

LEEDS IRISH CENTRE

One of the projects which Take Heart are fundraising for at the moment is some new software for the CT Scanner in Leeds General Infirmary. This specialised software which has been requested by Dr Dominik Schlosshan, Consultant Cardiologist and Lead Clinician, extends the capabilities of the scanner to accurately show detail of all valves in the heart. This will enable many more patients to have valve replacements without having to submit to open heart surgery.

A few weeks ago, the Manager of the Irish Centre in York Road, Leeds phoned me in the office of Take Heart to say that he would like to organise an event in the Irish Centre to fundraise for Take Heart, but would like it specifically for a project or equipment for the Heart Department.

It transpired that this event would be a tribute to his son, Damian, who died aged only 20, twenty five years ago with an undiagnosed heart condition. He said that there was no indication of any problem – until the police knocked at his door to give Tom and his wife Helen the tragic news.

They decided at that time to raise money for the Heart Department in LGI and raised many thousands of pounds. On the 25th Anniversary of their son's death, they made the decision to pay tribute with this event which was held on Saturday 16th June in the Irish Centre.



With us having agreed with Tom that the new scanner software would be a suitable project, Tom invited Dr Schlosshan to attend the event to explain in detail what the benefits would be to future patients. Dominik did so and this was much appreciated.

The response from the generous patrons of the Irish Centre and friends has been tremendous. The software isn't cheap – it costs £14,000 and we expected a few hundred pounds from the event. We were bowled over when we learned that the total raised at the time of this newsletter going to print is £16,000.00 and there is more to come from other sources and from the auction held on the night.

To Tom and Helen and the fantastically generous people at the Irish Centre, we thank you from the bottom of our hearts. What you have done will make the lives of potentially hundreds of future patients so much better, with less time in hospital and dramatically increased recovery time. You can be proud of yourselves.

Bill Stevenson