

MEET DAVID STYLES

From when I was old enough to understand the concept of death, I wanted to avoid it at all costs. I considered that if I had perhaps a normal 80 years or so of life handed to me on a plate, then that 80 years was a springboard; it was the amount of time I had to defuse the time-bomb of my mortality.

I searched for ways to cheat the old Reaper. When I say searched, we're talking about a pre-internet time when my age was in single figures. It really wasn't initially more than searching my own mind at that time. My only self-propelled childhood foray into the Christianity of my upbringing was based on the premise that if God and Heaven were real, then upon getting there I could either make a deal with the Boss and get back down to Earth, or otherwise sneak back out. Other crazy ideas that flitted through my head involved highly improbable brain transplants and the like.

Then in my early teens my plans for immortality turned to the possibility of nanotechnology, having been introduced to the idea by science fiction, and seeing no logical reason why nanotech couldn't easily become science fact. Still no thoughts to anything like cryonics; my hopes at that stage involved nanobots swimming through my living body repairing cellular damage as it occurred, keeping me youthful.



DAVID & HIS FIANCEE, ELLEN

Fast forward not too far to my late teens, and an online acquaintance (now a firm friend), a CI member, made me aware of cryonics as a possibility, and an option that was accessible to the general public, and easily affordable with life insurance. For me there was never a "why do it?", no decision to make. It was a "Wow, I can do this!". I did it. I had no negative backlash from relatives as many people do, and my relatives treat it with mild yet distant interest.

For some years I didn't take my preparations any further than being signed up. Then I became aware, I don't recall how, of the British standby team, Cryonics UK. I went along to one of their meetings, and joined. Their organizer resigned around that time due to external circumstances, and I took his place as I had experience organizing Transhumanist meetings and activities already. Since then I've become gradually busier and busier with cryonics-related activities, from periodic cryonics emergency standby training weekends, to PR work (newspapers, TV, etc).

I feel that it's quite important that we give cryonics the best public image we can, as that is how it gets the support that it needs. I also feel it's quite important that we continue outreach endeavors - partly because it increases our manpower, but also because I find a great kinship with those who are as serious about living forever as I am. We are a small minority, and I really value those people with whom I expect to share a very long time indeed, while the moribund majority come and go.

My hopes for the near future include augmenting the capability and numbers of Cryonics UK, and extending standby services across Europe, where most countries still seem to be lacking in support, to varying degrees. I'm already liaising with cryonicists in a lot of countries with a view to achieving this. Together, I'm sure we can do it. I know some very proactive cryonicists in a few countries, and would love to hear from any others who would be interested in taking a more active role to further the European cryonics capability as a whole.

Information regarding Cryonics UK (the UK standby team) can be found at www.cryonics-uk.com, and my contact address is ds@cryonics-uk.com - I look forward to hearing from you!

In other news, I'm a Care Officer by profession, meaning I look after adults with physical and mental disabilities and fulfill a managerial role as required. I live in North-West England with my fiancée, Ellen, (also a cryonicist), two cats, and a snake. I practice Aikido, and I also enjoy traveling as much as possible. My greatest pleasures in life include good food and drink, and good company.