



Hand on Heart October 2015 Newsletter

It has been some time since our last newsletter, and we have been busy organising our annual UK Heart Safe Awards.

We hope you enjoy the news within this issue and look out for our Awards newsletter shortly.



12 Manchester schools get lifesaving defibrillators and training to launch our latest defibrillator campaign

The Brian Kennedy Trust has teamed up with Hand on Heart to place the automated external defibrillators (AEDs), including training packages aimed to teach not just staff but students in basic life skills and how to use the defibrillator into high schools, primary and special schools within the Manchester area.

Staff and students attended a presentation which was held in July at the Midland Hotel in Manchester, and received their packages from Linda Miles, Director of BKT. She commented “The Brian Kennedy Trust are delighted to be in a position to support Hand on Heart by funding a number of defibrillators for schools in Manchester. We were initially surprised to learn from Hand on Heart that 12 young people in the UK alone die due to Sudden Cardiac Arrest and we sincerely hope that the provision of these defibrillators will prevent any tragedy from occurring in these schools.

Our vision is to give all children a fair and equal opportunity to thrive and enjoy life to the full and we trust that our funding will enable this to happen”. Victoria Burrows, Hand on Heart Chief Executive, said: “We are delighted to have the support of the Brian Kennedy Trust on what represents a huge commitment to make all 175 schools in the Manchester area Heart Safe.

Many congratulations to Trinity C of E, Grange School, Piper Hill High, Mauldeth Road Primary, All Saints, St James Rusholme, Heald Place and Claremont Primary with Castlefield and Wythenshawe Academies for attending the presentation and receiving their life gifts from Linda Miles.



STOP PRESS - news just in is that the Brian Kennedy Trust have agreed to assist us and support a further 12 schools in the Manchester area. Our sincere thanks to the trust for their continued support and we look forward to making another 12 schools Heart Safe in the coming months.

Thank you so much to Aequitas Expert Witness Services

We are delighted to share the news that through the generosity of Aequitas Expert Witness Services, Pamela Statham and family have their very own defibrillator to offer them peace of mind while all the family are affected by Long QT Syndrome.

For many months Pamela's sister Julie has been fundraising for Hand on Heart to get defibrillators to support the schools in her home town. Little did we know that her sister Pamela and her family have needed their own defib device.

After hearing the news from Julie about her sisters needs, Glen from Aequitas Expert Witness Services, was happy to donate a package to her.

Julie commented "I am of course over the moon, as are Pamela and the rest of my family. It will bring them so much comfort to know that they have a defib to hand should the worse ever happen but, as Glen said, I hope they never need to use it!

Pamela told us "I've spoken with Glen and thanked him for such a generous donation (though 'thank you' doesn't seem enough for such kindness).

In the picture are : left to right - Pamela's daughters Jessica, Francesca and Pamela.



Midland Hotel staff support their first school

The Midland
Manchester

Congratulations to the commitment and generosity of the Manchester Hotel, just over 6 months fundraising activities have successfully raised enough to place their first defibrillator and training package into a local school.

Staff and students from Cardinal Langley RC High School attended a very special presentation afternoon at the hotel to receive their package.

Pictured with Sandra Dixon from the hotel is Claire Flitcroft, Pastoral Officer from the school with students



Award winners

On Friday 9th October at the Midland Hotel in Manchester saw our 16 worthy winners announced during a Black tie dinner at the UK Heart Safe Awards.

Our Special Awards newsletter will be out soon.



Julie's amazing fundraising trip

Our sincere thanks to Julie for her continued support to Hand on Heart and for sharing her amazing fundraising trip to Peru with us. Here is just a tiny taste of her adventures.

I recently travelled to Peru to take part in the Inca trail trek which is a challenging 4 day trek at high altitude. The trek was made in memory of my brother Adam who died in March 2014 at the age of 26. My aim, was to raise funds for Hand and Heart and to have a defibrillator installed at the home of my sister and nieces; Pamela, Jessica and Francesca.

Day one - left Manchester and after 30 hours of travelling and waiting for connections in London, Madrid and Lima, I finally arrived in Cusco to acclimatise prior to the trek. There I met the group I would be doing the trek with.

Day two - Cusco is about 3,400m above sea level and all of us at some point suffered symptoms of altitude sickness.

The trek commenced and we descended to the start of the Inca trail, after four hours of walking we finally set up camp at an altitude of 2,650m.

Check out her full story on our website blog page.



Lanes Group helps Thurrock school



Lanes Group have very kindly donated a life-saving defibrillator to a school in Essex as part of a national drive to help people in local communities who suffer potentially fatal cardiac arrests.

Stifford Clays Primary School, in Grays, Essex, is the second school in the UK to be given the equipment as part of the drainage and maintenance specialists' 'Protecting Life is Close to Our Heart' initiative.

Lanes Group will also fund for the school to have defibrillator training for eight staff and basic life-support training for up to 30 pupils as young as five years old.

The school had previously aimed to purchase its own defibrillator because it fosters particularly close links with vulnerable people in the community – but had found the £1,250 cost prohibitive.

Stifford Clays is the first school in Thurrock to receive a defibrillator and we hope that more schools within the area can follow in their footsteps and become Heart Safe in the coming months.

Thanks to True Bearings support to our Chorley Campaign that is set to continue

True Bearing Chartered Financial Planners have been part of the Chorley community since 2003 and have grown from just a small handful of people, to over 50 members of staff and Independent Financial Advisers.



In 2014/15 their chosen charity was Hand on Heart and through this; have been able to provide Chorley St Peters CE Primary School with a life-saving defibrillator and training package. Richard Jennings Adviser Assistant stated " We are delighted that Chorley St Peters is now a 'Heart-Safe' school.

I am delighted to say that we have only recently made the decision to continue working with Hand on Heart indefinitely and have already started raising money towards another defibrillator package."

Richard Jennings from True Bearings gave the school their unexpected defibrillator package during a special school assembly that was attended by Dee our Training Coordinator and charity mascot 'Sol' from Hand on Heart.

Dee took the opportunity to talk to the school about the device and how it helps restart a 'poorly' heart.



More than 100 communities to get lifesaving defibrillators as part of national housing provider's new £220k project

housing&care21

Lifesaving defibrillators will be placed in more than 100 communities by a national housing provider as part of a £220,000 project to protect people from one of the UK's biggest killers – sudden cardiac arrest. Housing & Care 21 is partnering with the charity Hand on Heart to place a total of 160 automated external defibrillators (AEDs), including one at all of its extra care schemes in the UK.

The Hearts & Homes project is the biggest single commitment by a housing provider to place AEDs at its schemes.

The organisation is funding 134 of the devices with Hand on Heart contributing a further 26 which will be placed at nearby schools.



Pictured with Victoria Burrows Chief Executive to Hand on Heart was Kris Peach, Director of Extra Care who comments "We are delighted to be working with Hand on Heart for what is a really significant project.

Our Hearts & Homes project will see more than 120 communities protected by these lifesaving devices, including thousands of our residents and staff and many more thousands who live in the surrounding areas."

Monthly Draw Winners:

Congratulations to our monthly draw winners for the following months, by submitting winning entries and receiving their fully funded defibrillator package.

Our winning schools in **June** were :-

Churchfield C of E Primary school, in Chestnut, Herts and to Cantley Primary school in Norwich.

Our winning schools in **July** were :-

Churchfield Primary – Herts and to The Deepings School – Peterborough

Our winning schools in **September** were :-

Graham James Academy – Essex and Westerton Primary – West Yorkshire

Congratulations to them all and hope they enjoy their defibrillator and basic life skill training in the coming months.

Pictured are children that have already undergone their basic life skill training. **Any school, parent or teacher can nominate a school - check out the website to learn how.**



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 **Hand on Heart**
Funding defibrillators for schools
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