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Your Stories

*Retirement living
at it's very best ...*



MIKE AND JULIA SNELLING

Mike and Julia moved here from Stroud. "We wanted to be near the sea," says Mike.

They chose their house at a show (Newbury). It's a Prestige Grand Symphony, 62x22 ft. Then they had to find the right park – with a plot big enough for this home! They visited several parks including some near Weymouth. "Then we came here," says Julia. "When something is right you know it instantly."

We're chatting on the magnificent sunken patio seating area at the front of the house. "We designed the plot," says Julia.

The Grand Symphony has an enormous kitchen with an island breakfast bar. Marble surfaces and high ceilings accentuate the feeling of grandeur.

Much of the detail in the home was specified by Mike and Julia, including bathroom tiles and a whirlpool bath. But

there were much more than detailed changes in the course of Mike and Julia's purchase. "We had walls moved," Mike explains as he shows us around. The 'hobby room' was originally designed as a second bedroom. "We watch the birds from here – nuthatches, tree creepers, woodpeckers, greenfinches... We had this room made smaller because we didn't want to put a bed in it, and we had the study made bigger at the expense of the master bedroom." The bedroom's walk-in wardrobe is larger than standard – this was enabled by making the second bedroom smaller.

The Grand Symphony is one of the largest park homes on the market. "It came here on four lorries," Mike recalls. "We chose this plot because it's on the edge of the park. We are so secluded and it's so quiet here."



Lone Pine Park

Nestled within 'Millionaires Row' of Ferndown Dorset



GEOFF AND MO MILLS

Geoff and Mo came from Hampton in Middlesex. They'd lived there for 30-plus years, the children have grown up and Geoff and Mo retired. "It was time to move on," says Geoff.

"We'd been to the New Forest on numerous occasions," says Mo, "We looked at a couple of parks – and then discovered this place. The woodland setting is lovely. We love being so close to the New Forest. And we like the proximity to Bournemouth (about 10 miles away) and Poole. You feel you are in the country and yet everything you want is within easy reach. There are seven miles of beaches at Bournemouth and that's only 20 minutes away."

"We love walking," says Geoff. "Bo combe is a great place for a walk, then further along the coast, to Hengistbury Head – or we can just walk directly from here, on Parley Common. There are endless walks here on the fringe of the New Forest."

I wanted to know how they made the decision to come here. Geoff explains: "We came for a look around the park. This was a show home. (It's a 50x20ft Stately-Albion.) We came in and fell in love with it. We didn't snap it up on that day – we came back, and decided. We moved in within four months of making the decision."

"The beauty of moving to a park home is that everything's in place. You could turn up with a couple of suitcases and just move in."

How did the downsizing from a larger house go? Mo: "I had so many trips to a

charity shop that I lost count!"

Their home has a huge kitchen with an island unit and lots of storage space. There's a range cooker with two ovens and a five-burner hob. "We both like to cook," says Geoff. They show me around their home. High vaulted ceilings are a feature of this elegantly styled home. Floor-to-ceiling windows are a feature, even in the second bedroom. The main bedroom, which is really quite opulent, has a corridor dressing room leading to shower room. A grey and white décor theme runs throughout, marrying the opulence with ultra-modernity.

Interestingly, the park home lifestyle has become a theme in the family; Geoff and both his all brothers moved into park homes within 12 months. "My eldest brother was the first," says Geoff. "He bought a park home near Exeter. Then my other brother bought one next door to him!"

How would Mo and Geoff sum up life at Lone Pine, I wanted to know. "Totally relaxing, and with a good community," says Mo.



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RICHARD MAXTED AND PAULINE MOORE

Richard and Pauline were on holiday at the time of our visit; they were so keen to take part in this feature that they emailed us their view of the park: "We like the location of Lone Pine because it is situated in a good up-market area close to Ferndown and major supermarkets. It's also only a 15-minute drive to Bournemouth and the retail park of Castle Point with all the well-known highstreet stores.

"We chose to buy a home at Lone Pine because we were downsizing and, after seeing an advertisement for properties on the park, we decided to investigate.

"The park is undergoing a programme of redevelopment and we were impressed with the future plans and ideas. We liked the design of the new homes and were attracted by the opportunity to design a bespoke home that would suit our requirements.

"We also felt that the whole package was good value for money and consider Lone Pine to be the best park home development in the south.



TO FIND OUT MORE PLEASE CONTACT:

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