

Three generations fulfil the Stannah Promise



A surprise Facebook competition win transformed the life of 84 year old osteoarthritis sufferer Barry – and brought three generations of a family together like never before.

“That’s just what Grandpa needs” thought Sally Kucyj in late 2010 as she browsed Facebook and spotted a competition to win a Stannah stairlift. As the granddaughter of osteoarthritis sufferer Barry England, she was keenly aware of the difficulties he was having getting up and down the steep stairs of his home in Lincoln.

With this in mind, Sally entered the competition and to her surprise and delight, won a choice of stairlift on behalf of her Grandpa. The family chose a straight Sofia model with oyster coloured leather upholstery which was soon installed in her grandparents’ home.

Barry England, a former telephone engineer, was born in Yorkshire but has lived in the Lincolnshire area most of his life with his wife Margaret. As Margaret explained, “I married the boy next door 60 years ago and we’ve been happily married ever since.”

However, over the last few months Barry’s osteoarthritis had worsened. Movement around the house and in town had become increasingly tiring – and walking up steep hills or stairs was a painful ritual.

At first Barry just put up with the extra restrictions placed on his movement, but as it got worse, his quality of life suffered. Climbing up the stairs was avoided. Trips out to the garden centre or to meet friends were cancelled. Barry became increasingly housebound and dependent on his wife.

“The pain in my legs and joints deteriorated very quickly and even walking upstairs to the study became difficult” explained Barry. “As a former engineer who still enjoys fixing things and leading an active lifestyle the reality began to hit home as I became unable to move around the house with ease anymore.”

Stannah

Barry and Margaret had thought about investing in a Stannah stairlift prior to their competition win. "We'd always said that if Barry's situation worsened we would consider getting a stairlift" explained Margaret. However, concerns over price had held them back. "We thought they might be expensive but now we see what great value a Stannah stairlift offers." Although Stannah stairlifts are very affordable local councils do offer financial support to those who cannot afford to buy one.

In any event, the competition win came in the nick of time for Barry, and an installation date was quickly arranged with one of Stannah's dedicated customer teams. Barry and Margaret were looking forward to getting their new stairlift – but they were still apprehensive that the stairlift might obstruct the stairs for other users.

"I thought that the stairlift would be bulky and obstructive on the staircase" explained Pat, 55, Barry and Margaret's daughter. "And I was worried it would take a long time to install with endless workmen coming in and out of the house. Of course this isn't something you'd wish on your elderly parents."

Barry and Margaret shared these concerns but were reassured by the Stannah customer service team when they were told it would only take a few hours to install. "The workmen who installed the lift were excellent" explained Margaret. "They were friendly, careful, gave us full training on how to use it and they didn't leave any mess for us to clean up."

With the new stairlift installed Barry soon got into the flow of using it and is once again living his life to the full by pursuing the many hobbies he enjoys. "From day one the stairlift has been very good and made the world of difference to my life" explained Barry. "Now that I don't have to force my joints into making the painful walk up the stairs I can dedicate more energy to doing the things I enjoy. I can make as many trips upstairs, without worrying about my joints, to access the internet on my computer. And I can spend more time outdoors taking photographs."

An added benefit of the stairlift has been to make living in Barry and Margaret's two storey detached house more practical, avoiding the need to move into a bungalow. As Pat explains, "Myself and my family, including my three children, only live three minutes away and moving house would be a difficult upheaval for all of us. The stairlift has helped us all remain close to Barry and Margaret by enabling them to live in their house for longer."



Stairlift Profile

Model: Sofia
Rail: Straight
Colour: Oyster Leather
Date installed: November 2010
Options: Manual swivel chair



With Barry more independent and able to do the things he enjoys, his family could not be happier. "Barry is much happier now that he has a Stannah stairlift. It's safe, reliable and has enabled him to be more active in and outside the home" explained Margaret. "It really has brought our family together. We can continue to live near Pat and Sally which means we can see them often. Barry can lead a more active life, and for me, as long as he's alright, I'm happy."