



## RYANAIR JET BOMB HOAX

by Karen Rockett

NINE men were thrown off a Ryanair jet yesterday after one joked there was a bomb aboard – at an airport attacked by Islamic State terrorists last year.

The man also shouted “Allahu Akbar” – Allah is greatest – as he boarded the 7am flight to Madrid at Brussels-Zaventem.

The plane was delayed two and a half hours as all the passengers were taken off and luggage searched by police with sniffer dogs.

The nine men were all Belgians.

Police spokesman Peter De Waele said: “The Ryanair flight commander refused to take these people. One of them was a foolish joker.”

The man will face prosecution over the scare.

A total of 32 innocent people were killed in three suicide bomb attacks at Brussels-Zaventem and the city’s metro in March 2016.



DIAMOND: Stu & Tatiana

## RINGING ITS WAY BACK

by Karen Rockett

A BRIDE-TO-BE has got her engagement ring back after accidentally posting it more than 200 miles away.

Tatiana Fernandez, 49, lost the diamond band in a box of children’s books while working as a packer for internet giant Amazon.

She and fiancé, Stuart O’Neil, 52, searched with colleagues at Gourrock near Glasgow but gave up in despair.

Then customer Stephenie Healiss in Manchester found the precious ring and got in touch with Amazon.

She said: “I could tell the it had a great deal of sentimental value and know from my own experience that things like that cannot be replaced.”

Tatiana said: “I honestly thought it had gone forever. I’d like to say a heartfelt thank you.”

# 3 SURVIVORS SHARE THEIR



**A CANCER diagnosis would make most people suddenly believe their days could be numbered.**

But if symptoms are caught early, more and more victims can survive the killer disease.

Now cancer survivor Fiona Goldsby has launched the Macmillan Awareness Calendar by support group the Merry Macs of Lincoln, featuring monthly photographs of brave survivors of different types of the disease.

And on the back of each is a list of signs, symptoms and vital contact numbers to help people detect it early and save more lives.

### Remarkable

It is the first time a calendar like this has been produced and it is due to be on sale at Marks & Spencer to raise money for Macmillan.

Fiona, 41, from Lincoln, who battled a brain tumour, said: “I wanted to create a calendar that would help people and save lives and raise funds. All of us have a story to tell, we have been through the worst and have come out the other side with a new outlook on life.”

Here some of the remarkable cancer survivors who appear in the calendar share their inspirational tales of survival.



**THE Macmillan Awareness Calendar 2018 costs £5 and is available from [www.merrymacs.co.uk](http://www.merrymacs.co.uk)**



## BOOB JOB SAVED MY LIFE

**KELLY Larkkom-Till, 39, breast and skin cancer:** Beating this killer once is no mean feat, but to do it twice is truly remarkable. Which is why Kelly features in July AND December.

She puts her survival from breast cancer down to enlargement surgery she had the year before she was diagnosed.

Kelly says: “I’d always wanted bigger boobs and went from a B cup to D cup, but a year after my surgery I felt a lump in my right breast. I was diagnosed in October 2004 at 27. I was told my boob job saved my life because the implants had pushed the lump out and I was able to detect it.”

“The irony was I’d paid £4,600 to have my new breasts and a year later my right breast was being removed. I then had it reconstructed.”

“I didn’t have chemotherapy as it was caught so early. I had Tamoxifen.” Kelly, of Weston-super-Mare, Somerset, went on to marry and have a son in 2007. Sixteen

months after the birth her left breast was removed as a precaution. But cancer was to strike again. She saw a chiropractor for hip and back trouble in 2014. He spotted a mole he was not happy with and booked her a doctor’s appointment that day. Kelly was diagnosed with skin cancer.

“It was the cancer that had caused the pain and I had the mole and a large section of skin removed,” she says. “I couldn’t believe I had cancer again.”

### Sunbathed

“I had just come back from a holiday in Turkey and we had sunbathed all day every day – but I was lucky it was picked up so quickly. After having it removed, I didn’t need any more treatment.”

“I have always gone on with the mindset that cancer is not going to beat me. Taking part in this calendar is really important – if my cancers had not been picked up so quickly I may not have been here.”



LUCKY: Battler Kelly

## I wouldn't let

**ROBYN Crowder, 31, cervical cancer:** When the choice is between survival and the dream of being a mother, many cancer sufferers find themselves in Catch 22.

With many surgeries and treatments affecting fertility, becoming a parent can seem out of the question.

But Robyn Crowder, September in the calendar, beat cervical cancer and is still set on being a mum.

She says: “In my early 20s I had been having symptoms of cervical cancer but didn’t realise, which shows how important this calendar is. I got it checked out but was fobbed off because of my age.”

“In 2011 I turned 25 and went for my first smear test. The first one came back abnormal which is very common so I went for a second one six months later, which was also abnormal. Next they found pre-cancerous cells.”

“I was treated for this and five weeks later went back for a follow-up appointment. I was aware the procedure I had was routine and made the biggest mistake of my life by going alone to get the



BRAVE: RAF pilot Alun in the cockpit



FEARLESS: He helps others spot signs

# Making a date

# INSPIRATIONAL STORIES

## this shatter dreams of baby

results. March 27, 2012, was the day I was told I had cancer.

"I went in for what I hoped was my only treatment in May – I had a radical hysterectomy and 11 lymph nodes removed. They left behind my ovaries so I wouldn't go into early menopause and I would still have a chance of mothering my own child through surrogacy.

"But the thought of not having a baby upset me more than the diagnosis."

Robyn had a tough recovery from the operation and six weeks later got the bad news.

### Intense

She had a large tumour in her cervix and four tiny ones in her lymph nodes. She then had an intense course of chemoradiation plus brachytherapy. This would kill her ovaries off. But determined to have a child, she managed to persuade the doctors to let her have IVF



RELIEF: For Robyn

beforehand to save her eggs. She says: "They offered me a different kind of option – it wasn't as successful as we hoped but I did manage to produce four very fragile embryos.

"Then it was time to start treatment. I had cisplatin chemotherapy and radiotherapy every week for five weeks. I had three rounds of brachytherapy afterwards for three weeks, and this ended in October 2012. I have been cancer free ever since.

"It did ruin my life for a long time and robbed me of chances I will never get back, but I'm alive to tell my tale.

"Some days are tougher than others and I've made friends with girls who have lost their battle along the way all due to not enough awareness or not being tested young enough.

"The nightmares still feel like yesterday. Since I was declared cancer free I've fulfilled my bucket list travelling the world. I still have my embryos but I haven't yet used them, but we'll see what the future holds. Everyone says I'm lucky, I'm definitely not lucky, I just had my dreams taken from me and I refuse to let cancer take any more from me."

DETERMINED: Robyn got docs to save her eggs



CHARGES: Call centres

## Chat fee at insurance call hubs

by Stephen Hayward

INSURANCE giants are charging people up to £15 to speak to call centres.

Customers face add-on fees and admin charges to set up or renew policies.

Hastings Direct has a £12.50 call centre arrangement fee to speak about an existing policy. People's Choice – owned by Hastings – also has a £12.50 call centre arrangement fee on top of £20 for starting a policy.

1st Central Car and Autonet charge £15 for making routine amendments to policies by phone.

A Hastings policyholder said: "These charges are punitive." Martyn James, of complaint handler resolver.co.uk, added: "It's absolutely astounding."

Hastings Direct said it is mostly web-based, adding: "A small number of new customers want to complete the process on the phone. We support this but do charge £12.50 for it."

1st Central said it is transparent on fees and Autonet said dealing by phone rather than online forces "additional cost".

### SMILEY

A GANG of grannies shamed lazy workers for not filling in potholes by doing it themselves in Svedniy Bugalish, Russia.

### PEOPLE

## Britons not got talent

TWO-THIRDS of Brits have let their talents go to waste, a new study says.

Of 1,500 adults who excelled at creative writing, music and the arts as children, 63 per cent had given up by the age of 30.

The BIC poll found 28 per cent tried for a career in their chosen talent.

Of the quitters, a quarter put it down to busy lives, 20 per cent blamed family pressures and a third "just weren't good any more".

Pen maker BIC, which has launched a songwriting contest, said: "It's a shame. It's important to support the next generation of writers and artists."

## One testicle, but Manliest Man

**ALUN Pepper, 46, testicular cancer:** Having part of your manhood removed to save your life could make many men feel less manly.

But for one brave survivor, having testicular cancer has made him live life to the full – and even landed him a Manliest Man Award.

RAF pilot Alun, who is November in the calendar, says he first noticed something was wrong in July 2006 when he felt a lump in his scrotum. But the Flight Lieutenant never thought it could be cancer.

He says: "I was due to fly out to Afghanistan when I got my diagnosis, I had my testicle removed and by the October I was back flying again because they caught it early.

"After having the surgery I only needed one dose of chemotherapy so I didn't lose my hair at all.

"Since having cancer I've lived life to the full, I've fallen in love, fallen out of love, had my heart broken, but I've lived."

Alun, of Lincoln, then went on to talk to young recruits and schoolboys about the early signs of

testicular cancer to raise awareness in a campaign called Man Up and Check. In 2014 he was voted Britain's Manliest Man by Men's Fitness magazine, Orchid male cancer charity and men's grooming brand The Bluebeard Revenge.

As well as such macho pursuits as kick-boxing, skydiving climbing and his role as an RAF Fast Jet Weapons System officer, Alun insists his passion for spreading the word about cancer is the attribute that most demonstrates his manliness.

### Scarred

He said: "If I can be Britain's Manliest Man with one testical it shows this cancer doesn't make you less of a man."

**Zara Welch, 27, Hodgkin's Lymphoma:** Zara says taking part in the shoot for February made her feel beautiful again.

"I didn't have much hair and I was still scarred from the reaction my body had to chemotherapy, but I

wanted to fully show the second your central line is out you celebrate and you start living again," she says.

Zara, of Nottingham, first noticed something was wrong in December 2015 as she lost weight, and had no appetite.

She also had a pain in her chest and felt itchy and exhausted.

She had just qualified as a mental health nurse and had been assaulted at work. Her doctor at first diagnosed her with depression.

In March 2016, a large lump in her neck appeared. This time she got a doctor at work to check her out and was sent for blood tests.

After pushing, she finally got a CT scan where they spotted enlarged lymph nodes across the chest and diaphragm. She had surgery to remove those and started chemotherapy for eight months.

"My whole outlook on life has changed," she says. "I've been in remission now for four months." Grabbing life with both hands, she is now sailing on a catamaran in the Atlantic.

TALKS: Flt Lt Alun



FIGHTER: Alun now lives life to the full

# to fight cancer