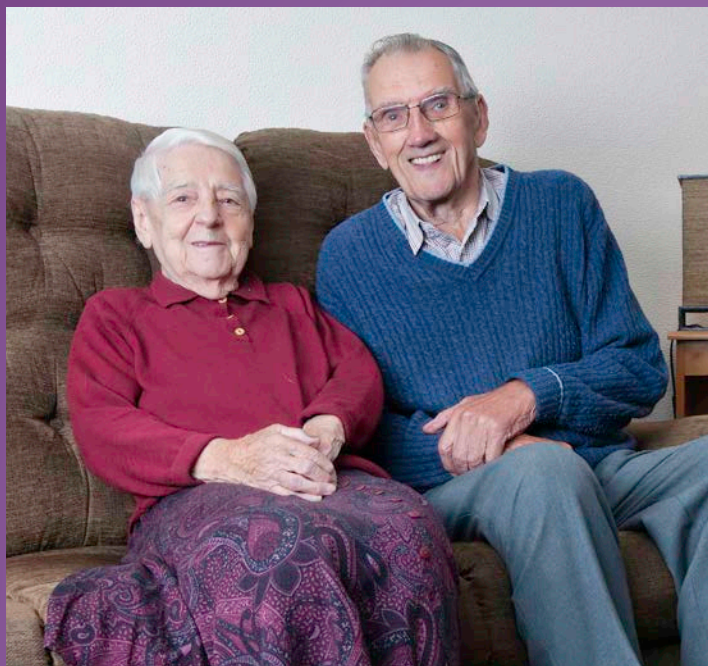


Getting a stairlift is a family affair



Looking out over the beautiful Denbighshire countryside with the dramatic Clwydian mountains as a backdrop it is easy to understand why Gwyn Hughes and his wife Dora were keen to stay in the house where they raised their four children and they have called home since 1958. However, a few years previously Gwyn and Dora had considered moving to a bungalow but dismissed the idea due to the upheaval – both physical and emotional, the fact their location gave them easy access to their local town and the level plot was easy to maintain and get around. So when Dora, 85, fell in October one year they knew they needed to find a solution that would allow them to stay in their family home.

Gwyn, 91, had been mulling over the idea of a stairlift for some time to help him get up and down stairs as, after a lifetime of work in farming, his knees were beginning to give him trouble and often made negotiating the stairs a tricky and painful process. When asked what was stopping him from getting a stairlift Gwyn says simply "Pride." Olwen, Gwyn and Dora's daughter,



continues "Dad didn't even like to use his stick so although he knew a stairlift would be ideal he was putting it off." However, it was Dora's fall that provided the impetus to finally take some action.

After slipping by the back door Dora spent months in hospital with a broken hip and with no downstairs toilet having a stairlift was a requirement for her discharge. Olwen stepped in to help organise a stairlift and chose a supplier but after a bad experience switched to a Stannah stairlift.

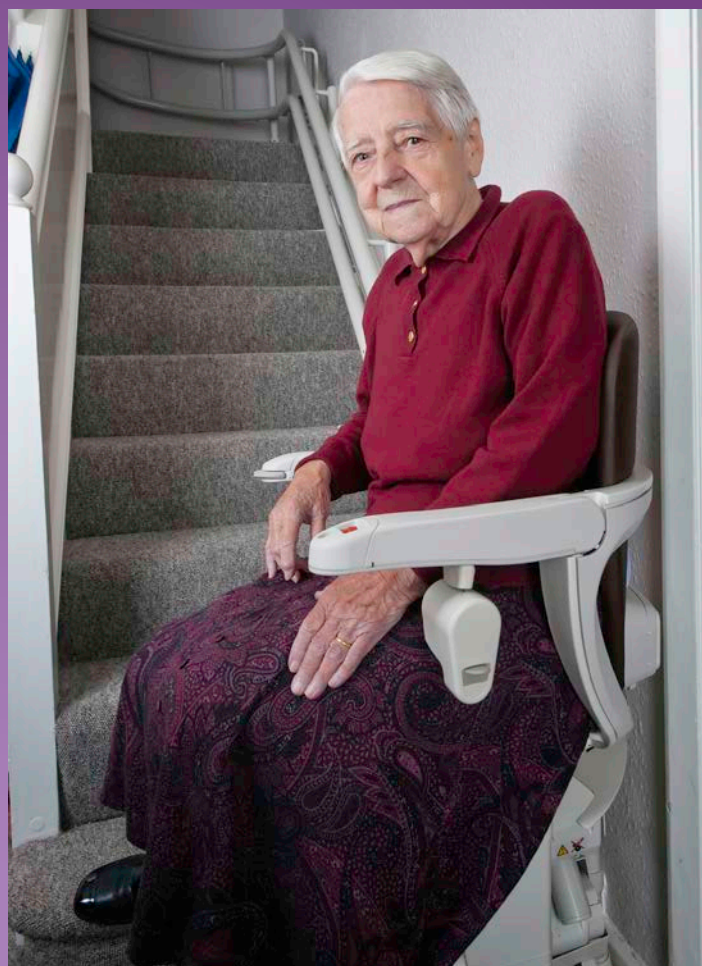
Dora has been able to get back into her routine getting about the house without a frame or stick, with no more need for carers and no longer reliant on the family to help her get on with things. "Now I can manage on my own, I've got my independence back again," says Dora. But it's not just Dora that has seen the benefit of the stairlift. Olwen is clear that there have been positives for her and her father too, "Knowing Mum can get around safely now, it's a real weight off my mind and my Dad can relax too."

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Dora uses the stairlift every time she goes up or down the stairs. Gwyn prefers to walk up when he can but is glad to make use of its services on the days when his knees are especially troublesome.

Now the couple have a Stannah stairlift to rely on and take the strain out of using the stairs, they can continue life as usual. Gwyn likes to socialise with his friends at the village bowling club where he plays each week, keeps the garden in immaculate condition and drives himself and Dora to town for their weekly shopping. Dora is more of a home bird, keeping herself busy around the house although she obviously enjoys an adventure as the pictures of her in a helicopter on her 80th birthday show.

With a large family of four children, grandchildren and great grandchildren the couple have plenty to keep them active both mentally and physically and are evidently enjoying life. While the stairlift may just be part of the furniture now it plays an important role in allowing the family to get on with life and focus on the more important things in life. "It's a blessing," says Dora of her Starla and Gwyn agrees. And the family's advice to anyone considering a stairlift 'Don't hesitate,' says Olwen, 'Finding a reliable stairlift has given us all peace of mind and getting my mother's independence back has been positive for all of us.'



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