# Hair salon owner survives life-threatening snake bite on holiday in Cyprus



Sam West, a 40-year-old hair salon owner from Telford, Shropshire, experienced a life-threatening snake bite while on a holiday in Cyprus. Celebrating her birthday at a five-star resort, Sam was preparing for a gong meditation session when a venomous blunt-nosed viper attacked her, biting her left ankle. The incident occurred in the lush gardens of the resort where the meditation took place.

Despite immediate pain, Sam maintained composure but soon experienced severe burning and swelling. Her wife Kate and daughter Addison witnessed the aftermath and distressingly followed Sam's rushed transport to a medical facility. Swift medical attention was crucial, as doctors later confirmed that prompt treatment saved her life.

Sam spent four days in intensive care where the venom's effects were intensely monitored. Her leg swelled and turned black, requiring multiple antivenom treatments. The family's stay in the hospital and subsequent recovery highlighted rare but serious dangers inherent to the region's wildlife.

Despite the resort's reassurances, regular precautions against snakes, such as employing cats to deter them, were in place. The resort’s handling of the incident is subject to ongoing legal discussions.

Now back in Shropshire, Sam remains in a wheelchair and is undergoing further medical evaluations. The experience has profoundly impacted her and her family, particularly their future travel plans.