

## APPEAL: £35,000 RAISED TOWARDS POLICEMAN'S CANCER TREATMENT

# Cash pours in to help David

by **CIARAN FAGAN**

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**Offers of help for a police officer's campaign to raise £100,000 for experimental cancer treatment are coming in "thick and fast".**

Friends and colleagues of Pc David Robinson, who has four incurable tumours, said they were determined to keep up the momentum as the running total reached £35,000.

David's cancer – three tumours on his brain and one on his spine – was first diagnosed 12 years ago when he was 17. It returned last year, despite several apparently successful attempts to beat it.

The 29-year-old and his wife Almira, also 29, believe the trial of a new treatment is their only hope of extending their time together as a family.

Earlier this month the couple got married and, a few days



**FUND-RAISERS:** Claire Granger Clarke, back, third right, with colleagues from the Leicester Mercury, who took part in a 'dress-down day' to help raise cash for David Robinson, who is hoping to undergo experimental treatment for cancer in the US

PICTURE: 208412-4



**HOPE:** David, Almira and their baby, Amelia

later, had their first child, Amelia.

Appeal co-ordinator Sergeant Nick White, one of David's senior officers at Mansfield House station in Leicester city centre, said he was astonished the fund had reached £35,000 in a little more than two months.

"We want to keep the momentum going because we want to get David on a plane to the US as soon as possible," he said.

"The offers of help are still coming in thick and fast and that's amazing and we want

people to continue contacting us."

Forthcoming events are expected to further boost the fund. Designer leatherware shop Cellini, in Hotel Street, is holding a fund-raising evening and raffle next month.

Staff there wanted to support the campaign because David and colleagues helped them when the shop was targeted by burglars and shoplifters.

The event is at the shop between 7pm and 10pm on Wednesday, June 16.

Manager Jenny Witty said: "We had some trouble a while back with shoplifting and break-ins and the police were fantastic and David was one of the first officers to help us."

More than 250 staff members at the Leicester Mercury and

its parent company Northcliffe Media yesterday raised money holding a 'dress down day'. The final total was still being calculated yesterday afternoon.

Claire Granger-Clark, an administrator at the company, said: "I was at college with both David and Almira. I was really close to Almira but I'd lost touch with her."

"I'd been reading the stories about them in the Mercury and I just wanted to do whatever I could to help them."

Glen Turner aims to complete the daunting Three Peaks Challenge, scaling Ben Nevis, Scafell Pike and Mount Snowdon in less than 24 hours, starting on Saturday, June 12.

The 37-year-old heard about David's campaign through mutual friends in Kirby Muxloe.

Mr Turner, a conveyancer at a city legal firm, said: "I'll be part of a team of about 14 people raising money for various good causes."

"I couldn't think of a better cause than David and I want to do everything I can to raise the profile of his campaign. It's very simple, he's a young guy who needs our help."

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 are available on the 'Help us help a friend' site on Facebook and at:

[www.davidleerobinson.co.uk](http://www.davidleerobinson.co.uk)



**CHALLENGE:** Glen Turner

## Youngsters get to play naturally

**CHILDREN** are getting to grips with a "natural" playground. Equipment was installed in Queens Park, Hinckley, using a £50,000 Playbuilder grant from the government.

Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council, which is responsible for the park, added £8,000.

A council spokesman said: "The site has been designed using guidelines from Play England to create a natural play area."

"This has incorporated humps and bumps, tunnels, logs and boulders as well as some more traditional equipment."

### IMPROVEMENTS

"Traditional styles of surfacing have also been replaced with natural materials such as sand and bark."

Further improvements are planned for Queens Park this summer.

A toddler play area will be added, there will be better provision for older children and teenagers, improved paths, seating and bins and more planting.

Council executive member Wendy Moore said: "These improvements are important as they will encourage greater levels of play and physical activity, which have direct health benefits for children."

## Family-friendly forest bike tour

**A BIKE** ride has been organised to enable families to explore the National Forest together.

Cyclists meet at Moira Furnace, in Furnace Lane, near Ashby, at 10.30am on Monday for a "family-friendly" tour of Ashby Wouds Heritage Trail.

The event is organised by North West Leicestershire District Council's Active Together team to celebrate National Family Week, from Monday until Sunday, June 6.

Councillor Trevor Pendleton, the council's leisure champion, said: "It is a chance for families to explore and have fun together during the school half-term."

Children under 16 must be accompanied by an adult. Helmets are recommended.

For details call Zara Barnes on 01530 454606 or visit:

[www.nwleics.gov.uk](http://www.nwleics.gov.uk)

## Forum debates big issues

**A RESIDENTS'** forum will allow people to discuss issues in their area.

Policing, the General Election and the Borough in Bloom competition will be on the agenda of the meeting, organised by Oadby and Wigston Borough Council.

The meeting starts at 7.30pm, on Wednesday, June 9, at Fairfield Primary, in Cheshire Drive, South Wigston.

A surgery with councillors precedes it at 7.15pm.

For more, contact:

[gary.waterfield@oadby-wigston.gov.uk](mailto:gary.waterfield@oadby-wigston.gov.uk)

## Pack a hamper and head to park!

**FAMILIES** are invited to pack a hamper and join a giant bank holiday picnic.

Snibston Country Park, off Ashby Road, Coalville, is one of eight locations chosen to stage simultaneous picnics to launch National Family Week.

Entertainment laid on for picnickers on Monday will include traditional sports day games, face painting and a bouncy castle.

Councillor Peter Osborne, chairman of Leicestershire County Council, will be at the

picnic, which runs from noon to 3pm.

He said: "I hope families will come along and enjoy some quality time together."

For more information, including picnic recipe ideas, visit:

[www.nationalfamilyweek.co.uk](http://www.nationalfamilyweek.co.uk)

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