

New defibrillator map aims to save thousands more lives each year – would you know what to do?

The defibrillator at Middleton-on-the-Hill & Leysters Parish Hall will soon be included in a comprehensive map of defibrillators covering all of the UK.

Why is this important?

A defibrillator is a portable device which can be used on someone who has had a cardiac arrest; it delivers an electrical current through the chest which shocks the heart into a normal rhythm allowing it to pump again. Although tens of thousands of defibrillators are placed prominently in workplaces, train stations, leisure centres and public places across the country, one of the biggest barriers to their use is that the location of the devices is often unknown.

Now, as the result of a new collaboration between the British Heart Foundation (BHF), NHS England and Microsoft solutions, all of the UK's public defibrillators will be mapped. West Midlands Ambulance Service will be involved in piloting the scheme before it is rolled out across the UK.

How does this affect me?

Thanks to the generous support of West Midlands Ambulance Service, The Big Lottery Fund and Hereford Round Table, there has been a defibrillator situated outside the Parish Hall in Leysters since 2015. This is already registered with the Ambulance Service which means that when someone dials 999 to report a cardiac arrest, the emergency operator can provide the location and access code for the defibrillator box as well as dispatching a paramedic and providing advice on starting CPR (cardiopulmonary resuscitation).

There are more than 30,000 out-of-hospital cardiac arrests every year in the UK, but fewer than one in 10 people survive. According to the BHF, just 3% of patients who have cardiac arrests outside hospital are treated with public access defibrillators. The charity says this significantly reduces the survival chances of

tens of thousands of people every year. However, in areas where the public are better equipped to recognise and deal with cardiac arrests, survival rates are up to three times higher. This underlines the importance of as many people as possible knowing how to start lifesaving treatment straight away in order to give the best possible chance of a successful recovery.

Want to learn how to save a life?

If you would like to learn more about recognising and dealing with a cardiac arrest, there will be a training session on CPR and how to use a defibrillator at 7.30 pm on Wednesday 7th November at Leysters Parish Hall.

Would YOU know what to do in a cardiac arrest?



West Midlands Ambulance Service is running a training session where you could learn vital lifesaving skills which could help to keep a person alive until professional help arrives.

The training is FREE, will last about 2 hours and will cover:

- How to help someone who is unconscious
- How to perform cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR)
- How to use a cardiac defibrillator

Everyone is welcome from the age of 10 years plus – whether you're a beginner or just want to refresh your skills

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