



Case study four

Anne



My name is Anne. I'm married to Arthur, he's 94. We've been married for over 70 years. Imagine all that time. We live in a little village. In our bungalow it's lovely. My neighbour Betty pops in most days to say hello. I'm a grandmother and a great grandmother, five grandchildren, eight great children. So proud of all of them I am. My daughters, Carol and Jean, I don't see them so much. Carol comes to see us twice a month. She's about an hour away. Jean I see less, she's up country and comes when she can. We talk on the phone a lot. Arthur jokes about 'our gassing on'.

He's poorly Arthur is. He has COPD, you know, his lungs. He can't get out, he's on one of those oxygen tank things. I have to keep an eye on that. He's got a nurse comes in, oh she's wonderful. So caring. I do my best with Arthur. It's been like this for eight years or so I think now. I help him to get washed and dressed, make the bed in the mornings you know if there's a hmm-hmm. He's not steady on his feet so can't get up in the night if he needs to. He always looked after the money, Arthur has, now I'm trying to do it. Well I've never written a cheque in my life. My daughters help me to understand it all but I worry about looking after the money.

I'm in good shape considering. I have angina and a bit of arthritis. I'm getting tired though and it's heavy work helping Arthur. I love him dearly but there's nothing left of me. I can't go to the church anymore. We used to enjoy going to the lunch club, the heart and soul we were. Carol and Jean said I should go on my own to the lunch club, I can't do that though, wouldn't leave my Arthur on his own and certainly not with a stranger. It's important to me that I care for him right the way through. I worry though, it's a lot to manage the house and all, the garden.

Carol goes on she does, says I look tired. I say to her, "I'm 92, what do you expect?" Anyway, she went on the phone to the council, they came out and asked lots of questions. Bit nosey if you ask me, but they've made a plan I think to see how they can help me so that I can look after my Arthur.