

NEWS IN BRIEF**Mothers are first to talk to children about drink**

MOTHERS in Staffordshire lead the way in starting conversations with their children about alcohol, new research has said.

The study, by alcohol education trust AB In Bev UK, showed that 58 per cent of mothers in the West Midlands would initiate the conversation while 73 per cent of mothers in the East Midlands would do the same.

The study also showed that on average parents would raise the issue of alcohol with their child shortly after their tenth birthday.

Inge Plochaet, president of the trust, said: "Our own research and other independent expert studies have shown time and again that parents are the ones who have most influence on the behaviour of their children.

"This is why it is so important that they talk to their children about responsible drinking.

"But that doesn't mean these conversations are easy. As a mum, I know myself how difficult talking about alcohol with my children can be."

Hospice fund-raiser will include supper and quiz

A GROUP which supports St Giles Hospice has arranged their next fund-raiser for later this month.

The Needwood Friends of St Giles Hospice will be holding a Ploughman's supper and quiz at 7.30pm on Friday, September 27, at Hollands Sports Club, in Efflinch Lane, Barton under Needwood.

Further information is available by calling John Dain on 01283 712613.



THE HALLS OF POWER... Katherine Sinfield outside the Houses of Parliament, and, top inset, inside the Speaker's Chamber, for the wedding of her friend Alice Ward to Amber Valley MP Nigel Mills, inset below.



A trip to the corridors of power for Katherine, 33

by Rob Smyth
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THE weekend brought a change of scenery for 33-year-old Burton leukaemia sufferer Katherine Sinfield.

The reception teacher usually spends her days dealing with various doctors, consultants and district nurses, but this weekend saw her visit the Houses of Parliament for a wedding.

The wedding between pharmacist Alice Ward and Amber Valley MP Nigel Mills gave Katherine a day trip with a difference and a rare chance to take a closer look behind the scenes at Parliament.

The Balfour Street resident told the Mail: "Alice is a childhood friend of mine and was also one of our bridesmaids.

"Because she is marrying Nigel, who is a serving MP, they were allowed to get married at the Chapel of St Mary Undercroft and then host their reception within a marquee overlooking the

River Thames.

"Dining in the Winston Churchill room and enjoying drinks in the Speaker's Chambers is not something you do every day and so I was keen to make the most of it.

"We treated the trip to London like a holiday as we had to cancel our planned two-week break in the summer because of my leukaemia.

"Although the weekend has been very tiring, it has been extremely worthwhile."

Katherine is the focus of the Mail's Take Five Minutes campaign, which was launched earlier this year in a bid to recruit more bone marrow and blood donors.

The teacher is now waiting for a bone marrow transplant, which doctors say will save her life.

As she battles cancer and searches for a donor, Katherine has set up her own Twitter account to help the campaign.

To find out more about Katherine, follow her at @Leukaemia_and_K



WANT TO READ KATHERINE'S DAILY DIARY ON HER CANCER BATTLE?

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**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 is 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.

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.

Friday, September 13:

FF I'm pleased to say that with copious amounts of E45 cream, my rash is behaving – even though I am on higher dose medication. I've also been experimenting more with my wig and after lots of trial and error, I'm beginning to get used to wearing it – hair nets and hair clips are the answer, along with a lot of patience.

Saturday, September 14:

Today was a very rare change for me – we went off to London for a wedding. The Houses of Parliament to be precise.

Of course I had to be armed with a bag full of medicines and my emergency medical card just in case I was taken ill, but we made it.

Choosing what to wear is now made increasingly tricky because of the Hickman line.

Using hair nets and hair clips meant that I managed to wear my wig and a hat all day – and until I told them, nobody knew it was a wig.