

## IT'S GREAT DAD'S HOME

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News Report 10:00 - 07 July 2007

After the "worst three weeks of their lives" a family welcomed home a father of three who nearly died from legionnaires' disease. Relatives of Andy MacFarlane (42) had been prepared for the worst while he was fighting for his life against the deadly water-borne disease. Now he is recovering at his home on Cross Coates Road, in Grimsby, with his loving and relieved family looking after him.

Mr MacFarlane said: "It is so nice to be home. Having been that close to death, you just really appreciate the little things. It's amazing how it puts things into perspective. Little trivial things will never matter to me again. I am okay. I am very tired and the nurses have told me it is going to take a long time to get fully better. I am going to have to take it really easy. I have never enjoyed daytime television so much. I have had lots of support from family and friends and I would like to thank everyone for the lovely flowers, cards and messages. I would like to thank all the nurses and doctors. I have even had my youngest daughter making me cups of tea - that's a miracle! I wish the woman who is in hospital with legionnaires' disease and her family all the best."

After Mr MacFarlane was diagnosed on Friday, June 15, his wife Mandy and their daughters Zoey (18), Sarah (17) and Claire (14), were at his bedside constantly. Zoey's boyfriend Daniel Snook (21) was praised by the family for getting them to and from Grimsby's Diana, Princess of Wales Hospital each day. Mr MacFarlane has worked as a cleaner at Binns department store for the past three years.

North East Lincolnshire Council's public protection officers have been attempting to find out where the condition was contracted by carrying out tests around the town, including at the department store and at the sufferers' homes.

Mr MacFarlane, who still looks frail, added: "I would like to get to the bottom of it and find out where I caught it."

Zoey said: "It is lovely to have dad back home. It was so terrible seeing him so ill. It was the worst three weeks of our lives. I couldn't look at him when he had the tubes in his throat."

Claire said: "All the waiting was the hardest thing. It is great to have him home."

Mrs MacFarlane said: "The staff at the intensive therapy unit were fantastic. They explained everything carefully and with great consideration to every one of us. They were really nice. I would like to thank everyone for their support."