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## ANDREW PIERCE: My miracle, by MP who fell under a train

By [Andrew Pierce](#)

**PUBLISHED:** 22:59, 13 October 2013 | **UPDATED:** 09:24, 14 October 2013

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**David Ruffley has spoken for the first time about how he survived falling under the Gatwick Express train at London's Victoria station**

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Workaholic Tory MP David Ruffley has spoken for the first time about how he survived falling under the Gatwick Express train at London's Victoria station.

Miraculously, he missed the track's live rail and suffered only severe bruising.

At the time of the accident, three years ago, the then Shadow Police Minister had been depressed, lost

weight and was smoking and drinking too much.

The incident was described as a failed suicide attempt because he was downcast, having becoming embroiled in the MPs' expenses scandal. (He had claimed £1,674 for a sofa, £2,175 for a 46in high-definition television and a further £6,765 on furnishings, including a bed for his second home in London.)

But now 52-year-old Ruffley's life has turned around. Instead of being only a rare attender of Commons debates, he has one of the best records among all MPs and has been readopted to fight his Suffolk seat again at the 2015 election.

Recalling the events at Victoria station, he tells me: 'It was an accident. I certainly had a bout of depression, but it's not something I've had since. It was a psychological imbalance.

'I was incredibly lucky, to say the least. I now cherish every day.'

But ministerial promotion is unlikely because the unmarried Ruffley is not a big fan of David Cameron.

Even so, he says his 'self-belief is higher than ever' and feels 'healthier than ever'. He adds: 'My friends are convinced the best is yet to come.'

I hope they're right.

## Labour's insult to NHS patients



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During the same period as the Mid-Staffordshire scandal, a shocking £189,000 was spent on bottled water for department bureaucrats

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Few will ever forget the shameful revelations that some patients being treated by the Mid Staffordshire NHS Trust were so badly looked after and became so dehydrated that they had to drink water from dirty flower vases.

How shocking, therefore, to learn that during the same period — when Labour ministers Andy Burnham and Alan Johnson were in charge of the Health Department — a shocking £189,000 was spent on bottled water for department bureaucrats.

Ed Miliband's 'attack dog' Michael Dugher has come a cropper trying to prove that the Coalition's local

government department is wasting taxpayers' money. First, the Labour Party vice-chairman (who learnt his dirty tricks from Gordon Brown's former rottweiler Damian McBride) asked how much money ministers had spent on external PR and lobbyists in the past three years. The answer was: 'Not a penny.' Then, he was told that in the last year of the Labour government, the figure was £1.1 million. Undaunted, dimwit Dugher blundered on to ask how many flat-screen TVs the department has bought in the past two years. The reply, again, was 'None'. And under Labour? Four — at a cost of £22,527.

**Ukip scents blood on the Isle of Wight — where their candidate at the next general election will surely exploit a civil war in the local Tory party. The sitting MP Andrew Turner (a Tory backbencher) is facing a deselection battle and there have been calls for him to be replaced with someone who has 'more energy and charisma'. If unseated, Turner might run as an Independent — thus risking a split in the Tory vote. Local councillor Chris Whitehouse warns of the possible consequences: 'Ukip are set to get their first MP on island if a nasty cabal succeeds in deselecting Andrew Turner.' Expect a visit on the island soon from wannabe MP and Ukip leader Nigel Farage.**

## Ooh matron! He sounds like Kenny

Westminster wags are having great fun at the expense of David Cameron's new Parliamentary Private Secretary, Gavin Williamson.





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David Cameron's new Parliamentary Private Secretary, Gavin Williamson, has a particularly high-pitched voice, which many have compared with the shrieking of Carry On actor Kenneth Williams

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The MP is aged 37 but looks 27. He has a particularly high-pitched voice, which many have compared with the shrieking of Carry On actor Kenneth Williams. Also, he has been cruelly nicknamed 'The Intern'.

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I have always held the opinion that MPs are not paid what they are worth, and have been the victim of newspaper witch hunts. That statement now has gravitas as the Leveson Inquiry has shown the extent to which papers are wayward. Sure, mark me down, but these are people we elect. They need respect to do their job.

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..... led by donkeys .....!!! What hope for the poor and unemployed with choppers like this .....??

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Question was did he ever pay back the money he took for those goods????

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Published by Associated Newspapers Ltd

Part of the Daily Mail, The Mail on Sunday & Metro Media Group

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