

Valerie & Tomi




“Perfect catch, perfect match!”

Each and every Homeshare Oxfordshire match is very different from the next and people’s reasons, or motivations, for wanting to Homeshare are so varied.

For many older people, it is their concerns about becoming isolated or lonely that lead them to Homeshare. Companionship is central to their Homeshare arrangement. For others, still socially connected and very much valuing their own space, it is the reassurance of having someone else around that is the key to them welcoming someone new into their home.

Valerie, 84, friendly, sociable, and extremely considerate - very much values her independence, her own space and her time alone. At the same she recognises that the presence of someone else in the house, particularly at night, is most reassuring, not just to herself but to her brother Bill, who lives a couple of hours drive away.

Tomi, 24, a Film Studies Masters student from Slovenia, has been welcomed into Valerie’s home and described by her as ‘the perfect catch’! Valerie says, “Tomi is such a lovely person to have around. I really enjoy our conversations. I actually see Homeshare as a way of keeping in touch with today’s fast-moving modern world too”.



Reflecting on his Homeshare experience, Tomi describes Homeshare as being “a way to learn as well as teach, to help and be helped; in short, an enriching reciprocity”. “To be honest”, he says, “it’s like a dream come true. Living in a lovely home with a lovely person and within my limited budget. Being of help to someone is also a really important part of it for me”.

Bill, Valerie’s brother, continues to visit on a regular basis, but with a Homeshare arrangement in place he knows Tomi is there and is more than happy to help with the small things that inevitably crop up. “I don’t need to worry if I can’t get hold of Valerie on the phone. A quick call to Tomi puts my mind at rest”, Bill says. “Homeshare, to me, is reassurance.”



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