

## News

By **APRIL RYAN**

ECHO Correspondent

news@liverpoolcom

@LivEchoNews

A LIVERPOOL man, who lost his dad to cancer, is planning a special way to celebrate Father's Day this year.

Phil Parr, from Stoneycroft, will be the first man to ring the starter bell this year at Aintree Racecourse

This is the first time in the race's 25-year history that men have been allowed to enter, and Phil is on a personal mission to encourage others to join him.

Phil explained: "Cancer has plagued my family over recent years. It took my dad away three years ago; then, just when our family was at its lowest, my mum was diagnosed with breast cancer."

"Father's Day is tough when you've lost your dad, but when I saw that Race for Life Aintree was happening that day, I felt like it was written in the stars."

When Andrew, Phil's dad, began to struggle with his breathing one day in 2016, he was rushed to the Royal Liverpool Hospital's A&E department with suspected pneumonia.

However, they discovered Andrew had developed advanced cancer in his lungs, liver and bones.

Phil said: "It was such a shock to see."

Just two weeks after arriving at the A&E, Andrew passed away. He was 73 years old - and more bad news was hiding around the corner.

Days after his father passed away, Phil's mother, Peggy, told him that she had found a lump in her left breast. Tests confirmed that she had cancer, too.

Phil recalls how difficult it was seeing history repeat itself, saying: "It was tough having to go back to the hospital where Dad died, and there were even times where Mum said she wanted to die, too."

"But, deep down she is a fighter. We sat together while she was on the chemo drip and I did everything to keep her as positive as possible."

A year and a half later, and Peggy's cancer is now in remission.

Phil is running to try to prevent others suffering the pain of losing a loved one.

Phil said: "I owe it to my Mum and - most importantly - my Dad, who I miss



Phil Parr will start the Race for Life at Aintree in memory of his dad, Andrew - pictured, left, with Phil as a child - as men take part in the event for the first time

# Phil rings in the changes for cancer research

TO find out more about Race for Life, visit [www.raceforlife.org](http://www.raceforlife.org) or call 0300 123 0770

deeply. It will be very emotional seeing sons and daughters taking part with their dads and grandads, while others like me are there to honour their memory."

"I'm so grateful for the treatment that helped save my Mum's life and I'm proud to be able to celebrate her survival while I

also remember my Dad."

Anna Taylor of Cancer Research UK said: "We are very grateful to Phil for his support - and by following his lead, and joining the Race for Life, we know that people in Liverpool can make a real difference."

## NEWS WIRE

## Man knifed at city landmark

A MAN was taken to hospital after being slashed in the stomach in one of Liverpool city centre's most famous buildings.

Police and paramedics were called to the Grade II\* listed India Buildings following reports of an assault at around 8.30am yesterday.

A middle-aged man was found with a knife wound and taken to hospital.

Police are treating the incident as a domestic dispute and believe there is no wider threat to the public.

The incident is believed to have taken place on the second floor of the landmark, which is the subject of a multi-million pound refurbishment ahead of the arrival of staff from HM Revenue and Customs at the complex.

A spokeswoman said: "Emergency services attended where a man with a knife wound to his abdomen was located.

"He was treated by the ambulance service at the scene and was then taken to hospital as a precaution.

"We are continuing to carry out further investigations to establish the full circumstances."

Confirming officers attended the scene, a North West Ambulance Service spokeswoman said: "We were called to the India Buildings at 8.30am and took a man in his late 40s to hospital with minor injuries."

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