

The River Erne Challenge

By Jimmy Svensson

Our Son Oliver was born prematurely in Cavan Hospital on the 12th of May 2011. He was transferred the following day to the NICU Department in the Rotunda Hospital when we then found out he had a very serious neuro muscular disorder. Before long, we realised that he was never going to have a great chance of survival or indeed to be able to live a long and normal life. Oliver was given the best help that he could have received from staff within the NICU Unit. We spent every day driving up and down from Cavan, since Oliver had two brothers at home. He had his ups and downs, but after two weeks his tiny body started shutting down and fortunately his brothers and grandparents and aunts and uncles got to meet him which was extremely important to us.

Oliver only lived for eighteen days and very sadly passed away on May 30th, 2011 leaving a big gap in our hearts. He will never be forgotten.

All the nurses, doctors, consultants, chaplain and social workers were very good to Oliver and to us. Oliver was always treated as Oliver, as the little, unique, individual, gorgeous, loved little baby boy that he was and for this, we are very thankful.

Staff at the Rotunda Hospital are doing an amazing job but very seldom do they get sufficient acknowledgment and credit for the difficult and life-changing work they do on a daily basis.

Fundraising is so often directed to the Children's Hospitals and my wife and I both felt that we wanted to help raise funds for Maternity Care provided by the Rotunda Hospital. My amazing wife hosted a very successful coffee morning fundraiser and when it was my turn, I didn't really know what to do. I looked at my own interests and personal strengths and tried to think of what I could achieve that would honour the memory of our son Oliver. I love the outdoors and knew I wanted to physically challenge myself and do something really fun and different. I mentioned it to a friend and he suggested kayaking a river. That's how the idea came about! Then followed lots of conversations around the planning of our three day adventure.

The River Erne Challenge involved three lads; Kieran, Jason and myself, kayaking around 120km from the Lakelands of Cavan, along the River Erne, all the way to the Atlantic. From there we headed south to our final destination, Bundoran in Co. Donegal. We started out on Friday the 27th of September early in the morning. Kayaks packed with our food supply and tents, we set off from just outside Cavan town early on that Friday morning. We camped on a couple of islands only inhabited by sheep and pigs and spent the rest of the time paddling through a beautiful part of Ireland. The weather was fine with little wind and no rain, well maybe a little. We arrived safe and sound in Bundoran on the Sunday, the 29th, around lunchtime. It was a great success and I am so thankful for all the support we received and we would like to thank everybody that helped us and that donated to this very worthy cause.



The Friends of the Rotunda would like to sincerely thank Jimmy and Denise Svensson for sharing their story with us and for their incredible efforts. To date, with the generous support from family and friends, kayaking buddies Kieran and Jason and the staff and management of the Boliden Tara Mines, Jimmy and Denise have raised over €6,284 in support of the Rotunda Hospital's Bereavement Support Services.

Events

Congratulations to the winning team of the
Rotunda Golf Classic
The Masters' Cup
5th June 2014

National Maternity Hospital - 91 points
Dr James Gardiners' team - 90 points
Café Rotunda team, Noel Dunne - 90pts



The **2014 Flora Women's Mini Marathon** took place on the 2nd June. Many thanks to everyone who raised funds for the Friends of the Rotunda.



The Pillar Room

Argentinean Tango

Contact Julian 086 3262416

Ballet Classes

Contact 087 1264483