



## **2003 RUSSELL MEDAL**

### **SAMANTHA POWELL**

At 1.30 am on 25th August 2003, whilst on her summer holiday in the Costa Blanca, Spain, Samantha Powell of Codsall, South Staffordshire, aged 15 years, date of birth 22 June 1988, discovered a British man collapsed in the street in Villamartin, Costa Blanca, Spain. The casualty is known only as "Steve" from Oxford. Upon coming across him, Samantha carried out an initial assessment and found him to not be breathing. The casualty's tongue had obstructed his airway, so Samantha extended his neck, which restarted his breathing. She then placed him in the recovery position, before calling for an ambulance. The emergency operator was unable to speak English, forcing Samantha to use her Spanish skills, which she had learnt whilst on holiday in Spain, to summon assistance. She continued monitoring and assessing the casualty and at a point noticed movement. Samantha continued to observe and reassure the casualty, until the ambulance crew arrived and took him to hospital.

Samantha has been a member of Wombourne Life Saving Club, affiliated to the Staffordshire Branch, for 2 years and has a trained in RLSS UK lifesaving techniques.

Samantha's quick response and efficient actions quite possibly saved this man's life.

Samantha Powell is awarded the 2003 Russell Medal.