



Jean regains her love for life and starts living again!

When Fiona Crozier's mum, Jean was first diagnosed with chronic arthritis and spinal cord compression making her lose the use of her legs, over a decade ago, Fiona was determined that her mum would continue to live her life to the maximum. It would have been easy for both Jean and Fiona to simply think that was it and settle for life as it was. However, with determination and tenacity, together they were able to overcome life's adversities and start living life to the full.

Even with her disability, it was important to Jean that she maintained her independence, and ideally that meant having the use of her car, something that she had always valued.

However, in 2007 Jean's condition deteriorated drastically. She was suffering compression of the spinal cord, which, combined with arthritis, meant that she lost mobility from the neck down. 75 year old Jean found that getting out and about in the car was becoming increasingly difficult and she feared she may no longer be able to go on holidays or visit family and friends in other parts of the UK, again.

"I was really worried," said Jean. "I was always such an active and independent person. I loved using the car to get out to meet with people and travel but as my condition got worse I was really struggling to find something that would help me regain this freedom. I knew that my daughter Fiona was equally concerned that I would not be able to travel to the same extent."

"Mum is right," agrees Fiona. "It was going to be difficult for us as a family if mum was unable to get out of the house and travel for anything other than short journeys so we had to find something that was going to make her life easier."

"Initially we had mum's Fiat Diablo fitted with a ramp that would allow her wheelchair to be pushed into the car and secured in place. However, this caused mum much distress and discomfort. Her head was fixed high inside the vehicle,



giving limited visibility to the world outside. As she was located at the back of the car, she was isolated from other people in the car and felt like 'a spare part'. In addition, she would get bumps and bruises from the wheelchair as it struggled to cope with the impact of driving."

If her mum was to have any kind of life, Fiona knew that she must find an appropriate solution that offered her mum much more comfort and would give her back the enjoyable driving experience that she really loved and was already beginning to miss!

After doing further research and talking with various people, Fiona decided to try out a Milford Person Lift to see if this was the answer to her mum's needs. A little apprehensive at first, after discussions and a demonstration, Fiona and Jean were pleased they could have one that would work easily with their vehicle.

Both Fiona and Jean have been delighted with the Milford which is making life much easier and is perfect for lifting Jean from her wheelchair into the front passenger seat. For Jean this is great news, as she can now sit comfortably in the fixed, front passenger seat – no more bumps and bruises. It also means that she can see out of the window, making the journey much more interesting, and she is no longer at the back of the car, stuck high up, she can finally feel like she is part of all the conversations going on around her!

On a recent trip from Somerset to Inverness Jean was able to travel in the passenger seat which made a huge difference. It made the journey pleasurable and fun, without being able to sit as a passenger Jean would not have been able to make the trip.

Commenting Fiona Crozier says, "People who are not affected by disability or who do not have a family member with a disability are unaware of how mobility aids and lifts can really change a person's life. For my mum we looked at several options but our case really highlights the importance of getting the solution that matches your need. We are not prepared to see mum suffer and we want her to enjoy as much as she can in life. Our recent trip to Inverness highlights the importance of the



Milford Person Lift. Spread over 4 days, mum would simply have not been able to travel cooped up in the back of the car getting thrown about and hurting herself in the process. My mum really values her new found freedom now."

Jean is now really happy having regained her independence again, "My life has really changed. Gone is my reluctance to get into the car. It is wonderful to take long car journeys just like everyone else and not have to worry about any discomfort. It feels great to be able to travel with my family and feel free."

If you would like more information on the Milford Person Lift from Autochair or other Autochair products call **0800 214 045** or visit www.autochair.co.uk.

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