

# “Friends at hand, reduced running costs and peace of mind”

**Inflation has hit a 40-year high and bills are soaring, but you can take pleasure in your retirement, says Cheryl Markosky**



The cost of living is rising. It's believed energy bills will go up almost £2,000 a year and financial experts predict retirees will be hardest hit by these increases. However, downsizing will reduce the cost of living and the fear of unexpected bills, so you can enjoy your retirement doing the things you most love.



Stuart Revill

Last September, Stuart Revill, a Pensions and Benefits Consultant, moved into a two-bedroom apartment at Churchill Retirement Living's Wessex Lodge in Bagshot, Surrey. Following advice he's been offering his clients for years Stuart is now reaping the benefits of buying his retirement apartment at the age of only 61.

*“I haven't reached retirement age yet, but I'm glad I bought early. My outgoings are less than what I paid previously - and even more important is the peace of mind I have knowing what they are in advance, as they're included in the service charge,”* he explains.

Stuart adds that living in a new, energy-efficient apartment certainly cuts down on costs (Churchill estimates that

Owners save on average £2,300\* annually on bills). *“I'll never have to put another jumper on instead of turning on the heat,”* he says.

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Another plus for Stuart, who works mainly from home but travels to London for two days, is close proximity to the train station that's only a three-minute walk from the development. And he's only a five-minute walk from the town centre. Churchill always build developments in the heart of

## Every little counts

Check out what's on offer to help with moving. Churchill provides a free removals service that will take away surplus furniture at no extra cost.



Benefit from senior discounts like cheaper travel and museum tickets; stock up on non-perishables when they're on sale in the supermarket and have a good root round charity shops for pre-loved clothes.

Take a hard look at subscriptions and memberships. If you're not going to the gym regularly or reading that magazine, then cancel your order.



a town or city, so Owners are near amenities. Stuart thinks because of the convenient location he might also give up his car at some point, as he won't need it. Also, he won't have to worry about rising costs associated with car-ownership, using the odd taxi to pick up bulk shopping.

A big part of Stuart's decision to move into Wessex Lodge, however, is the social scene. *“When I'm working at home it's good to pop down for coffee and a quiz so I don't feel lonely.”* Friends at hand, reduced running costs and peace of mind - all in all, it seems that Stuart's made a wise decision to live a fuller life.



Consider how often you use your car. Could you car share? Or would a retirement apartment suit you more as you'll be closer to amenities?

**Call us on 0800 524 4556 to discuss the many benefits living in a Churchill apartment can bring. We'll go through your household bills in detail to see how much you could be saving.**

\*Based on 'Sizing up the situation' report (Housing LIN, 2014) and our Service Charge data.