

Margaret Lee lost her hearing gradually over the years but 12 years ago, but she lost about 50% of her hearing almost overnight. She was working for a firm of solicitors at that time but because she was unable to interview clients or to attend Court anymore, she lost her job. With it, she lost her social life as well.

“It was about a year before I was prescribed NHS analogue hearing aids. I found these hearing aids of little use and basically they were put in a draw and forgotten about!”

In this time she commenced Lip Reading Classes, Sign Language Classes and met really lovely people, became friends and learnt off each other.

During an appointment at a London Hospital in February 2001 Maggie has been recommended to contact Cubex hearing centre for professional advice. She recalls the moment when she was fitted with digital hearing aid at Cubex. “After living in a silence world for so many years it was very difficult even after being prescribed digital hearing aids to actually wear them.”

I was afraid to hear these sounds because I was afraid I might lose them again.

“My consultant at that time, used to telephone me at home and asked me if I had worn my hearing aids! Even though they gave me so much of my hearing back – being able to hear bird song for the first time in many years – I was afraid to hear these sounds because I might need to go through the same process of losing them again. Once my brain got used to hearing again I couldn’t live without my hearing aids!”

One of her happiest times after becoming deaf was being given Clay – a Hearing Dog which completely changed her life. “The wonderful thing about being Clay’s mum is that we have created a partnership of co-dependency, which neither of us is aware because it is all so natural. There is the companionship, love and laughter and the secure feeling that Clay is always there to let me know about things I wouldn’t otherwise hear. Clay has become invaluable to me and has given me back my independence and security, and a confidence I have never had before.”

Today, Maggie inspires all of us with her determination and enthusiasm - as well as holding down employment to pay the bills, she offers her free time to help others around her. She is a tireless volunteer for the Friends of the Marlow Theatre in Canterbury and helps fund raising for several charities including Hearing Dogs for Deaf People, the Kent Association for the Blind, and others.