

Each sale will raise £5 for charity

Old-style surfboards aid cancer awareness

SURFING is being taken a step back in time for Breast Cancer Awareness Month with the return of an old-style design.

To mark the month, Westcountry-based The Original Surfboard Company has designed and built pink and white ribbon Surf Support surfboards, and each one sold will raise £5 for the charity.

These first charity boards of their type are British-made, designed in Cornwall and handcrafted in Devon.

They are of traditional wooden design, and the charity says they are more environmentally friendly than foam body boards. They can be used by all age groups and surfing abilities.

Sally Parkin, of The Original Surfboard Company, said: "I wanted to create a pink ribbon board in memory of my sister, who died from breast cancer four years ago when she was 46.

"We learnt to surf on wooden body boards in North Cornwall in the mid 60s when we were about six and eight. We used to spend hours in the sea without wetsuits but didn't get cold if we raced back into the surf to catch more waves.

"I've seen pink ribbons on umbrellas and wellies, golf balls and tennis rackets, teddy bears and rubber ducks and even on hammers – but never on a wooden

PETER HARRISON

surfboard. It feels like a special way to remember Jane and the sisterly fun we had surfing together, and to make a bold statement of support, both on and off the beach, to everyone who is affected by breast cancer."

The company is promoting the revival of the original British surf sport of surf riding with its 1950s-inspired restyle of the classic wooden surf board.

According to the British Surfing Museum this type of surfing has been practiced in Britain since the 1800s.

The board design is based on the original Hawaiian "Paipo" boards – paipo meaning short or small board. While they were once the original surfboard, this particular design is now more commonly referred to as belly boards.

Ms Parkin said she hoped the boards would help to revive a sport that she and her sister both loved.

She said: "It's a simple and sociable type of surfing that almost everyone can do. Traditionally it was very much a summer sport, but the advent of wetsuits has meant that you can now surf throughout the year. With the credit crunch in mind it's also good to know that it's free in the sea."



Each 'Surf Support' board sold will raise £5 for Cancer Research UK's breast cancer research campaign