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PRESS RELEASE

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rotary in London/district 1130
district governor Colin Mathews

Dulwich & Peckham Rotarians help save lives with a Defibrillator

A couple of years ago, the Community & Vocational Chairman of the Rotary Club of Dulwich and Peckham read about the "First Responders" campaign and the Club started raising money to buy an Automatic External Defibrillator (AED).

We got off to a flying start with two quizzes and a beetle drive, raising £800. Then we found out that the London Ambulance service weren't taking part in the campaign, so we slowed down our fundraising efforts. Just £100 was added to the total during the following year, while we tried to find an alternative home for the defibrillator. That was easier said than done! No-one wanted to take us up on our generous offer.



But all's well that ends well. At the very end of the second Rotary Year, some of our members were running the craft activities at the local Scouting Centenary celebrations. Also at the event were members of the local St John Ambulance Unit, demonstrating a training model of a defibrillator. During conversation, we found out that they were in need of a real AED for the ambulance which covers our local area. What a happy coincidence.

Now into the third year, our project was resurrected and we raised a further £600 at a race night. The last £500 came in the form of a grant from the District Trust Fund and the AED was finally presented to the Crystal Palace and Norwood St John Ambulance Unit in December 2007.

We have been told by St. John Ambulance that The AED will be fitted into the Crystal Palace Division ambulance and it will be on board whenever and wherever the ambulance is used on any public duty. This will include many local events, but also for our major events such as London Marathon, when they deploy over 100 ambulances and Mobile Treatment Centres, as well as more than 1,400 personnel. Other events may include Notting Hill Carnival, Chelsea and Hampton Court Flower Shows and many other events in London."

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