



## HUNSTON PARISH DEFIBRILLATOR

Fellow Parishioners.

It is my pleasure to present the first report to the Parish Meeting following the installation and commissioning of the Hunston Parish defibrillator.

First, I would like to acknowledge the work of others in getting us to a point where we are today. Without the efforts of Tony, Matthew and others we would almost certainly not be able to celebrate the fact that the defibrillator is 'up and running'.

You may recall that a call went out for us to volunteer to be part of a team of 'Guardians'. Those 'Guardians' were to be responsible for the upkeep of the defibrillator.

As I was the last person to stand back when a coordinator was being recruited, I found myself volunteering to do the job!

In all seriousness, it is not an onerous role, particularly as we have a reasonable number of 'Guardians' to spread the task of checking the defibrillator on a monthly basis.

Following the training we received from SARS, the defibrillator was placed in the locked cabinet outside The Cottage, (the parish cottage) at the West end of the village.

To ensure that emergency responders (Ambulance / Fire / Police) and others who may need to use the defibrillator are aware of the availability and location of our defibrillator, I have registered it on a Government recommended national database. This ensures that Ambulance controllers can access all relevant information relating to the location, status, type and access code for the defibrillator.

The defibrillator is checked on a monthly basis and a written record of that detailed check is made by the 'Guardian'. This checklist is given to me and I store it for future reference.

I have been asked by one or two people about how to obtain the access code in the event of an emergency. Quite simply – dial 999 and ask for the Ambulance Service. If appropriate, the controller will supply the access code once satisfied that the emergency incident warrants it.

It is important that the access code is not circulated more widely than the 'Guardians' and the emergency services as the defibrillator has the potential to cause serious injury or worse if misused or if ends up in the wrong hands.

Consideration is currently being given to placing suitable signage so that the defibrillator can be located. I will report back to our Chair and Secretary in due course.

Finally, I would like to invite everyone to consider downloading the free 'Staying Alive' app onto their mobile phone. This app was recommended by SARS during our training. In short, this app has a record of the location of (some /all) defibrillators in our area and beyond. Whilst it may not be a comprehensive record of all defibrillators, it may just have the details of one that helps you to save a life!

My thanks to those who have volunteered to be 'Guardians'.

If anyone wishes to contact me, please feel free to ring me on 07930-417246.

Bob

Coordinator

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17.09.23