

Keep In Touch!



Registered charity no. 279652

## A Breath of Life

Newsletter for Regular Givers & Supporters of  
DDRCHealthcare

**DDRC Healthcare is a unique charity.**

**We specialise in the uses of hyperbaric medicine through research, education and treatments which deliver life saving and life changing results.**



**Our CEO Dr Gary Smerdon** now has Honorary Senior Lectureships with Exeter University & Plymouth University Medical Schools.

those working in high threat situations e.g. close protection. The skills taught are also suited to medical response teams, fire and police officers, industrial first aiders, healthcare providers and community responders. If you are looking to enhance your experience or are looking for a change in your career FREC might be the way forward. (FPOSi & DMT can convert to FREC Level 3.)

**24 hour online booking** In 2016 we introduced the ability to book your training or medical requirements online 24/7. This flexibility means wherever you are in the world and at whatever time, you can book and pay via our website [www.ddrc.org](http://www.ddrc.org).

### Qualsafe Accredited



We are very pleased to announce that DDRC Professional Services has

been approved as a Registered Centre to deliver Qualsafe Awards regulated courses. These courses are clinically endorsed by the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh faculty of pre-hospital care. We are now able to offer [Qualsafe Awards \(QA\) Certificate in First Response Emergency Care \(FREC\) Levels 3 & 4](#), ideal for those who have a specific responsibility to respond to emergency situations or



Training scenario

### AED



We were successful in acquiring an AED from the British Heart Foundation.

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This is for public use and is attached to our exterior wall outside reception for use by anyone on the Science Park.

### In-house training

We pride ourselves on the high standard of training and education our staff undergo to keep their practices up to date and to the latest thinking. Here are just a couple of examples.



*Chamber Intensive Care training*



*Staff Fire Safety training*

### Ron meets Valerie

DDRC Professional Services Training Officer Ron McBride is also a volunteer First Responder for the South West Ambulance Service along with his wife Tracey. Ron recently met Valerie Singleton at the Blue Light Users Conference where she was a guest speaker.



Since this conference Tracey and Ron have been awarded their 10 years Community First Response service certificate. Very well done.



In the Summer we had a stand at the

Transat Bakerly race start on Plymouth Barbican. Skippers and crews from predominantly France, but with a couple of UK entries, met together for the start at Plymouth's stunning waterfront.



### Devon Business Show 2016

We were delighted to, once again, be exhibiting at the Devon Business Show which offers a great networking opportunity enabling us to meet other businesses and delegates living and working within the county.

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**We have appointed new Trustees to the Board.** Steve, Ian and Elaine have been Trustees for several years but we would like to introduce you to our new Members.



**Ian Berry** Estate Manager,  
Port Eliot Estate

*Acting Chair*



**Shaun Walbridge** Managing  
Director of Matrix Legal &  
Forensic Services Ltd



**Raymond Sparrow** Visiting  
Scientist with ICCMR,  
Plymouth University and  
Marine Biology Association



**Ronen Day** Chartered  
Engineer



**Tony Pearce** Head of Gill  
Akaster Solicitors'  
contentious Trust and  
Probate Team



**Craig McLaren** Co-  
Founder and  
Director at Access Value  
Healthcare Services & Alumni  
Medical



**Brian Clargo** Chartered  
Mechanical Engineer



**Gavin Anthony** Chemist  
specializing in Biochemistry,  
Inorganic Chemistry and  
Analysis



**Keith Walker** Member  
of General Chiropractic  
Council

**Thank you so much to Our** regular givers, 'Friends' of DDRC Healthcare – thank you so much for your continued support

**Also:**

**£160** raised from our Doctors running the Plymouth Half Marathon

**£100** received in gratitude of Doctor's telephone advice re diving safety

**£30** donated in thanks of Talk given to NHS retired Staff (we are their charity of the year)

**£268** donation from gentleman's funeral – kindly given by his widow

**£75** donated in thanks of Talk given to Totnes Sub Aqua Club

**£30** donated in thanks for information leaflets sent

**£150** donated by a patient's husband in thanks for her fantastic care

**£2,000** donated from a DCI patient in grateful thanks and appreciation of her care

**£470** Cardiff Sub Aqua Club

**The Kernow Federation of British**

**Sub Aqua Club (BSAC)** has astounded us once again by raising a further

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£4,550 bringing their amazing overall total since 2001 to almost £30,000. What can we say!



### Where your money goes.....

**Treatment:** The NHS funds most of our treatments but in the future it may become necessary for us to support more treatments for conditions that the NHS will be cutting back on. DDRC Healthcare is able to help with some accommodation costs where there is no funding.

We are constantly looking at our equipment and strive to have the highest quality equipment and facilities for patient treatments. Indeed the Olive Suite was funded by a very kind legacy to DDRC Healthcare

**Education & Training:** We try to fund our doctors and nurses to attend conferences, workshops and training courses to keep them at the forefront of knowledge and indeed to share the knowledge we gain from running our unit.

**Research:** Very much focussed on wound healing in soft tissues and bones - trying to understand the fundamentals of what high level oxygen is doing in cells and tissues and how we can maximise effectiveness and minimise treatment times. We are also working with Exeter Medical School to research

and develop the treatments to address issues such as skin cancer.

**Support:** The charity provides Hyperbaric Physician's time to answer enquiries regarding diver health and diver medicals.

**Physical improvements:** Donations have enabled us to improve the patient lounge area with the addition of a conservatory. Many patients spend several weeks with us and it is nice to offer an extra space in which to sit.

**To the future:** Looking forward, we will need to modernise our chamber which although works to the highest standards, is now 21 years old. To deliver the best possible treatments to the most patients we hope to fundraise to acquire a new multi-chamber in the future - the NHS will certainly not contribute to our efforts and any support will be gratefully received.

### Come and see us in 2017:

*International Shipwreck Conference stand  
Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> February  
Our 'Diving on the Edge' conference Sunday 5<sup>th</sup>  
February*

THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR YOUR CONTINUED  
SUPPORT

