

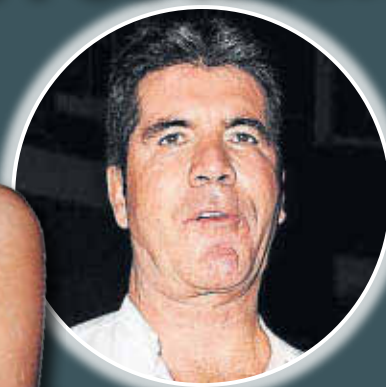
Cos Si's worth it!



Ed's battle plan

Create 1 million jobs...lift 2 million out of low pay...and help 200,000 more buy first home

PAGES 6&7



Inside Simon Cowell's lavish birthday bash

SEE PAGE 3

ANGUISH OF £5M HERO'S MUM

DOGS MISSED CHANCES TO SAVE MY STEPHEN

INSPIRATION
Stephen gives his thumbs up. Below, his mother Jane



EXCLUSIVE

BY **ANDREW GREGORY** Health Correspondent

STEPHEN Sutton's mum yesterday said his cancer symptoms were ignored for six months.

Jane Sutton believes the £5million fundraiser could have been saved. She added: "It's not good enough." She spoke out to help prevent more young deaths.

FULL STORY: PAGE 5

Thumbs-up charity teenager's cancer symptoms 'ignored' for six months



TRAGEDY Trevor's home

Epileptic man suicide 'over benefit cuts'

EXCLUSIVE BY JEREMY ARMSTRONG

A MAN with brain damage and uncontrolled epilepsy hanged himself after being told his benefits could be cut if he failed to attend a "work-related activity group", his devastated family claimed.

Trevor Drakard, 50, had serious fits despite heavy medication but his Incapacity Benefit was being replaced with Employment and Support Allowance.

An appeal was rejected weeks before parents Doreen and Tom found his body at his Sunderland home in July.

Tom, 86, said: "He had panicked because of the benefit changes. There is no doubt that is why he did it."

The city's Labour MP Julie Elliot added: "The system is not fit for purpose."

An inquest ruled Trevor committed suicide. The DWP said: "Mr Drakard was not found fit for work."



PRISON Husband Roger

£10m fraud family mum is spared jail

BY PETER STUBLEY

THE wife of a retired banker who helped him launder the proceeds of a £10million fraud orchestrated by their son was spared jail yesterday.

Linda Noad, 58, and husband Roger, 60, pocketed £655,000 from a land investment scam on OAPs and thalidomide victims.

They bought a £1million home in Sevenoaks, Kent, and joined son Matthew, 30, on holiday in Dubai.

Roger, who spent 27 years at Coutts bank, was jailed for three years in July but Linda, who is now suffering from depression, was handed a suspended sentence.

Judge Christopher Moss told her at the Old Bailey: "It is clear you've been suffering from the convictions of your son and husband."

Matthew was jailed in April. A confiscation timetable on the family's assets will be set on Friday.

Stephen had 3 major signs of cancer but doctors ignored it all

Teenage fundraiser's mum pleads for better diagnosis



BRAVE FIGHT
Stephen with Jane in hospital



SUPPORT David Tennant's plea



PRIDE Mum at vigil after death. Inset, our report

EXCLUSIVE

BY ANDREW GREGORY
Health Correspondent

INSPIRATIONAL teenager Stephen Sutton could have been saved if doctors had tested for cancer earlier his grieving mum claimed yesterday.

Jane, 50 – speaking out in a bid to save other families the torment they endured – said pleas were ignored and medics insisted for six months he was just constipated, despite his persistent pain, weight loss and fatigue – three of the key symptoms that should trigger alarms.

There was also a history on his father Andrew's side of Lynch syndrome, a genetic condition that increases the risk of bowel cancer. This disease killed Stephen, who raised millions online for research and care.

His family even showed doctors a leaflet on the condition, but they continued to rule out a tumour. Vital weeks slipped by without him getting the early treatment that may have saved his life.

Calling for speedier diagnoses, Jane said: "Stephen wasn't a child who went to the doctors, he had never been in hospital."

"He had gone from being a healthy,

sporty young lad to having three of the signs of cancer, plus a family history, and all of that was ignored. It is not good enough, really. When you present time and time again, you think something as simple as doing a CT scan or some type of scan... That just wasn't happening."

Stephen, famed for his thumbs up sign while ill, was finally given a scan when his health deteriorated so much he couldn't keep down fluids or food and was unable to sleep because of the pain. He was 15.

Jane, of Burntwood, Staffs, was quick to acknowledge the NHS treatment her son received from then on was second to none. But she spoke out during a Teenage Cancer Trust event at the Labour party conference in Manchester to urge GPs to listen to young people's cancer fears. She hoped it would prevent more needless teenage deaths.

Seven young people aged between 13 and 24

are diagnosed with the disease every day in the UK. Treatments are generally less effective when it is spotted late.

Trust chief executive Siobhan Dunn said: "The diagnostic experience of young people with cancer must be improved. For years we have worked to educate young people, parents, teachers and health professionals about the signs of cancer in teenagers and young adults so they can have the best possible support from the moment symptoms appear."

Stephen, who died aged 19 in May, embarked on a fundraising mission that so far has pulled in £4,961,352 for the trust – the biggest single amount in its history.

His blog, backed by celebrity supporters such as Jason Manford and David Tennant, went viral. In an interview before his death, Stephen, who was made an



“He had gone from a healthy lad to having cancer signs. And all that was ignored”

JANE SUTTON YESTERDAY ON HOW SON WAS NOT DIAGNOSED

MBE, said of his disease: "If it had been caught earlier it could have changed the situation. But I'm not one to dwell on the past." A trust report found 37% of young people with cancer are only diagnosed when they get to A&E. And separate figures

show 24% visited their family doctors at least four times before their concerns were listened to.

Labour MP Debbie Abrahams told the trust meeting, to mark Teenage Cancer Action Week, it was "not acceptable" for young people to be "fobbed off" for months before being diagnosed with cancer.

One problem for GPs is teenage cancer is rare and symptoms are often hard to tell apart from a range of common ailments.

There are 28 Teenage Cancer Trust specialist units across Britain. Stephen was in one and Jane said he benefitted from the informal surroundings. Of the cash he raised, £2.9million will enable six to be refurbished, and two new ones built.

■ If you wish to donate to the trust visit teenagecancertrust.org.

andrew.gregory@mirror.co.uk