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FEATURE

fashion into success



■ Moss Taylor and Robina Churchyard have launched Love for Leo, which will help three-year-old Leo, pictured below, as well as other children who live with cerebral palsy.

Picture: **KAREN BETHELL**

Grandfather's love for Leo will help others

A former Sheringham GP has set up a charity to buy specialist equipment for voungsters

with disabilities.

The launch of Love for Leo was prompted seeing the difficulties his grandson, now three, faced when born with cerebral



Leo lives in Norwich with his parents, Andy and May, his twin sister Tiger Lily, and his seven-yearold brother Zach. The three-year-old spent 10 days in the neonatal intensive care unit at the Norfolk and Norwich University Hospital after a lack of oxygen at birth resulted in him having cerebral palsy.

The disorder left him with speech difficulties, as well as limited mobility in three of his limbs.

Dr Moss Taylor said: "Leo is a happy little boy who is always smiling and is absolutely fine mentally – there is no question he knows exactly what we mean. But he does find talking an effort and can only properly use his left arm."

The youngster, who communicates with his family using sign language, has recently begun to crawl and, seeing the problems he had getting about, Dr Taylor realised that he might need extra help in the future, including specialist equipment not provided by the NHS.

He and partner Robina Churchvard came up with the idea of a charity to youngsters with cerebral palsy.

"Leo will need lifelong support, which is why we wanted to help children like him get the equipment they need to enjoy a better quality of life,' he added.

After taking early retirement in 1994, Dr Taylor penned a string of birding books and more than 500 nature columns for the EDP, sister paper of the Norwich Evening News.

The couple have already raised £500 for Love for Leo, with Dr Taylor donating half the proceeds of a wildlife talk he gave at Sheringham Little Theatre

→ Anyone wanting to support Love for Leo by making a donation, by buying a copy of Moss Taylor's book, In the Countryside, or by running a fundraising event, can contact Mrs Churchyard on 01263 823588.

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