

OVERJOYED: CANCER FIGHT POLICE OFFICER'S BABY DELIGHT

Little Amelia is giving her dad new strength

by **CIARAN FAGAN**
SOCIAL AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

She is the apple of her father's eye and is giving him renewed strength in his fight with cancer.

Police officer David Robinson, who has three incurable tumours – two on his brain and one on his spine, this week witnessed the birth of his first child – Amelia.

She was born at Leicester Royal Infirmary on Monday afternoon, weighing in at a delicate 5lbs 9ozs.

David, who married his long-term sweetheart Almina Hodzic at the beginning of the month, was overjoyed.

His cancer – which he was first treated for more than a decade ago when the Leicester city centre of cancer was 17 – returned last year.

The couple hope to raise £100,000 for David to receive an experimental treatment in America that could extend their time together.

'BEAUTIFUL'

David, 28, said: "Amelia is beautiful. We're so happy she is here with us now.

"We chose the name because it sounds like Almina. It's that simple.

"We've been building to this for nine months, but then it was all over really quickly.

"In the afternoon the people at the hospital told us Amelia wouldn't be born until 11pm or midnight, so we were preparing for a long labour.

"But then she was born at 3.58pm. "They were about to give Almina an epidural, but there was no time."

Almina, 29, said: "Amelia is perfect. We're both so happy.

"People keep saying to us that we've packed a lot into a couple of weeks, but that's the way it has to be. It's been a rollercoaster. It's just good stuff happening to us at the moment. Even the midwives knew who we were because they'd seen the stories in the Mercury – they were absolutely brilliant and there was even a quick whip-round for David's fund."

David expects to have a scan to-



PICTURE: 208195-00

SO HAPPY: David Robinson with wife Almina and their new baby, Amelia. The couple are overjoyed

ward the end of the month for the latest assessment of his condition.

David said: "At the moment, the chemotherapy makes me feel tired and a little bit sick, but nothing I can't handle."

Friends, family and David's colleagues at Mansfield House police station, in Belgrave Gate, are helping them raise the £100,000.

The fund has just broken through the £30,000 barrier.

Almina said: "It's overwhelming. Every time we check there's another donation or someone with a fund-raising idea."

The latest boost, more than £1,000, was collected by some of David's colleagues who visited a national sports competition in Great Yarmouth last week and urged officers to contribute.

Friend and colleague, Sgt Nick White said: "All along we've been overwhelmed by people's generosity. We're all so happy for David and Almina now that Amelia has arrived, they've had an incredibly busy few weeks.

"But the icing on the cake for all of us will be when we send him off on a plane to America."

Family friend and fund-raiser

Lois Davies, 20, said: "It's been a fairytale few weeks for them. Everyone is so happy for them."

David hopes to be part of a clinical trial at Preston Robert Tisch Brain Tumour Centre, at Duke Hospital, in Durham, North Carolina.

It is aimed at adults with a recurrent medulloblastoma tumour.

Updates on David's condition and the details of all fund-raising events – including a craft fair at the Royal Oak, Main Street, Kirby Muxloe at 11am on Sunday – are available on the Help Us Help A Friend site on Facebook.

www.davidleerobinson.co.uk

Poster gets message over on crime and safety

A CAMPAIGN has been launched to tackle the "misconception" that Leicester city centre is a violent place.

The Safer Leicester Partnership yesterday unveiled posters to promote the city's bars, shops, restaurants, theatres and cinemas.

The One Safer Leicester campaign will also highlight falling crime rates. The campaign is supported by police, Leicester City Council, East Midlands Ambu-

lance Service, Street Pastors, City Watch and the City Centre Management Group – organisations which have different roles in reducing crime and promoting the city.

Councillor Wayne Naylor, cabinet member for community safety, said: "We want to do everything possible to ensure that people can continue to enjoy nights out in Leicester.

"By working together we can make the city an attractive and safe

place for all who want to make the most of our varied and lively night-time economy. Agencies are setting standards and working hard to ensure the city is well managed at night-time. "This helps support our aim of offering an enjoyable night out for all."

Superintendent Phil Whiteley, a senior police officer, said the city had seen a "sustained reduction". He said: "Serious violent crime, such as grievous bodily harm, has

fallen by 33% over the past year; robbery has dropped by 15% and thefts from vehicles by 39%.

"There is a real energy among all agencies for the city centre to be a safe and vibrant place to live, work, shop, entertain your family and have a good night out.

"I am confident that we can build on successes around reductions in crime to continue to see fewer victims of crime in the city centre."

www.saferleicester.org

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