



## Sylvia Bagot



"I left school when I was 15 and went to Secretarial College for two years. Following this I worked in an office environment for six years. I married and had children and was out of the working world for 12 years. I was asked to take a job at my daughter's school as a secretary on a temporary basis which led onto another school temporarily which had a unit attached for children with deafness and hearing difficulties. I learned of a position which was coming up as an audiometrician and due to my experience working with children I applied for it. You didn't have to be medically trained as training to use an audiometer would be given. There were 20 applicants applying for two jobs and I was successful. It was in 1981 when I was 36 and it was a position which would fit in with my family life. So I moved from the educational sector to the NHS.

"I thought it was going to be a short term job but I loved it and was there for 24 years until I retired. I went out into schools testing children's hearing, retesting in clinics. I loved meeting different and interesting people but the thing I missed most when I retired was that contact with children, teachers and my colleagues.

"I used to test children initially when they were five and ten but after some years the testing of 10 year olds was ceased. When a child failed a test they would come to a clinic

environment for a retest. Now the hearing tests are not done in school, only done on a parent referral. I think I will have tested thousands of children throughout the Blackpool and Fylde area in my time doing the job.

"When I retired, I had a small pension from the NHS. I didn't contribute into a pension as part time workers were not able to join when I first started only coming into force later.

"The NHS has been very good to me. I have had a job which I loved and now I am enjoying a good retirement."

Sylvia is pictured with her equipment in the 1980s.