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Thursday September 18 2003 IN THIS WEEK'S Richmond & Twickenham Times

SPECIAL FEATURE

In-depth interview with Lord Attenborough



NEWS

Bell rings at new school for first time

OUT ON FRIDAY

Hip, hip, hooray for Angela

A FORMER dancer, who suffered years of agony after a knee injury, has made a 'miracle' recovery after receiving treatment, thanks to the *Guardian*

Angela Goldsborough, from Hampton, was crippled by pain, could not walk properly and had one leg shorter than the other for years. But seeing an advert for a private clinic in the Guardian transformed her lifenow she is free from discomfort, and is about to start ballroom dancing lessons.

"It's like a miracle - it's given me my life back," enthused the 72-year-old, from Westbrook Road.

She compared the treatment she received, in Poland, to that offered by the NHS.

Mrs Goldborough had danced and skated from the age of three, and ran her own dance school for 51 years. By James Adlam

She suffered a car crash 25 years ago. The steering column hit her knee, and pushed it back, causing long-term damage.

The pain gradually got worse, and she was forced to give up her profession.

Some months ago, she went to an NHS specialist, asking for a hip replacement, but the specialist was 'off hand' with her, told her she would have to wait 12 to 15 months for an operation and that it was impossible to restore her leg to the correct length. She reports: "He told me I was born that way and had always had a limp, which was rubbish." She went home upset, having virtually

She went home upset, having virtually given up hope of a cure, but then saw an advert in the *Richmond Guardian* for the private health tirm, Barbara Thurgood & Co.

Two weeks later, she was on her way to its hospital, in Krakow. She flew out on June 22, and had surgery two days later.

"I came round from the operation and felt no pain - either then or since. Three days later, I was up walking with a frame, then the next week I was on two crutches for three days. By the end of the second week, I was walking without any crutches. I was getting four to five hours physio a day. They are such caring people. I can't fault them at all."

She said the operation, in Poland, including flights, one month's accommodation and cars to and from the airport, cost just £6,000, whereas a private hip replacement, in Britain, would have cost between £10,000 and £20,000.

Unlike the NHS, the Polish doctors had no problem restoring Mrs Goldsborough's legs to the same length. The operation has made a tremendous difference in her life. She said: "Before, I couldn't walk far. I couldn't walk up stairs properly.

"Now, I can do anything. I'm starting ballroom lessons with my husband in a week or two."

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Guardian reader, Angela Goldsborough, is now free of the pain which troubled her for years



(AS SEEN ON TV)