

Saving Lives

Each year many lives are saved throughout the country thanks to the use of Automated External Defibrillators (AED) and the volunteers that have been trained in their use.

Thanks to the combined efforts of Ramsden Bellhouse Parish Council and the Village Management Committee it has been possible to obtain a 'state of the art' Defibrillator (AED) that will hopefully never have to be used. However as the statistics show it is just as likely to be required in Ramsden Bellhouse at some stage as it will be in any other village in Essex.



If a situation should arise where you are faced with having to make a decision as to whether you would be prepared to save someone's life (who could be a family member or neighbour) by using the Defibrillator or do nothing, what would you do?

Whilst none of us hope that we will ever be in this situation, the reality is one or more of us may either have our lives saved or may find yourself saving someone else's thanks to the use of this equipment.

In order to make this possible it is important that we identify those residents and users of the village hall that are prepared to give up a couple of hours in order to take some very simple training on how to operate the Defibrillator. The unit is incredibly easy to use, the process is almost automatic and is only repeated if required by the user until the emergency services arrive and take over.

At this stage we want to know who is willing to come along to the village hall and take part in the training meeting, if after the training session you do not feel you are able to be counted on to operate the equipment then it is not a problem and there is no commitment. In order to provide you with as much information as possible a Q&A session will be part of the training process.

In order that we can have good coverage of the village should you or one of your neighbours ever need to have use of the equipment, we will endeavour to reflect this in the location of those to be trained.

If you are interested in participating in this programme, please email your name and telephone number in order that you can be contacted when the training date(s) have been arranged. If you are a member of a club or section at the village hall or a member of the congregation of either of the churches, can you please indicate which. If you are a resident and not a member of any organisation within the village can you please indicate accordingly and insert your house name/number and road.

Background

Ramsden Bellhouse Parish Council in conjunction with the Village Hall Management Committee have been looking at the viability of these schemes over the last 12 months in order to establish if this is something that would be of benefit to the community, residents and users of the village halls.

Thanks to the scheme which has been set up by the East of England Ambulance Service NHS Trust, an AED was presented to Richard Wellborne Chairman of Ramsden Bellhouse Parish Council by Kevin Hudson Acting Community Partnership Manager Paramedic.

Anthony Marsh, Chief Executive of EEASt said *"I'm delighted that we have started this important project to invest in the communities we serve by improving access to these lifesaving devices in key locations. Our ambulance crews' aim to arrive at the scene of a cardiac arrest within minutes however, every second counts and having a defibrillator on scene can make the difference between life and death"*.

On behalf of the community Richard Wellborne thanked Kevin Hudson and the EEAST for providing the defibrillator and undertook to recruit sufficient volunteers that will be trained in its use, both from the users of the village hall and the residents within the community.

As the AED will require to be housed in a secure location whilst being accessible and it will require to have an electrical connection for charging purposes, the Parish Council has agreed to fund the cost of this specialised cabinet. The location of the AED will be communicated to the community once it has been agreed.



Richard Wellborne receiving AED from Kevin Hudson

Details requesting volunteers to come forward for training from the community will be communicated at Parish Council Meetings, through the Notice Board at the Village Hall and on the Ramsden Bellhouse Parish Council and Village Hall websites.

<http://www.essexinfo.net/ramsdensbellhouseparishcouncil/> <http://www.ramsdenbellhouse.info>

Training dates will be advised on a first come basis given that each group to be trained cannot exceed 20 volunteers, more training groups will be set up as required.

Ramsden Bellhouse Parish Council