When you are helping others you forget you have cancer too

Diagnosed with terminal cancer in 2001, Angela Profit refused to give up – raising money for charity, inspiring a play and petitioning Parliament. Now, with only days to live, Roz Laws looks at her amazing achievements.

Angela Profit was given just a year to live in 2001 when she was diagnosed with cancer. But instead of giving up, she repeatedly fought the cancer which took over her body, while becoming an inspirational figure for fellow patients.

It is only now, 14 years later aged 71, that she is finally succumbing to the disease and has just days to live.

The Solihull grandmother was diagnosed with ovarian cancer in 2001, after doctors originally told her that her painful and swollen stomach was irritable bowel syndrome. It had spread to her lungs and she was told it was terminal.

But Angela refused to believe the doctors and set herself goals. She wanted to visit Venice, to marry her second husband John. A year later she had realised all her ambitions, going to Venice on her honeymoon.

She continued to think positively when the cancer returned and she endured more surgery and rounds of chemotherapy. Other goals she achieved were to go on safari (and ride an ostrich) in South Africa, to sail down the Nile and cycle across the Golden Gate bridge in San Francisco – and to become a bridesmaid, which she achieved at the age of 61.

She also took afternoon tea with Sir Cliff Richard and welcomed her sixth grandchild.

She appeared briefly on stage in 2009 in the play Survivorship: To Cancer And Beyond, with Hannah Waterman, who told her story in Survivornship: To Cancer And Beyond.

A week before her 70th birthday, Angela was told the cancer had become very aggressive and she began her fifth round of chemotherapy, recovering enough to holiday in Lake Garda.

However, the disease has finally got the better of Angela.

As she moved into a hospice for her final days, her friends paid tribute to her indomitable spirit.

David Bradnock, Deputy Lieutenant for the West Midlands, said: “Now and again from the most unexpected areas of life you meet someone like Angie Profit, a lovely, vivacious, intelligent, happy, inspirational person who changes people’s lives forever.

‘Angie you may rest contented that you will have left an indelible loving memory – a shining example to us all.’

Steve Dourass, former area fundraising manager for Macmillan Cancer Support, said: “Angela was a real ambassador for the charity.

‘No matter how tired she was from whatever chemo she was having at the time, she delivered a message that everyone listened to in a spellbinding way.

‘She must have raised millions over the years for Macmillan. Wherever she went it encouraged others to donate to the cause and many, many people today are still surviving because of Angela.

‘I am so proud to have known her. Her glass was always half full and we enjoyed every minute of the joy she spread. I always thought she would go on forever.”