

tion with the A1017 at about 6.15pm when they were in colli-

Stortford with his wife for 12 years. They had been married for

He has also worked as a flying instructor and latterly was work-

further investigations into the cause of the accident.

Simon

There could still be hope for silent Rose

ROSE Willcocks is a happy four-year-old who likes animals and theme parks. However Rose is trapped in a world of silence because of a rare genetic disorder.

She has a rare chromosome disorder which means she cannot speak, has problems balancing and has limited cognitive skills.

Doctors think Rose is the only person in the world with the disorder.

Her parents, Esme and Dave Willcocks, of The Ridings, Bishop's Stortford, have never heard her talk but after a breakthrough during a Herefordshire farm visit earlier this year they are hoping to raise enough money to send her to a speech therapy centre in America.

Esme said: "At the farm she was looking at a cow and began making noises. It was a breakthrough and we want to encourage Rose to talk more."

The family plans to spend a week at Water Planet USA, a specialist therapy centre in Florida, where children can receive linguistic and learning therapy, and swim with wild dolphins.

Esme said: "We're really excited



Rose Willcocks with parents Esme and Dave and sister Ruby (EL3828-1)

about the prospect of taking Rose to Florida. The only time we've heard her vocalise is when she meets animals, we're hoping meeting the dolphins will help her develop."

The family, originally from Chard, Somerset, moved to Bishop's Stortford in 2004 and are moved by the support they have received.

Esme said: "We've been totally humbled by the response from people in Bishop's Stortford. The community has really pulled

together and given us their support. We never expected this, we're not special, we're just Esme and Dave from The Ridings." The family need to raise £15,000 for therapy at the centre and are holding a series of events, starting with a charity curry night tomorrow (Thursday, September 27) at the Tamarind Tree, South Mill Road, Bishop's Stortford.

Esme said: "We currently

have £500 towards the appeal. We're hoping to raise more in the coming months. We want to reach out to Rose and give her the chance to tell us she loves us for the first time."

Tickets, priced £25 per head for a three course meal, are available by ringing 07887 731563.

QUICK LINK

For more information on Rose, and to find out how you can help, visit www.rose-willcocks-appeal.org

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Reach Day for Maddy at the hairdressers