

Homeshare opportunity in North Oxford, OX2 (Ref 098)

We are looking for a kind, caring female who likes to be at home in the evenings, to share with a Householder in his early nineties in his spacious North Oxford home. A proudly independent man who is happiest when he is pottering about in his treasured garden.

Initially trained as a PE teacher, with a huge interest in sport, the Householder then changed course and became a physiotherapist in the NHS, and then in private practice. Widowed in 2006, he keeps himself busy in his garden, a wonderful place for bird and wildlife watching. He enjoys reading a daily newspaper, doing jigsaw puzzles, listening to Classic FM or to opera and musicals in his record collection, and watching nature programmes, news and sport on TV.

The Householder is living with gradually advancing dementia (with increasing short term memory loss) and can also be a little unsteady on his feet at times. His adoring, supportive family are hugely important to him and, whilst they don't live close by, they visit every week, sometimes staying overnight.

The main requirements of this Homeshare are to provide a reassuring overnight presence, to provide some companionship (perhaps over a shared cup of tea, with chocolate biscuits, or pottering together in the garden) alongside taking responsibility for a few early evening meals each week and putting the bins out. The Householder's family do the shopping once a week and fill the fridge and freezer with home-cooked or ready meals which can easily be defrosted/heated through. However, someone who would enjoy cooking some evening meals would be very welcome. Help with stacking and emptying the dishwasher would also be appreciated. The Householder has a cleaner for two hours a week and daily carers coming in to make meals and check on his well-being.

On the whole, the Householder is happy in his own company, makes his own breakfast and enjoys his own space but increasing forgetfulness means he sometimes needs reminding of the day of the week or how to use the tv remote!

This Homeshare would be best suited to a female Sharer who perhaps needs to work or study from home some of time and may be able to take the odd tea break to have a short chat with the Householder. We are looking for someone who likes to stay at home in the evenings, is happy with their own company and who follows a regular routine.

Alzheimer's is not the easiest of life's challenges, so the Householder is keen to share with somebody blessed with positivity and cheerfulness – a sense of humour is essential! Kindness, common sense, and a love of gardening would be perfect. Owing to deafness, it's also essential that the Sharer speak clear and fluent English.

The householder thrives on routine, cleanliness and tidiness and so we are looking for someone with a similar outlook. A Sharer sympathetic to, and with some understanding of, the issues that can be associated with cognitive decline and memory loss, is very important.

Homeshare Oxfordshire carefully matches an older person, or couple, looking for help, companionship or reassurance at home, with another person who is happy to lend a hand, and who needs low-cost accommodation. **The Sharer gives the Householder up to 10 hours of their time each week as a combination of companionship and practical help, as agreed.** Each party pays a monthly fee to Homeshare Oxfordshire.



Cutteslowe Park

Location and accommodation:

The spacious house is in North Oxford close to Summertown shops and just a 10-minute cycle ride from the lovely Cutteslowe Park.

The accommodation offered is a spacious bedroom, separate toilet with nearby bathroom, and the possibility of a study/sitting room. The house also has off-street parking.



Large bedroom



large garden



wifi



non-smoking



off-road
parking



bike storage



separate
bathroom



study/living
room (tbc)

Costs:

- £ 200 monthly fee payable to Homeshare Oxfordshire
- Contribution to bills payable monthly to Householder

Summary of support needed in this Homeshare arrangement

Time together: Some mealtimes and short chats, possibly focussed on shared interests. A sensitive, quiet presence in the house.

Help in the home and garden: Preparing and tidying away after meals. Helping with dishwasher.

Help out and about: Someone who drives and who could potentially help with the odd lift to an appointment or occasional shopping would be a bonus, but not essential

Visit homeshareoxfordshire.org.uk for information about Homesharing and the application process which includes:

- Completing an application form and providing contacts for 3 referees
- An enhanced DBS check
- Interview

If you feel that Homesharing could be right for you (see opposite), and that you could be the right person for this opportunity, please contact us in the first instance via the 'Register your interest' form at homeshareoxfordshire.org.uk

Follow us!   

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Email: homeshare@ageukoxfordshire.org.uk

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Could Homesharing be right for you?

• Age

Sharers are aged 21 or over (and eligible to live in the UK)

• Support commitment

Sharers can happily give up to 10 hours each week as practical help or companionship to the Householder.

(No personal care is involved).

• Shared living

Sharers would enjoy and value living with an older person, or possibly an older couple. Sharers are emotionally mature, clean and tidy, kind and considerate.

• Circumstances

Sharers have an established work/study pattern. The risk of the Sharer's exposure to COVID-19 usually needs to be taken into account.

NB Homeshare is not usually suitable for people working long hours or shifts. Sharers are generally not expected to be away overnight unless pre-arranged, with the exception of weekends away, holidays etc

• Duration of Homeshare

Sharers are able to commit to a minimum of 9 months, although most Homeshare arrangements last considerably longer.

• References and checks

Sharers are able to provide three referees (usually character, employer or institution and landlord). Sharers must tell us about any spent or unspent convictions and undergo an enhanced Disclosure & Barring Service (DBS) check.

• Financial commitment

Sharers should be able to demonstrate that they can meet the monthly fee requirements plus the contribution to household costs.