

Step up to our hidden garden

Couple design 30ft staircase

Exclusive
by Andy Gray

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DAVID Spearman has built his very own stairway to heaven – in his back garden.

Spiralling 30ft into the sky, Dave's mammoth 90-step staircase wouldn't look out of place in a thrill-a-minute theme park.

But the dizzying structure is more than just a giant ornament. It has allowed him and wife Moira to reach land on a high bank above their

views in Medway.

David, 44, of Harriet Drive, Rochester, said: "When I tell people I've got a staircase in my garden they give a weary 'oh, yeah', but when I show them the photos they're like 'wow'.

"Everyone seems to be interested in the staircase and lots of people have driven past the house to take a look.

"It was a long time in the planning and it cost a lot of money but it is well worth it."

Visible from the Medway Bridge, the staircase took five months to build and cost the Spearmans

years persuading Medway Council to grant planning permission due to concerns that his neighbours' privacy would be compromised.

And while David can now look down on his neighbours in the nicest possible way, he is more interested in the incredible views he now enjoys across the River Medway.

David, a father-of-two and grandfather, said: "My neighbours are as impressed with the staircase as we are, and one is looking to build something similar in his own garden. I might have



Stairway to historic tunnel

From the front page

Having gained a second "mid-air garden" which was previously only reachable with a precarious climb using ropes and ladders, David can also access history, because nestling within the plot is a 100ft-deep Second World War air vent that leads to Medway's complex of Napoleonic tunnels.

Mark Tester, 33, a builder with Medway firm MK Builders – which made the staircase – said: "A lot of people said it wasn't possible, but we persevered with it and the result is amazing.