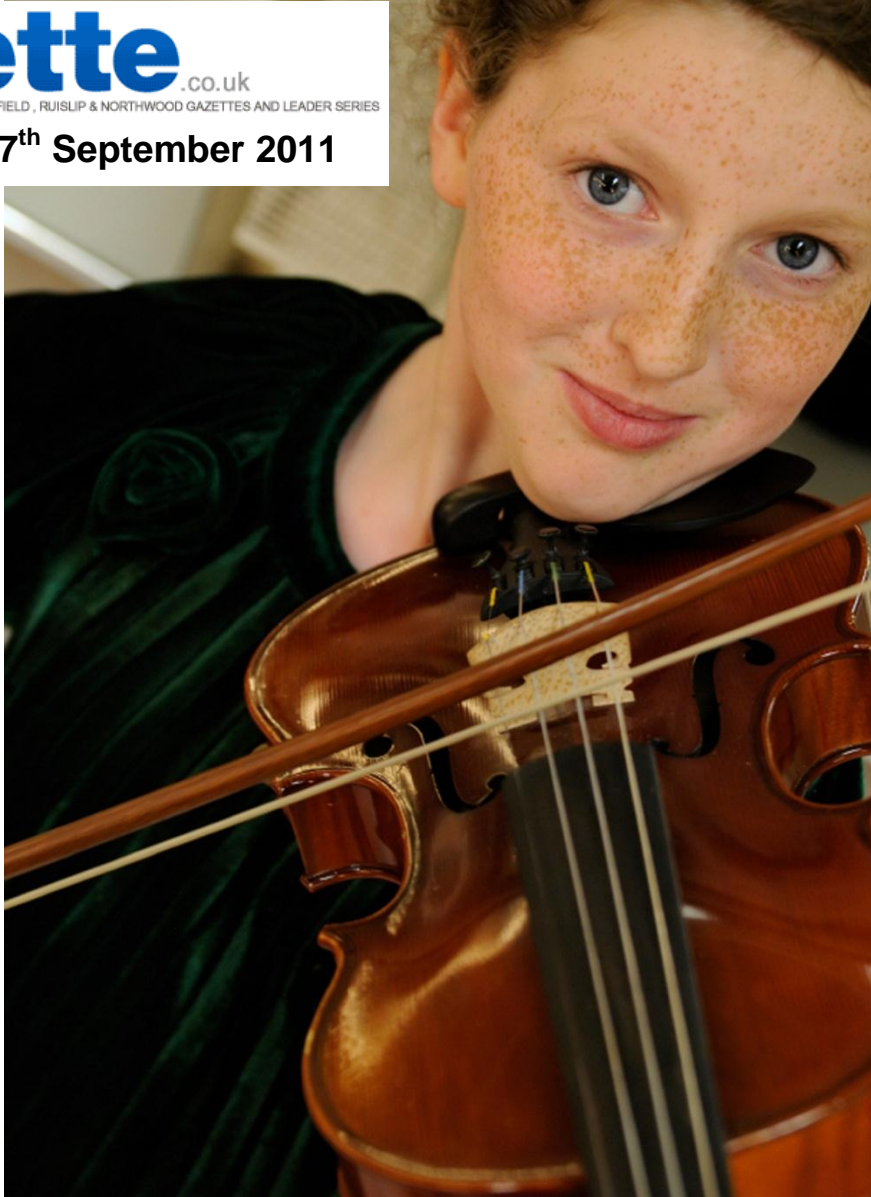


Brave Jasmine looks forward to taking up bow once more

UXBRIDGE
Gazette.co.uk
POWERED BY THE UXBRIDGE, HAYES, HAREFIELD, RUISLIP & NORTHWOOD GAZETTES AND LEADER SERIES

Wednesday 7th September 2011



by **Jenny Coombes**
jennycoombes@trinitysouth.co.uk

A YOUNG musician who feared she might never play the violin again after being diagnosed with a crippling spinal condition is celebrating her recovery.

Twelve-year-old Jasmine Turner was devastated when doctors broke the news to her in October last year that she was suffering from scoliosis, a condition that causes the spine to curve sideways excessively.

Within six months her condition had deteriorated so rapidly that she was told she would need a major operation.

She was placed on a waiting list for spinal fusion surgery – a procedure that carries a risk of paralysis, nerve damage and, in some cases, even death.

The music lover, of Davenham Avenue, Northwood, a pupil at Hatch End High School, was also told that she had to stop playing the violin as the activity would cause her spinal curvature to worsen rapidly.

Her mother, Sandra, said: “When Jasmine was told she needed to give up playing the violin, I could see her heart breaking.

“But beyond this, my little girl was told she would need an operation, which carried more risks than open-heart surgery.”

With Jasmine’s pain increasing, her family sought a second opinion.

In July, they arranged for their daughter to have therapy at specialist clinic

Scoliosis SOS, which aims to improve posture and straighten the spine through exercise as an alternative to surgery.

After four weeks, the family says her condition improved so much that she no longer needed the operation and was able to pick up her beloved violin again.

Jasmine said: “I am standing taller and straighter and feel much more confident.

“I feel like a normal teenage girl again – one that doesn’t suffer from back pain and shortness of breath.

“I was so frightened when the consultant told me I needed surgery, the operation would have left me with a back full of metal work and lots of scarring.”

Mrs Turner added: “Spinal fusion surgery is a serious operation which would have restricted Jasmine for the rest of her life and there was no guarantee the procedure would have been successful.

“I am overjoyed that she has been able to avoid such invasive treatment.

“I am just as delighted that Jasmine can continue playing the violin, she has true talent and I love listening to her play.”

“ I WAS SO FRIGHTENED WHEN THE CONSULTANT TOLD ME I NEEDED SURGERY. THE OPERATION WOULD HAVE LEFT ME WITH A BACK FULL OF METAL WORK AND LOTS OF SCARRING”