



## Katherine's Diary

THE reception class teacher from Burton describes in her own words what daily life is like living with Chronic Myeloid Leukaemia (CML).

Earlier last year, the 33-year-old from Balfour Street spent nearly eight weeks at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital in Birmingham undergoing intensive chemotherapy.

Meanwhile, the Burton Mail launched its Take Five Minutes campaign in a bid to locate a suitable bone marrow donor, not just for Katherine, but for anyone in her position, while also raising greater awareness of the condition.

Thankfully, last September, Katherine was able to announce that a suitable donor had been found in Europe and a transplant was taken place in late October.

While still undergoing gruelling treatment herself, Katherine wants to help others in a similar position and has taken to raising awareness of the condition and generating support for the charities.

She has now been placed into remission from her cancer but continues her recovery and the bid to get more people to become blood and bone marrow donors.

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

Thursday, March 27

**ff** I needed a good rest today after my late discharge from the hospital last night.

Since discharge my tablet tally has increased again, with two new batches of medication added to the list.

My day ended with the sad news that 27-year-old Ed Fox had died as a result of not finding a bone marrow donor. You have probably seen the 'Match for Ed' campaign which swept the West Midlands.

Unfortunately, despite all of this publicity, a match wasn't found.

News like this leaves me thinking what I can do next to help increase donors.



**CHARITY DELIGHT...** Stephen and Katherine Sinfield hand over a cheque to charity representatives outside the Queen Elizabeth Hospital in Birmingham.

# Cancer bike marathon raises £2k for charities

by Rob Smyth  
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**DESPITE being assigned to a hospital ward for the past few days, Burton cancer survivor Katherine Sinfield managed to escape for an hour for a charity cheque presentation.**

The event, at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital in Birmingham, allowed the Balfour Street resident to hand over a cheque for £2,036.23 to representatives from the blood cancer charities which benefited from her BONE-shaker MARROW-thon charity ride.

The presentation was also supported by some of the bikers who took part in the ride, which was held on Sunday, March 2, and involved around 120 motorcycles travelling between the hospital and the Pirelli Stadium.

The 33-year-old, who is in remission after battling leukaemia, said: "It was only by chance that I made the cheque presentation as I was being prepared for a blood transfusion.

"We kept the giant cheque in my room at the hospital overnight so it was already a talking point with the nurses and the doctors. I just happened to mention to the doctor as he was preparing my blood what was about to take place, and he allowed me out of the ward. He was very keen for me to attend.

"As everything happened so fast it was very much a case of 'stop the press' as my husband Stephen was already downstairs with the bikers and the charity representatives.

"If it wasn't for a last-minute phone call to tell them to wait, I would have

**'We would like to say a huge thank you to all those who supported our charity event'**

**Stephen Sinfield**

missed the photo."

Mrs Sinfield underwent a bone marrow transplant last year after doctors told her it was the only way she would survive leukaemia.

Katherine's husband and Mail journalist Stephen said: "We would like to say a huge thank you to all those who supported our charity event on March 2, and to those who made time to attend the cheque presentation at the hospital.

"Without the continuing support of the motorcycle community, none of this would have been possible.

"Our ride has received lots of positive feedback and so plans are already in place for the BONE-shaker MARROW-thon 2015, again raising money for Cure Leukaemia, Anthony Nolan and the Queen Elizabeth Hospital Birmingham Charity."

Want to find out about more about Katherine's battle to return to health? Read her daily diary by heading online to: [burtonmail.co.uk](http://burtonmail.co.uk)

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