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Still

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Elsie Brenton enjoys working hard and she says it has enabled her to live a long healthy life.

She was a maid for many years back in her native England and continued in that role even after she moved to Corbyville.

Even at the age of 100, Brenton does almost everything for herself.

"All my life I had to do things and in a certain order. And it's a part of me now," Brenton said with a smile.

She reached the century mark Jan. 2.

"I like being active and accomplishing something every day."

Failing eyesight has robbed Brenton of her favourite pastimes — sewing and quilting — and, to a lesser degree, reading.

"I can't thread a needle now ... a big problem is having nothing to do," she said.

But Brenton's daughter, Gladys Gelsthorpe, said her mom does a lot for someone her age.

"She cooks for herself. She dusts. She does some gardening. She looks after her cat," Gelsthorpe said.

"My mom still makes the best apple pie and cheese bread and cookies," she added.

"And she gets annoyed if she feels she hasn't accomplished something."

Brenton lives in a separate apartment in the same home as her daughter and son-in-law, Bruce Gelsthorpe. She has been in their Casey Road bungalow for the past 37 years — ever since her husband, Doug, died.

"I have been very happy here. We haven't fought yet," Brenton said without the slightest bit of hesitation.

Her daughter shares that sentiment.

"We took mom in and she has been no problem to us at all. She is a part of our family. It's been an excellent living arrangement."

The family has an intercom between Brenton's apartment and the main part of the house. If she needs something, all she has to do is buzz.

They share the same phone number as well.

Bruce Gelsthorpe said he has enjoyed a great relationship with his mother-in-law.

"I feel lucky that way," he said.

Brenton has packed a lot of adventure into her century of living.

Born near Worcester, England, she was