

This story is Johnathan's story about the compassionate and respectful care shown to his Aunt and Uncle in their final moments.

My uncle was on the palliative care register with his GP practice but had previously declined district nursing input. The GP had arranged a joint visit with themselves, District Nurses, and the Macmillan team. The District Nurses already knew my aunt and uncle because my aunt had a leg ulcer and was visited weekly to attend to her legs.

My aunt was in hospital on ward C2 with multiple organ failure and also approaching the end of her life, and we wanted her to be within her own home.

The District Nurses telephoned loan stores to order a hospital bed and air mattress for both my aunt and uncle as we wanted to try and get my aunt home as well. The District Nurses spoke to the ward who were also trying to fast track my aunt home.

The District Nurse explained that they would take over the care of both my aunt and uncle and my aunt was then discharged later that day; so care could commence at home. Until she came home, my uncle was continuously asking for his wife.

When she was discharged home, they were in hospital beds side by side in their lounge. My uncle asked me to sit him up so he could see his wife, to check she was home. I sat him up and he was able to look over at my aunt. He gave a thumbs up and lay back down, shed a tear and peacefully passed away, knowing his wife was by his side. My aunt also peacefully passed away sixteen hours later.

My aunt and uncle passed away peacefully in their own home, side by side, within hours of each other. in their family home of several years and 75 years of marriage.

The District Nurse visited me for a bereavement visit and took mementos and leaflets along with a bereavement questionnaire.

We was very pleased with all the services involved, and felt that all had pulled together to allow them to spend their final hours together, and i could not thank them all enough.