

# COMMUNITY MATTERS

Hyde's very own daily ONLINE magazine

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## HEART OF HYDE

A school in Hattersley has been presented with a defibrillator thanks to a fellow school and generous community donations.

Dawn Pragnall and her PCSO husband Dave were on hand at St James' Catholic school to present a AED (automated external defibrillator) to head teacher Jackie Walker.

However it was also the amazing generosity of pupils and parents at Pinfold Primary School that meant St James will have access to the life-saving equipment, should the need ever arise.

Dawn said it was vital for everyone to have access to the equipment, while PCSO Dave Pragnall said they need to be widely accessible.

"It's essential for the community and I'd like to see more public access so everyone will be able to use the defibrillator," he said.

Following the death of her godson Matthew Burgess in January 2014, Dawn decided to raise funds to have the life saving equipment placed in Tameside schools.

Enough money was raised to buy five defibrillators which have been placed in schools. Meanwhile, schools also started fundraising to enable another school benefit.

Pupils at Pinfold Primary in Hattersley held a non-uniform day and passed on the extra money to St James, who in turn have raised around £500 with an excess that will hopefully go to another local school, to help them purchase another defibrillator.

Much of the money was raised by the teachers taking part in the Manchester 10K, while Mrs Collins ran the Manchester Marathon.

Mrs Walker is justifiably proud of her staff and pupils who have done so well to raise



**LIFE-SAVING EQUIPMENT:** Pupils from Pinfold and St James with the defibrillator and head teacher Jackie Walker.

the money. However she was keen to point out how being part of a close community means that the area as a whole will benefit.

"There are six of us here who are fully qualified first aiders so we know how impor-

tant it is and the children have all had training from St John Ambulance.

"I think it's a really important life skill they should all have and the defibrillator is just the next step of that."

## Family fitness fun day will mark a hearty first for the town

A fabulous 'Family Fitness Fun Day' is being planned for Saturday, October 3, at Hyde's St Mary's Church Hall.

Running from 11am until 2pm, music, food and old fashioned games will top the list at the fun day which has been organised to celebrate the unveiling of Newton's first publicly accessible heart defibrillator.

Its official unveiling will be carried out at 1pm by Hyde and Stalybridge MP Jonathan Reynolds.

The defibrillator, which will be placed at street level outside the popular Talbot Road Gym, has been funded in collaboration with The Matthew Burgess Memorial Trust, Muscle Freaks Gym, Me-

diskills and St Mary's Church and will mark what is understood to be Hyde's first street level community accessible heart defibrillator.

Also on the day, there will be a spectacular 'Dead Lift' demonstration and a competitive tug-of-war between members of the multi-facility gym, plus all are invited to give generous support to a competitive 100 mile exercise bike relay, which is targeted to raise £100 for charity!

Local training company Mediskills will also be in attendance to demonstrate how the prompt use of a defibrillator could be vital when a cardiac arrest is suspected.

Sara Burgess, whose son Mat-

thew passed away after suffering a severe heart attack while playing football in the local park, said: "In Hyde, there are a growing number of defibrillators in the local community, however the majority are held by doctor's surgeries, dental practices, a few schools and leisure centres and businesses for the health and safety of their employees or visitors.

"Unfortunately these defibrillators or AED's are only available during the opening hours of these facilities, for example surgery hours.

"Now with this community funded 24 hour accessible, publicly located lifesaving emergency defibrillator, it is available to anyone

whenever it's required."

Annie Woodcock, vicar of St Mary's added: "More heart defibrillators in public places could save dozens of lives each year, and events like this are important for the entire neighbourhood to understand that more than a dozen young people die each week from undiagnosed heart problems.

"We all remember the harrowing sight of professional footballer, Fabrice Muamba, who himself nearly died during a televised match. His life was saved after he received prompt treatment on the pitch which included the use of a defibrillator.

"That could happen to any of us at any time, so that's why we have

come together to introduce this vital community asset into a caring community - it's also a great excuse to have a fun day for families and people of all ages."

Also, on the day, as part of an exercise to encourage higher levels of fitness in the community, Muscle Freaks Gym will offer all 15 to 16-year-olds a free, one month invitation to try out the facilities, dance studios and wellness centre, providing they show written parental consent.

There will also be a tasty barbecue along with games, a bouncy castle, inflatable air juggler, hook-a-duck, tombola and you can have a 'selfie' with Harvey, the Mediskills mascot!

## Young pupils get our vote

Godley Primary's school council elections had two special guests last week, Staybridge and Hyde MP Jonathan Reynolds and Hyde councillor Jim Fitzpatrick.

Both had the honour of announcing the winners of the school's election.

Children from Year Two to Year Six stood for election to the school council, with six girls and six boys being elected.

Mr Reynolds announced the winners from each class and presented them with certificates, as well as congratulating all the candidates, successful or not, for putting themselves up for election.

The candidates were very competitive, with cakes, badges and posters being made to encourage their classmates to vote for them!

The MP said: "It was an absolutely brilliant event at a fantastic primary school, they're always looking at new ways to make learning real for

BY Jake Hurfurt

the kids, and to see them getting so involved in the elections for the school council, understanding not just what the school council does but the whole democratic process, getting involved in that 100 per cent is absolutely brilliant.

"I think they got a lot out of it, the winners were brilliant and the runners-up were fantastic too."

Headteacher Suzanne Clawley-Welton first thanked Mr Reynolds for visiting the school to present the certificates, before saying how important she thought it was for children to get involved with this kind of activity.

She said she was pleased with the how the candidates acted during the election, giving a special mention to some of the baking brought in by candidates to persuade their classmates to vote for them!



**VOTE WINNERS:** Elected pupils show off their certificates, presented by Cllr Jim Fitzpatrick and MP Jonathan Reynolds.