

Louiza's Story

Louiza was born a healthy baby, but at four months old her Mum, Amanda, started to notice that something was wrong. After several visits to the doctors, Amanda was told that her baby girl was fine and was just teething. "I have two older sons so I knew that there was something more than that," says Amanda.

A day after her first birthday, Louiza had an epileptic fit and was rushed to hospital. Soon after that, the family found out that Louiza had a difficult strain of epilepsy and part of her brain was significantly underdeveloped, resulting in severe complex needs. "We don't have a diagnosis for Louiza, who is now 16, she's a mystery – that's what the doctors say. Her complex needs mean that she can't speak, can't communicate, and isn't mobile. She requires 24-hour care and needs someone constantly watching her."

"The first 11 years were really difficult," says Amanda. "We had very little

support and the only break I would get was when Louiza was at school. Louiza was getting bigger, and I was drained. A friend then told me about Leo House, and I was so pleased to know that there was help out there."

The family has been cared for by Leo House nurses for over five years now. "The team is so lovely and caring, I don't know what we'd do without them. Louiza loves spending time with them, and it's great as I have the opportunity to spend some one-on-one time with my youngest, Tarik. And that's something that we wouldn't be able to do without Leo House."

Due to the pandemic, the family has been staying at home to protect Louiza, who is vulnerable to COVID-19. "It's been a really difficult year. Louiza loves getting out and about and she doesn't fully understand why she's stuck inside. She just looks at the front door and I try to explain to her what's going on, but I don't think she fully understands."



"We've missed going out immensely. But we've had regular phone calls from our Leo House nurses and that's made a big difference. They are so supportive and it's so nice knowing that there's always someone on the other end of the phone, happy to listen to you and just have a chat."

When asked what life would be like without support from Leo House, Amanda says, "It would be hard. It would be extremely difficult. I'd be drained. The team is just amazing and life would be a lot harder without them."

Contact us

Leo House, Lions Dene, The Deneway, Brighton, BN1 5AZ

- telephone 01273 556834
- www.leohouse.org.uk
- email info@leohouse.org.uk

If you'd like to make a donation directly into our bank:

Sort code: 40-14-01
Account no: 51335979
Name: Leo House

Registered charity no. 1091541. A company limited by guarantee, number 3803928.





Our grateful thanks to Southwick Players who performed an online version of a Murder Mystery play. The event was on behalf of the Mayor of Brighton and Hove's charities (of which Leo House is one).

The audience of over 100 heard from Sargent Dillaway of the murder of Barbara Paige-Turner. It was set at the Manor; where her family and friends were staying. Each potential 'murderer', who were in 1920's costume, gave a statement and the audience, who were in groups of 6 in Zoom 'rooms' were able to ask questions.

The audience were given a few minutes to pick their 'murderer' and then the mystery was solved. It was very involved and only one group got the solution. Well done to all who worked so hard to put it on.

Mayor of Brighton & Hove Charity Events 2021

► **Boundary Walk. Saturday 17th July from Saltdean to Stanmer Park.**

► This is a 9 mile walk along the north boundary of Brighton and Hove. Walkers are encouraged to raise sponsorship for the charities involved and all proceeds will be shared amongst the five organisations. Tickets are priced at £5 plus booking fee and can be purchased via the following link: <https://tinyurl.com/3ak3ysjk>

► **'Famous Women of Brighton Blue Plaque Guided Walk'. Several dates in June, July and August**

► This is a guided walk from a local expert taking in the blue plaques for the suffragettes of Brighton & Hove. The tour lasts one and a half hours and tickets are available now on Eventbrite. Numbers for each walk are restricted so early booking is essential to avoid disappointment

St Christopher's Run for Help

On 22nd June the pupils of St Christopher's school in Hove will be taking part in a fund-raising event. The four school Houses will be running to see which House can raise the most for their chosen charity.

They hope that the Mayor will be the 'starter' and as usual the event ends with an ice-lolly for all!

Our picture shows the 2019 event. Thank you to all concerned for your support.



Freshfield Street Lights up the Gloom

Residents of Freshfield Street, Queen's Park, Brighton held a socially distanced "Light Up The Street" event for Winter Solstice. Monday 21st December 2020 was a damp and rainy winter's evening. Neighbours lit up front windows and front gardens; kids paraded home-made lanterns, Christmas music played, and mulled wine and mince pies all helped to create a "new normal" festive feel, when many traditional festivities were cancelled. A total of £184.24 was raised for Leo House through cash and on-line donations.



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.

► **Mayor's Tea party and charity auction at the Pavilion Gardens and café. Saturday September 4th**

► Drop into the Pavilion Gardens in Brighton to enjoy a band concert, tea and cakes and a chance to bid for some fantastic items in the auction. There are likely to be some stalls and other entertainment as arrangements are ongoing. Details will appear on the Leo House website.

► **Actually Gay Men's Choir. All Saints Church, Hove. Tuesday 7th December.** ► **Film Night at All Saints Church, Hove. Friday 10th December.**

► Full details will be on the Leo House website later in the year. Special price tickets for attending both events.

Other events are in the pipeline and will be announced on our website.

Thank you!

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

- Pam West
- Mrs G Tingley
- Battle and Villages Lions Club
- Mr W Hurren
- St Wulfran's Church, Ovingdean
- Mr & Mrs Grist
- Miss J Bygrave
- One Family Foundation
- Sue Jenkins
- Parish of St Helen & St Richard