

Meath Chronicle

CAOIMHIN CAROLAN (9) who was born prematurely and was diagnosed with a speech and language impairment that left him unable to talk until he was five has set himself the challenge of braving the cold waters to take a dip in the sea at Laytown on Christmas Day to raise money for [St Michael's House](#)

Laytown lad's big Christmas Day dip for a very special cause

SALLY HARDING

The proud mum of a kind-hearted Laytown boy who was born prematurely in a

car on the side of the road nine years ago says her son's fundraising efforts has given his confidence "a huge boost."

Caoimhin Carolan has set himself the challenge of braving the cold waters to take a dip in the sea at

Laytown on Christmas Day to raise money for St Michael's House, a facility for people with intellectual disabilities where his mum Samantha works.

The youngster who was born five weeks prematurely weighing

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just 4lb 12 ounces and was diagnosed with a speech and language impairment that left him unable to talk until he was five has been touched by the level of support he has received already raising over €300 of his €500 target.

Samantha explains how he came up with the idea:

"His dad had said to him a couple of weeks ago that we'd start a new family tradition of going to the beach on Christmas Day for a swim.

"A couple of days later he said I want to do it for charity so I said what about doing it for St Michael's House and he thought that was a

great idea. I have a brother with an intellectual disability so he would know the kind of things they do there.

"Caoimhin was diagnosed with a speech and language impairment when he was four and has had intensive speech therapy from the age of three. He didn't talk until he was five and it affected his confidence massively.

"He is doing well now though and this has really given him a huge boost. He will ask mam how much money are we at and people that he wouldn't even have thought would donate have given money for his fundraiser."

Caoimhin's entry into the world wasn't without drama with mum Samantha unbelievably delivering the baby herself in the car on the side of the road at Colpe Cross.

Samantha's contractions started when she was on a night shift in work at St Michael's House in Santry but after the hospital told her she wasn't in labour she decided to stay put until staff cover arrived the following morning.

Feeling increasingly unwell the mum-of-three headed for home where her husband Kevin met her and without wasting a second's time, he boarded Samantha in their car and raced towards the hospital but the journey was proving to be too long for the delivery.

The couple were just in the car five

minutes when Samantha felt her baby's head coming out.

The Laytown mum admits "having no time to think" before precious

little Caoimhin "popped out" and made his dramatic entrance into the world on the passenger seat of the couple's 06 Red Seat Ibiza on 19th November 2011.

Speaking about the shock birth

Samantha now also mum to Seamus (5) and Grainne (14 months) said:

"I was in work on a sleepover and I had pains and rang the hospital.

"Initially they thought it might be a urinary tract infection because the

pain was all in my back.

"I stayed until cover arrived the next morning then I made the journey back to Bettystown where we were living, I had intended to drive myself to the hospital but then the pains got too bad.

"Kevin came home, got me down the stairs got me into the car and a few minutes into the journey I could feel the head moving down and I said this baby is coming and he said just put it back in!

"He pulled over at the carwash at Colpe Cross and as soon as he got out of the car and came around

to my side Caoimhin was already looking at him. He just popped out and I lifted him on to my chest and he cried straight away.

"Kevin managed to flag down a retired guard from Stameen who gave us a towel to wrap the baby in.

"I left work at 11am and he was born at 12.20pm.

"I never in my wildest dreams thought I'd deliver the baby by myself."

Mum and baby were taken in the ambulance to the hospital where they were checked over and little Caoimhin was taken to the special care unit where he stayed for two weeks as Samantha explains:

"Initially they were concerned about the shape of head because they reckoned he was in position

a lot longer than the time I was in labour for so they had to do different brain scans so for the first couple of days we didn't know if he was going to be ok.

"My mam had only died two weeks previously so it was a whole whirlwind of emotion.

"He's healthy, he's fine, we both came out unscathed, he's very proud of the fact that he was born on the side of the road."

To donate look for 'Caoimhin Carolan's Page' on www.idonate.ie

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Making a splash...Caoimhin and mum Samantha Carolan getting their feet wet at Bettystown.



Caoimhin Carolan Gets a thumbs-up from the Bettystown swimmers.

Christmas Day dip... Caoimhin
Carolán (9)

