

News Telegraph Comment Great support for defibrillators

IT'S fair to say the people of Ashbourne are a charitable bunch. But rarely have we seen an ambitious fund-raising project embraced and supported in such a phenomenal way as the hugely successful Ashbourne Defibrillator Project.

The way the campaign to install these lifesaving devices in the town has been received has surprised and astonished everyone and, within a few months, Ann Smith and her team now have enough money to order the first two machines. There's even some left over to pay for their costly upkeep.

Right from the word go, when the idea was banded about on Facebook, the response was tremendous.

From its blossoming start, support never waned and dozens of people have leapt on board and held cake sales, raised money through events and even run a half marathon to ensure the cash was gathered in.

Before the year is out, well ahead of schedule, Ashbourne should have its first few machines in place.

They'll be acknowledged by the emergency services and, should anyone suffer a cardiac arrest in the town again, they will have a much better chance of survival.

Of course, we hope such an emergency will never happen. We all hope the machines sit idly in their boxes all day and all night, gathering dust. But, in reality, life teaches us to prepare for the worst and that is what the people of Ashbourne clearly want to do.

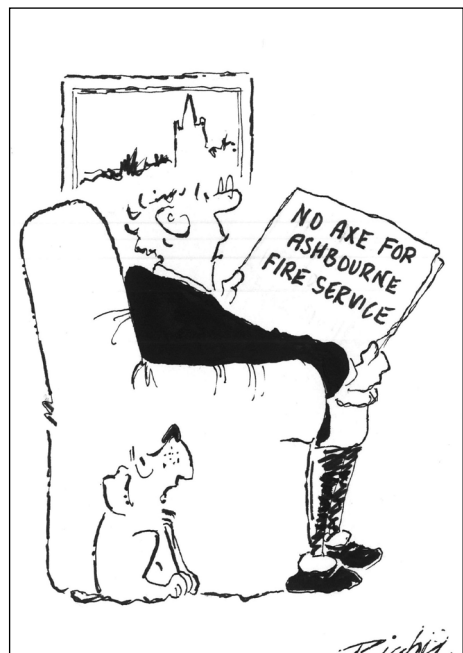
So it's hardly surprising, when you sit back and think, that such a simple idea by a town councillor and true Ashburnian should enter the minds and (if you'll excuse the expression) hearts of the general public.

The day may come when one of these machines might be called into action and, if it should then become instrumental in saving a life, everyone who has supported this wonderful project – especially Ann Smith – can give themselves a richly deserved pat on the back.

Have your say

Comment on this story at
ashbournenewstelegraph.co.uk

Cartoon corner



'Surely every firefighter needs an axe.'

Online pet sales warning issued

TRADING standards officers have received a surge of complaints about animals being bought over the internet arriving in poor condition.

Derbyshire County Council, which runs the trading standards team, wants people in Ashbourne to be cautious about buying pets online.

In the last 12 months officers have received 48 complaints from across the county about animals sold with serious medical and behavioural problems, as well as dealers falsely claiming dogs are approved by the Kennel Club.

In Derbyshire, the average amount spent by people who have bought these animals is £675 and the council has also received complaints from people who have paid for dogs up front in response to internet or classified adverts.

The money often goes abroad and the prospective buyer ends up hundreds of pounds out of pocket, and without the pet they paid for.

Anyone with concerns should call the RSPCA cruelty line on 0300 1234 999.

For more pictures

visit
[www.ashbourne
newstelegraph.co.uk](http://www.ashbourne
newstelegraph.co.uk)

What do YOU think?

Email us at
[editorial@ashbourne
newstelegraph.co.uk](mailto:editorial@ashbourne
newstelegraph.co.uk)
or visit
[www.ashbourne
newstelegraph
.co.uk](http://www.ashbourne
newstelegraph
.co.uk)

Air ambulance helpers

ASHBOURNE'S air ambulance operator has renewed its calls for volunteers.

Bosses at Derbyshire, Leicestershire and Rutland Air Ambulance said the charity could not survive without the help of the public and want to hear from people interested in helping.

A spokesman said: "Just like any of the other emergency services, we are relied upon to help people who urgently need it. We always need more volunteers to ensure that we keep saving lives on a regular basis."

To find out more visit www.theairambulanceservice.org.uk

Rural pub usage survey

RESULTS have been announced of a survey into how people use their local pub as part of an ongoing campaign to bolster the licensed trade.

The Campaign for Real Ale, which has an active branch in Ashbourne, revealed that half the people responding to its study had attended a wedding reception in a pub and three-quarters had cele-

brated a friend's birthday.

The campaign's chief executive Mike Benner said: "This new research shows how many communities rely on the pub to celebrate important landmarks in our lives, from wetting the baby's head to toasting someone's life."

"The British pub needs the British public's support, otherwise community life will diminish."

Funds in place for first two town defibrillators

By Gareth Butterfield

gareth.butterfield@staffordshirenewspapers.co.uk

ASHBOURNE'S first defibrillators are being ordered following an 'unprecedented' outpouring of support from the town.

The Ashbourne Defibrillator Project has captured the imaginations of dozens of townsfolk, who have donated money or lent support to the scheme, which aims to see the lifesaving machines dotted around the town in case somebody suffers a cardiac arrest.

Town councillor Ann Smith, who is leading the project, said she would be using money to order the first two defibrillators this week, and hopes to order another three more soon.

The machines, which are used to shock a person's heart into restarting, are housed in temperature-controlled cabinets and are linked to East Midlands Ambulance Service.

One machine will be installed at David Neill Mica Hardware; a cabinet will be installed for the machine currently owned by the



Follow news of the project online:
ashbournenewstelegraph.co.uk

Ex-Servicemen's Club; another machine will be installed at Preston's Garage in Derby Road; and units are also planned at the pavilion near to the recreation ground and in Waterside Park.

Mrs Smith said: "I am completely overwhelmed by everyone's support, kind words and messages."

"The way everyone has gone ahead and organised events, some I knew nothing about, and then they just gave me the money is unbelievable."

"I have been stopped in the street and given money."

"The way the townspeople have pulled together is, to me, unprecedented"

Among the people Mrs Smith said she would like to thank for donations were: Mr and Mrs Geoff French, Andrea Barnett, Betty Smith,

Stepping Stones Pub, Lisa Brown, Ashbourne Royal Shrovetide Football Committee, Peak Waste, Denise Hemsill, Cakes by Cath, Eunice Green, Pat Breeze, spectators at Ashbourne Half Marathon, Trilby Shaw and Nigel Brown.

Several runners in Ashbourne's recent half marathon chose to direct their sponsorship to the project and cake sales have been arranged by groups and individuals to raise funds.

Entertainment organiser John Scott said he would raise funds during a One Direction tribute act on Saturday, October 19, and the Old Ashburnians held an event at the Empire Ballroom, with Ashbourne band The Siblings headlining.

Ashbourne Rugby Club have organised a comedy night on Saturday, October 12, with donations promised; Shoredump Hoodies has donated Polo Shirts with the project's logo on, which was designed by Jon Howson at Raptor Graphics.

Members are due to meet again tomorrow at 7pm at Ashbourne Leisure Centre.

DONATIONS FLOOD IN FOR CHARITY JUMBLE SALE

AN appeal by staff at the News Telegraph for items to sell at a forthcoming fund-raising jumble sale has resulted in an influx of donations.

As part of our ongoing Take Five Minutes appeal, prompted by the wife of editor Stephen Sinfield being diagnosed with leukaemia, staff plan to hold a jumble sale at Ashbourne Town Hall on Saturday, November 2.

Funds raised at the event will be split between Cure Leukaemia and the Anthony Nolan blood cancer charity.

Mr Sinfield, who is currently on leave from the paper to care for his wife, said: "Katherine and I are so grateful to my colleagues at the News Telegraph for arranging this jumble sale."

"But, more importantly, we would like to say a huge thank you to readers who have donated clothes, books and bric-a-brac for the sale."

"We know as much as everybody else how money is tight and donating to charity isn't easy. This jumble sale is an easy way for you to give and you get something in return."

Donations are still being accepted at our Market Place office.



BUNDLE OF JOY . . . News Telegraph customer service advisor Karen Fearn is thrilled to have been given so many items to sell at our fund-raising jumble sale next month.