

## UNITED: FRIENDS AND PUBLIC RALLY TO HELP POLICE OFFICER



PICTURE: ALEX HANNAM / 206089.3

**STICKING TOGETHER:** Police community support officer David Robinson, front, with fiancée Almira Hodzic and Team Robinson colleagues

# 'Overwhelming' support for David's cancer battle

A police officer and his fiancée have been "overwhelmed" by a wave of support for his battle to raise £100,000 for experimental cancer treatment.

David Robinson, 28, has four tumours – three on his brain and one on his spine – which doctors have told him are incurable.

David and fiancée Almira Hodzic are expecting their first child in May. They believe clinical trials in the US of a new treatment is their only hope of extending their time together as a family.

Since his story appeared in the Leicester Mercury this month, he has received a flow of donations, messages of support and offers of fund-raising help.

More than 20 letters and dona-

by **CIARAN FAGAN**  
SOCIAL AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

tions worth about £600 have been sent to Mansfield House police station in the city centre, where David worked for two years as a community support officer.

An elderly burglary victim stunned officers investigating the crime by handing over £100 "for the poorly policeman".

The couple's friends and relatives are also helping them meet their target by putting together fund-raising and sponsored events.

Officers and staff at Mansfield House, who call themselves Team Robinson, organised a fund-raising day on Friday, with David and Almira, 29, as guests of honour.

Staff in the resources planning department at the Belgrave Gate station organised cake and book sales,

an "auction" of police officers and other competitions.

"They asked us to come down to the station because they were holding a little cake sale," said David.

"When we got down here we saw them all in Team Robinson T-shirts and there were all these things going on for us to raise money for the appeal.

"I was overwhelmed but then there have been so many messages from people and donations."

Almira said: "I never stop being overwhelmed by how strong David is. I tell him day in and day out that it's not just our friends and the police who want to help us, it's complete strangers as well.

"We just want to be together as a family for as long as we possibly can."

Friend and colleague Sgt Nick White said more than 20 letters and

cards had been sent to him at the police station in the past week, some with "really poignant messages from people whose relatives had cancer".

"We've also had people coming to the front desk to drop off cheques and money," he said.

Pc Hayley Price, one of David's former colleagues at Mansfield House, visited businesses in the city centre, Glenfield and Anstey to collect 50 donated prizes for a raffle at last Friday's event.

She said: "I was overwhelmed by their generosity."

The treatment David hopes to have is part of a clinical trial study at the Preston Robert Tisch Brain Tumour Centre, at Duke Hospital, in Durham, North Carolina. It is aimed at adults with a recurrent medulloblastoma tumour.

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

## Young people learning to be better citizens

**TEENAGERS** from four villages have begun a course to help them become better citizens.

The 30 young people, mainly from Newbold Verdon, Thornton, Ratby and Groby, will learn about the affects anti-social behaviour has on other people.

They will also be taught about everything from fire safety to safe sex.

The course began on Saturday and will continue at weekends and during school holidays until May 22. It will include trips to the police dog unit, the helicopter base and a fire station.

The participants, aged between 13 and 17, were chosen by beat bobbies to be invited to take part in the free course to help them improve their behaviour.

Pc Jonathan Shaw, one of several people who put the course together, said: "We hope the young people will get a sense of fulfillment from this because at times it will be challenging.

"The emphasis will be on education, taking personal responsibility and working within a group to achieve a common goal.

"We see this as an investment in

their futures and we are hoping it will lead to a reduction in anti-social behaviour. It offers the chance to gain a qualification as well as learning a lot more about the community they live in."

The course will include a session with a victim of anti-social behaviour, who will explain what it is like to be on the receiving end of someone else's bad behaviour.

## Bridge solution

**A SOLUTION** has been found to limit disruption when a bridge on a main road is raised.

Network Rail is to adjust the bridge in Leicester Road, Melton, to allow larger freight trains to use the line.

Businesses and residents were bracing themselves for months of disruption. But Network Rail and contractors Galliford Try have hit on the solution of building the new bridge alongside the old one and "sliding" it into place.

The scheme will require off-peak single lane traffic controls.

Work to clear trees on either side of the bridge has begun. The main building work will take place during the summer while schools are on holiday, with the bridge replacement scheduled for late November or early December.

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