

## **Margaret**

I first started to lose my hearing when I was in my thirties, it was a gradual loss and so it didn't affect me too much until a little later in my life.

I was referred to the Link centre for Deafened People which was a great help, it made it easier for me to help myself being able to tell people that I was deaf and to accept that my deafness was there.

I had several check-ups at the hospital where I was fitted with hearing aids, first of all analogue hearing aids. Then in the 1990s I was pronounced profoundly deaf, and I was fitted with digital hearing aids which really didn't help me at all, so I continued with analogue hearing aids.

By the time I got to 2014, I really felt that I could cope with a cochlear implant. I was referred from my doctor here to the University and that was in November and from then onwards it was towards my hopes of a cochlear implant. I had my implant done in March 2016. I wasn't a bit worried about it, because if it hadn't have worked, I would be no worse off. Fortunately for me it was a great success.

When I was fitted with the outer part in May, the first 48 hours were quite frightening. I heard every sound, my breathing, footsteps, clocks ticking, my own voice - and I found this really frightening. But after the 48 hours, it settled down and things that didn't matter seemed to go to the back, and I started to hear conversation - not very clearly, but clearly enough that I knew things were happening.

After about a month things were much, much clearer, voices were clear. I could hear birds, I could hear animals, I could hear traffic. It was quite amazing! I have just now had my 6 month check, and for me the hearing is absolutely perfect. I know it probably isn't, and I still wear one analogue hearing aid which gives me a balance of sound, but for me it has been a magical journey and I don't regret having it at all.