

Grant and Isla Harrison

Our Story



Grant Harrison

- I was born in 1963 in Glasgow Royal Infirmary
- I have Cerebral Palsy due to complications at birth
- When I was 7 years old I moved to a boarding school called Stanmore House thankfully my family were close by and could visit every weekend. I stayed here until I was 18 years old.
- I then moved to Devon for two years as there was nowhere in Scotland for me to live until they built Upper Springlands
- I moved into Upper Springlands which was my first steps to Independence
- In 1984 I got my first electric wheelchair which gave me freedom to go where ever I wanted.

My wife, Isla Harrison



- Isla was born in 1963 at her parents' home in Perth
- She has Spastic Hemiplegia and epilepsy due to having meningitis when she was 2 years old.
- She attended Kinoull Primary School from 5-12 years old and then Glebe School from 13-15 years old

Married Life

We met at Upper Springlands where I lived and Isla attended workshops.



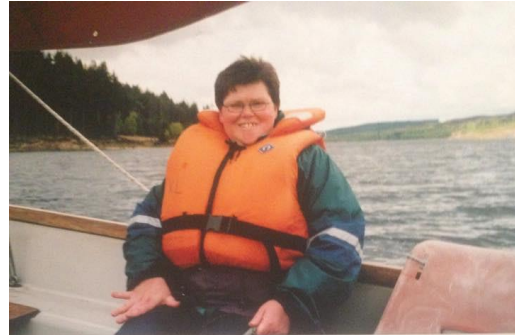
In 1989 we got married and Isla moved into Upper Springlands to live with me in a double flat in Tayview. This was a struggle as Isla was not deemed as disabled enough to live in Upper Springlands even though she was my wife and we wanted to live together.

In 1993 we moved to our very own flat in Perth City Centre and we have not moved since.



Holidays and Hobbies

We lead very busy lives, we have been on holiday to America, France, Portugal and Magaluf.



Some of my hobbies include:

- I am a trustee of the Centre For Inclusive Living Perth and Kinross
- I like watching football and Rugby
- The Pub
- I teach social work students in Dundee about disabilities
- I have attended Capability Scotland meetings in Edinburgh
- Taken part in Special Olympics

Some of Isla's hobbies and work are:

- Worked for WRVS
- Work at the Debra Charity Shop
- Worked in the coffee shop at PRI
- She likes sewing, arts and crafts and sequin art pictures
- She likes watching soaps and the grand prix on tv



We really enjoy living in Perth and have a very independent life. Our flat has very few adaptations which include grab rails in the bathroom and an area to charge me electric wheelchair. We do get some help from carers to help with shopping and housework but mostly Isla and myself do everything ourselves.



My bathroom



My electric wheelchair on charge

Since my first electric wheelchair in 1984 they have changed a lot and become a lot more sturdy which means I can go everywhere in my wheelchair which is a great feeling.

We don't let our disabilities get us down, we have many friends in Perth and feel very supported. People's awareness has increased over the years of disabled people but there is still a way to go.

I would like people to realise that we are all the same, I don't have much communication but I can talk so speak to me.