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BALCONY FALL STUDENT IN BLOOD CRISIS

07 January 2010



IN NEED: Phil Pain.

THE sister of a student who suffered horrific injuries after falling from a seven storey hotel in Mexico is pleading for more blood donations to save his life.

Philip Pain, 21, (pictured) a former Dartford Grammar School pupil, plunged from a hotel

balcony while in Mazatlan on New Years Day.

The talented Southampton University undergraduate broke two legs, his lower back and crushed internal organs.

Initially doctors feared they did not have enough O negative blood to operate and although an internet campaign has yielded 12 pints from Florida he needs more for further medical treatment.

His sister, Stephanie Pain, 22, from Bexleyheath, is urging more donors to come forward and support a Facebook campaign that has more than 8,000 followers in a bid to find donors.

She last spoke to him over the internet on Christmas morning in a three way conversation with their parents, who were in Portugal.

She said: "It has been fantastic that complete strangers are walking into hospital to give up their blood but we need it to continue.

"Hospitals in Mexico don't have much storage space for blood so we need people coming through the doors every

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day."

On Tuesday his father Neil, wrote a statement on social networking site Facebook that doctors had told him they may be forced to amputate Philip's leg. He said: "Doctors asked and were given permission to remove the leg, in exchange for life we felt it was a good option.

"One of the doctors has said that people with the amount of injuries Philip has would normally not survive however they keep reassuring us that he is young and fit and this means that he will recover."

His former headteacher John Oakes, of Dartford Grammar School for Boys, was quick to praise their star pupil.

He said: "Philip is a splendid young man, he was very popular with students and staff.

"They are a lovely family, you couldn't wish for a nicer family. We are just dearly sorry for them at this time. We wish him a speedy recovery."

Mr Oakes said his love of languages was evident at the school, scoring 38 points in the International Baccalaureate, placing him in the top eight per cent globally.

Within hours of news about Mr Pain's accident reaching the UK thousands had joined a Facebook group which highlighted his plight.

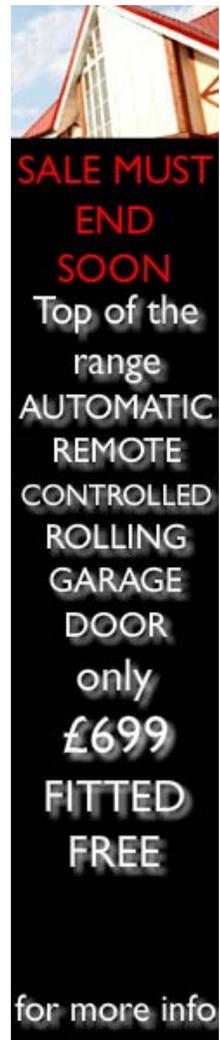
Childhood friend and group co-founder Sophia Casciato was delighted by the response for a lad that 'everybody loved'.

She said: "He is a fantastic friend and one of those characters that everyone who comes in contact with him loves."

Miss Pain added: "I am not just saying it because I am his sister but he truly is great and the response of people is no surprise and will have pleased him."

It is not known how he fell from the hotel balcony, but a toxicology report shows no sign of drugs or excessive alcohol.

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