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Brave fundraising doctor sails into Arbroath

JOSIE SETS TARGET OF £20,000 FOR RESEARCH AFTER BEING DIAGNOSED WITH TUMOUR

BY CATRIONA WEBSTER

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A DOCTOR battling an incurable brain tumour sailed into Arbroath harbour yesterday as part of a 2,000-mile fundraising voyage.

Josie Phillips, 27, is taking her yacht Nordlys around the British coast to raise £20,000 for Brain Tumour Research.

Mrs Phillips, a junior doctor at Norfolk and Norwich University Hospital, was diagnosed with a tumour in 2004.

After three operations, she was told in 2008 that it was malignant and was given only 15 months to live.

Determined not to let the tumour stop her from enjoying life, she embarked on the four-month challenge with her husband, Roger, 27.

Arriving at Arbroath, she said: "It's been brilliant so far. We've had some great weather and the last couple of days since we arrived in Scotland have been fantastic.

"I was very tired the first week but I've settled into it a bit more and have been able to relax and just enjoy sailing.

"Doing things like this is my way of coping really. This is what life is about.

"We are having a lot of fun and getting a lot out of it, as well as raising awareness."

Mr Phillips added: "Josie had a rough time with the treatment and it was really dreaming about and planning this trip. That kept both of us going through the last 18 months."

The couple, who are also fundraising for the Big C Centre in Norwich, plan to leave Arbroath today and set sail for Peterhead.

They set out from their home port of Ipswich two weeks ago and expect to complete the journey by the end of August.

To follow their progress and donate, go to their website at www.contessa32.co.uk



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