

Katherine ready for her big date

by Rob Smyth
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THIS week marks the start of a new dawn for 33-year-old leukaemia sufferer Katherine Sinfield.

The reception class teacher was admitted to the Queen Elizabeth Hospital in Birmingham on Monday in preparation for a bone marrow transplant.

Speaking before her return to the hospital where she was a patient for seven-and-a-half weeks earlier this year, Katherine said: "Being told that you have got to spend a month in hospital would fill most people with fear, but for me, it marks the start of my return to health. I was diagnosed with Chronic Myeloid Leukaemia (CML) in April, and although conventional tablets kept the condition under control for a few weeks, it was decided very quickly that I would need a transplant.

"Considering that only one-in-three people find a match, I was extremely lucky to find one within a few weeks. I cannot thank the Anthony Nolan charity and the Queen Elizabeth Hospital enough for their outstanding work."

Katherine spent Monday undergoing fairly routine pre-admission tests before starting a regime of radiotherapy yesterday which will last until the end of the week. Her weekend will be spent hooked to powerful chemotherapy drips and immune-



suppressant drugs.

Katherine said: "The first week of my stay is designed to destroy all of my own bone marrow.

"Your body's bone marrow is responsible for the production of white blood cells which fight infection. What happens when you have CML is that your body produces lots of immature white cells. As these cells are not fully developed, your body is continually prone to infection.

"By the end of this week, I will not have any of my own bone marrow or white blood cells left - this is preparing me for the transplant.

"My donor will visit their respective hospital next Monday and then I will receive a bag of their donated stem cells next Tuesday.

"The process sounds simple but there are risks and side-effects."

Follow Katherine's progress online and stay up-to-date with her latest instalments of her on-going diary by visiting the News Telegraph website at: www.ashbournenewstelegraph.co.uk

Stamps are on their way to charity

READERS are being thanked for their donations of used postage stamps for charity by leukaemia sufferer Katherine Sinfield.

The reception class teacher had been urging News Telegraph readers to save used save postage stamps to help boost various cancer charities.

This first batch of stamps has been sent to Leukaemia Care, a charity which helps patients and families affected by leukaemia, but the 33-year-old is still urging people to keep on sending in their stamps.

She said: "We have spent the past few weeks sorting the stamps and I am happy to announce that the first batch has now been posted.

"This is an ongoing campaign so please keep collecting the stamps for me.

"The next batch will be sent to Leukaemia & Lymphoma Research."

ON THEIR WAY ... Katherine takes a trip out to post the stamps.



Items lined up for charity jumble sale

AS ITEMS for the News Telegraph's forthcoming jumble sale continue to flood in, editor Stephen Sinfield has thanked News Telegraph readers for two high-value donations.

The sale, on Saturday, November 2, will raise funds for Leukaemia charities in response to the Take Five Minutes campaign prompted by the diagnosis of Mr Sinfield's wife, Katherine, with the disease earlier this year.

The 33-year-old has now found a match but charities help thousands of people who have not been so lucky.

He said: "In preparation for the jumble sale I have been casting an eye over some of the treasures we have to sell to raise money for Cure Leukaemia and Anthony Nolan.

"The people of Ashbourne have done us proud, they have donated bags of goodies which will help raise vital cash for these two charities.

"Two items particularly caught my eye as they are both rare and of a higher price bracket than your typical jumble bargains. The first is a Bells Whisky Decanter. Not only is the decanter full of gorgeous Bells whisky, it was made to commemorate the Queen Mother's 100th birthday.

"Secondly, we have a Tutbury Crystal Paperweight. The fact that Tutbury Crystal is now defunct means that we hope to generate about £20 for this item."

The jumble sale is due to take place between 9.30am until 1pm and donations are still being welcomed at our Market Place office.



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