

## **'O Blabberin' Davie!'**

*There's a laddie: never stopping*

*A-blabberin' away like mad.*

*'Cos Davie never stops jabbering!*

*Talking too much: real wildly and bad.*

*Davie, you're blabberin' mad!*

## **Fiona McIntosh.**

Do I sound different to you?? Do you understand me?? I am dysphasic. This means I have speech and language impairment.

I was born with this disability that the doctors think that I had a stroke whilst being in the womb.

My early years of my life has been hard as I found that the mainstream world aren't very tolerant of disabled people. I then found my niche in Lifeguarding and I.T.

I have completed several years of college doing BTEC and NVQ in I.T. and then have completed my Foundation course doing Web Development. I went on and did a BSc in I.T. at the University of Derby, but was unsuccessful as I found that I'm more hands on then essay and test based course. Now, since leaving Derby, I've been kicking myself and now trying hard to learn coding and other things that I have learnt on the course. Unfortunately, with the fees going up, I couldn't go back and redo it.

I love meeting people, and being with them, but I found it hard.

The trouble is that very few people understand this disorder - so they don't find it easy to accept us.

Some dysphasic's speak slowly - which makes non-dysphasic's impatient. So they interrupt us. It is very frustrating not to be able to finish what you are saying.

I have gained a lot of friends through University. They have all accepted me for who I am. At University, I was lucky enough to be the Disabled Students Officer. This job was part-time and unpaid and got me to look after 2300 disabled students.

One thing that I have found that was most enjoyable was the Afasic's Activity Weeks, but unfortunately, they had to stop it due to the funding.

Before the weeks finished, I had been on them for about 18 – 22 years. Fortunately, I had started some weekends up, which turned into weeks and is organized one of the parents who daughter has been on the holidays

These Weeks had helped my confidence a lot - and they have helped me to keep up with the friends I made at school - and to make new ones.

Afasic have been very helpful and to my family and I. They have given a lot of advice to my parents when I was young. And now, I stand here in front of you all as a Vice President of Afasic.

With Afasic, I have helped them to spread awareness of dysphasia and to show people that the disability isn't that easy to live with.

I have also been lucky to have gain a fiancée who have supported me through my 2 years of being with her.

There are approximately 6,000 children and young adults who are dysphasic across the UK and Afasic works hard for each one of them and Afasic's work doesn't ever stop.

Dysphasics, like myself, live in a dark world where we are just wandering around aimlessly trying to find the exit and Afasic is the torch of our lives that shines the path to the exit.