

I've joined CLAPA Cambridge after coming to the first summer party that I thought it was great and so lovely to see members of the cleft team talking to children and parents informally. After the party I came to the meeting at Addenbrooke's where Dr Anna Zeffertt, Consultant Clinical Psychologist (who is also our leading member) and Mr Per Hall, Consultant Plastic Surgeon, talked about the cleft care and the branch's work. That was about 6 years ago and my son Joshua was two years old. The meeting was very inspiring and I wanted to 'give it a go' and give something back for the excellent care given by the cleft team to my son who was born with a cleft lip and palate. I always thought how caring and professional the whole team is and I have a lot of respect for everyone in the team. For me they've changed the life of my son and my family for just doing their job and going that extra mile, what I'll always appreciate. For our family they are the real HEROES.

I'm just an ordinary mum, married to a lovely man who is an inspiration to our boys, Aaron 11 and Joshua 8 and myself as he has achieved so much in his life in spite of many obstacles. I have a little bit of IT skills and lots of passion to support other families whose children are born with a cleft. It's amazing how together with other committee members, who all have different skills and have come from a different back ground, we are able to support the families across the East Anglian Region. It gives me a great pleasure to be part of the branch that is very passionate to support other families and as well as our regional Hospital. It's very exciting to see how far the branch has come since I've joined 6 years ago and how rewarding it is to be a clapa volunteer. The branch is very fortunate to have a fantastic support by the cleft team and is supported by many families who love to attend our events and fundraise for different projects. We are always so grateful for their support. We all have so much fun working together (and of course it's a bit of hard work) organising different events, fundraising for a medical equipment at Addenbrookes, publishing our newsletter that will be distributed across 9 hospitals and doing many different little jobs.

Today, I'm the branch treasurer, web administrator, event organiser and anything else that needs to be done. It gives me a great pleasure to help organise summer and winter wonderland parties where children and parents can have lots of fun, meet other families and talk to a member of the cleft team in a nice and informal environment.

I would like to invite you to come and join us and be part of this fantastic work that is very exciting and very rewarding and to give something back to the hospital for everything they've done for our children and many other children across the region.

Mary Newbold



My boys at CLAPA Winter Party



Me at CLAPA Winter Party



Other Committee Members and my son Aaron