimee Dunn – who is a now a 22-year-old IT worker – the trauma of losing her dad Dave to leukaemia spurred her on to potentially save somebody else's life.

Aimee, of Ferry Street, Stapenhill, is one of just 508 'heroes' in the Burton and Uttoxeter constituency. She is a hero because she on the Anthony Nolan register as a bone marrow donor.

Any day between now and when she turns 60, Aimee could receive a letter from Anthony Nolan confirming she is a match for a patient somewhere in the world who urgently requires her stem cells.

Aimee explains what made her sign the register and how her dad's illness has given her renewed determination to help others.

She said: "My dad was diagnosed with Acute Myeloid Leukaemia (AML) in October 2006. He had been feeling unwell and kept going to the doctors and some further tests revealed a problem with his blood. It was detected quite early and so he started having rounds of chemotherapy and infusions of platelets.

"When we found out that he needed a bone marrow transplant, my older brother Tom and I wanted to put ourselves forward but I was too young as I was only 14 at the time.

"I now realise that only about 30 per cent of people needing a transplant will find a match within their own family – which is why there is a need for people to sign the register.



**'HERO' ... Aimee Dunn, who lost her dad Dave, above, to leukaemia and was inspired to sign up to the Anthony Nolan register.**

**For every person the charity Anthony Nolan manages to save through a bone marrow transplant, another isn't so lucky. There's a desperate need to increase the number of people who have signed up to donate – here, Aimee Dunn reveals what makes her a 'hero' to somebody in need.**

"Thankfully we got the news we had been hoping for that a matching donor had been found for my dad in Germany – but then came the blow that this had fallen through. In the end, he received stem cells from cord blood with donors found in Spain and Australia.

"My dad had a successful transplant but in August 2007, we got the news that his leukaemia was terminal. Everything happened very quickly within the space of a year. My dad decided he didn't want to be in hospital anymore towards the end and died at home."

Dave Dunn died on September 22, 2007, aged 48 – just one month before his 49th birthday.

Aimee added: "It was such a horrible experience watching my dad go through his treatment and then being diagnosed as terminal. I thought that if I could stop just one family going through the same experience as we went through, then it would be worth it.

"At the time I thought you had to be 18 to be a donor of any kind, so I waited until I got to university before I started looking at anything properly.

"I joined the blood donor register in October 2010, but due to a chest infection I didn't manage to do my first donation until January 2012.

"I waited until I had done three blood donations and made sure I was reasonably comfortable with that before signing up to the Anthony Nolan register.

"Joining the Anthony Nolan register is more of a commitment as I will be on the register until I am 60 and any day they could contact me to ask if I could go in to donate.

"If you get that call to say you are a match, you are not obliged to go ahead with the process but I don't think there would be many people who would turn around and

say 'no'.

"I didn't want to let anybody down and so that is why I waited a while before I signed up because I needed to make sure I was comfortable with the needles and donating process."

I still continue to donate blood. I usually give blood at Burton Town Hall and I try to make sure it's every three or four months, especially as my

**'I thought that if I could stop just one family going through the same experience as we went through then it would be worth it'**

**Aimee Dunn**



**CAMPAIGN ... Katherine Sinfield, who is spearheading the Mail's Take Five Minutes campaign to boost donors.**

blood type is O- which is the universal type and it's always in demand. To date I've given blood six times and I'm next booked in to donate on July 28."

Aimee shared her reasons for joining the Anthony Nolan register after hearing about recovering leukaemia patient Katherine Sinfield.

The Balfour Street resident is the focus of the Burton Mail's 'Take Five Minutes' campaign which aims to increase the number of blood, bone marrow and organ donors in the area.

Katherine announced her renewed determination to further increase levels after learning that the constituency of Burton and Uttoxeter

was ranked at a 'disappointing' 515 out of 650.

Katherine said: "People like Aimee are heroes – they hold the key to saving somebody else's life.

"Aimee could be the only match throughout the entire world for somebody fighting blood cancer or other blood disorders.

"Imagine you are that person who discovers you need a bone marrow transplant. Imagine Aimee is your only chance of survival throughout the entire world. Now consider what would happen to you if Aimee hadn't chosen to sign the register."

Both Aimee and Katherine agree that the "fear factor" element is a big barrier when it comes to getting more donors to sign up. Aimee said: "Unless you or somebody in your family has been touched by leukaemia, it is easy to think that being a donor means big needles and operations. People need to realise that it is not that different to giving blood."

Katherine said: "I firmly believe education is the key to increasing donor levels. I have already had to complain to the BBC once this year about inaccuracies in one of its programmes and now I understand there is controversy surrounding inaccuracies in the Channel 4 soap Hollyoaks.

"It's an uphill battle increasing donor numbers when popular television shows broadcast false fear-inducing information and that is another reason why Aimee is a hero. If people paid more attention to Aimee than to what they see on television, far more lives could be saved."

# The cure for blood cancer is YOU

THE cure for blood cancer isn't in a lab, or a petri dish. It isn't a pill or a powder. If you're aged 16 to 30 and in good health, it's you.

If you tick the right boxes, you could save the life of someone with blood cancer, simply by donating your blood stem cells. But first you need to join the Anthony Nolan register.

People joining the Anthony Nolan register must: be between 16 and 30 years old be in good health weigh over 7st 12lbs (50kg) have a body mass index (BMI) lower than 40.

The charity particularly needs more young men to sign up. They produce more stem cells than women and are six times more likely to donate, but make up just 14 per cent of the register.

There is also a need for more donors from black and minority ethnic backgrounds as they often struggle to find matches for people in these groups.

Donating isn't difficult, neither is joining the register. But it is urgent. You can join the register at:

**[www.anthonynolan.org/](http://www.anthonynolan.org/)**

If you sign up online, you will receive a 'spit kit' in the post. All you need to do is spit into a small tube and post it back to Anthony Nolan.

They'll then test your sample and put the results in their database. Every time someone needs a transplant they'll automatically compare their tissue to yours – and the 490,000 other incredible individuals on our register.



## Join the NHS donor register

NEXT week it is National Transplant Week.

Organised by the NHS Blood and Transplant (NHSBT) service, readers are encouraged to join the NHS Organ Donor Register.

This year, NHSBT is hoping to encourage more people than ever before to join the register and to tell their family they want to be a donor.

Many people don't realise that if they haven't made their donation decision clear, their family could be asked to agree to donation taking place. Visit <http://transplantweek.co.uk/> for details.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Sports funding to help people become active

A SPORTS scheme has funding available to help groups get into sport.

Sportivate, part of Derbyshire Sport, offers funding for projects that aim to get people active.

There is a £10,000 funding pot available to projects that are specifically designed for women and girls aged 19 to 25.

Projects need to be between six and eight weeks in duration.

To apply people must email Suzanne. Watson@derbyshire.gov.uk no later than July 16.

### More ladies needed for 5k cancer charity run

A CANCER charity is appealing for ladies to join its female-only fund-raising race.

Cancer Research needs to recruit more women for its 5k Race for Life in Stafford. More than 400 more are needed to sign up.

The event takes place at 7.30pm on Tuesday at Stafford County Showground.

Women of all abilities are welcome to take part and run, jog or walk the race.

For more information or to sign up visit [www.raceforlife.cancerresearchuk.org](http://www.raceforlife.cancerresearchuk.org)

### Tables still available at community car boot

A COMMUNITY organisation is holding a car boot sale this weekend.

Burton Caribbean Association is holding the event between 10am and 2pm tomorrow at its premises in Uxbridge Street, Burton.

All are welcome. Tables cost £5, cars and vans cost £7 and entry is 50p.

Anyone wishing to book should call Yvonne on 01283 512182. Some tables will be available on the day.

## FREDDIE MERCURY

### Tribute by Jamie Connolly

**High energy Tribute to the Greatest Rock Frontman of all time featuring all the Iconic Queen hits from 70s - 90s including "One Vision, Kind of Magic, Crazy Little Thing Called Love, Radio Ga Ga, Fat Bottomed Girls, Bohemian Rhapsody & more!**



**Springfield Sports Bar  
North Street, Swadlincote  
Sunday 6th July 2014,  
3pm start**