

# Aileen is all set to dive in for charity thanks

## Fundraising bid celebrates daughter's graduation and five years in remission

By Pat Scott

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**A GARTLY mum will take a tandem skydive at the end of this month to raise money for a charity which supported the family during a gruelling cancer journey.**

Aileen Watt is doing the parachute jump in celebration of her daughter's five years remission from Hodgkin's lymphoma which has recently been capped by the plucky young woman receiving a first class honours master of arts degree in business and management from the University of Glasgow.

Andrea Watt (22) battled the rare form of cancer, which affects the lymphatic system, through her senior years at The Gordon Schools. She was 16 and had just sat her standard grade exams when she was diagnosed.

She was advised to take a year out of her studies to give her treatment the best chance to be successful but instead threw herself into school work, regularly studying or doing assignments while hooked up to a drip receiving chemotherapy or waiting for her radiotherapy session.

Andrea's parents, Aileen and Charles, feared she might never be able to get to university, but now to celebrate her five years in remission from the disease and her magnificent

degree success, Aileen is raising money for the Make a Wish Foundation, which took the family to London during Andrea's treatment.

Andrea, who has a twin Louisa, secured A grades in Higher modern studies and business management in 5th year despite missing classes while she received treatment. While she was in 6th year, she battled fatigue and was diagnosed with hypothyroidism caused by radiotherapy treatment to a tumour between her lungs.

Determined that there was no way that Louisa would go to university and she would not, Andrea put what energy she had into studying and picked up A grades and the class prizes in physics, English and geography in 6th year. In the autumn of 2012 she took up her place at university.

Aileen said: "We worried about her going to university but she enjoyed a normal student life although still affected by fatigue. She took up running, played netball and swam a lot. I think she found the work hard in the first two years but after that her grades picked up."

Of 110 students on the course with Andrea, only 10 were awarded first class honours.

Andrea has taken up a post in Glasgow and attends the Beatson specialist cancer centre in Glasgow once a year for check-ups.



**Aileen Watt is doing a skydive in aid of Make a Wish charity which helped the family while her daughter Andrea (right) was being treated for cancer.**



Aileen continued: "I had always wanted to do something for Make a Wish, they made our trip to London with Andrea and her sisters very special. Andrea loves jewellery and they even arranged that Tiffany's would open specially for her on the Sunday morning. The time away from home with the family provided much-needed respite after eight months of gruelling chemotherapy and radiotherapy. We are extremely lucky that she responded well to the treatment and has made a full recovery. To celebrate her five years in remission I want to help make a difference by raising money for Make a Wish so that more youngsters fighting a life threatening illness can

benefit. A friend did a tandem skydive and she inspired me to do one too."

On July 30, Aileen will go to Auchterarder where, weather permitting she will complete the training and then do the skydive.

She has set herself a target of raising £2000 for the Make a Wish Foundation and is already well on her way with £1400 donated through her Just Giving page, [www.justgiving.com/Aileen-Watt](http://www.justgiving.com/Aileen-Watt)