

5 MINUTES WITH...



John Wright

Helps to organise the Barton under Needwood Garden Festival

Born and bred:

I was born in Tamworth in June, 1948.

Hobbies:

Until my 40s I was heavily involved as a scout leader of various kinds in Tamworth and Barton under Needwood. I still play the occasional game of cricket and my other main interest is woodturning.

Favourite book:

No-one book in particular but I do have a particular liking for Bill Bryson's books

Favourite film:

I have two films that I can watch over again. The first is the original Italian Job starring Michael Caine and Brassed Off.

Favourite food:

Traditional British steak and kidney pie followed by apple pie and custard.

Proudest moment:

The births of my children.

Most embarrassing moment:

Walking around Tamworth one fine summer's day and thinking I looked cool, not realising that I had only one lense in my sunglasses.

Biggest inspiration:

My late wife Pam who sadly passed away last November. We were married for a little over 40 years. She was a constant source of love and support for all that time.

Hopes for the future:

That people, no matter what colour, creed, faith or political persuasion they have, can learn to respect each other.

Biggest/best achievement:

Being one of a group of nine senior scouts who gained the Duke of Edinburgh Gold Award together in 1966. These were presented to us by the Duke of Edinburgh at Buckingham Palace.

If you ruled the world:

I would introduce compulsory relaxation classes for all. So many people these days seem to be permanently angry and plain rude, whatever they are doing.

Pet hate:

Being in the queue for the supermarket check-out behind someone with a large trolley full of shopping who waits until everything has been scanned and packed in bags and then takes for ever looking through their bag or pockets for their purse or wallet to pay the bill.

Greatest love:

My daughter, son and grandchildren.

Favourite belonging:

My father's PSV driver's badge from his days as a coach driver from just before World War Two until the 1960s.

Perfect night in/out:

A quiet pub and a pint with family and friends.

What will your epitaph say?

He tried.



BATTLING ON . . . Katherine Sinfield is continuing to smile in her bid to beat leukaemia.

Katherine praises Mail transplant campaign

by Rob Smyth

rob.smyth@burtonmail.co.uk

THE woman urging Mail readers to back its Take Five Minutes campaign to try to save her life today said she was 'touched' by the response.

Katherine Sinfield, of Balfour Street, Burton, revealed that she did not expect the support and messages that have arrived since the campaign was launched a week ago.

The 32-year-old is battling leukaemia and has been told that the only way she will live is by receiving a bone marrow transplant.

On the anniversary since the launch of the campaign, Katherine and her husband, Mail journalist Stephen (pictured with her below), spoke candidly about the bid to save her life and the battle to beat the disease.

She said: "Today marks my 20th day at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital in Birmingham. Clearly every day has felt like a week but I cannot fault the nurses or the doctors.

"I just miss the simple and mundane things in life, such as going outside and popping to the supermarket.

"My chemotherapy went better than expected.

"It was a strong dose following a tiring timetable but thankfully I came out of it without suffering any sickness and even now, almost two weeks since my last drip of chemicals, I still have a full head of hair.

"Over the years I have got used to picking up the paper and seeing Stephen's picture byline beside his stories – picking up the paper and seeing myself every day takes a little getting



used to.

"The Burton Mail campaign will clearly help to raise awareness of both the importance of signing up to the bone marrow register but also the importance of giving blood.

"It is easy to think that these pints of blood people donate are just used in A&E when someone gets rushed in after an accident, but the reality is, that they are used every day.

"During my 20 days in hospital I must have had close to a dozen bags of blood and platelets and so those people giving blood have helped with mine and other people's care just as much as those on the bone marrow register.

"Every person who signs up to the bone marrow register is helping to save a life. This campaign does not just benefit me, it benefits everybody in every hospital who find themselves in a similar situation to my own."

Throughout her ordeal, Katherine's husband Stephen has not left her side.

He said: "Without a doubt, the Mail campaign has helped raise awareness of a serious medical condition and has kick-started people into giving blood or signing up to the bone marrow register.

"When you receive cards and emails of support from people all over the country, you

realise that this campaign has touched more people than just those in Burton and South Derbyshire.

"I would urge every reader who is hooked on social media to Facebook and tweet the Mail's campaign stories as much as possible – the more people we reach, the more potential donors for Katherine and every other leukaemia sufferer we find.

"My battle is nothing like that on the scale of Katherine.

"You soon realise that many of the problems you face in life are mundane and not worth the stress – leukaemia is a problem worth stressing about.

"As Katherine marks 20 days in Birmingham, I mark having driven 1,400 miles (70 a day) to be with her – but I wouldn't change it for the world".

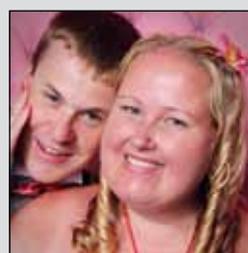
Now, it is time for every single reader to stand up and Take Five Minutes to try to save Katherine.

People can see if they are a potential bone marrow donor by either giving a saliva sample to the Anthony Nolan Trust or a blood sample to the NHS British Bone Marrow Registry.

More information is available by calling the National Blood Service Donor helpline on 0300 123 2323 or anyone aged 16 to 30 can sign up online by visiting www.anthonolan.org filling in a short application form and providing a saliva sample.

You have read about Katherine's battle over the last week. Now it is time that we all did something to help.

Katherine's diary— Her own account of her ongoing battle with cancer



Thursday, July 11

THE usual Gam blood tests and antibiotic injections went to plan and I managed to grab another hour or so of sleep, waking again at 7.30am for breakfast. Four doctors were on ward rounds today and they revealed that my white blood cells still haven't started to regrow

following the chemotherapy. I need a healthy level of white cells before they will allow me off the ward or home for a few days. They mentioned that I appear to be needing quite a lot of blood - so all of you A Positive blood group donors, thank you. Following the doctors' visit I was seen by two dermatology doctors who came to examine my feet

and bring me a new brand of cream to try. After my omelette for lunch it was time for more antibiotic infusions through my Hickman Line and another bag of that lemon-coloured anti-fungal drip. In the evening, I was cross-matched ready for a blood transfusion tomorrow and was given a bag of platelets.