# Pilot survives cockpit roof detachment thanks to quick action and Paul Hollywood’s timely help



Pilot Iain Stingemore experienced a harrowing incident shortly after taking off from Manston Airport in Kent around midday on Tuesday. As he ascended a few hundred feet into the air, the cockpit roof of his aircraft unexpectedly detached, leading to a rapid descent into a nearby field off Thorne Hill, Minster. Mr Stingemore, 58, described the frightening moments when he was unable to breathe or see clearly as the situation unfolded. He estimated that it took only about 15 seconds from the malfunction to the crash landing.

In an unexpected twist, the renowned Great British Bake Off judge Paul Hollywood was nearby, undergoing a flying lesson with Polar Helicopters at the time of the incident. Hollywood promptly landed his aircraft and rushed to Mr Stingemore's aid. "Paul Hollywood was having a flying lesson, and he checked to see if I was okay," recalled Mr Stingemore in a statement to KentOnline. He added, "It wasn’t how I planned to meet him but he checked to see if I was okay. I said to him: 'I don’t suppose you planned on doing this on your lesson?'"

Emergency services responded swiftly, with five fire engines arriving at the scene after reports of the 'emergency aircraft landing' were made. The local community rallied together to assist; the owner of a nearby house even came out with tools to help move the aircraft back to the airfield.

Despite the terrifying circumstances, Mr Stingemore attributed his ability to walk away from the crash to his skill and training as a pilot. His experience highlights the unpredictability of aviation and the importance of preparation and training in overcoming emergencies in the air.

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## Bibliography

1. <https://www.express.co.uk/celebrity-news/1936083/paul-hollywood-500k-helicopter-wife-neighbours> - This article discusses Paul Hollywood's helicopter training and his purchase of a £500,000 helicopter, which he keeps at Manston Airport, aligning with the claim that he was nearby undergoing a flying lesson at the time of the incident.
2. <https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2024/08/14/paul-hollywood-faces-fury-of-neighbours-over-helicopter/> - This piece details Paul Hollywood's flying activities near his home in Kent, including his training to become a pilot and the location of his helicopter at Manston Airport, supporting the assertion that he was in the vicinity during the incident.
3. <https://www.dailystar.co.uk/tv/bake-offs-paul-hollywood-new-27090901> - This article highlights Paul Hollywood's pursuit of a private pilot's license and his flying lessons, corroborating the information that he was nearby taking a flying lesson at the time of the incident.
4. <https://www.kentonline.co.uk/thanet/news/pilot-was-killed-after-crashing-in-thick-fog-212474/> - This report covers the death of former Thanet councillor Simon Moores in a plane crash in Spain, providing context to the aviation community in Kent and the importance of pilot training and safety.
5. <https://www.kentlive.news/news/kent-news/paul-hollywood-brother-in-law-2417033> - This article details the death of Simon Moores, Paul Hollywood's former brother-in-law, in a plane crash in Spain, highlighting the risks associated with aviation and the significance of pilot training.
6. <https://www.kentonline.co.uk/thanet/news/dad-killed-when-plane-crashed-in-thick-fog-266694/> - This inquest report into Simon Moores' death in a plane crash in Spain underscores the critical importance of pilot training and preparation in preventing aviation accidents.
7. <https://www.express.co.uk/news/uk/2049064/Paul-Hollywood-pilot-Kent-plane-crash-manston> - Please view link - unable to able to access data