

# Editor uses front page to launch appeal for donors after wife's leukaemia shock



Katherine Sinfield with her husband, Stephen, and the front page of the latest Ashbourne News Telegraph.

BY SARAH NORTH

A NEWSPAPER editor has used his front page to issue a plea to readers to help find a bone marrow donor to save his wife's life.

Stephen Sinfield, of the Ashbourne News Telegraph, was told by doctors that a donor was needed for 32-year-old Katherine, after she had been diagnosed with cancer earlier this year.

And Mr Sinfield, of Balfour Street, Burton, issued the unusual appeal for help in his latest edition.

He 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 and I broke down in accident and emergency.

"Katherine took the news much better. She feared that all of those aches, pains and niggles she had been going through for months, if not years, all added up to something more serious.

"On the morning we went to the hospital I said something which I deeply regret. It's a guilt I cannot forget.

"Katherine was anxious about visiting accident and emergency while I was hopeful that it was simply a case of deep-vein thrombosis and we would both be back at work by lunchtime.

"In a bid to reassure Katherine, I said 'don't worry, they are

hardly going to diagnose with you leukaemia or anything nasty, we'll be home and sorted soon'. How wrong was I."

Mr Sinfield has been editor of the Ashbourne paper for five years but only moved to the town's offices late last year.

He said: "We are both deeply touched by how family, friends and colleagues have offered to become bone-marrow donors.

"Being thrown into this situation certainly makes you think twice about helping others. It would be nice if one of Katherine's volunteers would be found to be a match but, even if they're not, it's reassuring to know that they could be helping another family in this town or this county who are going through the same torment."

Wife Katherine said: "The search is on for a bone-marrow donor as I will need a transplant after my various rounds of chemotherapy.

"I am eternally grateful for all those people who have volunteered to undergo testing as I know the process for the donor can mean a couple of days in hospital."

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