



You can get this for less than the price of this ...



Don't miss out: order your copy now on 08444 068 744

RECOVERY ... Katherine Sinfield, from Burton, was successful in finding a donor last year.



MAKING A DIFFERENCE ... Burton's MP Andrew Griffiths highlighted the Mail's Take Five Minutes campaign in the House of Commons as he implored ministers to do more to encourage donors to come forward.

Mail campaign central to MP's call for change

by Rich Guttridge
rich.guttridge@burtonmail.co.uk

BURTON'S MP has highlighted the impact made by the Mail's Take Five Minutes campaign in Parliament as he made an impassioned plea for ministers to do more to encourage new donors to come forward.

Andrew Griffiths stopped short of saying England should adopt the opt-out donor system, which will come into force in Wales next year, during a debate on the issue led by the town's Parliamentarian in Westminster yesterday, but was adamant that more needed to be done.

The Tory MP said Katherine Sinfield's battle with leukaemia and subsequent hunt for a bone marrow donor, which saw the Mail launch its Take Five Minutes campaign a year ago to encourage more donors to come forward, was partly behind his decision to call for change.

Katherine was successful in finding a donor last September, with the campaign continuing to run alongside daily updates of her recovery process ever since.

Mr Griffiths said the Mail had done a "huge amount" to raise awareness of the issue.

The debate became heated at times, with Mr Griffiths' comments provoking a prickly response from Welsh MP Glyn Davies, who is unhappy with the decision of his homeland to introduce the opt-out system from December 2015.

The Mail revealed in December that 10 people in Burton and South Derbyshire died while waiting for a donor and Mr Griffiths said people will continue to die unless something is done to encourage more donors to come forward.

He told his fellow politicians: "The reality is that in Britain today, some 7,000 people are currently on the waiting list for an organ transplant. Right now, they are at home, ill, waiting for the phone to ring, waiting for the hospital to call, waiting for the chance of a new life.

"Their lives depend on that phone call and on that organ being made available."

He said donor numbers were "pitifully low" and an advertising campaign similar to one which enjoyed success in Scotland would be a good starting point.

"I believe that we should have a simple, hard-hitting campaign just like that in England and Wales," he said.

MP praises Mail's donor campaign

LAST July, the Mail launched a campaign in a bid to save the life of 33-year-old Katherine Sinfield, of Balfour Street, Burton.

Diagnosed with chronic myeloid leukaemia (CML), she was told the only way she would live was if she secured a bone marrow transplant.

The Mail asked readers to spare five minutes to donate blood and bone marrow. Thankfully, two months later a donor was found.

Burton's MP Andrew Griffiths yesterday paid tribute to the Mail's efforts in the Commons.

He said: "Through the Burton Mail's campaign, I have seen the difference that raising awareness can make. The work of the Burton Mail and the Anthony Nolan Trust has resulted in a large increase in the number of Burton residents who have come forward.

"If we can encourage similar activity across the country, we can all play our part in raising awareness."



'Through the Burton Mail's campaign, I have seen the difference that raising awareness can make'

Andrew Griffiths

NEWS IN BRIEF

11 disadvantaged teens offered employment

FRIDAY the 13th brought good luck to a group of 'disadvantaged youngsters' when they were offered jobs at The Alton Towers Resort.

The offers come four weeks after Alton Towers launched its Get into Customer Service programme with the aim of giving young people across Staffordshire the chance to develop their confidence and skills to move into work.

The programme gave young people aged between 16 and 24 years the chance to receive intensive training and hands-on experience in a specific sector during the course.

Following on from a taster day, the resort took a group of 11 young people through to the next stage where they attended an induction course followed by two weeks of intensive training.

The youngsters were also trained in Emergency First Aid before being offered permanent employment at the resort.

Learning and development manager, Jason Mumford said: "I can honestly say, the transformation in these young people has been incredible and many of them have received phenomenal feedback from their team mates, line managers and even from our guests."

New Assistant Chief Constable for force

STAFFORDSHIRE Police has appointed a new Assistant Chief Constable.

Bernie O'Reilly has today been appointed to the role and will be responsible for local policing across the county.

His policing career began in Staffordshire in 1989 where he was stationed as a PC on patrol, and has since worked in various other policing roles.

He was also awarded the National Tackling Drug Supply Award in 2003 following an investigation into the supply of Class A drugs.

Chief Constable Mike Cunningham said: "I am delighted to announce the appointment of ACC Bernie O'Reilly.

"He has an impressive operational background, with experience in specialist roles and has an excellent knowledge of the workings of the force.

ACC O'Reilly said: "I am very proud to be part of the chief officer team at Staffordshire Police and to remain with the force I joined 25 years ago."

Police seek suggestions from Ashby locals

POLICE in North West Leicestershire are looking for guidance from residents in Ashby to improve their services.

They are appealing for people who have any serious issues regarding the police or their procedures to come forward to complete an online survey.

It gives members of the public the chance to make suggestions to what local priorities the police should have.

You can take the survey by going to www.leics.police.uk

New psychic business welcomed my locals

BURTON MP Andrew Griffiths and Burton Albion chairman Ben Robinson have welcomed the opening of a new psychic shop in Burton.

The new store, called Spirit Pathways, in High Street, offers services including psychic readings, holistic therapies and meditation groups.

Owner Sophie Poynton has been working as a medium for more than 10 years.

She was very pleased with the opening which attracted more than 50 people.

She said: "It has been an exciting few weeks preparing my new business to create the perfect calm environment for readings and therapies."