

St. George's Support Group for ICD patients

The 'Backup' ICD Support Group

Established since 1997



Aims & Objectives:

- To provide a forum for all ICD patients and their partners and families to discuss their concerns and problems.
- To help patients with ICD's to regain their confidence after implant or during times of trouble.
- To provide literature and information on all topics that are relevant to ICD patients.
- To provide information about driving, insurance, holidays, interference and any other areas where ICD patients may experience problems in day-to-day life.
- To provide emergency and technical information to other healthcare workers such as A & E departments, ITU's and ambulance crews in order to promote better understanding of patients with ICD's implanted.
- To provide a partner support group

For more information: Website at www.stgeorges.icd-support.org.uk or contact Sue Jones on 0208 725 1372 or Email/Phone ANY OF THE COMMITTEE MEMBERS BELOW

Committee Members:

Sue Jones



Tel: 0208 725 1372

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I have been involved with ICD's since the first implant in the UK in 1987 and have committed myself to providing the best possible care for all patients with these devices implanted. I have been Pacing and ICD Manager at St. Georges since 1990 and have developed the service from a very basic one to one that is now regarded as a model. I started Backup in 1997 because of the obvious needs that some patients with ICD's had and we have gone from strength to strength since then. We are continually changing and evolving to meet new needs.

Alan Butler



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I married Liz 44 years ago and we have two fantastic sons. One lives in USA, the other lives with his wife and three gorgeous grand children in Northern Ireland. Liz had a defibrillator fitted in January 2000, experienced shocks when setting up but it settled down and did its job well. That was replaced after nearly eight years, in December 2007. I retired in 2007 as UK Employee Relations Director for an American Company, looking after 12,000 employees across the country. On retiring, I trained and have now become an unpaid Advisor with the Citizens Advice Bureau.

Louise Power



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I was diagnosed with a cardiac arrhythmia shortly after my daughter was born in 1985 and was implanted with an ICD in 1988 - only the twelfth person in the UK to receive one! I have been a committee member of BackUp since its beginning and am currently Chair. I live in North London and work as a freelance Art Consultant for a children's book publisher. I am also a BACP Accredited Counsellor, working in Primary Care.

Tina Amiss



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I have cardiomyopathy and had my ICD fitted at St. Georges in July 2002. My recovery physically was uneventful. However I had a much tougher time emotionally. I was very anxious and fearful of the device initially - something that is normal and experienced by most. I really benefitted from talking to others. I came to terms with my ICD in time and now forget that I have it most of the time. I am very pleased to have it as it gives me and my family great peace of mind and reassurance. I live a full and busy life, working and playing hard.

Patty Hemingway



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I was diagnosed with an arrhythmia in October and had an ICD implanted in November 2008 following a cardiac arrest. I was very anxious about what this meant for my life but I received great support from Backup and would now like to offer my support to others. I am a homeopath and write occasional articles about Complementary and Alternative medicine. I have written about my experience because I felt less anxious after hearing from others who had similar experiences and I hope we can create a network for sharing these and coping better as a result.