

Sure Signal Stephen's Story

(piano plays)

People think that if you're living in the city you've got perfect reception. It's like, well you must have reception living in Edinburgh. Nah, don't get it on my phone. And you end up, your friends give up trying to phone you. And it just makes me angry. Supposed to be this amazing technology that everybody is connected to the world. Nah. But I live in a basement flat. Thick walls. Old house. It's underground essentially, not an awful lot of stuff gets through it. You don't get radio reception either.

(laughs)

You don't really get anything down here, so, erm, it's definitely a bit of a nightmare.

(phone leaning against window rings)

“Hello” (carries on conversation in the background)

There is only one place in the flat that gets enough reception to make a phone call, my window.

I work in computers myself and I am supporting some of the most technology advance systems out there and they're phoning from thousands of miles away. That makes for quite an interesting scenario if I am ever sitting in the living room, the phone rings and I've got to jump up through the doors through the hall and then into my bedroom. And by that time the voicemail's kicked in and I've lost the call.

It's a bit embarrassing in a way. It's a joy being out the flat sometimes, just because you get to use the phone and stuff.

“Hello. How are you doing? Just thought I'd give you a call when I can actually get hold of you. I'm standing here and my hands about to drop off it's that bloody cold so....yeah”

(laughs)

Mum and dad have got reception if I am wanting to make a few phone calls or anything like that. Just sort of nip along the road.

“Can I make some phone calls?”

“Probably see more of him now than when he lived here if I'm being honest.

“He's moved out, earns more money than I do, got his own flat and everything like that, but he's still got to come round here to use the phone. It's ridiculous. “

“At least I use my own phone!”

“Yeah” (laughs) “Aye, that's better. When he lived here the phone bills used to be huge.

— “There are solutions out there. And there a hell of a lot cheaper than getting a new landline, and then telling everyone that I've changed my telephone number.”

“Fingers crossed this, errr, actually does the trick. Doesn't look too complicated, we'll see how it goes.”

“Yeah, looks pretty simple actually. Sort of go on the website, and err register it and then plug it in basically. All looks pretty simple.”

“It's ringing at least. Hello mum how are you doing? Yeah, well, you'll never guess where I'm calling from. I'm on the comfort of my own bed, actually making phone calls for once. So, err, you probably won't see me any more!”

(Laughs)

“OK. Cool. I'll catch you later. Bye”

“Yeah, well, it works”

(laughs)