

## Oxfordshire’s Norma and Colin enjoy priceless independence together thanks to world’s first SitnStand Portable Smart Rising Seat



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Norma aged 65 with a rare degenerative condition and husband Colin, a retired space satellite scientist, live in Blewsbury – they are the world’s first owners of the revolutionary SitnStand.

Norma, a retired Building Society customer service specialist, has restricted mobility due to the onset of an extremely rare condition, Corticobasal Degeneration Disease (CBD). This progressive neurological disease, resulting in symptoms similar to Motor Neurone Disease, causes brain cells to die earlier than normal resulting in cognitive, mobility and sensory degeneration.

Norma still had mobility to walk and perform certain tasks however getting in and out of a chair was impossible. Before discovering the SitnStand, Colin had to aid Norma every time she wanted to stand up. He would not be able to leave her for more than one hour and Norma felt so guilty about asking for assistance all the time. Their Occupational Therapist (OT), Ann Williams, saw the difficulties they were facing and recommended the SitnStand – it has ‘changed their lives’.

New to the UK, the SitnStand is a pioneering portable device that provides safer sitting and standing for individuals with restricted mobility. It is a simple yet highly effective solution that incorporates air driven inflation and advanced technology – delivering an

elevating level seat pad suitable for all types of chair, in any situation or location.

The SitnStand is the revolutionary transportable product that offers independence anywhere without the need for others to assist. Suitable for restaurants, hotels, non-adapted homes, the battery-powered SitnStand is a new alternative to static and bulky rise and recliners – hence users are not limited to a single chair. When inflated, users have a higher seated position to stand up from and when deflated, the SitnStand does not compromise the comfort of any chair. It is supplied with a highly manageable carry case and two fast-charging batteries.

Norma’s OT first saw the SitnStand at the OT Show. She thought the powered >

“SitnStand has genuinely changed our lives. Norma now has her independence back, even in restaurants and hotels. She loves it.”



assistance it provided would be ideal for Norma so that her independence would be improved and the risk of falls reduced. Following Ann's clinical recommendation, Norma and Colin visited a local SitnStand dealer, Ability Matters in Oxford, so that they could experience the product.

Following a trial and instructions regarding use, the product was deemed perfect and the world's first SitnStand was delivered to their home.

It immediately made a difference as Colin explains: "Norma's SitnStand has been in constant use ever since it arrived, 10-20 times a day. It is such a simple yet effective product it has improved our time together immensely. Wherever we go, it goes. Restaurants, pubs, relatives' homes... we even took it on a recent cruise around Scandinavia, it makes life so much easier. Norma says her condition makes her feel like a 'caged animal' – unable to get out and having to ask for help all the time. This makes her feel bad as she wants to live life on her own terms for as long as possible."

Colin continues: "When we are at home Norma can use any chair and when we go out our SitnStand means we don't need to organise special arrangements before we arrive. For example, when we visit my daughter's house, there doesn't need to be a special chair for Nanny. We just bring our SitnStand, lay it out on any chair and Norma can get up and down without needing help, it's like her disability is ignored."

"I remember my mum had a large rise and recliner chair however this meant she could only use this chair and definitely couldn't take it with her to different places! Our SitnStand is completely different, it's easy to carry and with two batteries Norma



Norma can stand up from any chair

always has power to lift herself up. The batteries are small and lightweight as they use lithium-ion innovation which is coincidentally the same technology I helped to develop during my astro scientific days!"

The ergonomic design of the SitnStand also provides a key safety benefit to Norma and other users as Colin explains: "The lifting platform is flat so she is not tipped forward like a rise and recliner chair – this is so important for control and stability as Norma has had over 20 falls recently. It has four different levels of elevation which really help as Norma has less energy and strength at the end of the day. Our son is an ED Nurse in Exeter and has been really impressed with the product's design and how it improves safety for his Mum."

The 'life value' of the SitnStand is immeasurable to Colin and Norma. Colin concludes: "Norma and I have been together for 50 years and this limited time we now have together is absolutely priceless. We understand the SitnStand is a brand new product only available in the UK. When we first heard about it we naturally questioned – does it work? Well it does, admirably! It has allowed us to enjoy more quality time together and given us both greater independence – Norma at home and for myself when out supporting London Irish rugby. Absolute gold dust. We can't deny Norma's condition is terminal however being able to achieve the process of sitting and standing independently has had a massive impact on our lives."

*"The SitnStand is an ideal solution for individuals who are experiencing problems with chair transfers, but who wish to maintain independence and a choice with use of chair."*

*Many traditional rise and recliners tend to tip users forward which can be an issue, particularly for persons with neurological conditions who may experience impaired balance and strength. However, the level seat pad and graduated, flat rise of the SitnStand facilitates a safer, more controlled sit-to-stand, with greater reassurance for the client, whilst maintaining present function.*

*The portability and ease of use of the SitnStand was ideal for Norma as she is a social person, keen to continue travelling to different destinations whilst remaining independent. Promotion of choice and the fact that the SitnStand does not highlight Norma's disabilities in social situations, were also important issues for consideration."*

**Ann Williams, Occupational Therapist**  
Moving & Handling Lead – South ILT  
Oxfordshire County Council



The seat pad elevates and lowers smoothly

SitnStand is available through selected dealers in the UK which can be found at: [www.sitnstand.com](http://www.sitnstand.com)

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