

Just in time

A WOMAN who had only days to live has been given a double lung transplant.

Justine Laymond's time was running out and the chance of any organ donation was slim.

But in the early hours of Sunday the news came that – after months of waiting – a possible match had been found.

Justine's parents, from Byng Drive in Potters Bar, and fiancé Jon, who had been on a rare night out with friends, rushed to her bedside.

They had been in that situation on three earlier occasions only to be told at the last moment that it was not her time.

But on Sunday, as they nervously waited, the 33-year-old was told the miraculous news.

Fiancé Jon said: "They came in and requested that we go down to theatre for a double lung transplant – exactly what we wanted."

"I was delighted. That was the biggest news."

Within 15 minutes Justine was on the operating table and facing a nine-hour operation.

Jon said: "She was scared, I was ecstatic and confident she was going to come through."

"It was a massive operation but I was more scared that she wouldn't be given the opportunity before she passed away."

Two teams at Harefield Hospital in Middlesex worked on Justine and within hours of the transplant she was awake and taking sips of water.

Her father Barry said: "It's surreal and fantastic."

Life-saving transplant for Justine with only days to spare

"She is just making the most amazing recovery, the next few days are critical but it's better than one could ever hope for."

"They only did 26 lung transplants last year so it was a brilliant start to National Transplant Week."

"The other amazing thing is when they took out what was left of her lung, she only had days left, nothing was working."

It is hoped that Justine could be out of intensive care within days and Jon joked "She will now force me to get married!"



Justine was still smiling in hospital last month

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'My time is running out'

"I'm young, I have such a great life, but my time's running out."

Those are the words of Justine Laymond from her hospital bed as she waits for a double-lung transplant.

The 33-year-old has the world's rarest form of lung disease and has battled off infection ready for the transplant that she so desperately needs.

The Byng Drive resident featured in the Potters Bar Edition in February after doctors at the Harefield Hospital, carried an operation to save her life.

As she fought her way back to health she spent time on a ventilator and was unable to speak, but this week she spoke to us to ask readers for help.

She said: "I have gone through a lot, I nearly died from the operation."

"I'm very lucky to be alive."

Emotionally Justine explained that the more people who sign up to the organ donor register, the greater chance there was of a match being found.

Her message to readers was "sign up" to the register and tell your friends and family you wish.

The street-dancing teacher said: "Sign up! One person can save seven people's lives."

By Kelly-Ann Kiernan

Sign up! One person can save seven



Justine and fiancé Jon

Anxious times for Justine and Jon reported back in May by the Potters Bar Edition

Thoughts for donor's family

JUSTINE'S double lung transplant came on the first day of National Transplant Week.

And as her family and friends celebrate her fantastic gift of life fiancé Jon spoke to the Potters Bar Edition about the contrast of emotions organ donation can bring.

He said: "We're very fortunate to get the offer of the organ donor and of course people have got to lose someone that evening for that to happen."

"It's something we think about and we have to get our heads around."

Justine had been on the edge four times, having been told a possible match had been found.

But three times her dream was scuppered.

Jon added: "When we were told it wasn't going to happen, one of the things that helped, was although we weren't getting the opportunity to start a new life, we weren't in a really bad position."

"We had each other."

"The donor's family that evening were grieving."

If you would like sign up and give someone the gift of life visit www.justinelaymond.com or call 0845 60 60 400.

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