



# Swallowfield Community Responders

## Calls

In October we were deployed 35 times including 6 stand downs so we actually attended 29 patients. Of these we were first on scene for 86% of the time with an average time to scene of just over 7 mins. The area covered was quite wide with Spencers Wood and Whitley being the two largest areas of need.

AREA	Calls - Sept	Calls - YTD
Spencers Wood	8	59
Whitley	7	88
Shinfield	3	50
Three Mile Cross	3	25
Lower Earley	3	22
Swallowfield	2	13
Arborfield	2	29
Mortimer	2	24
Reading	2	31
Other	2	32
Burghfield	1	16
Beech Hill	0	3
Farley Hill	0	10
Riseley	0	7
Hampshire	0	6
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>415</b>

Parish:	Calls - Sept	Calls - YTD
Shinfield	14	134
Other	12	148
Swallowfield	2	30
Arborfield	2	29
Stratfield Mortimer	2	24
Reading	2	31
Burghfield	1	16
Beech Hill	0	3
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>415</b>

Average ages of patients attended in September were 74 for men, 71 for the ladies and 4 for children.

Men accounted for 49% of our patients, Ladies 40% and children 11%.

Our total on call time was 286 hours or just over 9 hours per day.

This month's calls included a cardiac arrest, lots of breathing difficulties, chest pains, strokes, various unconscious people, a fall from a horse, someone who had fainted and an allergic reaction.

## Staff

Last month we reported having a couple of people interested in joining us and that is still the case although they are still going through the application process.

We are in desperate need of some more volunteers as the departure of both Ian and Chris is now beginning to bite and be noticed as we are simply not able to record the number of on call hours that we would like.

So if anyone would like to know more, then please do not hesitate to call Gary on 07768 068 270.

## Events

In October Half term week the team attended the Emergency Services Day in Arborfield which despite the bad weather was still attended by what seemed to be literally hundreds of children with their family. We had both the Responder and Heartstart Gazebos there (see our Heartstart article for what happened on that "side") and of course our vehicle.



The "mini-me" of our vehicle (the remote controlled car) came out during the day and was an immediate hit with the children who loved seeing the vehicle with its flashing lights zooming across the car park. In fact we were the envy of both the police and fire services who wanted one for themselves.

I am sure everyone that attended would agree that they had a great time and our team left at the end of the day with their ears ringing after hearing the emergency sirens going off all day because little fingers were allowed to play with them!

Barry and Steven both attended this years National Community First Responder (CFR) Conference in Kettering which was run by the South East Coast Ambulance Service. They said it was worth while attending and indeed did learn some interesting facts. It is also an opportunity to meet and mingle with other CFR's from the other Ambulance Services. Their conclusion was that when you analysed

what CFR's can do in the different regions, the skills allowed to be delivered by the South Central Ambulance Service's CFR's whilst not being at the bottom of the table are nevertheless not at the top. Other Ambulance Trusts allow their CFR's to provide more patient care than we can presently give so we hope that our Ambulance Trust will as soon as possible be a leading trust and train and allow the responders that want to, to deliver more skills than they can today.

We have nothing more planned for this year now and will concentrate on putting in as much time as we possibly can for the local community. We hope to be able to report in the next edition that we have secured more volunteers as without them we will really struggle.

## HEARTSTART SWALLOWFIELD

October saw us deliver our first course in the Rose Room at the Methodist Church in Wokingham Town Centre. We had 11 attendees and received some really good feedback such as *"Course was just right in terms of its length, good mix of video trainer instruction, very enjoyable and useful"*

This brings the total trained since we started to 475 people, which although seeming quite a high number is actually only a fraction of the local population and there are therefore many more people to train!

We have been approached to run a couple of courses in Whitley, so we are currently liaising with the Community centre over dates and hope to report in the next edition of the Reach that we have run several courses there.

We currently have another instructor being trained and all being well, by the end of December we will be a team of 4.

In our "joint role" as Swallowfield Community Responders and Heartstart we attended the Emergency Services Day in Arborfield during the half term week and had a great time.



In the Heartstart Gazebo we had two training manikins where Barry and Gary both were showing children how to perform CPR. At several points during the day the queues were over 10 children deep and poor Barry and Gary were simply not able to get up off their knees and take a break – it was relentless! We estimate that between 2-300 children visited us to try out CPR during the day. It

is great that the younger members of society take such an interest in this life saving technique and indeed there are many examples where someone of such young age has saved someone's life and it was the interest of the children and the importance of training them that enabled the team to break through the pain barrier and carry on! We would like to thank PCSO Suzie Carr, Rural Specialist Officer for organising such a brilliant event and for asking us to attend. We certainly look forward to being there next year (with some deeper knee pads!).

Gary visited Sonning Golf Club in October to talk to them about having an AED in their club and they are now purchasing two machines for the club and possibly donating a third to a local school. We have been successful in negotiating good rates on the machines for them.

Gary also attended the Sherborne on Loddon Parish Council meeting in October and explained what an AED is and how it works. One of the public in attendance then showed everyone just how easy it is to use one of these machines without any prior knowledge. It is hoped that they will decide to purchase one for their community in the very near future.

We are very pleased to report that at long last the AED in Stratfield Saye is now live. So next time you visit or go past the Iron Duke public house in Stratfield Saye, you will see the familiar yellow box on the side.

If anyone would like us to come along to their own club or business to explain the benefits of having such a machine, please do let us know.

At the time of reading this article our next course will be in Wokingham on the 22<sup>nd</sup> December. So if by that time you are tired of Christmas shopping and fancy something different, then please do come along. You can enrol on our website or by calling Gary on 07768 068 270.

Remember - the greatest gift you could ever give someone is their life and by learning these basic life saving skills you could just do that.

Regards

Gary Clark

Group coordinator

[www.swallowfieldresponders.co.uk](http://www.swallowfieldresponders.co.uk)

[www.heartstartswallowfield.co.uk](http://www.heartstartswallowfield.co.uk)