



Speaking from Experience *Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD)*

Transcript for chapter 2 of 11: Impact on employment

Graham, 69: I enjoyed my job, I love building houses and building things, to think that I wouldn't do it anymore as a profession or a living, not only that but I've gone from a reasonably good income to a pension, a disability pension. That really brings it home, that alright, there's a new lifestyle.

Chris & Reg, 83: It was disappointing to find that I couldn't cope with the building work. There's a fair bit of lifting to do as a carpenter. And, yes, I used to reckon I was pretty quick at doing jobs and when I slowed down, it took the enjoyment out of the work. And so when the opportunity came for retailing, I had a go at that.

Ruth, 72: I would never have retired from my employment at 58. I loved what I did, so I would never have stopped if I wasn't diagnosed with emphysema and the factor of my lifespan being shortened. Never; I loved what I did. However I did, over these 14 years improve in health in certain periods. So, I did go back, not into the work that I had been doing because you've got to keep up with technology but got a little bit involved in doing work in other areas.

Julie, 58: I'm still unsure what I can and can't do at this point. I know though, that I think I have to give away outreach, which is my passion, but I think I have to because I'm finding it difficult to walk up stairs, if I have to walk up stairs. I find it difficult if I have to walk up a slight hill even. And I used to be a real adrenaline junky, you know, I used to love thriving on anxiety, if you like. I was, but I can't do that anymore. Then anxiety, if I'm starting to feel anxious about it, my breathing worsens. I used to, before going into a home visit I used to be somewhat anxious. So, yeah, I can't do that anymore.

Colette, 45: Initially, when it got around work - and that didn't bother me - I told my boss and I told two of my close girls, but it's a little bit like Chinese whispers. It wasn't something that was sent out on an all bulletin email. It just progressively came around and I had had a bit of time off with the chest infection and then I had a lot of time off while the hospital specialist ran all the tests and things, and they can take a few hours. And then I announced that I was doing the half marathon, and then when I finished it I hung my medal at the front of my computer at work at the front of my desk for a couple of days. And you do get people coming past and saying, 'Well, you're not sick at all'. But that's fine. You know, quite often I will go, 'I know, I'm just such an actress!' You just play it by ear, but certainly I don't take it the wrong way and if that's how they feel about that, I can't stop that, and I wouldn't. They are fantastic, the people I work with, you know, if they do that often I feel like they're just teasing me.