

Ok Lynsey, yeah, I mean it's absolutely brilliant that you've offered to do this for us and you asked if I would just kind of start you off really. And my understanding is that there's a couple of particular things that you want to kind of talk about and one being the fact that you're deaf and the other being the fact that you've got cancer. And I'm just wondering which one you'd like to start telling your story about?

If you want to start from the beginning, it would probably be the deafness really. I was born deaf, I was dead when I was born due to lack of oxygen to the brain and it caused the deafness. I was about three year old before anybody took any notice and I got diagnosed with deafness and then I got my hearing aids and I went through school and I got bullied basically and stuff like that through being deaf, being called deaf lugs and it was quite hard really. But I did have a close friend who used to come into me lessons with me and so if I couldn't lipread the teacher or hear her through the equipment I had properly, she would look at me and tell me what the teacher was saying and stuff. And then as I got older I got more embarrassed, embarrassed about being deaf, started like pulling me hair over me hearing aids and you know if I didn't hear what anybody was saying I'd back out of the conversation, slink away and stuff like that. And I just wouldn't go out socialising a lot because I thought if people knew I was deaf they wouldn't want nowt to do with me, they'd pick on me basically. Then as I got into seniors I started mischievous and being kicked out of lessons deliberately because, for that reason, because I didn't have the confidence so I thought if I got kicked out of the lessons and then I can't be bullied and nobody would find out I was deaf and stuff. Then there used to be a woman who came out every week to help with me speech and stuff like that. I started not wanting to see her anymore and just, you know, just all embarrassing stuff. So as I got older I started going out and I wouldn't mix with new people who didn't know me because like I say boyfriends I was more frightened of that if they found out I was deaf they wouldn't want nothing to do with me and that. Then I heard about, when I was 20, I heard about cochlear implants to make you hear again sort of, so I went ahead and seen about that and I qualified for it. And when I was 21, I got the operation and for the first few months it was brilliant, I heard car engines, birds and you know, stuff I'd never heard before. It was magnificent, brilliant and then I started getting seizures. We didn't know what was causing these seizures so I got put under mental health for a while and this went on for three and half year; throughout, my argument was it was only when I got the implant in this started. But a couple of people said it could be you know one of the electrodes hitting a nerve and then another one said it might be your tolerance can't take it, but they would never like write it down on paper or anything. So I went to see a solicitor about it and in the end I'd had enough, I just said I'd just want the implant out and the doctor agreed to take the implant out within two weeks and I've never had another seizure since.

But I had to, I lost a lot of my life for that because before the seizures I was doing driving lessons, sign language courses, hair and beauty and all different kind of courses because I was trying to get on, because I've always wanted to work with deaf children, that was me aim to aim for and I had to pack the lot up because of the seizures. And then just after the seizures stopped, I tried to get meself back on me feet again you know, start to get the confidence to go out again and stuff like that - I mean get it into my head I'm not going to have a fit and stuff, I started having problems with bleeding and that but I used to go abroad a lot but I used to take the pill and that stopping and starting so I wouldn't have a period when I was on holiday so I just put it down to that and that was in the October time. And then over the Christmas, the January I started having dreams that I had cancer and then we went on a cruise at the end of January, beginning of February and I started noticing

blood clots and you know stuff like that and when I come home I just decided to go and see a doctor who done some tests and stuff. It took a couple of weeks after that before they done a smear and then I got called straight back in and that's when I found out I had cervical cancer.

So, it was just, the morning before I found out about it I'd just been watching about Jade Goody on the tele and then to go and find out I had it meself, it didn't quite sink in because I just started on rabbiting on about, I don't even know what I was talking about. And the doctor said 'do you understand what I've just said?' and I said 'oh yeah' and just started talking about something completely different and it wasn't until I got outside and then I looked at me sister, she looked at me and we just both burst out crying. And it was like, did we hear the right thing, you know.

That sounds a really, really important point Lynsey that you, when you were in getting that information that it felt like, it felt like it wasn't happening to you; it feels really important for people to know that

Yeah. But the first thing that went through me mind though was to protect people like me husband now, he was my partner at the time, me mam, you know everybody who's lost somebody due to cancer and I thought, well how am I going to protect them? And me mam's best friend who just died, it was the day before her funeral when I found out and I was like 'well I don't want to tell me mam, because she's got the funeral to go to'; but me sister, she wanted to tell her because she said if she finds out that she knew, then she'd get the blame for not telling her so it was just one of them situations, where we didn't know what to do! But we did tell her but my main thing I just wanted to protect everybody and I just told everybody I was ok all the time and you know everything's just, like I say; it was like it was happening to somebody else. I just didn't know where I was or what I was doing. I felt sorry for this other person, but I didn't feel sorry for me! Then if was crying and I was more upset because he was upset than anything else 'cos to me when a grown man cries, there's something wrong! It could be any stranger crying if it's a man I cry. And after that I had to go and get some biopsies done and that. I had a holiday from my club booked two weeks prior to that and the doctor just said 'cancel any holidays or any plans you've got for this year'. And so I just knew that was the answer for me and I don't know, I just come out gobsmacked I think. One of me friends was with me and she was upset but I just couldn't seem to cry or anything, like I say, it was going through me mind, 'how am I going to tell me mam, how I am going to tell, you know, me husband' I just wanted to protect everybody else.

Then I told them obviously, lost the holiday, then I had a hysterectomy, no sorry I had the lymph nodes removed and then five days later I had the hysterectomy. Took a while to recover from that. Then I started getting like, allowing visitors, people I hadn't seen in a long time and you know, it got me down a little bit because I thought 'well they're coming, they must be thinking – oh then she's going to die, we best go and see her' but I had no grudges against anybody, all I wanted was me immediate family from side and from my side, just them, but nobody else. And we had to wait six weeks for a phone call to find out if the lymph nodes were positive to see if I needed chemo or radio and I was meeting this other girl in hospital at the same time and we were texting each other, we were waiting for the phone call which we'd taken up to ten o'clock on the night. Finally the phone goes,answered, got off the phone, said 'one of your lymph nodes was positive so they're going to give you chemo and radio'. I just felt sick at the thought of it because you know I've seen me aunty go through it and I seen what it done to her, the chemotherapy and not

realising like there was a different type of chemotherapy I was going to get, but to go through more when I was done recovering basically and then when, on a Tuesday I used to have chemo and Monday and Friday, radio. There was another girl I got friends with, in chemotherapy and she seemed, you know, dead bubbly and like a fighter and I used to look and think 'why don't I feel like that?' I was still exhausted off you know recovering from the operation itself. To me, it was too soon, really too soon because it was only like six weeks after the operations that I was going back to do this, I still couldn't walk properly or anything. And then like she used to tell me, after her radio, she used to go shopping. Well, I used to fall asleep in the room, I couldn't even, you know, do anything at all but when I asked the doctor why is she going shopping and I'm sat here falling asleep and I can barely move and he said 'well everybody's individual'. He said 'don't forget, you've had the operation, she hasn't'. So she was getting internal radiotherapy afterwards because she didn't have the hysterectomy so there's just, everything just seemed to happen so fast and I was going there every day and me life was just going, I couldn't plan anything, I couldn't go nowhere, I was basically just sat there waiting and we had rubbish times, there was three o'clock for me appointment for me radio but sometimes we were sat there still until half past six because they were, you know would go right behind on the times and stuff. That was our life for five weeks.

And then, just as I seemed to recover, I started getting pains in me legs which I got told was neuropathic pain due to the damage of the nerves and so much damage what the radiotherapy had done to my system, so I had to accept that. I started driving my car again and started getting back on track a little bit and seeing me granddad again and had a little bit of happiness and you know and then it wasn't until I seen the doctor, the main doctor, and he said 'everything's looking ok' so that give me a little bit of peace, even though I still had all the side effects of the radiotherapy. Got Christmas over with and started being sick, badly, couldn't keep water, couldn't keep nothing down at all and I knew something wasn't right and then the dreams came back again and I was sat up in a hospital bed writing letters, you know, it was just so, seemed so real and I was trying to tell him something's wrong and you know your own body. It took til, I collapsed sorry on February 16th 2010, I'd been out for me nephew's 18th. I'd only had a couple of bottles of alcopop because I knew the tablets I was on it was dangerous for me to drink. We went to a take away shop and the last thing I remember I was having a can of pop and that was it, the next thing I know I was in a hospital and wires and everything coming off me and screaming. And he said 'you collapsed and more or less went into a coma' so me sugar levels and everything was all down, all low. They took me for scans and that, I was in and out of consciousness all night and I got kept in hospital for a few days and came to see me.

Then I got took back home and they changed me medication around and stuff but then I was just like getting dizzy spells and just, I was vomiting and it was like, just come out of nowhere. Anyway, phoned the NHS again and they come out and me sugar levels and stuff were all dead low again so they phoned the hospital and lucky enough, was on that day, she knows everything about me, she phoned and got me in We got to, sat there for eight hours, I hadn't seen a doctor, I said 'I can't stand it' I was crying by then. I'd had no pain killers, no nothing. I said 'I'm going home' and walked out and it wasn't until they realised that we were walking out and they said 'oh doctor's been round'. I said 'a doctor hasn't been round; we've been sat there for eight hours'. Anyway he finally come to see us, he said I was getting kept in and I was getting an x-ray and stuff but they put me on paracetamol, I was having morphine originally and they put me on paracetamol so I was doubled up in agony all night. Got the x-ray and then eight o'clock next morning from Hartlepool was at me bed and then I knew then that there was something not right. He said

'how do you feel about going in the hospice?' I said 'well I get my counselling there, it's a nice place and peaceful you know, I like it'. So he said 'right, there's a bed there, can you get there?' So I said 'yeah me partner will take me' and this is when I put in the hospice for the first time and I got told the cancer was back again.

Then I got an appointment with again, and he offered me 50/50 on radiotherapy but it had to be intense radiotherapy as well so I didn't want to have it, I'll admit I didn't, I did it for everybody else. It's the same as why I moved on; why I got on with me life was for other people. Nothing because of me because it wouldn't have been me, I worry about other people you know, protect their feelings 'cos me mum, to get through it, she's really bad with her nerves, she turns to the drink so I had to protect her to protect everybody, so I got then about half way through me radio therapy, I was just laid in bed crying me eyes out, I said 'I can't do it, I don't want to go back' and then was crying and he was basically on his hands and knees begging me to do it. But the state I was in I probably wouldn't have lived another month if I hadn't got it done and because of him I done it. This really did leave me in bad state afterwards, I was bleeding from me bowels and stuff like that and pain everywhere, it must just hit every nerve in me pelvic area.

We had that, we had some, me friend done fund raising event for us and raised some money for us to go to Blackpool for a few days. You know after the treatment finished and stuff and we just got on with life basically, it was like 'well where do we go from here?' me Macmillan nurse was there helping and was counselling, which I looked forward to coming to me counselling lessons because you don't feel like you've got anybody else to talk to without hurting them so I got everything off me chest to poor! Then just, I know I had all these problems but we just thought the cancer was at bay, that was the last I knew from me last scan. And then I was in and out of the hospice with sickness and stuff; then the last time I was in here, in the hospice, October, I had a CT scan and it showed that, I don't know the exact word for it, but it showed that there was a bit of swelling on the kidney but nothing to worry about. That was October and then I had another scan on the 25th January this year, 2011 and from October to then, the kidney had enlarged, it was three times the size it should have been and the uterus was pressing on to the kidney and the tumour was pressing on to the uterus. The mass they recorded they didn't know whether it was dead or whether it was active and I needed a stent in because it was causing a blockage and that was why I was getting so much pain. So I went on the 11th February at, got the stent in, but I'm still having problems now. Then I went for a PET scan which was basically to find out whether the cancer's active or not but said there was nothing else he could do, he didn't have a magic wand and stuff. So I had the PET scan and I've just got me results the other day to say that the cancer is active and they'd be surprised if I live past this year. So we've got to live month by month, live each day as it comes.

So my advice to anybody is to go and get a smear, really get a smear, don't care what excuse you've got for it, it doesn't hurt, it's two minutes doing it, could save your life, it really can.

You know it hit me really hard this year because I thought I'd been protecting family and everybody for the last two years and I've never once thought of meself in this and now I haven't got long now, I've know I haven't, you know, and everybody's saying 'oh you can do it, you're a fighter' and I screamed and shouted at them all, 'you know you can't expect me to fight this, this is the third year now, I've gone through it and all I've ever done is protect your feelings. What about my feelings? Nobody supported me!' you know all I've, 'cos you, it feels like sometimes people just want you, when they say 'are you alright?' they don't really want to know if you're alright, they just, you know, they don't want to know, want your

details and so you just say 'oh yeah I'm alright' and that's it they just change the subject and go on about themselves or go on about something else so they think 'well that's all I want to know' and they don't really want to know if I'm alright. A handful of people, on one hand I'd say a few, very few people who will turn round and say 'no really, are you alright? I want the truth' to me and that's it, but nobody else really asks. When I've been in hospital, I do realise the difference from being in the hospice and being in the hospital, it's when the nurses come round they don't seem to have the time to talk to you, they just come and give you your medication, they're off to the next bed, the same as the doctors that come round on a morning, they have a look 'oh yeah she's alright' or 'give her this, give her that or discharge her' and go on to the next person. Where in here, when they come in the hospice, come round and they sit and listen to you, they pull a chair up and listen to every single thing you've got to say and they give you straight answers. They don't lie to you, they, you know they're very, very honest with you. The nurses come in and they say like 'do you want to talk?' and they give you that chance to talk. They seem to have a nurse per room kind of thing to me, 'cos you could sit there for a full hour with a nurse and they'll still sit and listen, they don't ignore you. And I think they should be trained in hospital to do the same as what they do in the hospice 'cos I know, I've been in, I've been in and I've been in the is a very good hospital, I don't doubt that, that is a good hospital but the and they haven't got the time of day for you; they haven't even got the care in my eyes and I think everybody, like who's involved in a patient, whether they're social workers, counsellors or whatever they are, they should really sit and listen to the person and find out what's wrong with them and what's bothering them instead of sometimes they fob you off and just say 'oh go and see a psychologist, they'll sort you out' you know and it's not about psychology, it's not about mental health half the time it's about the physical side of it and the hurting and it really does hurt. I mean you get people coming out to your house and yes and they sit and you tell them what they want to know, they go and then you sit and cry your eyes out and you feel like you've got nobody at all. It's a very lonely world when you're living with cancer or deafness or whatever your illness is, you need somebody to sit and listen to you, you really do. Because otherwise, not mentally but physically the person can't get through it, it wears them out, and they'll just sit and think 'well what's the point in fighting something when nobody's interested in it?'

I mean I've feel like I've give up because, my reason being because I've fought this and I really have fought this with everything I have and now I'm tired, I've been in too much pain and I've never had a break from the pain. If I'd had like a week's break from pain even, I would think that worth fighting for because I'm going to get a week's break, but I haven't had a break at all. But whatever happens it's God's will, in my eyes being a Christian, but I haven't, if it wasn't for the hospice I'd have give up a long time ago, I really would have. And I think people need to understand why the hospice needs the volunteers, the fund raising and everything because if there wasn't this place to go into, then I feel sorry for the people who have to go to hospital and do it, I really do.

It sounds incredibly important that people have the time for you and that you feel kind of understood and that kind of helps a little bit but I hear also you're saying about the relentless nature of the pain that you're in and that you've got to a point where it feels like it's, enough's enough and I know we've talked about dying, haven't we Lynsey and it feels like as a Christian, that's something that you're not afraid of but there's a process to go through and that's a different thing isn't it?

Yeah I'm not afraid of dying, I'm actually scared of the pain because I know the pain's bad now and if it didn't get controlled and like, like I say I am on a lot of medication, and nothing

at the minute seems to be helping. I know it's got to get worse as well because of the type of cancer I've got as well. I mean when I had the intense radiotherapy last year it was to kill that lymph node and it still didn't kill it; it was still causing all these problems. I mean I've got it in black and white in writing I mean I got it one of the doctors who wrote it, one of the other doctors that sent me a copy and it's just sad, it really is. I mean you've got your family there yeah but you're trying to, I don't know, you don't want them upset because that upsets you more so, and you find out who your family and your friends are, you know they just (inaudible) anyway but that's why it's so important to have like people like yourself or the Macmillan and whoever's involved in your care, to sit and listen to you. You know and like I say about going in hospitals, the nurses should be made to sit and listen to the patient but if they don't do that they're obviously not in the job for the care are they? It's really important to have somebody there, really it's

That sounds like one of the most important things that you want people to know, that you know, about having time to listen to what you're saying and in a way it might not have to be a long space of time but it's just feeling that you're heard

Yeah, that's it, yeah. I'm glad like they've got, they're doing the thing for young girls now, they have the chance of the injection to prevent them from getting cervical cancer. But I mean, I am a hypocrite to sit here and say you know, 'please go and get a smear, get this done' because I was one of them girls who said 'oh I'm not going to get that done, what you don't know won't hurt you' and I tell you what, it does hurt, it really does hurt. So you know, I would advise people to get it done. The main thing, it wasn't the results that frightened me, it was because people say they're going to use a clamp to open you up and that hurts and I was thinking 'oh no, I can't bear the thought of anybody' not even the embarrassment but it was just because they said it hurts, but it just put me off and there was one time I did go, I'd been watching Coronation Street and Alma had died of cervical cancer on it, and I turned up and then I was having me period when I got there, I didn't realise 'til I got there and they said 'oh you're bleeding, we can't do it'. But me doctor's, I won't name it, that I was in at the time, they never ever sent back for me, I'd had a miscarriage and normally once you've been pregnant don't they, you have to go for one and they never ever sent for me and then I changed doctors. About four year ago, I changed doctors and he's in now and they kept sending me a letter every other week, you must come for a smear test you know and I kept ripping them up and then in the end, with the problems I went anyway. Even when I went to see the doctor I used to lie and say 'oh yeah I've got an appointment' and I never but they did send for you and that's another thing, it's important that the doctors do send for the girls, keep writing them, even threaten them like you'll be struck off if you don't come for, you know, anything that can save lives. So

It feels like, that's amazing Lynsey, you know it feels really lovely to have heard because obviously we've met a lot and we talk about certain things but just to hear your story has just been wonderful and you've brought up loads of really important things about what's helpful and what's not and you know kind of advice to people and you know there's lots of little gems in there I think that is going to be really, really helpful. I don't know whether, you know there's anything else from your perspective or anything else that Lynsey's thinking that I want to include in terms of what's helpful, what's not, bearing in mind you know the kind of people that are going to listen to this.

Yes it's mostly hospital staff and hospice staff that you worked with isn't it. Have you had any contact with any other services?

Recently social services have got involved now they're helping, they've got on to me landlord, I've just moved in with me husband so normally you have to be living there for 12 months to become a tenant but they're aware of me situation and so they've basically got me on the tenancies thing and they're getting me a door, you know electric door so I can buzz people in with me being upstairs I don't even, although I've got me stairlift, it's saves me going up and down. But with me being deaf, I still won't know who it was so I can't buzz them in so they're getting the one with the CCTV, we're still awaiting for that and they also, there'll be like a watch where, and a vibrating light if somebody's at the door or the phone goes or the smoke alarm, telling me which one's going off. So that has to come to a £1000 that's all they'll provide; the only thing that I'm having problems with at the minute, I can't get in the bath even with me bath chair, it's causing a lot of pain due to me legs and stuff but I've tried it and it really is painful so I'm having to get a washdown stood up. They've given me a chair now, like me sister give me a washdown and I'm having problems trying to get a shower off somebody and nobody will provide it so, 'cos there's no money anywhere so now I'm having problems with that and the only way I can do it is try asking round the family which, they probably wouldn't raise the money, to try and save some money to get a shower 'cos I can't afford one, but and it is a big problem at the minute

it's those things that maybe I would take for granted that I can do every day like look after myself and have a shower, I get in and out of the bath and have a shower that make a huge difference, doesn't it Lynsey, to just feeling on a day to day basis that you're getting on with life?

Well I just tie me hair back 'cos obviously it's greasy it's hard to get it washed, the only good thing is when I was in here there was a shower and I was having one, it did make me feel that little bit better being clean, you know even getting a wash down you still don't feel, you know clean, clean enough so ... the shower, I've never liked showers anyway, I've always loved me baths and I really do miss me baths but when I was in Scotland I was thinking, everywhere, everytime we've gone on holiday there's always been a shower 'cos I've been disappointed not having a bath. So this time there was bath, but it had a shower head over, but that's still no good 'cos I can't get in and out of the bath. So what I'm always having to do is go over the swimming pool and use their shower but I'm still, the bikini on, cossie on so I'm still like not getting washed properly you know in the private parts so I think there should be able to be somebody who could fund for things like this and I mean if I could get one I would obviously have to get in touch with the and ask them for permission to take their bath out and put a shower in 'cos son-in-law, three of them believe or not are all plumbers so there's not a problem getting it in, it's getting the shower and the tiles, that's the problem. So but just have to wait and see. I mean I did see the OT and she did say 'well even'; I said if we could come up with, 'you could tell me how much it's going to be and I can try and raise that money' and she said 'well it will take months anyway'. I said so you're saying basically months I haven't got, but I've got an Argos that I've seen, just the cheapest, the tray and the shower and I didn't realise you'd need a water thingy you know, but if I could just get the price and then I'd know how much I'd need to try and raise for a shower. So, it does, like I say, it will help and I'd be able to, with me chair, be able to go in myself if I want to, it's only if I need me hair washing or something, need someone in probably to wash me back, but just say one night I'd just fancied a quick shower just to warm me up or whatever put me pyjamas on. You know it would be nice to do something for yourself for once, without having to depend on somebody else.

I think that's one of the important things isn't it Lynsey, because I know you've said before that quite understandably, your husband and your close family are concerned about you so

you feel like you don't get, you've lost all your independence and sometimes you just crave to be able to do something for you.

I mean won't leave me on me own anytime now so that's that bit gone now. I mean I've lost me car, that was me independence, me car. gets upset because like, coming here for example, I have to stop him doing whatever he's doing to come and drop me off, two minutes away. Where if I had me own car, I could do it myself, so you know. He says oh no he says he doesn't mind and that but then if he can't really, if he's got a doctor's appointment or something, and he really can't bring me or pick me then I'm having to depend on somebody else because he won't leave me, he won't let me get a taxi on me own or anything like that. He needs to make sure that somebody's going to be with me otherwise he's going to cancel his appointments. I mean he has a lot of health problems himself just so I'm looked after and that upsets me because I think 'well his health is important as well'. He has COPD hypertension and all that; he's got problems with his feet and stuff like that, arthritis, diabetes, angina and I think 'well, you know you've got to look after yourself as well' but he's putting me first. But I suppose if it was the other way round I would do the same. I even said the other day 'I think I'm going to save and try and hire a car for the day just to have a drive about'. There again if I got pulled I would get me licence took off me because of the drugs I'm taking, I shouldn't be driving. I'm a danger to meself and others, so

You can't win can you?

It does take away all your independence and everything. I mean I wouldn't have thought if somebody told me ten year ago, your sister's going to be washing you down and you know seeing you naked basically, I'd laugh in their face because I, ever since I can remember being little, I've always been a private person, I'm really embarrassed as well you know, I wouldn't let anybody see me get changed or anything. Where me friend used to get changed in front of me and I used to turn round and think 'eeh what's she doing, she's a lesbian or something like that, you know I just, I was always a private and close person but when you're poorly, you're not bothered who sees you I don't think. And you know, even if, I think me brother, if it got to no choice and me brother had to do it, I don't think I'd be bothered because when you're poorly you can't be bothered. If I was on one of me good days and happy and stuff, I'd say 'no you're not watching me' you know, but it's very rare you get them good days now. There's a lot, we're doing a lot of crying and it's more upsetting I think, it's hit us more harder now what's happening, even before we found out that I, they'd be surprised if I see this year out. And we've found it more harder to share than what we've found it any other time and I think it's been the burden of protecting others

So it feels like you've got to, 'cos you very clearly said initially it was almost like it was happening to somebody else and then you were more concerned about protecting other people and that in way stopped you from taking it in and it feels like now, you know, through all this time, this is the time where you and particularly have kind of, the reality is, is hitting you now and so you've been more, more emotional about it and you know kind of realistic in a way about it as well

It's like the other day said even though it's hard, we've got to, you know we're going to have to do it; you know the funeral's already booked in, we've already done that a couple of year ago, but now we've got to go and pick the plot you know. I'm supposed to do it, if I'd have done it last year I'd have been fine, because I was fine about it all, where now it's going to be harder to do it now, we've got it booked, it needs to be done. And if I want something I want on then I've got to go and get all that written and you know stuff like that and it is like,

there's jewellery and stuff that I want to take with me and I was thinking the scan was more important because that's me baby but, 'cos I have a thing like I always say 'you know they take the jewellery off you, you know they pinch it' .. there's going to be an open coffin so just going to come in at the end before they shut it and put the jewellery on me and then shut the coffin so

So is that particularly sentimental jewellery Lynsey that you want?

..... bought me, yeah and he buys me all the charms for it and there's only him that buys them so, but me wedding rings, I've got a long necklace which is unisex, I want to have them round his neck, so keep them himself. But the other stuff, there isn't like much more left because I handed stuff into the hospice and I've sold stuff towards a holiday and stuff last year and there's nowt really left really. But like I said to him, last time, stop buying clothes and I sort my clothes out 'cos anything clothes or anything like that it's all going to the hospice. But I have loads of teddies, as you know I've collected (inaudible) and stuff and they're going to the So we know exactly where's going where but that's down to when he's ready to part with them.

You've done a lot of planning haven't you? And as you say, last year you were able to be very clear and plan your funeral and what you want and pay for it as well, but it's like now you're fine tuning that somehow and it feels like it's harder because the reality's hitting home more and

We've lost a lot of things as well and the main thing, we had a cruise a few year ago, before I found out that I had cancer then as you know I wanted that one last cruise, didn't I, last year? And then we found out the cancer was back so we had to cancel it and I lost all of my money, that was the last of our savings so me brother done a boxing fund raising do which I got some money and the hospice got some money, mine was to pay for me funeral, the rest went to the hospice and like, just like you know I can't I know we're never ever going to be able to go on that cruise and do that last thing because I know there's no way the money can come from anywhere, we can't even afford a shower never mind a cruise, so

And you got married

My main thing to go on to people, if you want to get married, if you want to have children, whatever your plans are for the future, don't wait for the future, do it now because you never know what's round the corner. Are there any more questions you want to ask me? I'm stuck now

You were saying about getting married

Yes, Lynsey's just got married

Yeah I got married, it was a secret wedding. It was me mam and dad and his three daughters there. It was nice, we both went in as if we weren't bothered, soon as they started their talking and that we both burst out crying because the more it meant to us, more than anything. We even had the registrar crying because he knew our situation as well

That was quite recently then Lynsey, was it? Quite recently

Oh yeah

In January

January the 6th, yeah. What happened, when we booked it three weeks before, I'd ended up in, we had to go down, you know show your passport and stuff the next day, but I don't know, they phoned an ambulance came for me anyway, it came to take me to because I'd had really bad stomach pain and it had been all day. They took me to so tried going down with all the ID and that and they said 'oh no we can't accept that' so he said 'we'll try and fetch it down tomorrow' but I got kept in bed so what I had to do was make, make out I was going for a coffee and I flew down to the registry office and the registrar had got snowed in, so they said if you don't get it done tomorrow you're going to lose your day. I said 'well that's your fault not mine'; they said it didn't matter because that's the way it works on the computer but luckily enough that day I got discharged and we finally got there. Because we wanted it, 6 is my favourite number, it was my Nana's birthday and it's the last day of Christmas so it was still kind of involved Christmas as well, 'cos we did want to try and get married over Christmas but that was it, it ended up perfect anyway.