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Couple's 'positive attitude' as Katherine finds a 100%-match bone marrow donor

BY KELLY TYLER

THE editor of a newspaper who asked readers to help his sick wife says he is "staying positive" that her bone marrow transplant will be successful.

Katherine Sinfield was diagnosed with leukaemia in April following a visit to A&E with a swollen leg.

Doctors told the 33-year-old she needed a bone marrow transplant, leading husband Stephen, who is editor of the Ashbourne News Telegraph, to appeal for a donor via his newspaper.

Now one has been found and Katherine is to undergo the transplant two weeks from today.

Stephen, 33, said: "I still remember the exact moment when Katherine was diagnosed with leukaemia.

"The shock and trauma of such news hit me like a train

"When we discovered a donor had been found, we were absolutely thrilled."

STEPHEN SINFIELD

and I broke down in A&E.

"So, when we discovered a donor had been found, we were absolutely thrilled.

"We heard initially in August that there were four potential donors.

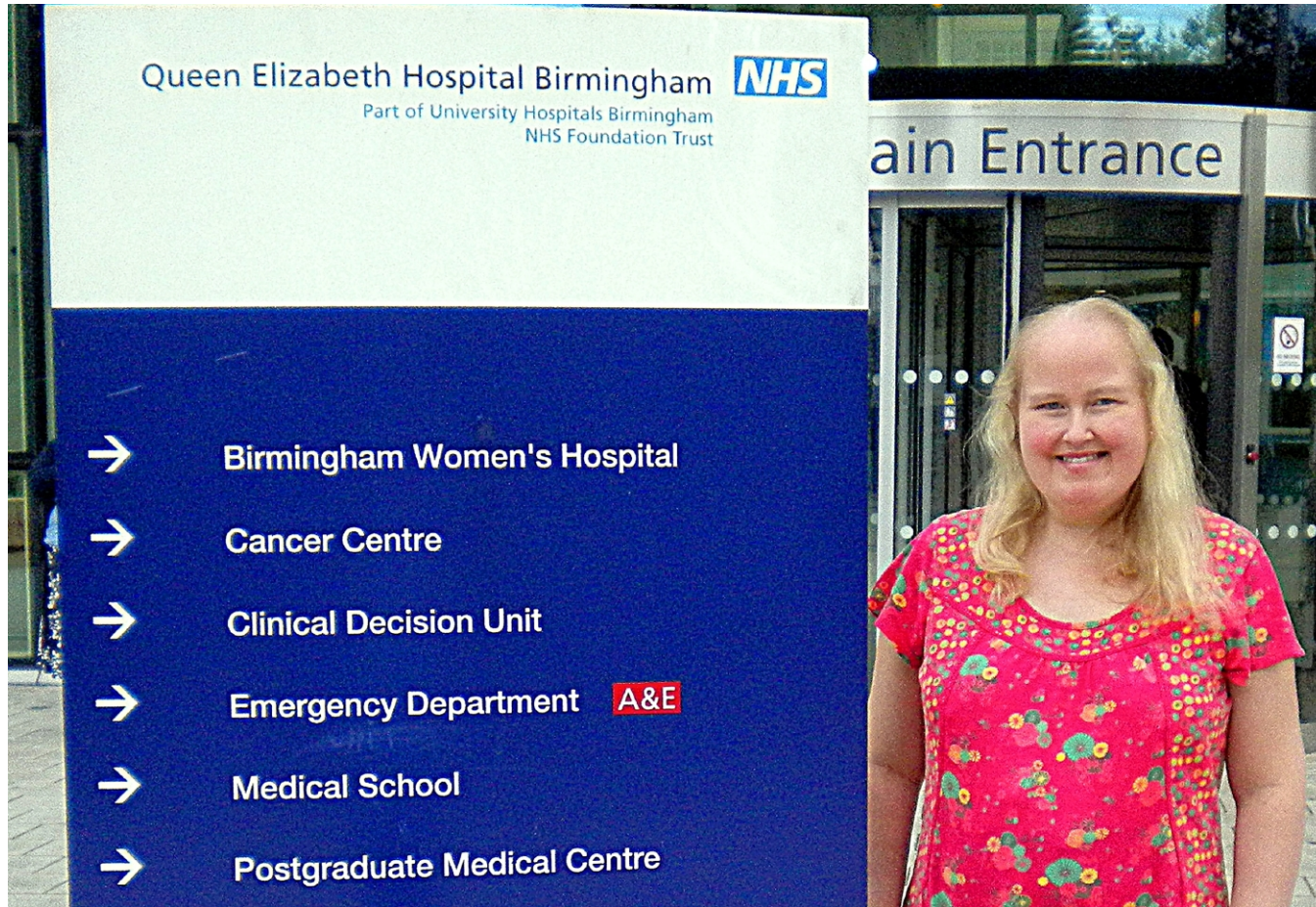
"The medical team narrowed it down to one which is a 100% match.

"We do not know their name, age, gender or where they are from but we are very grateful."

After Katherine's diagnosis, the Burton Mail – where Stephen is part of the editorial team – launched the Take Five Minutes Campaign to encourage people to become registered blood and bone marrow donors.

And the Ashbourne News Telegraph and the Mail campaigned to find her a match.

Stephen, who is currently off work to care for his wife, said: "With me working in the newspaper industry, having



Katherine Sinfield at Queen Elizabeth Hospital in Birmingham and, below, with husband Stephen.



spent years writing about other people who have had cancer, we decided to go public. We cannot shy away from it.

"The campaign has certainly raised awareness. We are both deeply touched by how family, friends and colleagues have offered to become bone marrow donors."

Katherine, a reception class teacher, is due to be admitted to the Queen Elizabeth Hospital in Birmingham next Monday.

She will have chemotherapy and radiotherapy to destroy all of her existing bone marrow and will be given drugs to suppress her immune system so that her body does not reject the donated stem cells.

On Tuesday, October 29, Katherine will receive the

donated cells through a drip.

Stephen, of Balfour Street, Burton on Trent, said: "We are going in there feeling confident that it will do everything that we want it to.

"The main advice we have had is to go into it with a completely positive attitude that it is going to work and everything is going to be fine.

"We really want it to come sooner rather than later now and we are just trying to keep Katherine as fit as possible."

Readers can follow Katherine, @leukaemia_and_K, on Twitter:

kelly.tyler@derbytelegraph.co.uk

GIVE KATHERINE YOUR SUPPORT

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Inspector reverses council's decision over housing plans

A COUNCIL'S decision to reject plans for 65 homes on the edge of Ashbourne has been overturned by a planning inspector.

Councillors at Derbyshire Dales District Council refused to grant permission as they – and the majority of people living in the area – felt the town's former airfield site would be a better site for the properties.

Applicant Lone Star LLP has now successfully appealed against the council's decision and the scheme will go ahead, sparking fierce criticism from Ashbourne councillor Andrew Lewer.

Mr Lewer said: "The Airfield site was the overwhelming favourite and the site at the rear of Willow Meadow Road was equally overwhelmingly rejected.

"What does the Planning Inspectorate do? Ride a coach and horses through those views and declare in favour of the Willow Meadow Road site anyway."

Fellow town councillor Tom Donnelly added residents had been "cheated".

Motorbike in fatal crash was stolen

OFFICERS investigating a fatal collision on the Nutbrook Trail are appealing for information about the motorbike involved, which had been stolen.

Dean Crookes, 28, died after suffering head injuries when the motorbike he was riding collided with a tree on the trail near to Quarry Hill in the early hours of Saturday, October 5.

Police say the bike was stolen between 7pm on Saturday, September 28, and 7am on Monday, September 30, from Nelson Street, Ilkeston.

It is a Yamaha 125cc bike which was maroon when it was stolen but has since been painted black and the rear registration plate removed.

Police are appealing for any witnesses who may have seen the motorbike being used in the Ilkeston or Kirk Hallam areas since the theft.

Anyone with information should call 101.

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