

14th Jan 2022

John Hesketh (Parish Clerk)
Menheniot Parish Council
Lambest Cottage
Menheniot
Liskeard
Cornwall PL14 3RE



Cornwall Air Ambulance Trust
Trevithick Downs, Newquay, Cornwall TR8 4DY
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Dear Mr Hesketh

We are asking whether Menheniot Parish Council would consider supporting Cornwall Air Ambulance, helping us to continue our lifesaving work across Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly.

A brief overview of our aims and objectives - Cornwall Air Ambulance provides emergency pre-hospital critical care for some of the most time-critical, seriously injured, or ill adults and children. We are tasked to provide treatment at the scene and rapid hospital transfer often to specialist's unit out of the county.

Cornwall particularly lends itself to needing an air ambulance as land ambulances can sometime struggle to reach incidents in the more rural parts of the county – especially during the summer months when demand increases, and the smaller country roads become more congested. Remote cliff tops, beaches and moors are more easily accessible by helicopter. Transferring a patient to a hospital and the specialist treatment and equipment they need; every minute can count and the speed at which the air ambulance can fly can sometimes mean the difference between life and death. Not only that but the minutes that have been saved can vastly improve the quality of the patient's life after the accident or medical emergency.

Cornwall Air Ambulance can, on average, be at the scene of an incident within 12 minutes of a 999 call being made and can reach the Isles of Scilly in less than 30 minutes. We treat patients on-scene or take them to the hospital that best suits their needs, whether in Cornwall or at specialist hospitals out of county; we can reach these specialist units in minutes rather than the hours by road.

Patients like Helen George from Pendeen, Penzance. Helen was involved in a horrific road traffic accident that left her fighting for her life. Helen was trapped inside her vehicle for 45 minutes with extensive injuries including broken femurs, fractures to her fibular and tibia, fractures to her left foot and an open fracture to her right arm.

“Because of the severity of my injuries, it was vital I got to the hospital as quickly as possible,” said Helen. “It normally takes two hours from where we live in Pendeen to get to Derriford Hospital; I got there in 20 minutes. They literally saved my life; I wouldn't be here if it wasn't for Cornwall Air Ambulance. I am so grateful for everything they did for me.”

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Helen's story really highlights the need for the air ambulance and shows that the speed in which the crew can reach a patient and start administering treatment really can make a difference between life and death for some.

Another mission involved a 12-year-old, called Ross. It was his first day of the summer holidays and whilst crabbing at Padstow Harbour he lost his balance and fell off the harbour wall. He landed on a boat and then ricocheted into the granite harbour wall in front of him, badly cutting his forehead before dropping into the sea. Ross was dragged out of the sea by a passer-by whilst an onlooker called 999, as Ross was bleeding profusely from his forehead. Cornwall Air Ambulance took just over five minutes to reach Padstow and a further 11 minutes to get Ross to Treliske Hospital where he had an X-ray and CT scan, which confirmed a fractured skull. Ross has thankfully made a full recovery.

Cornwall Air Ambulance, based in Cornwall consists of 40 staff and over 255 volunteers who are located all over the county and the geographical area covered is Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly.

We have purchased with the help of Donors, a new AW169 helicopter and we have purchased the night flying equipment that allows us to fly 19 hours a day. In Cornwall during 2021, we attended 497 Medical Incidents, 548 Trauma Injuries, 326 Cardiac emergencies, 166 road traffic collisions and 156 Serious Falls. We also made 16 inter-hospital transfers.

However, to ensure the high levels of Critical Care are delivered to our patients, this would not be possible without the skill of the clinical team. This team of specialist paramedics and doctors need to undertake continuous training to ensure skills are regularly practiced and new skills are developed to benefit our patients. Our future developments will include enhancing our training capabilities to develop our paramedics as Specialists in Critical Care and in further Advanced Level of clinical practice supported by an increasing team of specialist consultants to ensure that we can continue to bring the highest levels of care to all our patients. Training is essential ensuring availability throughout the extended hours and required to continue to keep up with all the changes, evolving emergency medical care field. i.e., Ketamine, surgical procedures etc

We are asking for support from local Cornish Parish and Town Councils to help fund our critical care paramedics training to the amount of £500+ at your discretion

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Detailed Breakdown:

Post grad training for two new critical care paramedics.

Training costs £2760 x 4 units = £11040.00

Training is essential, ensuring resource is available throughout the extended hours

If you require any further information, you consider necessary to support this application, please do not hesitate to contact us and we will be only too willing to forward.

Thank you for your kind consideration.

Kind Regards

Peter Henshaw

Volunteer at Air Ambulance Trust.

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