

Running for Kieron

A KIND-HEARTED

Carlton woman has donned her running shoes in aid of a Gateford youngster who suffers from cerebral palsy.

Claire Beck, of Warwick Avenue, ran the Nottingham Half Marathon in September and raised over £400 which she has donated to help six-year-old Kieron Norton.

Kieron, who attends Redlands School, was born four months premature in April 2000 after his mother developed severe pre-eclampsia.

Consequently, he suffers from the debilitating condition.

In May this year his parents, Sharon and Andrew, took Kieron to a specialist physiotherapy centre in Bedford where he received treatment to help with his posture and muscle control.

The treatment was so successful that Kieron went back in August and plans to go again in November, February and May.

But at over £1,000 for each two-week visit, the Norton family struggle to fund it all by themselves.

So Mrs Beck, a close friend of Sharon's sister Emma, decided to run the half marathon in aid of Kieron after suffering from the same condition, pre-eclampsia, during pregnancy.

"I have run the London Marathon in the past in aid of pre-eclampsia because I suffered from it myself when I was pregnant," said Claire, whose son Thomas is now three.

by **Amy Burn**

amy.burns@worksop-guardian.co.uk

"I usually go running two or three times a week anyway, so it wasn't a major decision to run the half marathon - it was certainly a lot less training than the London Marathon."

Claire raised over £400 in sponsorship and completed the run in two hours and 17 minutes — being cheered on by the whole Norton family.

"Kieron, Andrew and I waited near the finishing line so we could cheer Claire on and help her achieve that final push as she neared the end of the race," said Sharon.

"We are really grateful to her for all her efforts and want to say a big thank you."

"I think Kieron enjoyed going to the race, and although it was very busy at the start, he was pleased to see Claire cross the finish line."

Claire, who ran the half marathon last year, was rewarded with a medal for her efforts.

"My son was born four weeks early as a result of the pre-eclampsia so I can't imagine what it was like for Sharon having Kieron four months early," said Claire.

"When I ran the London Marathon earlier this year I had wanted to donate some of that money to Kieron too, but you have to pick only one charity."

Since Kieron's last visit to the physiotherapy centre, Sharon



says there has been some improvement in his speech and he is able to sit up on his own.

"We showed Kieron the photos of his first visit before we went back, to help him understand what was happening," said Sharon.

"He had the same physiotherapist so he relaxed more and by the end of the two weeks he managed to speak an 11-word sentence which is brilliant for him."

While at the centre, Kieron exercises daily and Sharon is helping him to carry on with some of the exercises each morning before school.

And Claire is not the only person who has stepped in to help – Worksop based group The Pet Shops Girls put who has helped out, especially now on a charity concert recently that we can see the improvements in raised £450.

"We are really grateful to everyone Sharon who has helped out, especially now we can see the improvement in Kieron's posture and speech," said Sharon.