

We'll be cancer trial guinea pigs for our inspirational sister

Sue has battled disease 3 times

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TWO women are to take part in the first worldwide breast cancer prevention trial after their sister was three times diagnosed with the disease.

Mary Torode, of Magnolia Drive, Greenstead, Colchester, and Ruth Day, of Station Road, Manningtree, put themselves forward for the study, led by Cancer Research UK, after sister Sue Hayward, 61, repeatedly battled the condition.

The trial aims to find out if a hormone drug called Anastrozole, already used to treat breast can-



■ Sister act – from left, Mary Torode, Ruth Day and Sue Hayward

cer, can prevent cancer in post-menopausal women. They will also have regular mammograms and bone density scans and their progress will be monitored by Kathy Rooke, research sister at Essex County Hospital, Colchester's breast unit.

Mrs Torode, 71, said: "Sue was 37 the first time and had the lump removed, followed by radiothera-

py. The second time was eight years later when she had a lump removed from her other breast, and had radiotherapy. The third time was three years ago when she found another lump and decided to have a double mastectomy.

"She is an inspiration to us and the most wonderful person, so Ruth and I are keen to do what we can to help researchers find out

more about preventing breast cancer and would be so happy if some good came of it."

Mrs Day, 67, who runs breast cancer support group, Wivenhoe Bosom Pals, said: "It doesn't seem fair one person can be diagnosed with breast cancer three times.

"Sue has certainly inspired me to help the cause"

So far, 3,432 women in 25 countries have taken part in the second International Breast Cancer Intervention Study, including 35 from north-east Essex.

The pair are encouraging more women to sign up by December 31 for the next round of trials.

Participants must be aged 40 to 70, post-menopausal and have a family history or other factors which put them at increased risk of developing breast cancer. Call 01206 744734 to find out if you are eligible.

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