Moonwalk marathon

TWO long time friends, whose lives have been affected by cancer, are joining forces to take part in a gruelling 26 mile walk for charity.

Maria Welsby, 46, will travel to the capital this weekend, to take part in the London Moonwalk, with her pal Jane Wilson.

The co-owner of Café Aroma on Baldwin Street was diagnosed with breast cancer in November 2011.

Maria, a married mother of two explained: “I’m ok now. I’m just waiting for a reconstruction appointment. My family and friends have been amazing through this. My daughter Jessica was going through her A-levels at the time.

“Doing the walk and raising money for breast cancer is a way of giving something back. Being with 15,000 women in their bras is going to be great.”

The trek through central London shouldn’t cause too many problems for Maria, who has taken part in each of the St Helens 10k runs. Last year she completed the run despite just having chemo.

Her friend Jane Wilson, 44, said she will be doing the walk inspired by Maria and in memory of her dad John Houghton, who played 54 matches for Saints in the late 60s and early 70s. He died from liver cancer aged just 45.

Originally from Thatto Heath Jane, who has lived in Ruislip for 16 years has shed 36lb training for the walk.

She explained: “I know how cancer affects families. Because my dad died, I believed cancer equalled death, but now I believe there is a future and a renewed hope in battling the disease.

“We decided to do the walk because Maria wants to encourage other women who are going through the same battle she has and not to give up, no matter how hard it gets. This thing can be beaten. And to prove to herself that she is back, fit and well. “Plus she wants a cheeky trip around the shops,” she joked.

THREE mums who became friends while on the school run will also be among the 17,000 other women on a march through the streets of London this weekend.

Wendy Mumford, 36, Catherine Flounders, 38, and Kerry Smith, 32 (pictured on facing page) struck up a friendship through Sherdley Primary School, where their children attend.

Nicknamed the ‘Boobie Dollz’, they have been busy decorating bras and racking up the miles on the St Helens pavements.

Newly qualified teacher Wendy, who has a daughter, Hannah (aged six), and Daniel (seven), said: “We’ve all had friends or families affected by breast cancer.

“My grandmother had the disease a few years ago and has been successfully treated. She will be celebrating her 90th birthday later this year.”

To sponsor the mums go to www.walkthewalkfundraising.org/the_boobie_dollz

By STEPHEN MATHER
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Maria Welsby (above) will be taking part in the Moonwalk this weekend. Friend Jane Wilson (below) has been inspired by Maria’s strength.