

# I plucked up courage for a £3k EYEBROW transplant

■ Using tweezers left woman facing misery

■ Surgery has changed my life, she says

AMANDA CROOK

**A** WOMAN has told how her life has been transformed – by having a £3,500 eyebrow transplant.

Claire Culverwell's brows were so thin after 14 years of using tweezers that there were only a few hairs left.

The 30-year-old dental worker from Manchester was so embarrassed she wouldn't open the door without drawing on fake brows with make-up.

And she says her lack of confidence caused her to hate her own appearance, and prevented her from finding love.

In desperation, she turned to surgeon Asim Shahmalak, and says the results have changed her life.

She had a transplant using the same technique as operations for balding men – popularised by stars like United's Wayne Rooney.

A narrow strip of hair was taken from the back of Claire's head.

The strip, which is about an inch long, contained 400-500 hairs, and each was painstakingly separated out under a microscope.

The individual hairs, still attached to their roots, were then transplanted into small holes made in Claire's eyebrows under local anaesthetic.

The six-hour operation at the Crown Clinic, near Manchester Airport, restored her brows to their natural shape.

Claire said: "I am so pleased with the results. It has boosted my confidence and made me feel so much more comfortable about my appearance. It is the best thing I have ever done."

Speaking of her years of misery, Claire said: "This is a big problem for thousand and thousands of women – especially for those around my age."

"It was very fashionable when I was a teenager to pluck your eyebrows – everyone was at it."

"I wanted to look like the celebrities at that time and, to have that look, you had to pluck your eyebrows."

"I carried on doing it over many years at home with tweezers and ended up permanently damaging my brows."

"I didn't understand the harm I was doing to my eyebrows in my teens and I was horrified when I finally learnt the truth in my twenties."

Dr Shahmalak, said that there had been a surge of interest in the procedure – sparked by the Duchess of Cambridge.

He said: "Statement eyebrows are the new beauty must-have, but sadly many women have permanently damaged their eyebrows through over-plucking. For many women who crave fuller brows like the Duchess or stars such as Natalie Portman, the only solution is an eyebrow transplant."

**'It is the best thing I have ever done'**



**BEFORE**



**AFTER**

➔ **BROW BEATEN** Claire's eyebrows were badly thinned after 14 years of using tweezers. Now they have been restored by surgeon Asim Shahmalak, inset left, and she says it has changed her life



'Don't miss chance to be toast of the town'

HOUSEHOLDERS are being urged to take advantage of a free loft and cavity wall insulation scheme.

The 'Toasty Oldham' project gives out up to £700 in government grants for the work, which saves money and energy.

Free loft 'top ups' to increase the depth of loft insulation are also available. The scheme finishes at the end of this year.

Dave Hibbert, Oldham council's cabinet member for housing, transport and planning, said: "Grants have been around for many years to subsidise or pay for insulation, but with the introduction of the Green Deal later this year this will all change and residents will be left paying full price."

"I would urge all residents to take advantage of this free offer now whilst they still can."

Call the Greater Manchester Energy Advice Service free on 0800009 3363 or 0161 245 7638, or visit [www.get-metoasty.com](http://www.get-metoasty.com)

► **Murder quiz man sectioned**

A TEENAGER arrested on suspicion of murder has been sectioned under the Mental Health Act.

The 17-year-old was held after Khalid Kassian Hassan, 28, was found at a home in Dickenson Road, Manchester.

A post-mortem provisionally found that his death was caused by multiple injuries.

Anyone with information should call police on 0161 856 4146 or Crimestoppers, anonymously, on 0800 555 111.

## Are you looking for a secondary school for your child in 2013?



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**Open Evening:** Thursday 13th September 2012 6.00pm - 8.00pm

