Elaine and Keith Rainbird have a great partnership that started from a chance meeting at a cousin’s wedding reception. Although they had been at school together, they hadn’t seen each other for a few years. At the reception, Elaine unwittingly poured a drink that she didn’t like into Keith’s unattended, and half-drunk, pint of beer. When Keith realised that Elaine was the culprit he demanded a date as penance! Elaine had liked Keith because he was pretty ‘sporty’ – nothing to do with his good looks or personality!

At the time, Elaine was a keen rock ‘n’ roll dancer, often attending events at the local palais where she could enjoy the live bands. Keith jokingly says that Elaine could hardly fit in seeing him around all her social activities!

Keith lived up to his sporty image; a keen rugby player at school and a talented young footballer. In fact, he was due to sign for the junior team at Tottenham Hotspur Football Club but, sadly, a leg injury scuppered that dream. However, Keith did continue to play football at amateur league level for many years, and also coached some adult teams.

Starting out
On leaving school Elaine started work at Bellings as a junior secretary, working her way up to secretary for the assistant accountant. The company recognised her virtue and efficiency as she worked there in various capacities (part-time through motherhood) for 20 years!

In fact, after a short spell at the Stock Exchange, Keith also joined Bellings to train as an accountant and worked there for seven years until he qualified.

Elaine and Keith married several years after the ‘spiked drink’ event! They are very fortunate to have three children: Mark, Helen and Greg, and eight grandchildren.

Home number one
It was a real struggle to buy their first home but in 1965 they found an end-of-terrace house in Cheshunt, in Hertfordshire. It cost £2,150 and required £150 deposit, which was a big challenge in those days.

That first house was the first of nine homes they have since owned! They have always lived in Hertfordshire and have bought all different types of houses – upsized, downsized, large houses and bungalows, old and new! The motivation was what fitted their circumstance and desire at the time. One constant throughout is Elaine’s natural flair for interior design. She has always had the capacity to see through what is currently in situ and has the imagination and ability to create a whole new concept and personal stamp for a place.

She also has the design skills needed for garden landscaping, but is quick to concede that it is Keith who does the work and who has created some fabulous and interesting gardens over the years – some very large and time consuming!

Home number nine
Home number nine is on Takeley Park, near Bishops Stortford. Park homes had not really been on their agenda at the time of purchase, but when they decided to sell their bungalow, it sold so quickly they were under a bit of pressure to find somewhere!

By chance Elaine saw an advertisement in the local newspaper for an open day at
Keith and Elaine visit underfloor insulation and read up about Park cold floors in the home. Keith researched in wall insulation but were still aware of Elaine often feels the cold. They invested ‘We want snug floors’.

Takeley Park and encouraged Keith to visit. They were thrilled to be able to buy a home and choose different aspects to suit their requirements. As it happens, they really liked the internal layout, but opted to extend the home a further four feet to increase the lounge to 23 feet and gain further space for the two double bedrooms located at the other end of the house.

What is appealing is that the home has separate spaces. By that I mean there is a separate hallway, lounge, dining room, study, kitchen, utility, bathroom and bedrooms; of which one has an en suite.

Elaine and Keith have lived at Takeley Park for three years now. The site has about 168 homes, but they live in a cul-de-sac of eight that has a little community of its own. Most of the neighbours moved into their homes at around the same time so good friendships have been forged. They have met for birthday bashes, meals out together - all sorts!

‘We want snug floors’

Elaine and Keith have made new friends on site and, as they moved locally, they have been able to retain regular meet ups with old friends and frequent old haunts still.

‘We want snug floors’

The couple celebrate Elaine’s 60th

In a nutshell

By chance Elaine and Keith attended an open day at Takeley Park that resulted in them buying a fabulous two bedroom luxury park home.

They have made new friends on site and, as they moved locally, they have been able to retain regular meet ups with old friends and frequent old haunts still.

Elaine and Keith had PHCS SnuggerFloor underfloor insulation fitted because they had a ‘dreadful feeling of cold around the feet’. The system has made a huge difference and the home is much warmer.

PHCS SnuggerFloor is the leading underfloor insulation system. For further information on Park Home Chassis Services Ltd, please call 0333 456 3056/ 0118 984 3107 or email info@parkhomechassis.co.uk. Alternatively, please visit www.parkhomechassis.co.uk.

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