

About the Whitchurch defibrillator

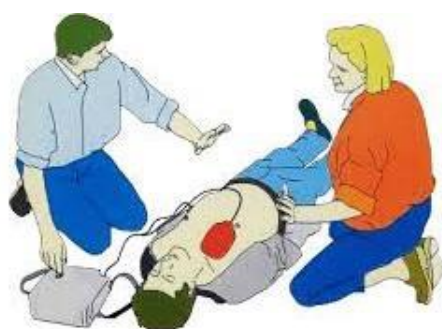
The red telephone kiosk at the junction of Manor Road with the High Street contains a first-aid device that can save lives, known as a defibrillator. This article explains what it is and how it can be used in an emergency.



The device is an automated external defibrillator (AED) that is designed to be simple enough for untrained people to use. It can diagnose the cardiac rhythm of a patient and decide whether to administer an electric shock. Rapid intervention before the arrival of an ambulance can save lives.



The 999 operator must be asked for the code to be keyed in to open the square yellow box from which the device can be lifted out. The device is then taken as quickly as possible to the patient. An electronic voice prompts the user through each step, the first one being to place pad electrodes on the chest of the patient. If the device determines that a shock is warranted it delivers one.



The Community Heartbeat Trust, a charity which works with BT and has helped to install hundreds of devices in telephone kiosks, worked with the parish council on the installation of the Whitchurch device. The charity's [website](#) has comprehensive information on the subject.

For any queries on the installation or maintenance of the device, contact Keith Brooks at 0118 984 1178 or brooksd49@aol.com.

The purchase of the Whitchurch defibrillator was made possible by a generous donation to the village in 2014 by Stephen Trinder, who sadly died in June 2015.

Richard Wingfield, Whitchurch Web News Editor, December 2015, updated September 2019.