



EILEEN FILMER – CASE STUDY

When you think of the Isle of Wight what comes to mind? Perhaps you recall images of the yachts amassed in the harbour for Cowes Week or maybe the legendary music festivals of the sixties. One thing for sure is that the island is synonymous with summer holidays for a huge number of London residents. Now, the **Seaside & Country Homes** scheme could help in making the island your home too.



The Seaside & Country Homes scheme has helped many households relocate to the island and welcomes applications from social housing tenants in London who are aged 60 or older who would like to swap the hustle and

bustle of life in the capital for a flat or bungalow in Newport, Ryde or Wootton.

Eileen Filmer moved from a Broomleigh Housing Association home in the south of London to a Places for People property in Newport on the Isle of Wight. Having been born in, and lived and worked in London, for her whole life any move would represent a huge challenge but Eileen believes it's the best decision she has made in years.

"I've started a new chapter in my

life. I was over the moon when I moved in! I'm living in a place where I feel totally secure and can remain independent. It's quiet here but not isolated: I'm getting together with a group of friends to go on walking trips now, just like I did when I holidayed here. I wish I had moved here earlier and would have if I could've done." Eileen's spacious two-bedroom bungalow is on a pretty estate among fellow Londoners who have made a similar decision to cross the water. It is only a few minutes walk away from Newport town centre and a



EILEEN OUTSIDE
HER BUNGALOW ON
THE ISLE OF WIGHT.

bus journey from the island's many seafronts.

Eileen's story is typical of many Seaside & Country Homes applicants. She had been on holiday to the island on several occasions and had many happy memories of it.

"We used to come over to Ryde on the ferry. Now it's my children and grand-children who are coming over, and that's so they can visit me!" Eileen says. "And with 18 grandchildren and five great-grand-children that's a lot of visits! The second bedroom is ideal for visitors to stay over, especially as they can't just pop in any more. It means

I get quality time with them all now which is fantastic."

An additional bonus for Eileen was that her landlord, Broomleigh HA, participate in a South East London Housing Partnership scheme that helps tenants who wish to move to do so. By contacting South East London Housing Partnership's Nina Morris, the scheme co-ordinator, Eileen found as she was down-sizing from a larger property she was eligible for assistance with her removal costs. Eileen also received a contribution towards having her utilities re-connected: In the past Eileen had been unable to move because of the costs involved.

With the help of her family, friends and staff from Places for People, South East London Housing Partnership and Seaside & Country Homes, Eileen has settled happily into her new home: "Don't worry about moving," she says. "The staff are very helpful and will do all they can to make it as pain-free as possible."

The Isle of Wight is easier to get to than you might think. It is easily reached from London where a train to Portsmouth connects with the hydrofoil and passenger ferries. Ferries also run from Southampton and Lymington to Ryde, Cowes, Yarmouth and Fishbourne.

For information on the Seaside & Country Homes scheme you can telephone 08450 21 20 20 or visit our website www.housingmoves.org

The Seaside & Country Homes scheme's landlords have properties across the south of England, East Anglia and other parts of the country. Contact

us for a full list of areas and property types we can offer.

To be eligible for the scheme lead applicants must be at least 60

years of age, living in Council or Housing Association housing in London and have their application approved by their current landlord.

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