

Press Release: exclusively for the Cornish Guardian.

stairaid.com

Crichton Manufacturing

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A little Cornish vanity is good for you!

It was my mum who gave me the idea really, says inventor Tom Trudgian. 'She lived in St. Austell, and I never saw her with a walking stick as it was always folded in her handbag'.

Very few can afford a stair lift, or are allowed one if they rent. Fewer still want one because of the stigma. And the many other stair inventions over the years have not succeeded because they all shout 'disabled' too.

Stairaid is the first that can be removed from the hand rail when visitors come, leaving a hand rail in mahogany, pine or stainless steel. And it can be moved from home to home with a screwdriver, not a fork lift.

Stairs can be dangerous:

The EU recently ruled that new stairs should have a minimum pitch of 30 degrees. Steep stairs can be dangerous and older houses have pitches of 40-44 degrees.

Tom says that he has steep stairs at home, and has fitted a 2nd wall hand rail. 'I do not actually need the 2nd rail but always use it, and I can add the stairaid unit much later when I need one'.

Who is it for?

Not only the disabled. Stairaid is both young and old, with bad asthma or overweight. Sports injuries or sclerosis, aids or arthritis, psoriasis or poor circulation, bunions or blisters – it's for the whole family over a lifetime.

Who makes it this 100% Cornish invention?

Andrew Crichton of Crichton Manufacturing, Callington, makes it all. Crichton Manufacturing specialise in the manufacturer of aluminium cast products and machined parts for many industrial sectors, with there design capabilities and modern production facilities there was no other manufacturer more well equipped to take Stairaid to market world wide.

Further information: Andrew Crichton at Andrew@crichton-mfg.com (01579383513)

Exclusively for Western morning news

stairaid.com



Family Firm has Innovative Aid for Climbing Stairs

For anyone who has difficulty with stairs, but doesn't need or cannot afford a powered stairlift, a new invention could bring much needed assistance.

StairAid combines a supporting handgrip with a handrail which can be attached to any sort of wall and costs £699.99 for a standard 4.2 metre length. Longer stairways can be easily accommodated as the rail is modular, and the system is entirely manual and so needs no electrical supply.

StairAid was developed and is manufactured by a family owned engineering company, Crichton Manufacturing, which is based in Callington in Cornwall.

Andrew Crichton runs Crichton Manufacturing along with his brother Bryan and mother Clare, and is excited at the prospect of making and selling StairAid.

He says: "Our engineering and manufacturing experience allowed us to develop the StairAid concept into something that is not only of practical use but also affordable.

"Powered stairlifts are useful, but they are not necessarily the solution for people who still have some mobility. The initial purchase cost along with annual maintenance fees also put them out of the reach of many people."

As well as being useful to people in their own homes, StairAid can also be installed in larger establishments such as retirement homes. It is particularly suitable for applications where patients are recuperating from back or leg injury as it combines support with an element of exercise.

Clare Crichton is very proud that the manufacture of the innovative stair climbing aid is very much a local affair.

She says: "Our company specialises in aluminium castings, so we have used our expertise to make the main sections of the hand grip which needs to be light but also strong in order to support the weight of the user. Steel tube, which can be powder coated in any colour, is used for rest of the hand grip and this is made locally, as are the polycarbonate toothed strips which make up the ratchet into which the hand grip section locks into each time weight is put onto it."

The hand grip section of StairAid slides easily along a mahogany handrail, below which runs an aluminium extrusion which contains a toothed strip. A small sideways motion of the handgrip disengages the hand grip which can then be moved forward as far as is necessary. When it is returned to its upright position, the user can then pull on it to help them up the stairs, or lean on it to help them descend.

The handgrip can be removed, leaving the attractive mahogany rail above the discrete toothed strip. Because the handgrip slides on a smooth rail, it won't stick as it doesn't rely on mechanical friction to work. The handgrip also allows for a variety of holding positions such as a low grip for ascending and a high grip for descending, and is available in left or right handed versions.

StairAid is one of those ideas that everyone wishes they'd had. It is very simple and effective and you can find out more at www.stairaid.com

You can call Crichton Manufacturing on 01579 383513, or email to sales@crichton-mfg.com

It's very likely that you'll speak to one of the family.