



"The Stiltz Homelift is unbelievable and has made a huge difference to my life"

FROM AFGHANISTAN TO THE INVICTUS GAMES: HOW A WOUNDED HERO OVERCAME ADVERSITY

After losing three limbs in a Taliban bomb blast in 2010, Josh Boggi, a British Army corporal, had to accept that his life had, from that moment forward, changed forever.

After the attack, the 23-year-old was put into an induced coma and transferred back from Camp Bastion in Helmand Province to wake up seven days later in Queen Elizabeth Hospital in Birmingham. It was here that Josh's Dad broke the news; his back was broken, both his legs were gone and his right arm had to be amputated.

When he finally left hospital, the Royal Engineer - who joined the Army in 2004 at the age of 17 - was determined to get on with life and this included being the best Dad he could be to his young son. To aid rehabilitation, Josh started cycling and took part in one of the Big Battle Bike Rides organised by Help for Heroes in 2014 – the first triple amputee to do so.

Keen to step up his training and make cycling his every day job, Josh moved from his home in Binfield, Berkshire to be closer to Tidworth, a garrison town in Wiltshire known for having one of the best gyms in England for the disabled.

Josh, who was fitted with life-changing prosthetic legs and now rarely uses a wheelchair, bought a beautiful 200-year-old two-bedroomed, semi-detached cottage in Salisbury with his wife Anne who works for Help for Heroes. The couple grew up together in Windsor, Berkshire and got back in touch when Anne learnt he had been injured. Love blossomed, and they married in 2013.

The cottage needed adaptations to suit Josh's requirements. The plan was to extend and add an extra bedroom upstairs plus a utility room and office downstairs. Josh also wanted to find an easier way of moving between floors and after carrying out some research on the internet he decided a Stiltz home lift would best suit his needs because it not only looked good but was practical and stylish too.





The thing he liked most about the Stiltz Trio Classic Homelift was not just its design and compactness, but that it was still spacious enough to accommodate his wheelchair when he did use it.

Josh said: "The Stiltz Homelift is unbelievable, it's made a huge difference to my life. It means if I take my prosthetic legs off, I don't have to climb up the stairs. I can do it if I have to, but having the lift makes life much simpler and easier.

"I wanted our home to look as normal as possible and not like a hospital with what can sometimes be unattractive looking lifts and wet rooms. My Stiltz Homelift tucks into the corner and it looks really stylish. It is fully enclosed and just plugs into the wall which is also great as there are no hydraulics. I only use my wheelchair if I have to, so only now and again, but the fact I can fit it in the lift is also good news for me. It's a brilliant product and worth every penny – and you can't put a price on quality of life."

In 2016, Josh realised one of his dreams by representing the United Kingdom Forces Team at Prince Harry's Invictus Games in Orlando, Florida where he won two gold medals in cycling and indoor rowing – using an ergometer which he had never used before.

Josh was presented with the Overcoming Adversity award as part of The Sun's Annual Military Awards in 2013 after cycling 420 miles on a handbike from Paris to London to raise money for injured comrades. He just been selected for the Race Across America (RAAM) later this year – which has been dubbed the world's toughest bicycle race. Racers must cycle 3,000 miles across 12 states and climb over 170,000 vertical feet. Josh's ultimate aim to represent Great Britain at the 2020 Paralympic Games in Tokyo, Japan.

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