

Stamp-saving scheme to boost charity cash

by Rob Smyth
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IF the postman delivered you a bundle of letters or cards this morning, remember to keep those franked stamps.

This is the plea from 33-year-old leukaemia sufferer Katherine Sinfield as she kick-starts a campaign to support charities related to her illness.

The Balfour Street resident is currently searching for a bone marrow donor and is the centre-piece of the Mail's Take Five Minutes campaign.

She said: "Used stamps are a valuable resource for charities. A single stamp on its own may not appear very much, but if we all saved them and bundled them together, we would be raising vital funds for charity."

"This type of fund-raising costs you nothing to do. You don't have to pledge your own cash or sign up to a monthly direct debit. All you have to do is hang on to some tiny scraps of paper which you would stick in the recycling bin anyway."

Katherine is hoping to collect enough stamps to help two leukaemia charities – Leukaemia Care, which offers support to patients, carers and their families, and Leukaemia &

Lymphoma Research, which focuses on finding cures, causes and improving diagnosis and treatment.

Katherine added: "Staff at the Burton Mail have been collecting used stamps for years to support various charities and I'm thrilled that they are now going to start saving them for these leukaemia charities."

"What we need is other businesses to get on board, as it is typically large businesses and organisations which receive the most mail."

The amount charities receive per kilogramme of stamps varies, but typically they can expect a return of between £4 to £5 for UK stamps and significantly more for foreign stamps.

People collecting used stamps for charity need to follow a few simple guidelines to ensure the charities receive the maximum price per kilogramme.

Typically, stamps should only have a 4mm to 8mm border of paper around the edges, as excess paper lowers the value.

UK stamps should be separated from foreign stamps.

Readers or businesses wanting to help should drop their used stamps off at the Burton Mail's High Street offices for Katherine to collect and distribute.



Katherine's Diary

THE reception class teacher from Burton, who is battling against leukaemia, has described in her own words her fight against the disease.

Katherine Sinfield, 33, of Balfour Street, needs daily doses of antibiotics, fungal drips and blood transfusions after being diagnosed with chronic myeloid leukaemia in April.

Her only hope of survival was to receive a bone marrow transplant.

The Mail launched its Take Five Minutes campaign in a bid to locate a suitable donor, not just for Katherine, but for anyone who is in her position.

The campaign is also searching for people to donate blood to boost levels across the area.

Here, Katherine describes her daily battle.

For more information on how to become a bone marrow donor, call the National Blood Service Donor helpline on 0300 123 2323.

Wednesday, September 18:

I have a strange phenomenon – itchy eyebrows. Before my hair started to fall out due to the chemotherapy, I used to suffer with a very itchy scalp.

I am wondering if my eyebrows are now going through a delayed version of the same process, or if this itching is a side-effect of my new tablets.

Quite a few hours today were spent dealing with charities as I plan to launch a used stamp-collecting scheme to raise money.

A kilogramme of used stamps may only return about a fiver for the charity, but it is five pounds more than if these used stamps went off to the recycling plant.

And more letters continue to arrive from the hospital – another CT scan is booked for next Friday.

Blood and Lymphatic cancers
Leukaemia CARE
supporting a quality of life
Registered charity 259483 and SC039207

LEUKAEMIA & LYMPHOMA RESEARCH
Beating Blood Cancers

STAMP IT OUT...
Katherine Sinfield (inset) is urging people to send in their stamps to the Mail to help two cancer charities.

MEP denies party switch

CONFUSION reigned in the world of European politics yesterday after West Midlands MEP Mike Nattrass denied he had joined the English Democrat Party, just hours after the announcement.

A press release on behalf of the party appeared to confirm Mr Nattrass had switched allegiances following his departure from the United Kingdom Independence Party (UKIP), but in a bizarre turn of events he quickly insisted that was not the case.

Mr Nattrass, who has represented Burton in Europe since 2004, quit UKIP earlier in the month after being informed that he would not be considered for re-election by the party in next year's elections, having also grown disillusioned by the direction in which the party was heading under leader Nigel Farage.

But following an announcement in which the English Democrats said they were 'delighted' to welcome a new member, Mr Nattrass quickly moved to set the record straight.

The confusion appears to have stemmed from the fact he plans to speak at the party's conference at the weekend.

Mr Nattrass said: "I am not going to join the English Democrats."

"However, I will be speaking at their conference in Leicester on Saturday, on the subject of HS2."



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Knock, Knock joke celebration

A SOUTH Derbyshire firm is celebrating 30 years in the door industry and 143 years in the timber trade by launching a competition to find the funniest 'knock, knock' joke.

Swadlincote's JB Kind is urging members of the public to take part in the unusual celebration of the firm's milestone.

Competition co-ordinator Tina Jones said: "We are having a fantastic time celebrating our 30-year anniversary and we wanted to create a fun competition so that everyone could join in, whether or not they know anything about doors."

"Our charitable committee will be judging the entries based on their fun factor, originality and length of laugh, and a first prize and two runners up will be awarded."

"We are interested in hearing all of the classics and a good variety of niche jokes. However, we're also very keen to hear some new ones too."

"We will be compiling a list of our favourites and everyone will be able to view them on our website."

Winners will be handed high street shopping vouchers.

More information is available at www.jbkind.com/knock-knock-rules.aspx

Coffee Shop Open Day Food & Craft Fair Tomorrow

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All proceeds will be donated to the Caudwell Children Charity

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