

BATTLE: COUPLE HOPE TO RAISE £100,000 FOR US TREATMENT

Cancer-hit PC marries pregnant sweetheart

A police officer who is fighting incurable cancer has married his sweetheart.

David and Almina Robinson tied the knot watched by just a handful of their closest relatives and friends on Saturday.

The couple, who are also expecting their first child within days, had kept the hastily-arranged wedding at Oakham Registry Office a secret for weeks.

David, a trainee police officer, has four tumours – three on his brain and one on his spine – which doctors have told him are incurable.

The cancer, diagnosed when he was 17, returned last year, despite several apparently successful attempts to beat it.

He is currently undergoing chemotherapy and is due to have a scan later this month to track the progress of the cancer.

The couple hope to extend their life together by raising £100,000 for David to undergo a new experimental treatment in America.

They said they had decided to get married because of the uncertainty surrounding their future.

David, 28, said: "We were always going to get married but then everything in our life changed when I was diagnosed.

"Then we realised we would have to do everything sooner than we imagined because we don't know what's happening in the future.

"We only planned it a few weeks ago and we were crossing our fingers all the time that our little girl didn't come along sooner than expected.

"She didn't, but her arrival is the next big thing to come along and that's only a few days away now.

"Everything is happening all at once at the moment, but we're just so happy to be married."

Almina, 29, said: "A girl dreams of a big white wedding, and I'm no exception.

"But everything changed when David became ill and my perspective changed.

"We arranged everything in a few weeks and kept it secret from a lot of people to avoid the fuss.

"That kind of made it more special and I'm just excited to be Mrs

by **CIARAN FAGAN**

SOCIAL AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

Robinson now. It's been a tough year but this has given us something to concentrate on and keep positive."

Friends, family and David's colleagues at Mansfield House police station, in Belgrave Gate, have helped them reach the £20,000 mark since the drive to raise £100,000 began two months ago.

A group of officers from Mansfield House, boosted the fund on the couple's wedding day by cycling from police HQ in Enderby to Exeter in Devon.

Sgt Nick White, who came up with the idea of the 190-mile ride, said: "David and Almina have had such a difficult year that they've been due some good news.

"Getting married, expecting their first child and watching their fund

"It's been a tough year but this has given us something to concentrate on and keep positive."

Almina Robinson

grow so quickly is just what they deserve.

"After the ride, people were saying to me 'I bet you never want to see a bike again', but, if anything, it's made us more determined than ever to do everything we can to help."

Friend and fund-raiser Lois Davies, 20, said: "I'm so happy they've got married, it's what they've always wanted."

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 comedy event at 7pm tonight at the Highlight Comedy Club, Granby Street, Leicester – are available on the Help us help a friend site on Facebook and at:

www.davideleerobinson.co.uk



SPECIAL DATE: David and Almina Robinson on their wedding day

Primary gets award for teaching basics

A PRIMARY school has won an award for the improvement pupils have made.

Rowlatts Hill Primary, in Balderstone Close, Leicester, achieved its Basic Skills Primary Quality Mark.

The award recognises the school's commitment to ensuring all pupils have the basic skills of reading, writing, mathematics and information and communication technology.

Assessors from Quality Mark said the school was an "excellent" example.

One, Glynis Rabin, said: "There is a very positive working atmosphere throughout the school and all the children are engaged in learning.

"There is a positive culture, which is clearly having an effect on the children and their self-esteem, and helping to raise standards in basic skills."

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Party violence

A 26-YEAR-OLD man who dislocated a victim's nose has appeared at Leicester Crown Court.

Lukarsz Kwiatkowski admitted causing actual bodily harm to a man on January 1, following a party in Leicester's Abbey Lane. He also admitted driving with excess alcohol on the same date. The case was adjourned until May 28.

Kwiatkowski, of Warren Street, in the city, was released on bail.

Knife threat as girl robbed of phone

A 16-YEAR-OLD girl was threatened and robbed in a park.

Police are appealing for witnesses to the attack in Leicester's Abbey Park at 3.10pm on Sunday.

As the girl and her friend approached the Abbey Park Road exit, they were confronted by a man who told them he was carrying a knife.

Police said the pair could not be

sure if the man did have a weapon but the frightened teenager gave the thief her Apple iPhone.

He rode away on a blue mountain bike.

PC Dave Wadsworth, of Beaumont Leys police station, said: "This happened in broad daylight, when there were a number of people around, so we are very hopeful that someone will be able to help us find

this man." The robber is white, about 5ft 11ins and slim. He had dark blond or brown hair and stubble on his face.

He was wearing a brown zip-up hooded top, jeans and white training shoes.

Anyone with information is asked to Contact PC Wadsworth at Leicestershire Police on 0116 222 2222.



Michael Gaskell's strikingly realistic portraits

IN THE MERCURY