



FRESH AIR ... leukaemia sufferer Katherine Sinfield was discharged from Queen Elizabeth Hospital in Birmingham on her 33rd birthday — but her recovery will still take a long time.

Katherine is home — but is still battling

By Gareth Butterfield

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BIRTHDAY wishes certainly came true for Burton leukaemia sufferer Katherine Sinfield.

The wife of the News Telegraph's editor, Stephen Sinfield, and the face of the News Telegraph's 'Take Five Minutes' campaign, was discharged from hospital on Tuesday — her 33rd birthday.

After more than seven weeks of intensive treatment at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital in Birmingham, Katherine, from Burton, was given the green light to leave.

But as Katherine explains, this is just the closure of the first chapter of what could be a very long book.

"I was thrilled to get the news that I could go home — I had my doubts whether this day would ever arrive.

"I've got my list of follow-up clinic dates in Birmingham, and I will have daily visits from specialist nurses to change my dressings and check my Hickman Line.

"The results of these clinic visits will determine what happens next. Remember, the eventual aim is to undergo a bone marrow transplant.

"While home, I will be taking loads of tablets and medicines including anti-cancer drugs, and I will have to carry an emergency medical card in case I feel ill at any time. I am still immensely prone to infection so I am limited to what I can do, where I can go and who I can see."

Since the News Telegraph launched its campaign, Katherine has been calling on readers to give blood and sign up to the bone marrow register.

She said: "This hasn't been a campaign about me just to help me, this is a campaign to raise awareness and help anybody who finds themselves in a similar position. You simply do not realise until you are told you need a transplant or that you need three or four bags of blood and platelets in a day, how vital these services are to thousands of patients.

"I've learned a lot about leukaemia while being a patient and I cannot emphasise enough how vital the services are of charities such as Cure Leukaemia and the Anthony Nolan Trust."

•Read about Katherine's progress in her diary on pages 22 and 23

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Posters are given out to help in crime-busting shed theft drive

POSTERS warning would-be criminals that sheds, garages and other outbuildings are alarmed are being handed out as part of an anti-burglary drive.

Derbyshire Police have teamed up with Derbyshire Dales District Council to offer the posters to people living in and around Ashbourne.

The large signs, which read 'Warning: Alarmed', have been designed after a rise in burglaries and

are available free of charge to anyone living in the district.

Sergeant Andy Wordsworth said: "Burglars will often only go for outbuildings that they think will be an easy target, so advertising as clearly as possible that they are alarmed can be a real help.

"We want to stop crime before it happens, which is why we're encouraging as many people as possible to come and pick one up.

"It's a simple security step that, along with shed alarms and other kit, can be the difference between becoming a burglary victim and deterring a criminal altogether."

The posters can be collected from Ashbourne's inquiry office in Compton, but recipients must show their Derbyshire Dales address.

To find out more about the posters call 101 or 01629 761100.

Badger measures 'not enough'

THE leader of Derbyshire County Council has said the Government's measures to slow down the spread of bovine TB do not go far enough.

Anne Western (pictured) has criticised plans to increase TB testing and control cattle movement in 10 areas across the country, including Derbyshire, and has continued to press for investment into a vaccination programme.

The recently announced plans will see farms in Derbyshire and Cheshire within three kilometres of a new TB outbreak having to test their cows for bovine TB immediately and again after six months.

A £250,000 fund for farmers to help cover half of the costs of vaccinating badgers on their land has also been set up.

Councillor Western said: "While I welcome the new measures set out this week by the Government, I do not think they go far enough.

"I welcome the money set aside to help those farmers who want to vaccinate



badgers on their land, but my view is that it is not enough.

"We want to see a nationwide badger vaccination programme, supported, co-ordinated and fully funded by the Government."

In July, the authority decided to oppose badger culling on its land and agreed to support badger vaccination as a measure to reduce the spread of TB, and allow vaccination on its land.

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