

Ian and Deanne Communicating

Ian

Well, I've noticed it about my speech because I was an athletics official and I was a starter, and I noticed that my voice wasn't clear, and for a starter it's important. And so I stopped doing that. And then I went on holiday and my niece's husband said to my sister he thought I'd got new false teeth, but I haven't got original false teeth. So he thought my speech was not normal.

I'm conscious sometimes that my speech isn't as good as it was, but I do believe it's not as bad as it was say, a year of a year and a half ago. I understand now it's how I position my neck so the physio told me to take my chin in because I seem to be straining.

But it does make me nervous when I'm phoning someone. It makes me wary about how I speak and I've always been confident on the phone and speaking to people. Sometimes if I'm not in the right frame of mind I'd rather Deanne phone.

Deanne

If the person on the other end of the phone is not, is asking him to repeat several times, then I might just take over and just speak for him.

Ian

I find it difficult when you've got an automatic response because sometimes it doesn't pick up my speech, but that might because of my dialect rather than the MND.

For in the future, if my voice does deteriorate, I've banked my voice and I was offered to do this quite early on. And part of the enablement team in Sheffield came out and went through the process with me and then left me to read 250 sentences and then my synthetic voice could be made.

I've put a few things on it and learnt about how you have to sometimes put pauses, spaces so that the word sounds right, but obviously it's there now and I'd be able to use it.