

# DEFIBRILLATORS FOR CARHAM PARISH

NO. 7 | NOVEMBER 2025 | PROJECT UPDATE



As you may have spotted, we're finally in the process of installing the parish's first public access defibrillators in the communities that applied for them last year. Two are already in place, and two more should be installed soon. See over for where we've got to with all four.

We're still fundraising and still happy to hear from residents who'd like to apply for a public access defibrillator for their community. It doesn't matter how small the community is, but it does need to have two people who'll act as defib guardians, and at least two people who'll do CPR training. And it needs to support the defib project on an ongoing basis. We need this support to help us raise funds to buy and maintain the defibrillators that we provide.

One way in which everyone can support the project is by becoming a member of Carham Parish Defibs. Membership is free and is open to anyone aged 18 or over who supports the aim of the project. Go to [www.carhamparish.org/carham-parish-defibs/](http://www.carhamparish.org/carham-parish-defibs/) and scroll down the page to find the application form.

- Carham
- Downham
- East Learmouth
- East Moneylaws
- Hagg
- Howburn
- Mindrum
- Mindrum Mill
- Mindrum Station
- Pressen
- Pressen Hill
- Shidlaw
- Sunilaws
- Tithe Hill
- Wark
- Wark Common
- West Learmouth
- West Moneylaws

## COMING UP NEXT:

# CHRISTMAS FAIR

AT CORNHILL VILLAGE HALL

We'll be selling Christmassy items to raise money for the defibrillator project.

Friday 14 November, 6.00 pm to 8.00 pm  
Cornhill Village Hall

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## CONTACT US

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## DEFIB APPLICATIONS UPDATE

- The public access defibrillator in **Carham** has been installed and registered with The Circuit, and two Carham residents have volunteered to act as the defibrillator's guardians. The installation was done for us by Wark Common Farm, and we're grateful to Peter Straker-Smith for agreeing to cover the cost of the electricity for the cabinet. We'd also like to thank Carham-based business Deer Dynamics for the generous donation it made towards this defibrillator.
- We've solved the electricity problem for the **Mindrum Station** defibrillator and are waiting on an electrician to come and install a power supply for the cabinet.
- The **Wark** defibrillator has been a difficult nut to crack, but we now have a power supply to the decommissioned phone box on the main road, thanks to SP Energy Networks. This has cost us just a token amount. We're very grateful for this support, and to Kevin Alsey for his work in getting the phone box ready. We're close to finalising this installation at last.
- The **West Moneylaws** defibrillator has been installed and registered with The Circuit. We're grateful to Matthew Lee Joinery for fitting the cabinet for us, and agreeing to cover the cost of the electricity for it. Two West Moneylaws residents have volunteered to act as the defibrillator's guardians.

## DONATION

As you'll know from the last newsletter, we lost our much valued Treasurer and supporter, Agnes Changleng, earlier in the year. Her family held a memorial service in July and donated the collection to three good causes, one of which was Carham Parish Defibs. We'd like to thank them for thinking of us and for their very generous donation of £155.

## GRAND SUMMER RAFFLE

Thank you to everyone who gave prizes and bought tickets for the Grand Raffle, which was drawn at Cornhill Village Fair on 20 July. We had some excellent prizes, donated by individuals and by Border Spirits & Botanicals, Café Maelmin, the Collingwood Arms, Cornhill Village Shop, Greenwoods 24/7, the Mason's Arms Norham, Moonwake Beer Co, and Transformation Coach Rafah Sabbagh. Thanks to their generosity and yours, the raffle raised a fantastic £730 for the defibrillator fund.

## COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Kevin Alsey, Wark ▪  
Victoria Poland, Mindrum Station ▪ Jude Smith, Wark ▪ Willa Straker-Smith, Wark Common

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## ABOUT THIS PROJECT

If you're with someone whose heart stops and you call 999, the emergency services will tell you where the nearest public access defibrillator is located, and will give you the code to access it. But they won't give you this information if the defibrillator's too far away from where you are. How far is too far? The chances of survival for someone in cardiac arrest drop by 10% with each minute that passes, so even if the nearest defibrillator's five minutes away, it's too far to be of any help.

Two-thirds of Carham parish's residents live in farm settlements, most of which are a mile or more from each other. We want to get public access defibrillators installed in all of the parish's communities (see overleaf), so that everyone has a life-saving AED (automatic external defibrillator) within reach.

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## ABOUT AEDs

Public access defibrillators (AEDs) save lives. The British Heart Foundation says the survival rate for out-of-hospital cardiac arrests is less than one in 10, but cardio-pulmonary resuscitation (CPR) can more than double the chances of survival in some cases, and electrical defibrillation (providing a shock to the heart to enable it to resume its rhythm), used with CPR, has a good success rate.