



# Droitwich AED



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To All AED Hosts, Sponsors, and Guardians:

## **2022 – What an Amazing Year!**

### **Two Lives Saved in Droitwich!**

You may have seen in the media that we have successfully defibrillated and revived two people in Droitwich so far this year, one of them a four-year-old little girl! All of your time, effort, and expense have proved to be worthwhile! Additionally, our AEDs have been deployed on numerous other occasions throughout Worcestershire. Because of patient confidentiality I don't know these outcomes.

### **By the time you read this our 132<sup>nd</sup> Defibrillator will have been installed!**

When I started Droitwich AED six years ago I thought that it would probably take me five years to install twenty-five Community Public Access Defibrillators (CPADs) in Droitwich. I don't normally like admitting it when I get things wrong (as if!), but I'm delighted I got this so wrong. Thank you all for your support in establishing and expanding our CPAD network in Droitwich and throughout the county.

### **Phantom “Your Defibrillator may have been used” notifications**

Some of you are all too aware that back around August we started to see a significant rise in notifications from The Circuit that your defibs may have been used, and that they were temporarily marked as not available until we had gone out and checked the rescue ready status. Well over 90% of the time the defibs had not even left the cabinet, let alone been used.

After a lot of toing and froing between us, The Circuit, and West Mids Ambulance, I eventually got to the bottom of it. West Mids Ambulance Service had increased the deployment radius of the CPADs from 200m to 500m. This is a good thing, and something I'm sure we all would agree with.

Unfortunately, when their IT consultants re-wrote the software for this, they had it activating a deployment notification whenever an ambulance was deployed within 500m of a CPAD, not if an ambulance was deployed for a Cardiac Arrest! Hence the huge increase in notifications and us all running around like the proverbial blue-bottomed-flies!

After a lot of complaints, they eventually worked out what was happening, and they have reverted to the original 200m software whilst the 500m software is re-written. Hopefully this will be done soon and we can all benefit from the increased radius without the false notifications and the CPADs being taken off line for no reason.

The security tags I put in the cabinets to identify if an AED had been moved are now superfluous to requirements. Please break them off when you next check your rescue ready status.

### **Cardiac Science G3 and G5 Defibrillators.**

I have advised for the last couple of years that Zoll bought out Cardiac Science, and closed down their Charity Price List, and that they also advised us that our old G3's were to be considered as not serviceable and should be replaced. Now this can, in part, be taken with a pinch of salt. If your G3 is not

displaying a fault it will be serviceable and rescue ready. At the end of the day Zoll were trying to sell us more defibrillators.

However, with the increased workload of maintaining over one hundred and thirty AEDs, and the fact that there is no price benefit in us buying G3 and G5 consumables, I have decided that the time is now right to stop supporting the Cardiac Science units, and concentrate on supporting the iPADs.

For the last couple of years I have advised that we would swap the G3s for iPad Nf1200s for a donation of just £500. Regrettably this is no longer available as the manufacturer has discontinued the NF1200 because of a worldwide shortage of computer chips.

If you want to upgrade your G3 to a good dual Adult/Child iPad SP-1 AED with ten year warranty I will happily arrange that for you for a donation of just £750. (SP-1 list price is £1,590)

### **Consumable Replacement Scheme**

Even if not used, over a ten year period iPad electrode pads need to be replaced at least four times, and batteries twice. Obviously if used, more often. Allowing for inflation, our best guess at the moment is that the ten year cost to maintain your defib in a rescue ready state would be about £750, or an average £75 a year. (Search "Shop WEL Medical"; Batteries @ £232.80, Pads @ £47.94, inflation @ £?) Can I make you an offer you can't refuse (I hope). To reduce the administration time involved in invoicing out for annual Consumable Replacement for over 100 defibs, how about:

#### **Five Years Cover for the Price of Two!**

If you have an iPad, enclosed with this newsletter will be an invoice for two years cover - £150. If you pay this before the end of January 2023, we will then subsidise your consumable replacement for another three years and replace your pads and battery when needed until the end of December 2027. Alternatively, if you set up a monthly standing order of £6.25 for two years starting January 2023 (also £150) we will provide the same cover.

If you don't wish to be in the scheme, and want to make your own arrangements for future replacements that's absolutely fine. Please could you let me know before the end of January.

### **Charity Trustees**

We currently have four trustees. Myself being retired doing the day-to-day running, and three other who work full time and are largely dormant, but receive monthly briefings and bank statements to ensure they know what I'm up to. Unfortunately, one of our trustees had a stroke a while ago and is currently unable to perform any trustee duties. As a result of this, I think it would probably be wise to recruit some additional trustees.

**If you might be interested in becoming a Droitwich AED trustee, please let me know. I will be happy to come and see you to let you know exactly what little this actually entails.**

### **New Bank Account Details**

Please be advised that we have changed bank accounts to The Co-operative bank.

Account Name: **Droitwich AED** Sort Code: **08-92-99** Account Number: **67265367**

### **And Finally**

Thank you all again for your continued support.

Best wishes for a Happy and Safe Christmas and New Year.

Peter Richards,

Chair of Trustees.

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