

PRESS RELEASE

Issued: Monday June 2nd 2014

Press Officer, Jamie Cheshire
07800 904194 • jamiec@kssairambulance.org.uk
www.kssairambulance.org.uk/Media

Kent Surrey Sussex



Air Ambulance
A Charity That Saves Lives

Tree fall survivor re-united with life-saver

A retired civil servant impaled on a fence after falling from a tree has been reunited with the Kent, Surrey & Sussex Air Ambulance doctor who helped save his life.

Father-of-three Jerry Doyle was cutting down branches with a chainsaw at the back of his garden in Cliffe Woods when he slipped and fell 15ft on to the spiked metal railings.

The 62-year-old was stabbed in his back, abdomen, arm and hand by the 8in spikes which amazingly missed his vital organs.

Jerry was flown to a specialist London hospital where he spent two weeks but has now made a full recovery and recently met Air Ambulance doctor Will Davies for the first time since his accident.

He said: "The consultant at the hospital said they wanted to know what my lottery numbers were because I was the luckiest person she had seen in 2013.

"Because of how deep the wounds were, she said that if one of them was another half an inch to the **right** I would not be here because it would have pierced my heart."

Jerry, a former Director of the Government Car Service, was clearing an area of land at the back of his garden in View Road when the accident happened last September.

A neighbor he was working with managed to lift him off the fence before paramedics from the South East Coast Ambulance Service (SECAmb) arrived.

They assessed and treated Jerry at the scene before the Air Ambulance arrived due to the severity of his injuries.

The helicopter's doctor and critical care paramedic Charles Leahy then carried out advanced medical procedures usually performed only in hospital.

Jerry said: "I had to rip my left arm and hand off the fence to get down which felt pretty nasty but I was conscious throughout and my neighbour was more concerned than me. I was reasonably calm."

Air Ambulance Pilot, Captain ???? flew Jerry to King's College Hospital in London in just 13 minutes – a journey that could have taken almost an hour by road.

Scans at the major trauma centre revealed that he had also suffered six fractured ribs but he has now made a full recovery.

The accident happened just a week before the Tothill Fields Masonic Lodge held a charity dinner and dance at The Bromley Court Hotel in Bromley.

As the lodge’s Worshipful Master at the time, the lodge committee decided the funds should go to the Air Ambulance service which relies almost entirely on donations.

They raised a total of £500 from a raffle which Jerry presented to Dr Davies when he met him at the Redhill helicopter base.

Dr Davies said: “

* If you would like to make a donation to the Air Ambulance please call 01622 833833 or go to www.kssairambulance.org.uk

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Photo: L-R, Jerry Doyle, Dr Will Davies, Paramedic Ben Macauley, First Officer Alasdair Auchincloss and Pilot, Captain Roger Sheridan



Note to Editors:
The Air Ambulance service in Kent, Surrey and Sussex costs around £6million annually to stay airborne. Receiving no funding from the National Lottery the charity relies almost entirely upon the generosity of the public to support the two helicopters based at Marden in Kent and Redhill in Surrey.

For more information contact The Communications Team:

Jamie Cheshire	Press Officer	01622 833833	07800 904194	jamiec@kssairambulance.org.uk
Jill Playle	Director of Communications	01622 833833	07894 512268	jillp@kssairambulance.org.uk