

January 2012

30 YEARS



*Cleft Lip
& Palate
Association
of Ireland
Celebration
Concert
featuring;*



The Garda Band in concert

*with Special Guest
James Nelson of the Celtic Tenors*



*St. Mary's Catholic Church, Maynooth
Thursday 16th February 2012 at 8:00pm (Doors open 7:30pm)*

PLEASE JOIN US FOR THIS WONDERFUL OCCASION - TICKETS AVAILABLE BY;

- Sending a cheque to CLAPAI c/o 36 Woodlands Ave, Dunlaoghaire, Co. Dublin (please enclose a return address)
- Using Paypal on the Donate section of www.cleft.ie website and sending an address for tickets to info@cleft.ie
- Please advise by texting 087 1319803 of pending payment so we can ensure you get your tickets in time. Phone 087 1319803 with queries.

Tickets available from:
info@cleft.ie or 087 1319803

€15 PER
TICKET

Please ensure you arrive in plenty of time as seating is unreserved.



Contacts

Over the years we have lost contact with members through change of address and the general passage of time.

If you are still in contact with families from the early days can you ask them to get back in contact with us please.

How it All Began

A letter to the Gay Byrne hour sparked a burst of correspondence that inspired the formation of the Cleft Lip and Palate Association of Ireland.

At the time families were struggling to cope without information, without before or after operation photos and without contact with other families affected by cleft. Moved by her own experience as a mother Margaret Hand drove to RTE to meet with Gay Byrne and to explain to him in person what cleft was all about.

Cleft and cleft treatment got an unprecedented airing over the national airwaves and out of that the links between Margaret Hand, future Chairman and Margaret McKenna, future Secretary were forged.

Working from their homes, they organised the inaugural meeting of the Cleft Lip & Palate Association. It was held on the 25th May 1981 in the North Star Hotel Dublin. The room was filled to capacity; in fact, extra chairs had to be brought to accommodate the numbers attending. Even now people recall the impact of that first meeting.

The philosophy of the organisation was established. Mr Gerald Edwards FRSCI, was the first of what would become a long and appreciated list of guest speakers. By the end of the meeting a committee was formed and the goal of holding nationwide information evenings, producing regular newsletters and printing an information booklet was set in motion.

It wasn't long before the Association had branches in Limerick, the Midlands, Donegal, North East, Galway and Cork. The group forged strong links with the medical profession. As early as October 1982 funds had been raised to purchase a Nasal Anemometer and a Nasendoscope for Temple Street which were presented to the then Minister for Health in a reception hosted by the MD for Arthur Guinness Ltd. In 1988 the Association was incorporated and the new limited company gained Registered Charity status.

A lot has happened in the intervening years, committees have come and gone, each leaving their own footprint, building on the work of those that went before. The current committee, auxiliary volunteers, fundraisers and participants at family days and other events continue to live out the vision of our founder members.

The Booklet

Much of the content of the first 12 page booklet was crafted through initially printing in early newsletters.

There were 4 editions of the booklet in all, the final edition was the well-remembered 32 page blue booklet.

We can't thank enough the contributors, producers and the families that gave photos of their children.

The booklet was replaced in 2004 by a series of 10 leaflets which is accompanied by the website, newsletter and Facebook site.

Concert Cuppa, Chat and Logistics

Cuppa & Chat

We have booked a room in the Glen Royal Hotel for after the concert. Tea & Coffee will be served.

There will be a chance to view archive material from the Association, socialise with families and friends and to meet James Nelson of the Celtic Tenors.

There is a small charge of €3 to cover costs. The Glen Royal is about a 5 minute walk from the church – parking available.

Logistics

The church is located within a 5 minute walk of Maynooth train station. There are trains from the city that arrive in good time for the concert, equally there are trains that service the return home. The church is located very close to the main street of Maynooth for anybody that would like to avail of an early bird menu.

Accommodation is available at the Glen Royal Hotel, ranging €59.00 single to €89.00 family room. There are discounts for anybody booking 14 days in advance. (01) 629 0919

St James New Challenge!

For some years the Cleft Lip and Palate Association of Ireland has had a serious concern about children and teenagers mixing with adult patients in the waiting areas of the National Maxillofacial Centre which is located in St James Hospital.

The situation is distressing is for all concerned. With this in mind the Association has put forward a proposal to the hospital that we will fund the conversion of a disused court yard into an exclusive waiting area for children.

The proposal has been accepted in principle and we are in the early stages of drafting plans to 'winch' a prefabricated pod into that space. The funds required are a challenge.

From direct experience of committee members, feedback from parents and feedback from adults who have been through the system we want to see the new facility in place as a matter of urgency.

We estimate that there are between 200 - 300 children visiting St James from the Dublin Cleft Centre in any one year. Given that some children attend multiple times a year that is over 1,000 patient experiences. We want to make sure these experiences are all about the treatment, which is excellent, and not about the stress of being in an acute adult hospital.

Therefore we are asking all our families to get behind this endeavour and help us to raise the funds needed to make this change.

Preliminary estimates €40-€50K before drawings complete.



Court Yard St James Hospital adjacent to National Maxillofacial Centre

Proposal

The proposal as it currently stands is to - clear the court yard (shown above), lay a foundation, position on the new foundation a prefabricated waiting room (sample of Shomera style room shown to the right). The "room" would then be connected to the hospital services (light, heat, water) and finally it would be equipped as an area for use by teenagers and children. In the longer term we need to ensure this facility is for the exclusive use of children & adolescences.



Existing access from Courtyard to current waiting area



Sample of "Room/Pod" (Image by kind permission Shomera)

MARCH IS CAKE SALE MONTH



If 200 families raise €200 euro we will be half way to raising funds needed for new waiting room. For the month of March we are looking for families to raise funds at work, school, home or in their local community with cake sales – its simple, its fun and can be an effective way of raising funds. *You can help! Contact 087 1319803*

PLEASE REMEMBER THE...

Flora Women's Marathon

Monday 4th June 2012

Entry forms available FROM 22nd Feb in the Evening Herald. Closing date 20th April or when maximum reached.

CLAPAI Sponsorship forms and T-shirts available on request

SOME ADDITIONAL FUNDRAISING IDEAS TO THINK ABOUT!! (If you have other fundraising ideas not listed below, let us know so we can try them out)

Work Place

- Bad Hair Day (for the brave!) or 'wear a wig' day.
- Bad Tie Day
- Dress down day at work

Sponsored Events

- Sponsored Walk/Cycle/Run/Slim/Silence....or Anything!
- Marathon Events – check www.marathons.ahotu.com calendar for Ireland, already there are races listed from Dingle to Longford to Wicklow
- Women's mini marathon
- "Men walk a mile in high heel shoes"....The ultimate challenge!

School Events

- Read-a-thon
- No Uniform Day (2 euro contribution per student.... easy it just requires permission from the principal)

Local Events

- Bag Pack or Bucket Collection in your local supermarket (T-shirts & buckets available)
- Table Quiz in your local pub or community hall. (10 euro per person/4 per table -quiz pack available)
- Jumble Sale/Car Boot Sale, Second hand Book Sale/Bring and Buy Sale
- Coffee Morning or Cake Sale
- Challenge Match in local GAA/Soccer/Rugby Club. Nominal cover Charge at gate to raise funds.
- Karaoke Evening. Ask you local pub to host Karoke Night and charge an entry fee.

Raffle

You can have a raffle at all of these events. Sell tickets or just leave envelopes on tables, people make a donation, write their name and telephone number on the envelope and are entered in your draw.

Big Events

Golf Classic / Race Night / Fashion Show / Night at the Dogs or Comedy Night. Fundraising at the Laughter Lounge. See www.laughterlounge.ie for full details.

PLEASE NOTE THAT ALL FUNDRAISING EVENTS MUST BE GIVEN THE GO AHEAD BY THE CLAPAI COMMITTEE IN ADVANCE OF THE EVENT TAKING PLACE. WE CAN PROVIDE T-SHIRTS AND SPONSORSHIP CARDS IF REQUIRED.

Donations or monies raised can be made by cheque/draft/postal order or by direct lodgements to the Association bank account or online via PayPal.

DIRECT LODGEMENT

Branch: Bank of Ireland, St Stephens Green, Dublin 2.
Account Name : Cleft Lip and Palate Association of Ireland Ltd. Bank of Ireland, St Stephens Green, D2.
Sort Code : 90-00-84. Account Number : 5413 1735

DONATE ONLINE

PayPal is an online payment service that allows individuals and businesses to safely and securely make payments and money transfers electronically. PayPal securely processes donations for CLAPAI. You will find the link under Donations on our website. www.cleft.ie

PLEASE PROVIDE YOUR ADDRESS DETAILS WITH ALL DONATIONS SO THAT WE CAN ISSUE A RECEIPT IN LINE WITH GOOD GOVERNANCE