



Swallowfield Community Responders

Dear Supporter

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

In November we had 30 calls as follows:

Area	Calls - Nov	Calls - YTD
Whitley	8	44
Other	7	43
Shinfield	4	51
Spencers Wood	4	59
Beech Hill	3	15
Arborfield	2	17
Riseley	2	9
Swallowfield	0	9
Three Mile Cross	0	19
Farley Hill	0	15
Hampshire	0	11
TOTAL	30	292

We attended 14 male, 11 female and 4 children with one stood down on arrival. The average ages for the month were: Male – 58, Female – 57, Child – 4.

This month we had vomiting and hallucinating, an unconscious child, a fractured femur as well as the usual chest pains, strokes and breathing difficulties.

At the current rate, we will be attending approximately 320 calls (147 in 2012) and providing 4,800 hours of on-call cover for local communities over the course of the year, which is substantially up on last year.

During the month one of our crew (Ian) proved the importance of the responder scheme when upon arrival to what was seemingly someone with breathing difficulties he walked in to find that the patient had actually gone into cardiac arrest. Instantly the training took over and he started CPR. A lone paramedic in a rapid response vehicle then turned up and thanks to the early efforts of Ian, between them they managed to get the patient back so that as they left their house in the ambulance they were at least alive and stood a fighting chance. There is no doubt that without the efforts of Ian, the patient would not have had that chance. Ian and our scheme were congratulated by the Paramedic and the Emergency Operations Center for a job well done. This is exactly why the Community Responder Scheme can and does make a difference in the community. Well done Ian!

We were once again asked to help the Ambulance Service by going “mobile” in the month due to high demands. “Mobile” is where instead of operating from our own area we agree to attend calls outside of our area and may in fact end up attending calls in Reading for instance. The willingness of the team to help the Ambulance Service in times of urgent need just goes to show what a committed team they are.

Events

As we move into Christmas, things are very quiet on the event front with nothing more planned until Spring.

Equipment

We are sorry to have to report that we have had to disable the amber light bar on our vehicle on the instructions of the South Central Ambulance Service Foundation Trust (SCAS). We have registered our strong opposition as:

- SCAS gave us approval for its use and fitting in the first place;
- We upgraded and bought a more expensive bar on the recommendation of SCAS, using precious funds
- We had to pay SCAS to install the light bar and associated electrics.

Despite all of this, over a year later SCAS has now decided that we cannot use this bar anymore. As a scheme we will naturally comply with the operating procedures we are asked to follow, but of course we are very disappointed. In our area there are many winding roads without street lamps and we genuinely feel that to warn others of our parked vehicle is a matter of safety, which is the reason why we wanted the bar in the first place. Thankfully we can still use the alley lights (lights on the end of the light bar to help illuminate houses as we look for the right house).

Weekday Volunteers

Our advert has now appeared in the Loddon Reach Magazine and a couple of people have come forward, unfortunately one of them can only do the odd Sunday and the other only one or two days a month, but we are still progressing with them. As you know we really do need some more volunteers who can provide a couple of weekdays cover a month in order to ensure that we can continue to provide the level of cover for our local communities. If anybody knows anyone that they think might be interested, please do ask them to contact us.

HEARTSTART SWALLOWFIELD

Wow! What shall I say? The launch of Heartstart Swallowfield has been a great success. At the time of writing this update, we have delivered 6 courses to 69 people. We have another 41 booked on future courses.

The courses have not only been our public courses, but we have delivered one for a local charity, 2 for a Wokingham based company and one for the British Rowing Association (actually it turned out to be to some of the actual Olympic team themselves – a gold and bronze medallist, a silver medallist and three world champions- not bad going).

If any of you would like some courses for your business or knows someone who would, please do get in touch.

The next public course is in Swallowfield on the 12th December and has a couple of spare spaces, so please either book yourself on or encourage someone else to come along. It really can make a difference as the day after being shown some of the skills on one of our courses someone actually put them into practice ☺. We would therefore really encourage people to come along and learn these basic **S**kills **F**or **L**ife. See www.heartstartswallowfield.co.uk for further details and a booking / contact form.



As this will be the last update before Christmas, may we take this opportunity to thank each and every one of you for your support, whether financial or otherwise as without you we could not do what we do.

The whole team therefore would like to wish each and everyone of you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Regards,

Swallowfield Community Responders

Swallowfield.cfr@gmail.com. www.swallowfieldresponders.co.uk