

## Sue's TAVI Patient Story

**Sue, from Kent, was diagnosed with aortic stenosis in 2013. After a successful TAVI procedure she is now back to enjoying time with her grandchildren and gardening in her community. Here is her story:**

I first became aware that there may be a problem with my heart in 2007. While playing golf I suddenly experienced what I thought was an asthma attack. I had in fact had a heart attack, and was rushed to hospital in an ambulance for treatment. After further tests, the doctor said that I would need to have a triple-heart-bypass.

All seemed to be well. I went to have a hip operation in 2013 and the surgeon advised me that his team would be taking extra care because of my aortic stenosis. This was the first time I had ever heard this term.

One evening in 2013, my husband and I went out for a walk, during which I became breathless and felt like it was too much to go on walking. I knew this feeling wasn't normal so I arranged to see a heart specialist who, after conducting further investigation, said that I would need my aortic valve replacing. As I had already been through open heart surgery, the doctors were reluctant to perform another open-heart operation. I was informed that another procedure called TAVI was available instead - this is a minimally invasive type of treatment.

I had my procedure at the London Bridge Hospital. I was in and out of hospital within two days!

My recovery was just unbelievable; I felt so well so quickly. Every day I noticed I could breathe a bit more easily until I didn't really notice I was breathless at all. I am a busy grandmother to six children so I was very grateful to be back to normal, playing football with them and enjoying this new lease of life. Once the aortic valve replacement had been completed, I became active again within a short space of time.

**The more we listen, the more lives we save.**

