

Welcome to Hand on Heart Charity's Newsletter, March Issue!

Well, the clocks are going forward this month and so are we! As we come to the end of our second financial year we've been celebrating not only the beginning of Spring and beautiful weather, but the arrival of a new team member and a successful month creating Heart Safe environments! Our total Heart Safe schools has reached 275 which makes an incredible 8250 students trained in life-saving skills and 2200 teachers educated in the use of a life-saving AED. See below for more of what we've been up to!

Salford Campaign

Our Salford campaign is coming on leaps and bounds as we get closer to creating one of the first Heart Safe cities in the UK! So far, 65 of the 96 schools across Salford are Heart Safe. 12 high schools, 2 special and 51 primary.

The support of Salford City Council, City West Housing Trust, Armitage Residents and other local organisations, combined with successful grant applications and campaign offers means we have been able to equip the schools with life-saving defibrillators, creating Heart Safe environments across the city. We're thrilled with our progress so far and look forward to helping more local schools become Heart Safe.

If you are involved with a school in Salford that hasn't benefitted from our campaign please get in touch they are entitled to a FREE defibrillator.



New Addition – Welcome Dee!

Dee Wild is the new addition to the Hand on Heart Team. Dee is local to the area, she is married and has 2 lovely grown up daughters and a gorgeous grandson all of who are involved with a local primary school. Dee started with us this month as our Charity Administrator and will be doing all the day-to-day tasks which make our charity tick, she is enjoying her new role and is looking forward to new challenges as Hand on Heart move forward in their quest to make every school in the UK Heart Safe.



Image Above Right
A new addition to the Hand on Heart Team, Charity Administrator Dee Wild!

Image Left
St Philip's C of E Primary School pupil Ruby Holmes holding a defibrillator donated to her school through the Salford Campaign by Hand on Heart.

Defibrillator Nomination Winners February 2014

Congratulations to the following schools on being this month's winners and becoming Heart Safe.

Brookhurst Primary School, Leamington Spa, Warwickshire
Benson C of E Primary, Wallingford, Oxfordshire
Sacred Heart Primary School, Thornton Cleveleys, Lancashire

These schools were chosen from a host of nominations across the length and breadth of the country.

Each month, Hand on Heart gives schools the opportunity to win a free Defibrillator Package. Anyone involved with a school can nominate, just let us know why you think the school should be amongst our future winners. Nomination forms can be found on our website.

Good luck with your nominations!

BBC Radio Manchester

After being contacted by Luke Phythian, we have featured on BBC Radio Manchester, twice, during the first week of March. Wanting to get a charity involved, Luke got in touch with us after learning about our hard work with the Salford Campaign.

Luke attended Swinton High School in Salford and whilst running to the shop during a break from exam supervision, on a Saturday morning, he suffered a cardiac arrest. Luck was on his side, as a passing nurse and staff from an ambulance station across the road used a defibrillator to save his life. After being in an induced coma, Luke woke up 3 months later with a mini-defibrillator fitted in his chest and had to learn to walk and talk again.

As a radio presenting student, Luke is keen to promote awareness of Sudden Cardiac Arrest in the young and wanted to reach a wider audience so took the opportunity to take part in a Radio interview on the Alan Beswick Show at BBC Radio Manchester, he talked about his experience and the importance of having life saving defibrillators in schools.

Prior to Luke's interview, children and staff from Barton Moss Primary, who had just received their defibrillator, could be heard talking about their training. Gina from Hand on Heart was also invited to the school to be interviewed.

Luke's interview was fantastic and had the phones at the radio station ringing with enquiries, which resulted in them interviewing Gina again the following day.

If you missed it the first time, you can catch the radio interview with Fundraising Manager Gina Harris on our "Blog page" at www.handonheart.org



Fundraising manager Gina Harris at BBC Radio Manchester in Media City!

SADS Petition

SADS (Sudden Arrhythmia Death Syndrome) is an organisation which provides information and support for the family and relatives of a young person who has died from a Sudden Cardiac Arrest. They have started an online petition, which, if passed, will make having defibrillators and medical equipment for cardiac arrest in schools **compulsory**. This is an incredible petition which could have a huge impact on the statistics of those, who are sadly, one of the 12 young people, who die each week, due to Sudden Cardiac Arrest. You can find the link to the petition on our website on the campaigns page, please sign, share and do everything you can to promote the petition, to help get life-saving defibrillators compulsory in schools.



Trafford Campaign

We've been able to put a further 5 defibrillators into the Trafford Community this month as a part of our Trafford Campaign. These have been placed in hot spots within the area to give residents peace of mind, that life-saving equipment is accessible in an emergency situation. If you know a Trafford school that isn't yet equipped with a defibrillator, please direct them to the Trafford campaign page of our website to encourage them to take advantage of our latest offers to become Heart Safe! Primary schools have been offered our Gold Package for a discounted price of £999 plus vat.

Wellington School

Wellington School in Ayr, Scotland, have been incredibly generous in their efforts to fundraise for Hand on Heart Charity.

The school are incredibly dedicated in their efforts and have taken part in fun runs, discos, themed sports days and other fun activities. The pupils have surpassed their original £10,000 target, to date, they have raised an incredible £15,000, this is a life changing amount which will all go to help fund life-saving defibrillators for schools in the UK.

A big "Thank You" to Wellington School's pupils and staff for your incredible support, generosity and commitment to Hand on Heart!

Look out for updates, we know they have more exciting fundraising activities planned.



Image above
Wellington School pupils preparing for their charity Fun Run for Hand on Heart Charity.

Image below left
Hand on Heart treasurer Emma Short on her last day before the start of her maternity leave!



Thank You Gary Keedy!

A massive thank you to our very own ambassador Gary Keedy and his daughter Erin for their incredible support and fundraising efforts! To help Erin's school; St Paul's RC Primary in Blackburn, Gary and Erin have been working hard fundraising to get a defibrillator within the school.

An incredible £700 has been raised from various fundraising events including a raffle, Gary donated a lot of exclusive Cricket Memorabilia to help go towards purchasing the life-saving device. This is terrific progress and we wish our ambassador every success in his efforts in making his daughters' school a Heart Safe environment.

Good Luck Emma Short!

We'd like to send lots of love and best wishes to Hand on Heart Treasurer, Emma Short, as she embarks on her maternity leave! We will miss her lots, but can't wait to meet baby boy Ben and wish her the very best of luck during this exciting time.

Hillhead Exhibition

EPC-UK have kindly invited us to attend the Hillhead Exhibition in Buxton, Derbyshire. From the 24th – 26th June you will find us at Lafarge Tarmac's Hillhead Quarry. EPC-UK are supporting our charity through their CSR scheme and are committed to helping us raise awareness of SCA in the young. Taking part in this event will allow us to raise awareness of our charity aims, offer exhibitors and visitors the opportunity to learn CPR and also to invite them to attend and nominate for our UK Heart Safe Awards!