

# Almost too much to bear

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"We didn't expect her to test positive," Tina, who is originally from Denmark, continued. "Jordan was behind with his speech, and although that's not conclusive evidence of batters, it could be an indication. But Jasmine always has a lot to say for herself - both in English and Danish! The doctors had seen her running around the ward and were shocked by the results.

"There was a seventy five per cent chance that she wouldn't have it. I must have asked them 100 times if they have got it wrong, but they had three different opinions. We just sit here, almost waiting for the phone to ring, and for them to tell us they did get it wrong, but that hasn't happened.

"Jasmine hasn't changed since last week - she's still our ray of sunshine, the one thing that keeps us smiling. But we can't look at her the same as before, as we know that she has this terrible condition. We just feel like we're drowning."

Since April this year, the 'News' has chronicled the brave battle of Tina and Mark to fund research and trials for Jordan, now five. Only 500 children worldwide have been diagnosed with batters, and the family was initially told that the condition was fatal. They subsequently discovered that the only possible hope was gene transfer therapy.

Tina and Mark have watched as their beloved son has wasted away before their eyes. The neurodegenerative disorder impairs a child's physical movements, and Jordan is now unable to walk. While his eyesight has remained relatively good, doctors have had to introduce a feeding tube into his stomach, as he was

unable to take food through his mouth.

Tina told the 'News' in the autumn that she had been overwhelmed by the response to the appeal that she set up - the Jordan Jay Trust. Through the 'News' and just by word of mouth, caring people have held charity events, in a bid to raise money to help pay for the research in America. At the end of the summer, Southwark: The Movie, and a moving documentary about Jordan, were screened at Surrey Quays, raising more funds for the appeal. To date, £70,000 has been raised.

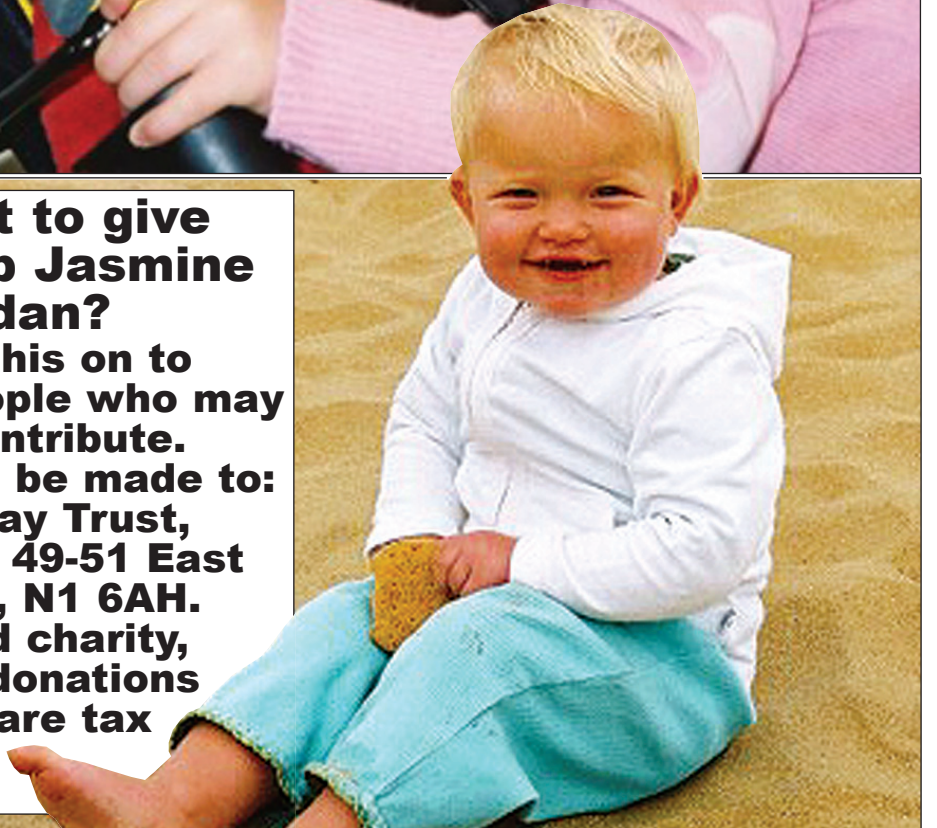
So far, \$3.5 million has been raised in America, Canada and England, and the research is now finished. But another \$2.1 million will be needed for the trials. While there is no guarantee that any child will be accepted for the trials, the money raised by families is likely to make their case more compelling, whilst the trials could save the lives of children in years to come. Jasmine may be seen as one of the ideal candidates, as she is yet to develop any symptoms, while Jordan's symptoms, as her brother, could be compared to her condition.

"Now we have two children who we need to get on those trials," continued Tina. "So we feel that, while it's only a drop in the ocean because of how expensive the funding is, we need to give even more than before. Mark and I are so desperate to save our children that we will sell everything we have if it will help at all. If our children were to come out of this disabled, at least they would still have a life, and a loving family. We just don't want them to die."

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**Do you want to give money to help Jasmine and Jordan?**  
**Please pass this on to companies or people who may be able to contribute.**  
**Donations should be made to:**  
**The Jordan Jay Trust,**  
**Alliance House, 49-51 East Road, London, N1 6AH.**  
**As a registered charity, No. 1098918, all donations from companies are tax deductible.**



## In the Dock...

### Alleged damage

**A PECKHAM man allegedly caused damage to his neighbour's home, while attempting to gain entry to his own flat after losing his door keys.**

Maurizio Cocco, 39, of Copplestone Road lost his keys on September 21 of this year and it is alleged he then damaged a front and kitchen window of his neighbour's home in an attempt to gain entry to his flat, Tower Bridge Magistrates' Court heard.

Cocco was ordered to reappear in court on December 19 unless the crown decided to offer a caution. He was given unconditional bail.

### Teen on theft charge

**A TEENAGER from Camberwell appeared at Tower Bridge magistrates Court accused of stealing a car and driving it without insurance or an MOT.**

Andrew Prowse, 19, of Dobson House, Edmond Street, allegedly took the Ford Mondeo on November 8 of this year.

The car was spotted by police with two passengers inside travelling along Merrow Street, Walworth. The police ran a check on the registration which produced the result of lost or stolen.

They then followed the vehicle to a pub, and when the accused left he was arrested.

The trial has been adjourned until January 2 for an all options presentence report. Prowse was granted unconditional bail by presiding District Judge Ms. A. Sawetz.

### 'Threw articles about a pub'

**TOWER Bridge Magistrates' Court heard how a Bermondsey man of 'good character' got drunk and 'threw some articles about a pub'.**

Paul Perkin, 28, of Amina Way admits causing damage to a toilet

and a glass window worth £100 at Goldsmiths public house in Southwark Bridge Road on November 20 of this year.

The case was adjourned for two weeks and Perkin was granted unconditional bail, but presiding District Judge Ms. A. Sawetz warned him that any failure to appear would lead to his arrest.

### Heroin addict pleads guilty

**A CONFESSED heroin addict from Walworth pleaded guilty to stealing a bag of goods worth £5 from a trader on East Street Market.**

Described by prosecuting counsel as 'a clear opportunist thief', Francis Hird, 33, of Taplow House on the Aylesbury Estate admitted seeing the carrier bag beside a stall on December 4 of this year, picking it up and walking off.

After his arrest he was subjected to a drugs test where he tested positive for opiates. Hird admitted

having a 17-year history of serious drug abuse and that he had lapsed back into the habit since his release from prison in March of this year.

Defence counsel told the court how he had suffered long term instability in his life, among other things never having had a place of his own to call home and blamed this for his lengthy battle with drugs.

Hird told the court how he had signed himself up for a community drug rehabilitation programme in the days immediately before the theft in the hope that it would help him defeat his addiction.

Presiding District Judge Ms. A. Sawetz told Hird that she would adjourn the case until December 18 but that he must produce proof that he was attending the drug clinic and making progress.

Hird was granted conditional bail to reside at his current address, the home of his girlfriend and warned that any failure to attend rehabilitation or if he committed any other offences would result in a custodial sentence.

## ARRESTED?

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