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NEWS

Royal Wedding fall from ladder cost Paul his leg



Paul Felton, 55, had his left leg amputated after falling off a ladder while putting up bunting for the Royal Wedding. IT WAS a day to celebrate as Prince William and Kate Middleton got married. And Paul Felton from Willenhall wanted to be part of it.

The caretaker was preparing for a right royal knees-up by hanging bunting at Darlaston All Active community centre. But then disaster struck when he fell from the ladder and crushed his left ankle, having to be rushed to Walsall Manor Hospital for treatment. Two years later, with his ankle failing to properly heal, he was faced with making the decision to have his lower leg amputated. Now he has decided to turn what happened into a positive by creating a support group to help other amputees. The 55-year-old said: "The Royal Wedding cost me my left leg.

"I am not quite sure how I fell from the ladder, it is a bit of a blur," he said. "I was rushed to hospital and I remember the paramedic telling me not to worry, saying my leg was most likely broken and could be repaired. "I had to watch the Royal Wedding from a hospital bed."
Infections
X-rays revealed Mr Felton had suffered a crushed left ankle, multiple fractures, sprained wrist and a deep cut to his head. He had pins inserted into his ankle and his leg put in plaster. He underwent months of intensive physiotherapy but his bones were not healing properly and he suffered painful infections. Medics advised him that amputation was the best option. "I felt such a strange range of emotions," he said. "I was very worried and concerned about how my life would

change and I was also worried about the impact it would have on my family. "I thought there would be a support network that I could talk to and share my feelings with but there was nothing of that kind in the Midlands. "I knew there must be other people like me desperate to talk to someone else, so I decided to set something up." Mr Felton has set up the West Midlands Amputee Support Group and is currently in the process of organising its first meeting. He now uses a prosthetic leg made for him by The Maltings Mobility Centre in Wolverhampton. "The last two years have been tough. Now I just want to be able to bring other amputees together and make them feel that they do not have to go through the trauma of amputation alone."

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