

MUM'S ANGUISH MICHELLE'S APPEAL IN NAME OF HER CHERISHED DAUGHTER

Our Ellie is buried beside baby I lost battling cancer.. now I want the world to walk a million miles for her



SCENE Drylaw, Edinburgh

Stab mum rushed back to hospital

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A MUM stabbed moments after dropping off her children at school was rushed back to hospital yesterday.

Charlene Malone, 29, was attacked outside her home at 9am on Monday.

The mum of three was released from hospital later in the day after being treated for knife wounds sustained in Drylaw, Edinburgh.

A relative said: "Charlene had to go back into hospital after collapsing on Monday night."

"Her skin was grey and she kept passing out so we were worried she has an infection. It was a terrible thing that happened to her."

A friend said Charlene was slashed on the arm and stabbed in the back by a man and a woman who jumped out of a car.

A police spokesman said: "We are following a positive line of inquiry."



SHUTDOWN Hunterston B

Seaweed closes nuke power plant

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A REACTOR at Hunterston B power station had to be closed down after seaweed blocked its cooling system.

The plant's operator EDF Energy said the reactor was shut down on Monday night before any problems arose as a safety precaution.

Seaweed had clogged the intake system which uses sea water to cool two reactors at the Ayrshire plant.

The second reactor continued to operate at a reduced capacity as engineers carried out maintenance work.

A spokeswoman for EDF Energy said it was "a precaution due to high levels of seaweed in the waters around the power station's water intake system".

Hunterston began operating in 1976. It was scheduled to shut down in 2011 but that has been extended to 2023.



STEPPING TO IT Alexander will walk a million paces for big sis Ellie, right, and mum Michelle's campaign

A STUDENT who died weeks after graduating from university has inspired a campaign to save lives.

Brave Ellie MacDonald was only 23 when she lost her battle against bowel cancer - Scotland's second-biggest killer cancer.

A wish to destroy cancer was top of an adventure-packed bucket list she left when she passed away last September 18. Now her mum Michelle, who has beaten breast cancer twice, is launching an ambitious fundraising drive.

Called 1 Million Miles for Ellie, it aims to raise £1million for those touched by cancer. The cash will go to Cancer Research UK, Maggie's Centres and Macmillan Cancer Support.

Launching on June 20, the campaign will ask Scots to help Ellie's family hit their million miles target by completing a challenge - from a walk on the beach to a camel trek.

Michelle, 50, said: "After we lost Ellie, I was walking across a beach near home crying and shouting, 'How am I ever going to get over this? How will I ever get any peace? How many miles of walking would it take? One thousand, 10,000, a million?'"

"Then I had a lightbulb moment. I knew I couldn't do a million miles on my own but I could do it by inspiring others to take part as well."

"Ellie's little brother Alexander has announced he will complete a million steps for us we're off to a great start."

As Michelle and Ellie's dad Angus, 50, sit at home on North Uist and look back on family albums of their travel-loving eldest daughter growing up, it's still hard to believe she is gone.

It was one of the proudest days of their lives last June 27 when Ellie collected her BSc Honours in management. She got a 2:1.

Ellie looked like any other student on

graduation day as she laughed in the sunshine with brothers Fraser, 22, and Alexander, nine, and sister Sarah, 18.

Later Ellie pulled on a stunning azure dress for her graduation ball before getting up early the next day to fly off for a holiday in San Sebastian, Spain, with her boyfriend Robert Przepiorka, 25.

Despite the smiles, she had endured months of chemotherapy for cancer which had spread to her liver. Michelle was by her side every step of the way through Ellie's fight with the disease.

It brought back memories of when Michelle first had cancer.

Michelle was pregnant when she was diagnosed with a fast-growing, aggressive breast cancer tumour in February 1998.

Doctors explained that saving her life meant starting chemotherapy right away - and losing the baby. Michelle

Michelle said: "Ellie was a huge help at home when I was ill. She was queen of the dirty washing pile. She could make a pile of clothes disappear like magic."

"It was so tough but I told myself I'd rather this happened to me than any of my children."

It felt like a hammer blow when Ellie's cancer was found in her final year at St Andrews University.

Fit and active Ellie, who had been the first woman in her university walking group to reach the top of Mount Kilimanjaro, was exhausted.

At first she blamed that and weight loss on a busy social life and juggling a part-time job with her studies.

Things hit a crisis point just before Christmas 2013 when Ellie phoned her mum in tears. Michelle said: "She said,

LIFE AND SOUL Ellie loved to party with her friends

want to finish your degree. I'm going to do everything in my power to make sure that happens. What he did was exceptional."

Ellie packed much into her final few months, from kayaking with her dad to jumping for joy on a beach with her boyfriend. The couple wrote bucket lists of 10 wishes each.

Michelle said: "She wanted to do so many amazing things. She already believed she would beat cancer, so thought it might be better to replace it with something fun and challenging."

"After Ellie died, I spotted 'destroy cancer' was top of the list. That, to me, was a sign."

"She can't do any of these things now but helping to achieve that No1 wish for others will be my tribute to Ellie." Hundreds turned out for Ellie's funeral on North Uist. They wore purple, her favourite colour.

"Ellie is buried next to John Joseph, the baby I lost when I had cancer," said Michelle.

"Even if I started as a baby and lived a long life I know I couldn't walk a million miles alone but I could cover that distance with the help of people across Scotland and across the world. I don't need to do this on my own as I believe together we can beat cancer."

"Mum I just feel so unwell". She went to the doctor for some antibiotics then got up the next morning and sat an exam.

"I've no idea how she got through that exam but it shows just how determined she was."

When there was no improvement, Ellie went back to the GP and was referred to Ninewells hospital in Dundee.

Michelle flew to Dundee to hold Ellie's hand before an operation which revealed cancer in the bowel and liver.

It would have been easy to give up. Instead Ellie vowed that she would finish her degree. Michelle said: "She was so strong. She was not going to die."

"Ellie clicked straight away with Professor Alastair Munro who was one of the medical team treating her."

"He breezed in and said, 'I hear you



MEMORIES Alexander, Angus, Ellie, Robert, Michelle, and Sarah on graduation day



ON TOP Ellie scaled Kilimanjaro with friends from uni

ELLIE'S LIST

- 1 Destroy cancer
- 2 Work with monkeys in a foreign country
- 3 See as much of Latin America as possible (and some crazy volcanoes)
- 4 Take part in a sailing expedition
- 5 See the Northern Lights in Iceland (and more volcanoes)
- 6 Climb another mountain. (preferably Aconcagua but many other mountains are also cool)
- 7 Backpack through SE Asia
- 8 Pass my driving test and go on a crazy road trip.
- 9 Volunteer somewhere remote
- 10 Go to a major sport event, eg Olympics or World Cup

BURNING BRIGHT Ellie's brave battle won't be forgotten thanks to her mum's campaign



HOW TO HELP CAMPAIGN

JOIN 1 Million Miles for Ellie, a million pounds for those touched by cancer, at www.1millionmilesforellie.co.uk. The site launches on June 20.

People of all ages are welcome to create their own challenge - anything from walking to work

every day for a month and donating the money saved to charity to getting together with friends for a buggy walk.

Or it could be doing a triathlon, climbing a mountain, cross-country skiing ... anything. Money raised will be

split between Cancer Research UK, who fund lifesaving research into 200 cancers, Maggie's Centres, who run centres offering free help to people going through cancer, and Macmillan Cancer Support.

INFORMATION

GRANTS Available IN YOUR AREA

GRANTS TO SUBSIDISE THE INSTALLATION OF WINDOWS, DOORS, BOILERS, RE-ROOFING & CONSERVATORY ROOFS

Limited Availability. ALL HOME OWNERS ELIGIBLE

HELPLINE 0800 042 8043

Private sector funded. Installations and funding supplied by a local Social Enterprise.



For more info on Social Enterprise visit

www.socialenterprise.org.uk

Working in harmony with the environment