



The Stairclimber People – Case Study

S-Max saves pensioners becoming housebound

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Diagnosed with Motor Neurone Disease 27 years ago, George Mattheson is still managing to get out and about, despite having to negotiate 13 steps in and out of his home, thanks to his S-Max stairclimber.

Now aged 77, George has retained his upper body strength but has gradually lost much of his mobility. As his condition deteriorated, his wife Jennifer had to physically lift his legs up and down for him.

Being the same age as her husband, she was physically struggling to give him that support, and was becoming worried for both their safety as they navigated the concrete steps linking their Huddersfield bungalow built on an embankment with street level.

It was a predicament.

They did not want to move from their bungalow, but did not qualify for a Disabled Facilities Grant, meaning the suggested answer- installing a lift in the street-level garage to transfer George up and down- would have set them back £30000+!

One of their grandsons found the answer: online, he came across the S-Max and showed his grandparents a video of how the equipment worked. That prompted a call into AAT the stairclimber people, who visited the couple to assess them- and the steps- to make sure that the S-Max would help.

A little physical building work to the steps made the S-Max a practical, cost-effective solution.

The Matthesons chose an S-Max stairclimber unit with a separate wheelchair.

The S-Max battery-powered climbing unit attaches to the wheelchair so George is seated safely and securely. When Jennifer has transferred George up or down the steps, she can just detach the wheelchair and push him easily onwards. The couple also bought AAT's optional service & maintenance package, so they have complete peace of mind.



"It's been a brilliant buy," says Jennifer. "George thought it was great as soon as he tried it. I was a bit wary at first at the top of the steps, but now it's second nature. I'm 77 and have no trouble using it."

"We get out at least a couple of times a week, visiting friends or out with the family. Without the S-Max, George would be housebound."