

## About the defibrillator in the phone box

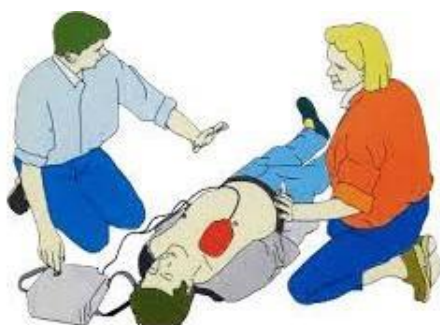
The red telephone kiosk at the junction of Manor Road with the High Street, Whitchurch, contains a first-aid device that can save lives, known as a defibrillator. This article explains what it is and how it can be used in an emergency.



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 (*right*) can be lifted out and 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 information.

For any queries on the installation or maintenance of the device, please contact Tim Hardwick at 0118 984 2478 or [thardwick269@gmail.com](mailto:thardwick269@gmail.com).

The purchase of the defibrillator was made possible by a generous donation to the village in 2014 by Stephen Trinder, who died in 2015. A second defibrillator for Whitchurch was installed, at the cricket pavilion on the village green, in 2022.

*Richard Wingfield, Whitchurch Web News Editor, December 2015, updated 7<sup>th</sup> June 2022.*