

DEREHAM

# 'Best feeling in the world' as parents hug Tiana

A get-well hug is what every parent wants to give when their son or daughter is sick.

But after brave little Tiana Mackay endured her third live-saving heart operation her parents, Lisa King and Kevin Mackay, were not able to comfort their little fighter with a cuddle for weeks.

So when they were finally able to hold nine-and-a-half-month-old Tiana, who has a rare heart condition, in their arms once more at Great Ormond Street Hospital (GOSH) it was a precious moment.

Ms King, 29 from Dereham, said: "Your instinct is to pick your child up and protect them. I just wanted to make Tiana feel that little bit better so it was hard not being able to give her a cuddle.

"It was the best feeling in the world when I was finally able to give her a hug again. We are making up for missing out on cuddles by having lots more now.

"Thank you to the staff at GOSH. This is the third time they have saved her."

Mr Mackay, 36, said: "It was heart-warming cuddling Tiana again. It

By EMMA KNIGHTS

was a huge sense of relief because we had been told we might lose her again before the third operation.

"Just to be able to hold her and look into her eyes was wonderful.

"For nearly three weeks we could not cuddle her because she had so many tubes and drains in her.

"It felt alien to stand back and let everyone else look after Tiana, but we knew it was the best thing to do. During that time we comforted her by holding her hand and stroking her hair."

Tiana was born last December with two heart defects: a very rare one called Alcapa, meaning the coronary artery was in the wrong place, and mitral regurgitation, where the heart's mitral valve does not close tightly stopping the blood from flowing efficiently through the heart and the body.

Her third operation on September 9 was to have her heart's mitral valve replaced after she developed an infection.

Initially it seemed the operation had been a complete success, but



REUNITED: Lisa King is able to cuddle daughter Tiana once again.

when Tiana was taken off her ventilator she took a turn for the worse and her breathing deteriorated severely.

She was put back on the ventilator, but her condition continued to worsen. Doctors discovered she had a mass of blood on her right lung and had to fit her with a chest drain until the bleeding stopped.

Thankfully little Tiana is now growing stronger and her parents cannot wait until they are allowed to take her home.

They know that as she grows up she will have to return to hospital every three years to have her mitral valve replaced, and every 15-20 years as an adult, but they are optimistic about the future.

Mr Mackay said: "She is full of fight and we are really proud of her. She had her first bottle of milk since September 1 on Thursday and her first solids since August on Wednesday. She ate lamb, carrot and rosemary which she enjoyed.

"It shows she is responding well

and is on the road to recovery."

He added that the family had got great strength from the wealth of support people had shown them by visiting their website and sponsoring his parachute jump in August in aid of GOSH.

Nearly 1,700 people have added Tiana's website to their favourites so they can follow her story and since early September there has been more than 3,000 visits to the site.

■ To visit Tiana's website go to [www.edp24.co.uk/dailylinks](http://www.edp24.co.uk/dailylinks)

YARMOUTH

## Residents' views on new uses for chapel wanted

Cultural and arts organisations around Yarmouth are to be asked for their views on making the best use of St George's Chapel - better known as the old St George's Theatre - which is at the heart of an £8m proposal to restore the historic King's Street quarter.

The borough council has appointed consultants Creative Space Management to identify possible options for the grade one-listed 18th-century building and local groups are to be consulted.

"We are holding a Vision Workshop at the Marina Centre on Tuesday," said culture, sport and leisure manager Marie Hartley. "We want a wide range of groups to attend to explain what they need and how St George's Chapel could

help them to provide space to work or exhibit, or even if they have more exciting concepts. We are asking our creative people to be just that."

The council hopes to fund the scheme through a £4m bid to the government's Sea Change programme, money earmarked for seaside resorts beset by deprivation, and to top that up with grants from other sources, including the East of England Development Agency and the Heritage Lottery Fund.

It is likely to learn if it has been successful in its bids by January.

To attend the workshop, from 5.30pm, email [sbailey@great-yarmouth.gov.uk](mailto:sbailey@great-yarmouth.gov.uk) or call Sue Bailey, 01493 846303, or Helen Speechley, 01493 846435.

NORWICH

## Money launderer avoids jail

A 25-year-old man who laundered money for a friend was spared immediate jail yesterday and instead given a suspended sentence.

George Saul, of Mariners Lane, Norwich, appeared for sentence at Norwich Crown Court after he admitted paying £10,000 and £5,000 into his account in March 2006, and then transferring it to his

friend. He also pleaded guilty to being concerned with the production of cannabis between February and November 2007.

Judge Paul Downes sentenced him to three months' imprisonment, suspended for 12 months, and imposed a three-month curfew which will confine Saul to his house while not at work.

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