



Deaf defying - Leeds skydiver who loves taking the plunge



DARING FEAT: Laura Muller at her home in Yeadon. PIC: Simon Hulme

By Laura Bowyer

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Laura Muller loves nothing more than to throw herself at high speed out of a plane.

But there was just one thing holding the budding skydiving instructor back – her hearing aids.

The 21-year-old, from Yeadon, loved the thrill of sky diving but her experience was blighted by the noise from her hearing aids.

Laura was born with around 50 per cent hearing loss but now she has a whole new lease of life with a set of hi-tech hearing aids.

She said: “It was just horrible sky diving with the old hearing aids in.

“I nearly lost them in the plane once when they fell off when I put my helmet on.

“It was just really noisy and horrible but I didn’t like to sky dive without them.

“If you try it without them you just can’t hear anything and it makes it a lot scarier.”

When Laura started studying at Lancaster University she found herself struggling to hear in lectures so she decided to have her first set of permanent hearing aids fitted.

But she later joined the university’s skydiving club and found that her old hearing aids were causing her problems.

After she graduated last year Laura had a new hi-tech hearing aid fitted at a Keighley clinic and now the sky’s the limit and she hopes to train to become a skydiving instructor.

She said: “I never really noticed when I was younger but now the new hearing aids have just made the world of difference.

“I could hear cars, birds and everything since I had them fitted.

“When I walked out of the clinic I’d never heard traffic before.

“My mum has even stopped shouting at me.”