

# Eva's Story

The Lundin family from Barcombe near Lewes have been cared for by Leo House nurses since 2011 when they were seeking respite care for their youngest child, Eva.

Dad Jason explains: "Eva was born 13 weeks early, not breathing, and spent the first 108 days of her life in hospital. She was tiny but she fought hard and is now a loving four year old with Cerebral Palsy and chronic lung disease. She has come a long way since those early days, but she is still highly dependent on me and her mum for all of her needs. She cannot walk unaided, her weak chest means she is often dependent on oxygen, she is fed by a tube and she cannot speak to us. Of course, she communicates in her own way, and has even learnt a few signs, but caring for her is still hugely demanding."

Jason gave up work to become Eva's full time carer in 2011. "It's definitely a lot harder doing the caring," says Jason. "As with any child, it's all about getting into good routines, and luckily I have a highly-organised wife who takes care of that, but those routines are different when you are caring for a child

with complex needs such as Eva. Seemingly simple tasks like doing the weekly shop or running errands were totally impossible without help."

A Leo House nurse visits regularly to take care of Eva whilst Jason and Mel spend some quality time together. "It's wonderful," Jason says. "To start with, the visits from the Leo House nurse gave us time to get everyday tasks done, but now we use it as precious time for Mel and I to spend as a couple, which is really invaluable. We've even managed to go to the cinema! That may sound bizarre but it's something we simply hadn't been able to do since Eva was born."

It's also given Eva's brother, George, the chance to spend time with his parents. "It is inevitable that you end up spending the majority of your time looking after the more dependent child," Jason explains, "so during the school holidays I try to use our Leo House nurse visits to spend some time with



George, doing the kinds of things that aren't that easy with Eva."

"Leo House does a wonderful job, offering families across Sussex the chance to spend precious time together. Eva has built a really strong relationship with Louise, our community nurse, and we know that the team can handle any situation that arises whilst she's in their care."

## 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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## A Fond Goodbye

All at Leo House at Home would like to pay tribute to May Goodchild, who died recently. She was a loyal supporter of Leo House for many years. She lived at Homeshore House in Seaford and organised regular exercise classes for the residents. She

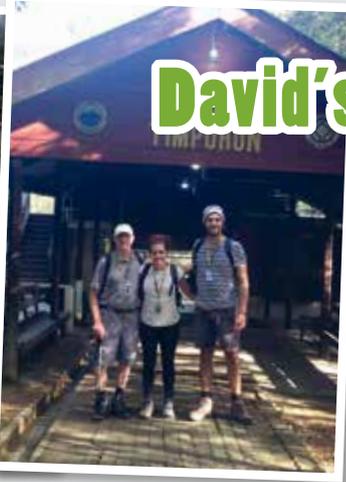
often made collections in lieu of class fees and sent us the money to support the Leo nurses. May was a very kind lady and our condolences go to her son, David. Our thanks go to the family and friends for the donations made at her funeral.

## David's climb for Leo House at Home

David Skinner has raised lots of money over the years, often via sponsored runs; you may remember the silly costumes shown in previous newsletters. Now he is 71 and has two artificial hips, his running days are over.

Instead he has climbed Mount Kinabalu in Borneo, 4,095 metres of tropical forest and slippery granite slopes. He climbed with his step-daughter Elly, her husband Rob and guide Tumas.

Congratulations to David, and thank you again for the magnificent total of £2,255 which was raised.



## Mad March Pub Quizzes

Following the success of last year, Friends of Sussex Hospices ran the Mad March Pub Quiz Challenge 2015. Pubs and clubs from across the county joined forces to raise funds for all the Sussex hospices and care organisations such as Leo House at Home. There were two Leo quizzes, at Ovingdean Village Hall and the Ship Hotel in Newhaven.

In Ovingdean we had a fantastic turnout and, despite some moaning about how hard were Richard's questions, it was a great evening. Including a super raffle we raised just over £300.

The landlord, Steve, of the Ship has supported Leo House for many years and

did a great job together with expert quizmasters from PD Entertainment. The Leo House team were the winners; no favouritism was granted or expected! Thank you to the locals and supporters at the Ship who raised over £150 on the night.

The month's events were a fantastic success and I am sure this will become an annual event. This is a very easy and popular way to support Leo House at Home. Ask your local pub if they will put on a quiz next March in support of us. We can supply the publicity, newsletters and banners, and maybe a team or two.

## 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.



## Thank you!

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

Hassocks Townswomen  
St Peter's West Blatchington  
Mrs J D Tuppen  
Mrs S Brown  
Woodingdean Methodist Church  
Sussex Masonic Charities  
St Comas & St Damian Church  
Oakwood Primary Academy  
Mrs J Lane

## Steve Donahar Golf Day

We are very pleased to hear that David Plant is again organising his Golf Day for Leo House at Home. The event is on May 22nd at the Dyke Golf Club. Thank you to everyone organising events to support the Leo nurses. The picture shows prize winners from last year's competition.



**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.**