

Anna Libby:

Mum of two, Anna Libby, was diagnosed with breast cancer two years ago: “The moment I was told I had cancer, I chose to live. It’s a case of live or die, isn’t it? And I chose to live – to do whatever it takes to get through.”

Anna, an Occupational Therapist, found a small pear-shaped lump on her left breast in November 2006 after getting out of the shower. She decided to go to her GP to be on the safe side. Anna’s GP immediately referred her to an Oncologist and whilst the lump turned out to be a harmless cyst, the medics discovered cancer below her breast tissue.

“When you’ve faced your own mortality, it does change your perspective on life. I faced the fear and came through it.”

Anna was then admitted to Addenbrooke’s Hospital opting for a mastectomy and immediate eleven hour surgery to reconstruct her breast using stomach tissue.

After enduring radiotherapy, a mastectomy and seven months of chemotherapy Anna is now cancer free. She believes her experience has made her a stronger, happier person and improved her relationships with all those that matter to her.

Anna received lots of support from her family, friends and even her pets who refused to leave her bedside after her chemotherapy. She said: “Support is such an important thing. My advice to anyone would be to take all the help you’re offered.”

Now she is on the road to recovery, Anna is determined to help others and is a keen supporter of the Pink Rose Valentine’s Appeal. In the past she has even sported a pink streak in her hair to show her support for the cause.

“With more than 12,000 women dying from breast cancer every year in the UK alone raising awareness and money for research in this disease is vitally important. I am proud to support the Pink Rose Valentine’s Appeal and urge others to help out anyway they can.”