

Barnack's own Defibrillator

Please spread the word! Barnack Parish now has a defibrillator, a life-saving machine for use in case of a suspected heart attack. It is located on the side wall of the Village Hall, as you go through to the car park and the box in which it is stored is alarmed.

The machine will talk the user through the process of what to do but to give you an idea of how easy it is to use you can view a user manual on the Parish Council website and notice boards.

IMPORTANT: In the event of an emergency, dial 999 and ask for an ambulance before you do anything else. The operator will confirm the location of the nearest defibrillator and give you the number code to unlock the door of the defibrillator cabinet and access the equipment.

Why Have a Defibrillator? Following a Cardiac Arrest, the chance of survival decreases by 23% per minute. It is therefore very important medical treatment starts as soon as possible. The UK Resuscitation Council suggests an Automatic Emergency Defibrillator (AED) should be available wherever medical treatment is more than 5 minutes away. In practical terms this means the whole of the UK.

An AED is a portable defibrillator which uses intelligent technology to shock a 'shockable' heart rhythm. When applied to a patient, a sequence of voice commands and screen messages guide the user through the defibrillation process. This means the machine may be used safely by people with no medical background. The simplicity of modern AED technology has opened a window for the public to take on a key role supporting the emergency services who may be hindered by the time it takes to reach a patient.

Survival: 5% with Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) alone; 50% with defibrillation. The rate of survival of a Sudden Cardiac Arrest is dependent upon time. The quicker the intervention, the better the outcome. Brain death starts after 3 minutes so urgent action is needed, particularly in rural areas where it can take several minutes to get a competently trained person to the scene.

Sudden Cardiac Arrest or SCA is an electrical malfunction of the heart (most commonly Ventricular Fibrillation) in which the heart stops pumping blood to the body and brain due to an abnormal heart rhythm known as an arrhythmia. As the victim consecutively loses pulse, consciousness and ability to breathe, the victim is termed "clinically dead" and can only be physically brought back to life in a very small window of time using a defibrillator.

Barnack's defibrillator has been kindly donated by the East Midlands Ambulance Trust. The Trust will also deliver training to up to 16 people.

Please support the use of this important equipment by joining our training session.

Contact the Clerk, Robin Morrison on:

07944 054546 or barnackparishcouncil@outlook.com