

## Once upon a time, a life was lost and an idea formed...

In 1996, in a tiny village called Thorncombe in Dorset, a resident died from a heart attack because the ambulance could not reach them in time. Thorncombe lies tucked in the rolling hills, down remote lanes, far away from the nearest hospital. The owner of the village shop and village postmistress, Rosemary Walley, was determined to improve the situation and came up with the idea of recruiting and training a couple of villagers to help in an emergency ahead of the ambulance arriving and potentially prevent further deaths.

She formed a CFR scheme which launched in April 1998. The idea soon took off amongst other rural communities and slowly spread across the nation. We are fortunate in Pershore to have our own Community First Responders scheme. The team comprises Steve (the local blacksmith) Sarah and Richard, who are all volunteers giving their time in a 5 mile/ 10 minute radius of Pershore to situations where they may be able to reach and respond to emergencies before the ambulance service can attend.



Since August 2022 the team have had a fully equipped lifesaving vehicle thanks to Arrive Alive and ongoing financial support from the Friends of Pershore Hospital (FOPH). Trustee Michael Amies spoke movingly about the support received by his daughter from the CFR. If you would like more information about the FOPH you can contact Trustee Jan Garrett on [treasurerFOPH@outlook.com](mailto:treasurerFOPH@outlook.com)

We were told that if you live in a community where you know there is a locked defibrillator, the 999 Ambulance call handler should be aware of these but it may also be a good idea to find out and make a note of the code.

If you would like to find out more about the Pershore Community First Responders, they have a closed Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/pershorecfrrs/>

In order to support this local voluntary service donations are always needed which can be made directly to Pershore Community First Responders Treasurers Account at details from Steve at Little Acorns Forge.

If you're interested in finding out more about volunteering as a CFR this link has all the details :

[Interested in Volunteering?](#)

And finally if you would like to share the video on defibrillator awareness click here : [Pull Through](#)

Sally Whyte Speaker Coordinator, Publicity and Communications.