



Give the ultimate gift of blood at Christmas

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PEOPLE from Burton and South Derbyshire are being urged to give the greatest gift of all this Christmas – a donation of blood.

The NHS Blood and Transplant service is asking people to step forward and donate so that patients whose lives depend on blood transfusions get what they need over the festive period.

It comes at a time when the Mail is running its Take Five Minutes campaign, in a bid to boost blood donor numbers.

In the past few years, November and December have been typically a challenging time for blood stocks in the area.

Holly Mason, NHS Blood and Transplant's lead donor relations manager for the area, said: "This is an extremely challenging time of year for us as we need to make sure that hospitals are supplied with the blood they need to treat patients over the Christmas holidays.

"So while people are in a generous frame of mind, we're asking that they don't forget those whose must-have gift is blood.

"Donating doesn't cost a penny and saves lives, meaning many more children and adults will be able to spend precious time with their families over Christmas.

"Whether you're a regular blood donor or are new to donating, you can make a real difference.

"So please make an appointment now to save lives."

A unit of blood has a shelf life of 35 days. Hospitals in England and North Wales need around 7,000 units of blood every day to treat patients.

Besides being crucial to care in accident and emergency, blood is used to treat patients with cancer and blood disorders, as well as women needing blood during childbirth.

Burton teacher Katherine Sinfield, who is at the centre of the Mail's campaign, has been the recipient of blood donations during her ongoing battle with cancer.

A spokesman for the service said: "If you're 17 and over and in general good health, visit www.blood.co.uk or call 03001 232323 to find a session in the area near you to go and give blood."

GIVE BLOOD . . . people are being urged to donate ahead of the Christmas period.



Do you regularly give blood? Tell us your story online at:
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PEOPLE MEET TO DISCUSS THE FUTURE OF FIREFIGHTING

PEOPLE in South Derbyshire were able to quiz fire chiefs about major changes to service provision in the area as part of a special consultation event.

Bosses from Derbyshire Fire and Rescue Service were on hand on The Delph, in Swadlincote, yesterday to answer questions from members of the public.

Earlier this month, the service unveiled major plans that could change the face of firefighting in the county forever.

The changes, if approved, would include the closure of Melbourne Fire Station, with Swadlincote station becoming a retained duty station and Hilton getting a brand new station.

Chief fire officer and chief executive Sean Frayne said: "We are committed to ensuring we are 'fit to respond'."



ALL ABOUT OPINIONS . . . firefighters on The Delph, in Swadlincote.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Church gets in festive spirit with Xmas fair

A CHURCH is hoping to raise money through a Christmas market today.

Holy Trinity Church, in Hanbury Road, Anslow, is holding the festive market from 10am to 1pm at Anslow Village Hall, in Main Road.

There will be stalls selling crafts, cakes, pickles, new or nearly new items, jewellery, tombola and refreshments.

Santa will also be paying a visit.

Christmas present bingo for nursing home

A NURSING home is hoping to put a festive smile on its residents' faces with a bingo session.

The Poplars Nursing Home, in Rolleston Road, will hold Christmas prize bingo on Wednesday, December 4, with eyes down at 7.30pm.

Money raised will be donated to the residents' fund, which will help with giving out Christmas presents.