

Lin

I have lived with 44 years of hearing loss. In the last ten to fifteen years it has been a gradual loss, and my hearing has deteriorated quite a lot. I have always coped, but it was getting harder to cope in social situations. And then I was offered the chance to have the cochlear implant.

On the day of the operation, I was a bit nervous if it would work or not, but coming for the tuning, having it all switched on, and hearing my voice... "Wow! Was that really my voice? That can't be my voice!". I was so used to not hearing it, or hearing it through hearing aids which is quite different. It was nice to hear it again, and to re-hear sounds again.

On the way home, I started to develop a bit of a headache because it is hard work concentrating, but then I started to notice the noise of the car. The car indicator is the most annoying thing that you can put up with! I know it makes a noise, but it is annoying to me!

It is very tiring, but it is well worth having and it has been a new world for me. It has opened up a new world of sound. I have now got the confidence after 28 years of bringing up my own family, I had the confidence to apply for a job. I now work as a School Crossing patrol person - which is a 'lollipop lady' to you and me - and I thoroughly enjoy it.

It is just nice to be out there hearing everything. I have always volunteered in the school, and since having the implant, it has been nice to hear the children more. I always thought I couldn't hear them because they were talking quietly - and they do talk quietly, some of them are shy, but otherwise, yes, I can hear them. Really the best thing is hearing my family again and now I have got grandchildren, it is nice to hear them. I am lucky enough that when grandchild number 4 came along, two months after my implant tuning, I was able to hear all the baby sounds, the noises that I missed out on the first three.