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'Squint in the eye revealed my daughter had cancer'

DAD'S MARATHON EFFORT TO SUPPORT CHARITY

BY KIRSTY PURNELL
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A dad whose toddler battled a rare form of eye cancer is running the London Marathon to raise awareness of the condition among parents.

Paul Calver, from Brixton, has never run before but he was inspired to sign up for the marathon in August on the first anniversary of Maeve's diagnosis.

He will be raising money for the Childhood Eye Cancer Trust, which helped Maeve when she was ill.

The only symptom that Maeve Ling-Calver, two, showed of having the children's cancer retinoblastoma was that she developed a squint.

Paul and wife Victoria, both photographers, hope his marathon

effort can help parents spot early warning symptoms.

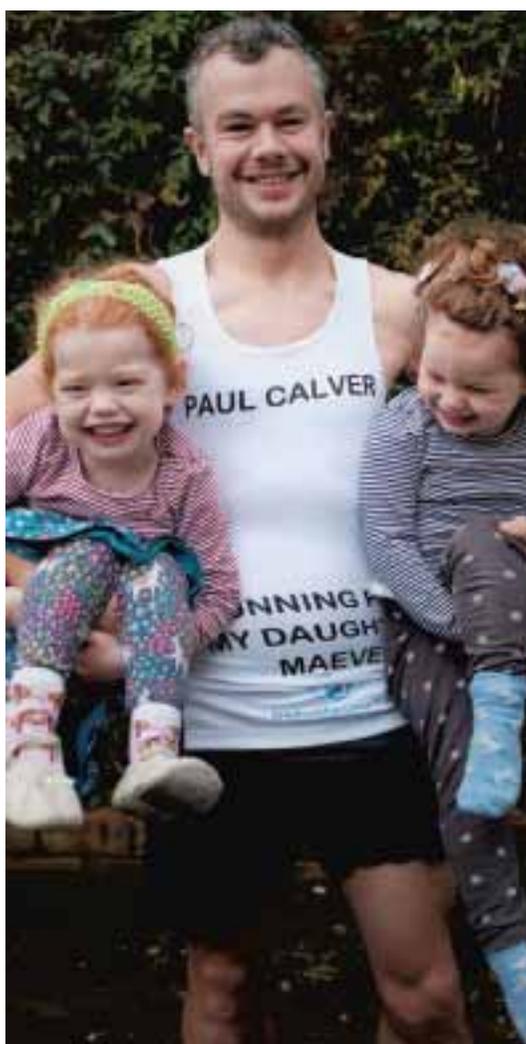
Retinoblastoma usually affects children aged five or under, and more than half of them will need to have an eye removed to prevent the cancer from spreading.

Maeve, who is in a stable condition, had just turned one when she was diagnosed in August 2016.

Paul, 37, said: "It was my wife Victoria that first noticed a slight turn in her eye. They call it a 'squint' officially.

"We took her to get checked out but we assumed she just needed glasses."

The doctor referred Maeve to a hospital ophthalmologist at St



Sister Etta, four, dad Paul, 37, and Maeve, two



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Police set to close investigation into Stephen Lawrence murder

BY CALUM FRASER
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Police will close the investigation into the Stephen Lawrence murder if new witnesses do not come forward after the screening of a BBC documentary next week.

A Met statement released on Wednesday said that without new information the investigation into the 1993 murder was “unlikely to progress”.

Stephen Lawrence was stabbed to death on April 22, 1993 at a bus stop in Eltham.

Chris Le Pere, the senior investigator, said: “We understand that 25 years is a poignant anniversary of the tragedy of the murder of Stephen,

and our thoughts remain very much with those who loved him, and feel his loss.

“With the anniversary and airing of a documentary, *Stephen: The Murder That Changed A Nation*, there is still the opportunity for someone who knows what happened that night to have a conscience and come forward. I would say to you, it is never too late to do the right thing.

“We continue to speak to Baroness Doreen Lawrence and Dr Neville Lawrence to update them on the current Met position.”

Gary Dobson and David Norris were convicted of the murder in 2012.

● Call 101 or Crimestoppers, anonymously, on 0800 555 111.



Stephen Lawrence was killed in Eltham in 1993

‘Squint in daughter’s eye revealed she had cancer’

FROM FRONT

Thomas’ Hospital because she was too young to see an optician.

Victoria, 38, said: “As soon as the doctor had a close look at her eye he knew something was wrong.

“He looked at her and then he walked out of the room. He didn’t say anything. I knew then there was something wrong.

“I asked him to tell me the worst case. “He said ‘I think we need to start thinking about cancer’”

The young family had to wait over the weekend before they could see a specialist at Royal London Hospital’s Retinoblastoma team.

Victoria said: “It felt surreal over the weekend. It was difficult because we didn’t know what to expect. But we also kind of knew – the percentage chance of her having retinoblastoma was high so it wasn’t unexpected.”

Maeve was diagnosed and referred to Great Ormond Street Hospital for chemotherapy.

“One thing I remember thinking is – I just hope she gets to keep her eyes,” said Victoria.

Paul thinks it was a blessing that she was so young when she underwent treatment.

He said: “It was a perfect combination in a way – old enough to be strong enough for treatment but too young to understand the gravity of what was happening to her.

“She’d be sick and groggy in the days after her chemotherapy. We also had to be careful that her temperature didn’t go above 38 degrees or we had to rush her to King’s Hospital for a three-day hospital stay and antibiotics.

“It happened a few times and the worst was at Christmas. But we made it home by midday for a big family dinner which was nice.”

Maeve had her last session of chemotherapy in January 2017.

If the cancer returns doctors said they cannot give her more chemotherapy, they will have to remove her eye to stop the cancer spreading.

Paul said: “Doctors have said that the tumour has shrunk back. They can only get rid of it if they remove the eye so it’s still there – but she’s stable.”

Maeve passed a major milestone in January – one year since the end of chemotherapy

Doctors say that if the cancer hasn’t returned after this point then the outlook is positive.

Paul said: “I’m as ready as I can be for the marathon. I’m really nervous and I pulled something in my hip.

“But Maeve is helping me with my training and helps with my stretches. And she’ll be there to support me on the day.”

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