

The benefits of attending a lipreading class

A talk by Wendy Pike

“I’m Wendy and I go to Broxburn lipreading class. To convey what lipreading means to us – it’s a life-saver. I started going deaf 15 to 20 years ago, with it steadily getting worse. I withdrew into myself as I didn’t have confidence. This is what lipreading classes are for – they teach lipreading, and that it’s important to recognise lip shapes and different consonants, etc, but it’s the fact that they go through situations, say going to the doctors, hairdressers or being in a situation where you don’t hear, and give you confidence.

We weren’t born with hearing loss, and you rely on hearing so much. You never think about not being able to hear. My husband of 40 years still stands with his back to me and talks. The light is off and he talks to me. He lives with this every day and still can’t get it right, so what hope does someone who doesn’t have something to do with hard of hearing people have? I have to be able to see them.

Lipreading classes are about building self-confidence. Two years ago, I couldn’t have sat here and done this and I still feel nervous now. Lipreading is a life-saver and has given me the confidence to go shopping on my own and say, “I’m deaf and need to see your lips,” or ask, “Is your ‘T’ system working?” (In most cases, it’s not!) I used to just shuffle in and out quickly and hated every minute, but now I can do what everyone else does. If I’m not in the mood, I don’t bother, but when I am, I go out and do what a hearing person does. Lipreading classes give us back our life and the confidence to carry on with life.”

Talk on the benefits of attending lipreading classes: Wendy Pike

Event: West Lothian Council Adult Basic Education Service Lipreading Open Day at Strathbrock Partnership Centre, Broxburn

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