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# This mum was 12 weeks pregnant when doctors found a cancerous lump in her womb

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Author and artist Tracey Moberly feared neither she nor her child would survive the procedure needed to remove the lump

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Tracey Moberly, from Bargoed, was diagnosed with cancer of the womb in 1991. She wearing unity bands to mark World Cancer Day on February 4

When expectant mum Tracey Moberly was told she had a **tumour** in her womb 12 weeks into the pregnancy of her second son, her world fell apart.

The artist and author, who had already given birth to a healthy **baby boy** 10 months earlier, feared neither herself nor her son Izaak would survive a procedure to remove the cancerous lump.

But after begging her consultant to postpone the operation until her baby was fully formed the pair both survived against the odds to tell the tale.

## Diagnosed with cancer at 26 years old

"I was worried for the new baby already fully formed and growing inside me and for the baby I would be leaving behind," said **Tracey**, who was diagnosed with cancer at the age of 26.

"I was told I had the worst type of cancer and the stage it had reached was very high. The doctor telling me had apologised saying he'd never had to break news like this and in such a way."



Artist Tracey Moberly

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Thanks to her expert surgeons at Saint Mary's Hospital in Manchester, who were able to remove the tumour while she had a caesarean, both mother and baby survived.

"It was far more of a risk to me to delay the operation as I was told the baby was breathing and would be fine," added Tracey, who spends half her home life in her hometown of Bargoed and the other in London.

"I'm just so thankful that I went for the 12-week scan, which I didn't actually need as I'd already **given birth** to Jake 10 months before.

"I wouldn't have known about it otherwise. It could have led to two babies growing up without a mother."

## 'I have a huge appetite for life'

Eccentric **artist Tracey**, who published an autobiography made up of 3,000 text messages in 2011, says both Jake and Izaak are now flourishing in university.

She said the traumatic experience gave her a greater desire to live life to its fullest.



Artist and author Tracey Moberly (centre) with her sons Izaak Sanderswood (left) and Jake Sanderswood

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She added: "I've always lived and seen things through a random pattern and continued to live through these patterns, which most of my work as an artist and writer is about.

"I have always realised that death can come at any time, having lost friends and family at young ages.

"I have a huge appetite for life, travel, and experiencing new things."

In February 2017 the 51-year-old is planning on taking part in an extreme expedition to the inaccessible North Pole with top explorer Jim McNeill.

Tracey will see herself walking more than 800 miles in 80 days with temperatures reaching as low as -53C.

The aim of the three-month trip, known as the Ice Warrior Challenge, is to collect scientific data in order to learn more about climate change.

## World Cancer Day

Tracey, who has even taken part in training about what to do if she encounters a polar bear, added: "I have already gone on training in the Arctic Circle and I have to say I'd never enjoyed myself so much in all my life.

"I will be there to understand the psychological elements of the trip and I'll be writing a blog."



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Tracey decided to tell her story ahead of World Cancer Day on Thursday, February 4.

For the first time Cancer Research UK, Breast Cancer Care, Anthony Nolan and the Movember Foundation are joining forces for the event to help transform the lives of people affected by the disease.


Tracey added: "I'm now uniting with cancer survivors everywhere for World Cancer Day as I believe it's thanks to advances in treatment that I am here today and preparing to take on the biggest challenge of my life."




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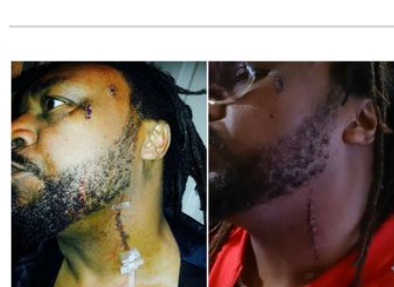
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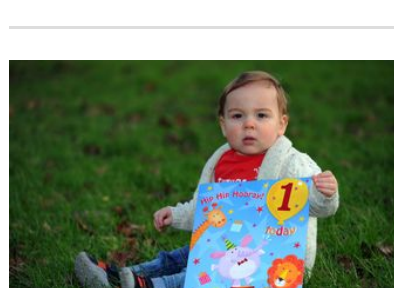
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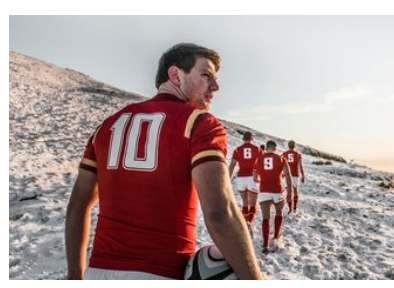
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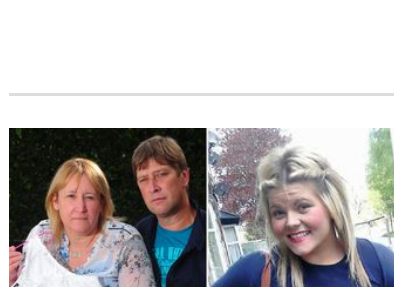


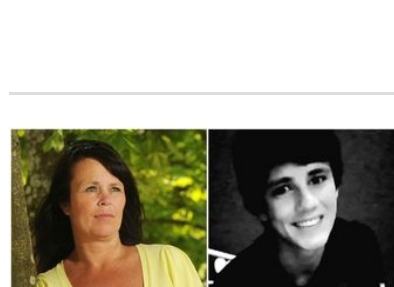
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