



Presentation of New First Responder Kit by Edward Bales, Managing Director of Poultec Training to the Mattishall First Responders



Geoff Dorrie and his team of Mattishall First Responders, met at South Green Park Enterprise Centre, Mattishall today, 29th September 2009, to receive a new First Responder Kit from Edward Bales, Managing Director of Poultec Training Limited.

The new kit, which costs £2500.00, was bought thanks to the fundraising efforts of Poultec and Café Verde at South Green Park. Funds were donated by the company following their successful annual beer festival. Proceeds from a couple of quiz nights organized by Café Verde and supported by the community also helped towards the cost of the kit which includes a defibrillator and pulse oximeter amongst other life-saving equipment.

They were joined at the presentation by Andrew Barlow, the Responder Manager for Norfolk, who explained how vital the role of the First Responders is in helping to save lives.

There are 52 First Responder teams across Norfolk composed of approximately 350 volunteers from all walks of life – from housewives, to barristers, nurses and retired people.

Mr Barlow explained that in the course of a year, 175,000 people will have a heart attack in the UK. Of these, 70% go on to have a cardiac arrest. Only 5% of those who have a cardiac arrest outside of a hospital setting will survive. For every minute that goes by before the ambulance arrives, the survival rate drops by 10%. With the introduction of First Responders into communities, the survival rates have already increased by 60%.

Geoff Dorrie has been well known in the village of Mattishall for some time through his Heartstart exercise classes which he runs at the local village hall.

He came up with the idea of setting up a First Responder unit in the village in late 2007 and after contacting Andrew Barlow, set out in the search for volunteers as well as finding funding for the vital equipment needed in a basic kit.

Mr Dorrie who had written to businesses in the village asking for donations towards the funding of a kit thanked the Team at South Green Park for their support and in particular the hospitality team led by Mark Raines and Lizzie Hawkins.

Edward Bales explained "The team of volunteer first responders have our total admiration for the work that they do so our decision to help with this funding was an easy one."

Jo Tomlin, a nurse at the Norfolk and Norwich hospital, was the first person to come forward and volunteer to join Geoff Dorrie along with Gary Davison, a Norwich fireman from the village.

There is currently a team of 7 which, as well as Geoff, Jo and Gary include Holly Brown, Sarah Vargeson, Roger Serpell and Lucy Bambridge

After undergoing initial training and assessment, the team meet up once a month at South Green Park for two hours of training on new techniques as well as practicing what they know through role play and assessments.

Mr Dorrie commented "The team are really pleased to be able to come to South Green Park Enterprise Centre to do their training each month as many other teams have to meet in each other's living rooms, we are really grateful to Edward and his team for their support."

The First Responder Team went live in February 2008 and since then have answered 180 calls. The new equipment provided will enable the Mattishall First responders to have two complete kits which will be vital resources for the village and surrounding area.

Anyone interested in becoming a First Responder, please contact the Administration Department of the Norfolk First Responders on 01284 731802, www.respondersuk.org. Mattishall First Responders will shortly be launching their own website.

