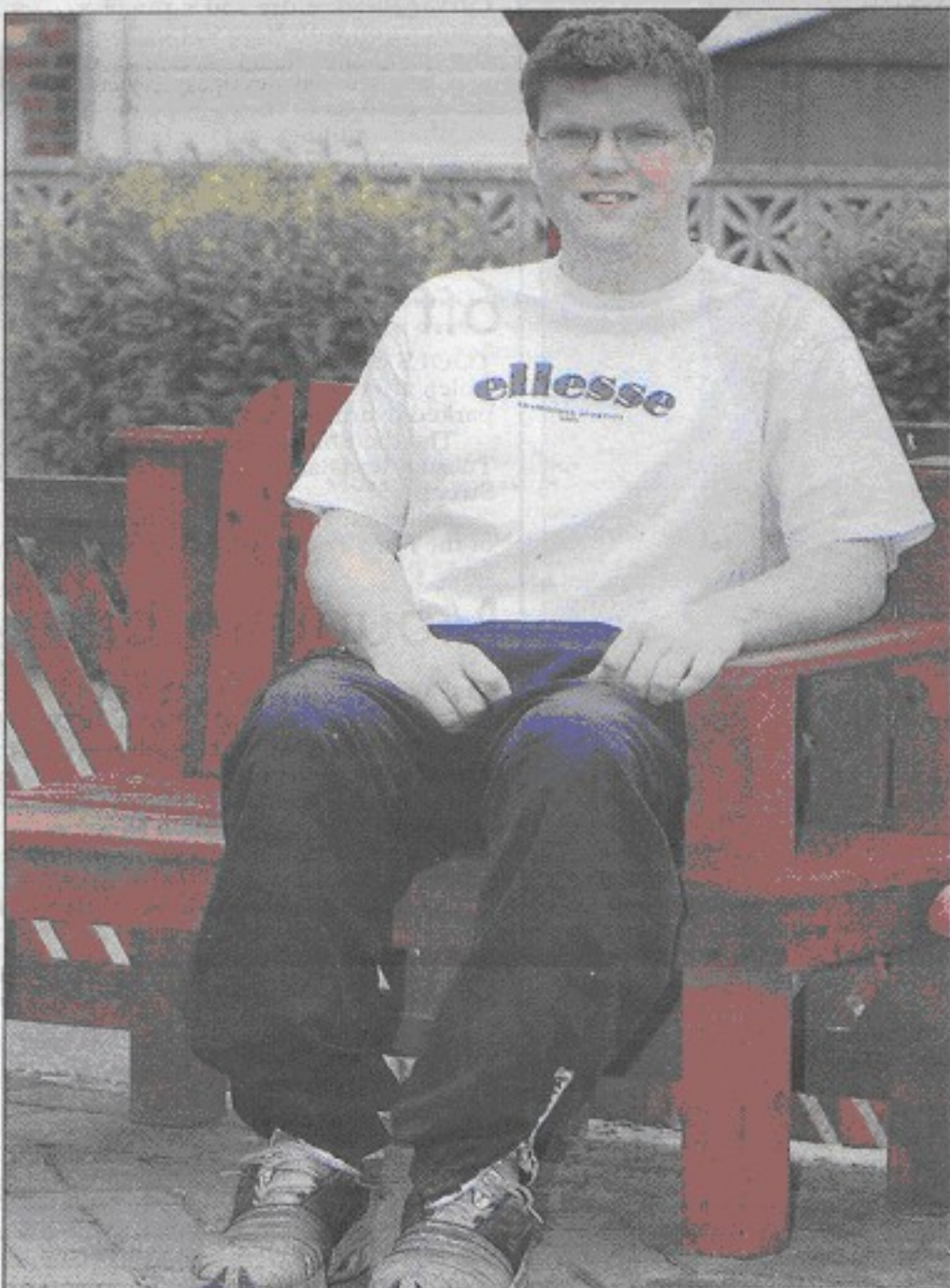


Chef one of youngest to have double hip replacement

# BRAVE SIMON BATTLES ON



**A BURTON teenager has become one of the youngest people in the country to have both hips replaced.**

Simon Erdkin, 19, was given a double hip replacement at Burton's Queen's Hospital after treatment for leukaemia caused his joints to waste away.

However, thanks to a revolutionary implant, Simon is fighting back and has realised his ambition to become a full-time chef.

Simon, of Stanton Road, Stapenhill, was diagnosed with leukaemia at the age of 13 and is still fighting the disease six years later.

He is due to be given the all-clear within the next 12 months, but is now living a normal life after losing most of his teenage years to the disease.

Simon, a former pupil at Paulet High School, said: "After a bone marrow transplant two years ago I went back to see a doctor and he noticed me walking funnily.

"I had an X-ray and it found the ball joints were corroded. I then made an appointment to see consultant Frank Bindi and he said the only thing would be to replace the hips.

"They have been successful. My right shoulder's gone the same way now and we'll see what happens in due course." During initial

by **TOM SLOAN**  
NEWS REPORTER

treatment for leukaemia in 1998, Simon was given chemotherapy.

The adult dosages he was given damaged his still-growing bones, leading to the two hip replacements – the first of which took place in 2002 and the other in October last year.

Hip replacement operations are usually performed on people in their 60s, and traditional cemented implants only have a limited lifespan.

Thanks to the new Furlong implant, developed 19 years ago in the year Simon was born, he has been given a 'hip for life'.

The replacement has a unique coating which allows it to join with human tissue, creating a flexible bond which will allow the replacement to last a lifetime.

Trials 15 years after the introduction of the implant show a 99 per cent success rate.

Since recovering from his hip operations, Simon, has taken up a position as a chef at Branston Golf and Country Club – which paid for him and his family to visit Disneyworld, in Orlando, Florida.

He said: "I've always wanted to be a chef."

A spokesman for Burton's Queen's Hospital said: "We are delighted to hear that Simon is progressing so well and wish him all the best for the future."

**FIGHTER . . .** Simon Erdkin who has had to go a double hip replacement  
Picture: NEIL BARKER