

## **Steve's story**

I remember going to the RAC rally and feeling as though I had flu the next day. Everything else is so vague. I remember sitting in front of the TV and Agnes was telling me to go to bed as I was feeling so unwell. The next thing I remember is having the lumbar puncture because it was so painful. I woke up in the hospital several days later in a side room as the light hurt my eyes so much. The nurse told me not to drop the tablets as they cost a fortune – and then I dropped them! I do remember being taken for a bath in a chair hoist because I couldn't walk, and was trying to keep my dignity by covering my front. Agnes told me later after my bath that it had been quite amusing because although I was covering my front, my backside was shining like a moon through the bottom of the hoist!

I came home and went to bed for a few days, and after New Year I went back to my garage part-time for a couple of weeks and spent the afternoons asleep as I was totally exhausted. After I had increased to full-time I was still having major problems with headaches and balance, and when I went to my GP he told me I shouldn't have even been at work at all yet!

When I sold the garage we got a rescue dog, who's been a friendly companion although he still eats all the mail and also tries to eat the postman. I have found therapy back in rallying which I hadn't competed in for many years, and have done well and collected many trophies. I'm also training to be a motor sport official.

I don't feel 100%, but I know I will never be that again, and this is as good as it is going to get. Although I was unlucky to get encephalitis in the first place, I feel lucky to be alive.