



Swallowfield Community Responders

Dear Supporter

Welcome to the December update for all of the kind supporters of our Group.

In December we had 23 calls as follows:

| AREA | Calls - Month | Calls - Year |
|------------------|---------------|--------------|
| Spencers Wood | 6 | 65 |
| Shinfield | 2 | 53 |
| Whitley | 6 | 50 |
| Other | 2 | 46 |
| Three Mile Cross | 1 | 20 |
| Arborfield | 2 | 19 |
| Beech Hill | 0 | 15 |
| Farley Hill | 0 | 15 |
| Hampshire | 3 | 14 |
| Swallowfield | 1 | 10 |
| Riseley | 0 | 9 |
| TOTAL | 23 | 316 |

We attended 10 male, 10 female and 3 children. The average ages for the month were: Male – 64, Female – 59, Child – 5.

This month we had a three day old baby not breathing, someone kicked by a horse, 2 falls, three people fitting as well as the usual chest pains, strokes and breathing difficulties.

As you can see, we just fell short of our anticipated 320 calls in the year, but this still was a staggering 120% up on last year – ie: we attended more than **twice** the number of calls we did in 2012. There is no doubt that this is as a result of various factors, these being:

- A real increase in the number of 999 calls;
- Our on call hours have increased by nearly 14% year on year, having provided an amazing 4,645 hours of cover in 2013 (nearly 13 hours every single day of the year), which in turn means
 - The Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) in Bicester knows that we are on call without having to look at their screens and despatches us more;
 - We are used to cover other areas in times of high demand when adjoining schemes are not logged on;
 - In times of exceptionally high demand, because of our marked vehicle, we are asked to go “mobile” and could be sent anywhere.

Each and every one of us is proud to be a member of the Swallowfield Responders and we are committed to providing the very highest level of cover we possibly can. We intend to strive to deliver the same level of cover in 2014.

Events

We had no events in December but have plans from Spring onwards.

Weekday Volunteers

We have been approached by an individual who we hope will be able to help out during the week which will be fantastic news! We also have another person whose application is going through the process so we hope he will be able to join us later in January. As ever we always welcome new volunteers.

2013 – A Reflection on the Year

As we move into 2014, here are some of the highlights & lowlights of 2013:

Highlights First:

- Highest recorded call outs ever!
- Largest number of on-call hours ever!
- Red Riding Hood charity pantomime event a tremendous success! (very useful addition of funds to the coffers!)
- Heartstart Swallowfield set up!
- First ever Family Fun Day at the Farriers Arms in aid of us!
- Ian and Gary attended the first ever National Community Responder Conference
- Berkshire Community Foundation and the Lord-Lieutenant of Berkshire publically acknowledged our Group for its fund raising activities
- We were able to provide pain relief via Entonox for the first time
- We were able to fund raise enough money to keep our vehicle on the road for another year

And then the lowlights:

- South Central Ambulance Foundation Trust did a U Turn and we lost the ability to use our Amber Light Bar, without any financial recompense.
- We lost one of our team and face the continuing challenge of recruiting new volunteers

With the increase in calls we were asked to attend in 2013 it was a very busy year for us. We hope that we will be utilised even more for the Ambulance Service in 2014, as no doubt there are still 999 medical emergencies to which we are currently not despatched. We could not have achieved all of this without the continuing support of the local community, so as ever, Thank You.

Swallowfield Community Responders