

Runners to raise money for prosthetic legs for boy, two

By MIKE JARVIS
e-mail: mjarvis@c-dm.co.uk
01208 74461

THE life of a two-year-old boy who lost both his legs to meningitis could be transformed by a huge fund-raising event.

Archie Barton, whose family was originally from Looe, was less than 18 months old when he was diagnosed with meningitis B.

The severe septicaemia that followed ravaged his body, leading to the amputation of his legs.

Now Lions' Club fundraisers from South East Cornwall are holding the Bake Lake Run at Trerulefoot next month

to raise money to buy state-of-the-art prosthetic legs for Archie.

His grandfather, Ken Gosling from Liskeard, said it was important to raise awareness of the condition.

Ken, 69, said of Archie: "He was in intensive care for six weeks where he lost his legs and part of his fingers but he survived and he's strong.

"He was then moved to Frenchay Hospital where he had a series of skin grafts.

"The big thing with meningitis is speed - the quicker it can be diagnosed, the more chance there is of saving limbs and saving lives."

As Archie grows up, he will need a continual supply of prosthetic legs.

Those available on the NHS have limited function and alternatives could cost £12,000 every few months, which Archie's parents Nicky and Murray say they simply cannot afford.

It is hoped that funds raised from the run will be used to buy state-of-the-art prosthetic legs which will improve Archie's quality of life.

Peter Andrew, from Liskeard Lions' Club, said: "We heard about Archie's story and we simply want to do as much as we possibly can for him.

"When we first heard about Archie's story we gave his family £500 straightaway and then decided on a big fund-raising event for him."

The six-mile run on May 18 starts at 10am and is open to

people of all ages and abilities. Competitors can also walk around the course or follow a 1.5-mile route.

Entry is £1.50 for children under junior school age and £3 for children over junior school age and adults.

Hot food and drinks will be available at the start/finish.

● Members of Archie's family are running the Plymouth Half Marathon on May 25 to raise funds for him.

For more information or to make a donation, go to www.archiesstory.co.uk