

## Oliver's story

**Oliver lives in Eastbourne with his Mum Caroline, Dad John and siblings Joshua, Connor and Shannon. In a lot of ways he is like every other 8 year old – attending the local primary school, winding his siblings up and playing on his PlayStation at every opportunity.**

When he was about 18 months old, however, he was diagnosed with a condition that means his muscles will deteriorate over time and leave him reliant on his parents for all of his personal care. He has already lost the ability to walk, and even to move his legs very much, he may lose the ability to swallow, and will probably

need oxygen at night in the future. "It was devastating," says Caroline. "We've had to come to terms with the fact that he is never going to get better, he is just going to deteriorate."

Since then the family has had very little support. "Nobody can look after Oliver," says Caroline. "We can't just ask a friend to babysit and go out for dinner, we can't leave him at a birthday party for a couple of hours or let him stay at his grandparents' overnight because they can't get him out of his chair."

The family met Susan, their Leo House funded nurse, in 2017 when Oliver was 7 years old. "We were really worried about

Susan looking after Oliver to start with," says Caroline. "He has always been quite clingy so we didn't know if he would even let us leave him with her. But he was fine, and now absolutely loves his visits with her."

"They always go out and have fun – at the bowling alley, or driving range, or just a trip to feed the ducks at the local park. And it's made a real difference to his confidence – when he was a baby I couldn't leave without him getting hysterical, now he's almost too independent, which is really great."

"Oliver has always missed out on things. Little things, like bouncy castles and swings at the park, and big things like trips to theme parks, and it can make him really frustrated. Now he has the chance to do some of these things – and it really has made a difference."



## Looking ahead

Don't forget to let us know of any forthcoming fundraising events in aid of Leo House at Home.

## Contact us

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• Telephone: 01273 556834  
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# Friends of Sussex Hospices Trail Walk



September saw the second anniversary walk of the Sussex Hospices Trail. Our picture shows Duncan Stewart and Hugh Lawson, two of the walkers from Shoreham, arriving at Brighton Station. On a glorious day the views from the walk were stunning. If you are interested in more information, go to [www.hospicetrail.co.uk](http://www.hospicetrail.co.uk)

## Who are we?

Leo House was established by Brighton Lions Club to help life-limited children, young people and their families living in East and Mid-Sussex as well as in Brighton & Hove. Leo House supports children and young people with a life-limiting condition from birth to 25 years of age and their families. We know we cannot cure them but we can help to give them the best quality of life for as long as that might be.

## Hats off to Lions Gate

Residents at Lions Gate in Hove held a Mad Hatters themed coffee morning and raised a super £342 for Leo House at Home. As you see from our photo a good time was had by all. The Mayor of Brighton and Hove, Councillor Dee Simson, joined in the fun.



## Cheers to the Coach House & Swan Inn

Our thanks go to the team at the Coach House, High Street, Rottingdean, who have been collecting for Leo House for three years, and next year will be running a quiz to raise money. Our picture shows Heather (left) and Georgie. The Coach House is a freehouse near the seafront in Rottingdean and serves home-cooked meals.

Many congratulations to the Swan Inn, Falmer (near Brighton), who have raised a magnificent £79 from their first collecting box. The Swan is a real ale pub with food served on most days. It dates back to the 1700's and is ideally located for walkers crossing the Downs. Our picture shows Tara and Daren.

Our grateful thanks go to both pubs for their support.



## Thank you!

**Thank you to everyone for your generous donations to Leo House including:**

The 10th Hole, Lottbridge Golf Club  
Mrs P Couchman  
Ryle House, Brighton College  
Stanford Avenue Methodist Church  
Mrs M Kendall  
Mrs C Brett-Sinclair  
Pavilion Electronics, Hassocks  
Adur East Lions  
Ovetts Egg and Bacon Stall, Brighton Market  
Mr J Schofield

**Don't forget, Leo House at Home spends almost all this money to fund our nurses, less than 2p in the £ goes to pay expenses.**