



LITTLE FIGHTER: Tiana Mackay with her mum and dad, Lisa and Kevin.

TOFTWOOD

Battling little Tiana faces another fight

By AURA SABADUS

A baby girl is fighting another battle for survival after undergoing a third serious heart operation within a year.

Tiana Mackay, a 10-month old from Toftwood, was born with two heart defects, including a very rare illness, which meant she needed immediate surgery at Great Ormond Street Hospital in London.

Her first operation took place at the beginning of March, but her health deteriorated and she needed a second a few weeks later.

Her condition improved considerably immediately afterwards – but two weeks ago, just the day after her 35-year-old father, Kevin Mackay, did a parachute jump to raise money for the Great Ormond Street Hospital, Tiana became ill again.

On Tuesday she underwent a six-hour operation at the same hospital, where surgeons replaced a valve, following an infection.

Mum Lisa King said the next 36 hours would be critical. “She’s a little fighter. She’s proved she can make it, we’re just hopeful she’ll pull through again. When she came out of the operating theatre she had a lot of bleeding from the chest. She was coming



POORLY: Tiana, pictured in hospital after her cardiac arrest.

round very quickly and the doctors had to keep her sedated.

“I was told the doctors had to replace the valve, it was so damaged they couldn’t fix it. Doctors also did a brain scan at the beginning of the week because they were concerned that the infection may have spread to other parts of the body.”

Mrs King said just before doctors were preparing Tiana to travel to Great Ormond Street Hospital from Norfolk & Norwich University Hospital where she had been admitted, she went into cardiac arrest for two minutes but was resuscitated and stabilised.

“Doctors have told us Tiana will require further operations to replace the valve as she gets older. They estimate, as a child, this will happen every one to three years then every 15-20 years as an adult. We’re hopeful she will make it once again. It may be a slow recovery this time, because she hadn’t been feeding well before the illness. But we’re confident she will fight and make it through yet again.”

Lisa said Tiana was born with two heart defects – a very rare one called Alcapa, meaning the coronary artery was in the wrong place, and mitral regurgitation in which the heart’s mitral valve does not close tightly, stopping the blood from flowing efficiently through the heart and the body.

“Back in March, one of the doctors told us that her condition was so rare that he hadn’t seen a similar case in his 25 years as a surgeon,” Lisa added.

BURGH CASTLE

Cashpoint gang were well organised say police

A highly organised gang targeted cash machines at two Norfolk holiday camps on the same day.

The first burglary took place at the Waterside Complex, in Butt Lane, Burgh Castle, near Yarmouth, in the early hours of Saturday morning.

Afterwards the nearby Cherry Tree Holiday Park, in Mill Lane, was hit by the same gang of at least three burglars. In both incidents the gang targeted ATM machines and stole a substantial amount of cash.

Police spokesman Jon Dack said

officers believed that the individuals involved were professional and well organised.

Anyone with information on the burglaries, which took place between 2am and 5am, should contact Yarmouth CID on 0845 4564567.

CRANWORTH: A Norfolk smokehouse was narrowly saved from being turned into cinders on Tuesday night. A chimney at Mid-Norfolk Smokehouse and Seafoods caught fire and set light to the roof of the building. But the blaze was caught early by a member of staff and firefighters put it out and stopped it spreading within about an hour. It is thought tar in the smoker chimney caused the fire.

HONINGHAM: Two cars crashed on the A47 at Honingham yesterday morning, blocking part of the busy road. Police and firefighters were called to the scene at the Weston Longville crossroads after the collision between a blue Ford Focus estate and a silver Ford Focus just before 9am. The accident comes days after roadworks started about one mile away to improve the safety of the Mattishall Road junction on the A47 by installing a roundabout.

YARMOUTH: A man suffered a broken jaw after he was punched in the face outside the Long Bar in Marine Parade at about 1am on Saturday. The male attacker was white, 5ft 8ins, aged about 21 with fair cropped hair. He was wearing a dark zip-up jacket. Anyone with information should contact Det Con Neil Starland of Yarmouth CID on 0845 4564567.

MATTISHALL: Villagers are being urged to take advantage of a new surgery at which they can discuss local issues with their parish councillors. The second of the occasional sessions takes place at the Church Rooms, opposite All Saints’ Church, on Saturday between 10am and noon. The surgery will also provide an opportunity for people to find out more about serving on Mattishall Parish Council, which has two vacant seats. There is no need to make an appointment but to find out more, contact parish clerk Luisa Cantera on 0845 329 5964 or e-mail mattishallclerk@uk2.net.

MILDENHALL: An historic rabbit warren is staging its annual open day. The warren was established in the 1320s and is one of only two medieval warren lodges to survive in the region. The annual opening of Mildenhall Warren Lodge is on Saturday between 10am and 4pm and is being staged by Friends of Thetford Forest Park and Forest Heath District Council. Contact Anne Mason on 01760 755685 or the Forest Heath District office on 01842 810271.

CROMER: Rumours that the post office in Cromer is relocating to a nearby supermarket have been quashed. It was feared the branch, on Tucker Street, would be squeezed into the town’s Budgens store a few feet away on the High Street. But a Post Office spokesman said the rumours were unfounded and there were no plans to relocate.

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