

DEFIBRILLATOR FOR DIPTFORD

The small fundraising committee working to raise funds for the purchase of a Defibrillator for Diptford are delighted to announce that we have already reached our target to enable us to install one unit. This is now erected on the old School front door in Diptford Square where it is easily visible from all directions.

This has been sourced through Plymouth based charity HeartSWell, which not only provides community defibrillators, but also has accommodation adjacent to Derriford Hospital which can be used by relatives of patients undergoing heart and related procedures at the Hospital. Some years ago, this proved to be a lifeline for one of Diptford WI's members, particularly so as she did not then drive. Subsequently, HeartSWell became the nominated charity of the year for the Friends of Diptford WI.

We have been overwhelmed with the generosity of local people in contributing towards this goal. Firstly, and at the instigation of Geoffrey Hyde, we agreed to form a small committee, spearheaded by local Parish Councillor Sue Franklin, with Claire Pollak undertaking responsibility for training and maintenance, with Geoffrey gently pushing as he felt necessary, and Ham Sampford liaising with other facilitators.

We approached our Devon County Councillor Richard Hosking, along with our two District Councillors, Robert Steer and Peter Smerdon, for Locality Funding, and all were generous in their contributions. A number of local residents made donations towards the appeal, and I ran a very enjoyable and successful Quiz at the Avon Inn, Avonwick at the invitation of Mark & Sue.

Some 12 teams took part, with me and Richard from Avonwick Shop acting as quiz masters. At the end of the evening, there was a tie, between the 'Diptford Dads' team and one of the pub quiz regulars 'Supa Visor'. Stalemate after three difficult tie break questions led to a final decision of an honourable tie.

Having permission from the School and Church, local resident electrician and builder and School Dad. Pete Loveland, obtained permission to undertake the necessary electrical work and fitting on a Saturday morning, and we have to thank new Head of Learning, Lizzie Lethbridge for facilitating this.

Specifically, we would like to acknowledge the contributions of HeartSWell, The Rotary Club of Totnes, Cllrs Richard Hosking, Robert Steer and Peter Smerdon, the Diptford residents who made donations, Cllr Sue Franklin for fundraising and Diptford Parish Council for facilitating the purchase, Ham Sampford, Claire Pollak, and Pete Loveland for the installation.

A training session will take place at the Parish Hall at 6pm on Thursday 22 February which we hope will be attended by many Diptford residents. Those interested in attending should contact Claire on 07815284969 as soon as

possible.

Having raised in excess of the amount needed for the first machine, and to cover the training session, we are now exploring the idea of further fundraising in order to provide a Defibrillator for perhaps Curtisknowledge hamlet which is even further removed from easy access by the emergency services.

Sue Franklin