

8-year-old frees mum from vehicle after head-on crash

Family blames faulty traffic lights for horrific collision that 'changed their lives'

By Jordan Bluer

jordan.bluer@kentlive.news

A TERRIFIED eight-year-old boy dragged his badly injured mum from a car after a faulty traffic light caused a horrific crash in Lydden.

Charlotte Byrom was driving on the A2 with her partner Luke Edmonds and two children Amelia, 11, and Oscar, 8, two days before Christmas.

She turned right when a temporary traffic light at the Lydden Hill junction flashed green and drove into the path of an oncoming car travelling at high speed

Shattering

The two cars collided, shattering Charlotte's bones and knocking Amelia unconscious.

Luke - who was in the passenger seat - suffered four spinal fractures, extensive cuts, bruises and severe chest injuries.

Charlotte said: "When I was coming to I realised I couldn't breathe or move. I could hear my son screaming and calling his sister's name. He thought she was dead."

"I managed to talk to him and asked if he was hurt and if not, could he get out? He managed to unlock my door, unclip my seat-



TRAFFIC TROUBLE: Motorists including Charlotte Byrom (centre, in scarf) meeting MP Charlie Elphicke

belt and pull mummy out of the car. I was then able to attend to Amelia, it took a long time for her to respond. In this time Luke had managed to blindly climb out of the car, as he was covered in blood from his head injuries."

Paramedics took the driver of the other vehicle to hospital. Oscar called it the "worst best Christmas present ever."

The family blame the temporary traffic lights for the smash. Charlotte and other motorists

meeting with Dover MP Charlie Elphicke said the temporary traffic lights had suffered a series of "sequencing problems".

At one point they stalled on red, resulting in queues lasting hours, said some of the drivers.



WRECKED: Ms Byrom's car

The lights were installed after a lorry smashed into the original lights in early December. Repairs were not completed until January 31 - six weeks after Charlotte's accident.

She said: "We must be able to trust and have faith in the traffic lights especially at a difficult junction or when visibility is poor."

"On this particular dark evening I had no reason to not take my cue from the lights and make my right turn. I never for a moment could have imagined the horror that happened."

"It has left the four of us in

shock, and many others. Our Christmas was not a time of light-hearted joy but of tears and pain. But we felt unbelievably lucky to be alive."

Charlotte, a yoga teacher, is still unable to return to work. Luke works from home.

She added: "Oscar and I now won't drive in the dark. Because of this negligence, four people's lives have been changed."

"I now stand in a position that I can be made liable by the other driver. Somebody needs to be held accountable for the accident. I myself refuse to be held responsible for any part of this."

MP meets new Dover Grammar head to discuss plans new school buildings

DOVER Grammar School for Girls is aiming to replace its old mobile classrooms with a new science block and sixth-form centre.

The school is having difficulty getting planning permission because of the confined nature of the site and its listed structures.

Dover and Deal MP Charlie Elphicke met new head teacher Robert Benson.

Mr Benson was previously

deputy head of Queen Elizabeth's Grammar School in Faversham, and took over from Matthew Bartlett in October.

Mr Elphicke said: "It was a real pleasure to be shown around the school."

"It is a shining example of the brains and brilliance of young people in this area."

"But they need investment in their old buildings, so they are in an environment that reflects

their ability.

"Mr Benson is clearly focused on securing this and it was refreshing to hear his vision for the school."

"I will do all I can to help make their case for investment."

Mr Benson said: "Mr Elphicke had a tour of the school and recognised that an outstanding grammar school with increasing numbers and record-breaking results may need to increase

teachings space to continue the current success, and he has expressed an interest in working with us on this project."

"It was an absolute pleasure to welcome him. We were able to discuss a variety of local and educational issues and hope to work together in the future."

MEETING: Right, Mr Elphicke with new Dover Grammar School for Girls head Robert Benson



MARTELLO PHILATELIC AUCTIONS

NEXT AUCTION DATES TO SELL YOUR STAMPS AND COINS

Fri 24th Feb 2017
Fri 26th May 2017

see website for details and catalogues
WWW.MARTELLO.BID

contact Andrew Curd or Robert Uden on
01303 269712

DOUBLE GLAZING DOCTOR

10% OFF
with receipt of this advert

• NO CALL OUT CHARGE

- UPVC Door Lock Problems • Drafty Windows/Hinges
- Leaking Conservatory Roof
- Window Handles & Gaskets • Affordable Prices

MISTED SEALED UNITS?

- Locksmiths • New Keys & Cylinder
- UPVC Doors Dropped and Catching
- Loose Handles

01303 760888
01233 220777 ©LW

www.doubleglazingdoctorkent.co.uk

Rediscover your smile

Disillusioned with your loose dentures?

Don't wait any longer for a quick & friendly solution.
Have a free consultation now,
you might be surprised.

- Fast Service
- Understanding with nervous patients
- New dentures, Acrylic, chromes & flexible
- Relines & Additions
- 1 hour repairs
- Can't come to us? We can come to you
- Affordable dentures
- Open Monday to Friday - 8am to 4:30pm
- Open Saturday morning - 9am to 12noon

DOVER DENTURES
James Price - Qualified CDT R.C.S. Reg no. 145207

Call or visit our clinic
T: 01304 205516
51 Castle Street, Dover CT16 1PT ©LW