

Cyclists fund another life-saving defibrillator



Deputy Mayor John Ward, Geoff Jeal, Paul Head, Sarah Freundlich of the British Heart Foundation shop, president of Farnham Lions Simon Moran-Smith, chairman of the Conservative Club Mike Beale and Keith Aston. FD32-50-15

A LIFE-SAVING public access defibrillator (PAD) has been installed outside the Conservative Club in Ivy Lane thanks to the efforts of an intrepid team of cyclists.

The device is the second funded by the 'Farnham 1000 in a 100' team, who cycled 1,000 miles in just 100 hours last summer to raise funds for Phyllis Tuckwell Hospice, Disability Challengers and a PAD for the Hale area.

Having exceeded their target, the cyclists - spearheaded by Farnham Chamber of Commerce president Paul Head - decided to purchase three defibrillators and enlisted the help of the Farnham Lions Club to find suitable locations for them.

The first was deployed at The Lobster Pot in Hale earlier this year, followed by the second in Ivy Lane, off Downing Street at the end of July.

It reduces the maximum distance to a defibrillator in the main shopping area of Farnham to less than 200 yards, with PADs also available at prominent locations including the Farnham Maltings, the council

The Lions' drive to help install PADs across the town was sparked after one of its members, Keith Aston suffered a near-fatal cardiac arrest in 2009.

Speaking after the latest PAD was installed in the town centre, Mr Aston thanked the Con Club for agreeing to the new site as well as the Lions' partners Farnham Town Council and the British Heart Foundation.

He said: "Further PAD sites are planned for the town, but this particular exercise has been a model of co-operation between a number of contributors, for which Farnham Lions Club is most grateful.

"It has now become clear that publication of a map of PAD locations is needed urgently. The Lions will progress this requirement in conjunction with the town council."

Free classes dealing with CPR and the use of defibrillators can be booked online at heartstartfarnhamlions.co.uk.