

# NORTH NORFOLK NEWS

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## Hoist will make life better for teenager

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**A terminally ill teenager from north Norfolk and his retired parents have been given a boost with a gift from a national charity.**

Dominic Taylor-Bartram, 14, suffers from epilepsy and quadriplegia after developing a brain tumour when he was just a few months old.

He is now registered blind and has difficulty moving and communicating, but still attends Sheringham's Woodfields School every day.

Although the family have a hoist fixed to the bedroom and bathroom ceilings in their East Runton home to help lift him, Dominic was confined to his wheelchair everywhere else.

But the national children's charity React stepped in and provided a life-changing portable hoist worth more than £1,500 that allows Dominic to be taken in and out of his chair anywhere in or out of the house.

Mother Wendy Taylor said it would "make life a little easier and help him enjoy life".

"As a teenager he loves his own space and freedom and now we can give that to him whenever he needs it. It really has changed his and our lives," she said.

"It's brilliant."

Miss Taylor has six children of her own and also adopted Dominic and another boy, as well as acting as a foster carer for 25 years.

Since she and her partner John Bartram started fostering, more than 125 children have passed through their home.

The pair adopted Dominic from a couple in Guernsey while still living in London, before retiring to Cromer in 2004.

"He had quite a few major operations from nine months old and his parents just couldn't cope," she said.

"There wasn't much going for children like Dominic in Guernsey so they wanted him to come to the mainland.

"We used to bring him up a lot and we found he was so much more relaxed when we took him to the sea and that's carried on.

"If he's having a bad day we take him to the front and we can



**BIG DIFFERENCE: Dominic with his father John and the new hoist which has improved his quality of life.** Picture: COLIN FINCH

see he relaxes.

"He loves the sound of the sea. "He can't really do anything for himself. He has to be washed, dressed, bathed, fed.

"You're there all night for him as well because he does wake up at night," she added.

"When we first had Dominic they did say his life expectancy would be teens. We've reached his teens, we just hold our breath.

"He has his ups and downs,

he's quite resilient.

"He likes his food, he loves being outside. He just loves life."

React helps to provide ill children with comfort, dignity and independence.

Alex Robins, from the Kew-based charity, said: "Everyone at React was very pleased to be able to assist the family.

"We really do hope it will make a significant difference to Dominic's quality of life."