

Sheila, Emma, Georgina and Emily

Homeshare Gloucestershire, 2020



she's got an illness that affects her balance.

Sheila was referred to Homeshare Gloucestershire by Adult Social Services in January 2020. She had unexpectedly lost her husband (who was also her carer) a couple of months before and was feeling very low and lonely. She has a dog and was struggling with caring for it, as

Homeshare Gloucestershire matched her with Emma & Georgina, a mother & daughter (both adults) from Lanzarote. Georgina is a student and Emma had moved back to the UK temporarily to support her and her younger sister who is also at college.

Both Emma & Georgina love animals (Gina is studying to become a vet nurse), so they hit it off straight away with both Sheila and Tilly (the dog), and they moved in at the beginning of February (bringing their cat, Ronny, with them). Emma & Georgina were 'old hands' at Homeshare, having previously been matched with two other householders. They both love the idea of living with and helping an older person as well as the affordability of the arrangement.

When lockdown struck Sheila also invited Emily, Emma's younger daughter, to move in as the college accommodation quarters closed and she had no way of returning to Lanzarote. It has been truly incredible watching them cohabitate and we were very impressed by everyone's kindness. The Sharers took on many more responsibilities than initially discussed, as they wanted to reduce the risk of catching the virus for

Sheila. As Sheila was shielding, Emma and the girls have given both the front and back gardens a makeover, so that Sheila could sit outside and enjoy a bit of fresh air. Sheila often says how she doesn't know what she would have without them (as she would have been entirely on her own throughout the lockdown). They also look after beloved dog Tilly, which puts Sheila's mind at rest.

Shared Lives Plus

www.sharedlivesplus.org.uk www.homeshareuk.org

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