

# Transplant patient's hopes for the future

## NEW LUNGS Organ register plea

By James Hore

WHEN Justine Laymond first planned her marriage, the most likely location was at her hospital bed as she only had months to live.

The 33-year-old was suffering from a rare lung condition which affects about one in a million people, and was only surviving due to the efforts of an oxygen tank and team of doctors.

But now, thanks to a life-saving double-lung transplant, the future is looking bright for the Chelmsford woman, who can look forward to marrying her fiancé, Jon Kohn, on her own terms, not on a ward.

After almost a decade of chest pains, Justine was finally diagnosed with lymphangioleiomyomatosis (LAM) in 2005, meaning her lungs were full of cysts, taking up the capacity and making breathing on her own almost impossible.

After being told she would need a transplant within 10 to 15 years, she then suffered a series of lung collapses.

But after celebrating her birthday in London last February, she suffered a series of blackouts in the early hours at her parents' house, which left her thinking she was going to die.

Justine was on life support for three weeks and began wasting away as she spent two months in intensive care, being kept alive by drugs.

She was so weak she was unable to walk and could not talk because of a tracheotomy and was even removed from the transplant list.

But Justine battled back, was weaned off the drugs and in July

last year she was told some lungs were available and jumped at the chance.

"I remember being woken up at half-past two in the morning by the transplant co-ordinator who told me the news," she said.

"I was then waiting until 8am and it felt like it was the longest wait ever. Afterwards the surgeon said to me: 'Justine, you should not be alive, you are just full of dead lung tissue'."

After the nine-hour operation, Justine was able to breathe better - a "simply awesome" feeling after a year-and-half on oxygen.

**"I was excited, it felt like I was alive again"**  
Justine Laymond

"I was screaming and waving my hands in the air, shouting: 'I have got air in my lungs'. It was so exciting, it felt like I was alive again."

Justine can now ride a bike, go upstairs without ending up on her hands and knees and is even planning to do a 10k run this year.

And now Justine, who hopes to become a television presenter, is urging people to join the national organ donation register, because she knows it can quite literally make the difference between life and death.

To see more information go to Justine's website - www.justinelaymond.com and to register as an organ donor go to www.uktransplant.org.uk/ukt/Consent.do

james.hore@eadt.co.uk



ABLE TO BREATHE AGAIN: Top, Justine Laymond with the 30 tablets she has to take daily after her operation. Above, Justine with her father Barry at Harefield Hospital last year before her condition deteriorated. Right, Justine in hospital

Photos: ANDREW PARTRIDGE/CONTRIBUTED

## BRIEFING

### Men charged with robbery

POLICE in Colchester have charged two men after a spate of robberies in the town. Four men were arrested by officers investigating a number of crimes in the Roman Road and Cowdray Centre areas of town on Wednesday.

A 19-year-old man from Kelvedon appeared at Colchester Magistrates' Court on Friday charged with robbery, attempted robbery and theft and was remanded in custody to Chelmsford Crown Court.

A 23-year-old man, also from Kelvedon, had earlier been charged with robbery, theft and assault and was released on bail. He must return to Colchester Magistrates' Court on January 25.

A further two Kelvedon men, aged 17 and 22, were bailed pending further inquiries until February 1.

### Police appeal for crash witnesses

Witnesses are being sought for an accident in Cowdray Avenue, Colchester.

A black Honda Accord with a couple and their two children in it was involved in a collision with a light blue Ford Focus estate. A 59-year-old Manningtree woman, who was in the Ford, suffered whiplash but did not need hospital treatment. Witnesses to the collision, at 11.30am on Saturday, are asked to contact Stanway Traffic Police on 01206 762512.

for all your snow sports needs!

www.edgeriders.com

edge riders Analog

live on the edge

53 Upper Orwell Street, Ipswich

T: 01473 232918

### moving house in Suffolk?

do you need to know about childcare or early education in the area you are moving to?

Not all childcare providers advertised

This free impartial service has everything you need to know about childcare for children from birth to 14 years:

- contact details for childminders, private nurseries, out of school clubs, pre-schools and toddler groups
- information about free early education for 3 and 4 year olds
- advice on helping to pay for childcare
- information on rewarding careers working with children

Suffolk Childcare Information Service 0845 60 900 33 (Local call rate number)

Monday to Friday 9.30 am - 5.30 pm Saturday 9.00 am - 4.00 pm

www.suffolk.gov.uk/childcare Mobile text messaging 07624 901060

Suffolk County Council

### IPSWICH REGENT 01473 433100

www.ipswichregent.com e-mail: boxoffice@ipswichregent.com

Friday 16th February

#### HALFWAY TO PARADISE

THE BILLY FURY STORY

check out www.billyfurystory.co.uk

a slice of Rock 'n' Roll History

Saturday 17th February

PAUL JONES Dave Kelly Tom McLaughlin Larry Hatcher BOB JOHNSON

Sunday 25th February

#### Barclay James Harvest

Feat Les Holroyd + John Young

www.barclayjamesharvest.co.uk

Sunday 25th March

#### \* THE BIG BASH \*

ROY WOOD ALL HITS BAND

(The Move - ELO - Wizzard & More)

#### & AERIAL BENDER BAND

X MOTT THE HOOPLE - All Hits Set -

+ CHAS + REAL + THE N DAVE H E THING ANIMALS

+ KATRINA & her band ex-Katrina and Waves + Jeffrey Daniels SHALAMAR

Compere BBC Radio Suffolk's STEPHEN FOSTER

Seven world class acts & indoor festival

Saturday 2nd June BEYOND THE BARACADE check out www.beyondthebaracadem.co.uk

Saturday 9th June ONE NIGHT WITH ELVIS check out www.one-night-with-elvis.com

### You and the NHS

Channel 4's Dispatches is making a programme about the National Health Service, focusing on NHS finances and the quality of care people receive. It will ask: how much are the Government's reforms achieving for patients?

We want to hear about patients' recent experiences of the NHS in East Anglia. If you've recently undergone treatment, you're receiving treatment now, or you're on a waiting list, please contact us if you have a story that you think should be told.

We will treat any information we receive fairly and sensitively. Due to time constraints, please get in touch with us by Thursday 11th January.

Contact: Mentom Television

Phone: 020 7258 6919 / 6714

Email: elucas@mentom.tv