

# Community Defibrillator

## Hurstbourne Tarrant



Following feedback in our community survey, representations to the Parish Council and a generous donation towards the cost from Yvonne Hill in memory of her late husband Roy, a defibrillator has been purchased and will be installed in Hurstbourne Tarrant.

### What is a defibrillator ?

An automated external defibrillator or AED is a portable electronic device that diagnoses potentially life threatening cardiac arrhythmias which lead to cardiac arrest. It automatically checks the heart rhythm and if necessary will deliver an electrical current through the chest which aims to shock the heart back into a normal rhythm allowing it to pump again. They are designed to be used by anyone, regardless of medical or first aid awareness.

### Why are they necessary ?

Sudden Cardiac Arrest happens around 140,000 times a year in the UK, making it one of the UK's largest killers. The potential for saving a life is dependent upon time, the faster medical help can be attained, the better the chance of survival. Clinical studies suggest you have less than 5 minutes from the event to save the life, this decreasing by up to 23% per minute. In rural areas it takes time to get medical help, so Community Public Access Defibrillators have a very important part to play in helping save lives in rural communities. Having an AED in the community is no guarantee of being able to save a life, but it could just make the difference.

### Where will it be located ?

Our AED is being supplied by South Central Ambulance Service and will be sited outside the Rural Business Hub (The Old Post Office) alongside the A343 in the centre of Hurstbourne Tarrant (by kind permission of Caroline Reeves). It will be kept in a heated cabinet and we hope to have it installed by early August.



### Can you help ?

Whilst AED's are designed to be used by anyone, trained or untrained, it is usual for a number of people to receive some guidance on their use together with basic life support skills. Our AED is being sourced through South Central Ambulance Service and training for twelve people is included. We also need volunteers to keep an eye on the AED in terms of maintenance and inspections. If you can help with either of these, please let us know.

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**If you suspect someone is  
having a heart attack,  
ALWAYS call 999  
immediately**