



Swallowfield Community Responders

Dear Supporter

Welcome to the first update for 2014 for all of the kind supporters of our Group.

January appears to have got off to a busy start for the group as we were deployed 35 times:

	January	TOTAL
AREA	Calls - Month	Calls - YTD
Other	7	7
Spencers Wood	6	6
Farley Hill	4	4
Whitley	4	4
Shinfield	3	3
Arborfield	3	3
Reading	3	3
Three Mile Cross	2	2
Beech Hill	1	1
Riseley	1	1
Lower Earley	1	1
Swallowfield	0	0
Hampshire	0	0
TOTAL	35	35

The "other" category included calls to Burghfield and Mortimer where we continue to see calls to help in this area.

The ladies seem to have had a really bad month in January as they accounted for most of the patients we visited! We attended 28 female, 5 male and 2 children. The average ages for the month were: Female – 61, Male – 56, Child – 5.

During the month most of our calls were to people complaining of central chest pains, although we did also attend someone who had badly cut their leg, an asthmatic and a death.

As we respond to calls out of the immediate area, obviously our time to scene will increase as we are not allowed to speed and have to obey all the rules of the road. However, having said this, we still managed to get to scene on average in just over 7 minutes and were first on scene in the vast majority of cases, thereby being able to provide that valuable assistance as early as is practically possible.

January was unusual for us in that it was Gary and Chris who had over half the calls between them and the whole group was able to be on call, at the disposal of the Ambulance Service for 400 hours in January, equivalent to 12.9 hours per day!

Events

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

Fundraising

We must say a huge thank you to the Swallowfield Horticultural Society who once again have supported our group and have kindly donated funds to help keep our vehicle on the road.

We must also say thank you to the Shinfield United Churches, who also kindly gave a donation and to the Shinfield OAP Club, who in lieu of sending out Christmas Cards donated the monies to us.

Our vehicle remains one of the most important pieces of equipment we have and it is by the kind generosity of groups like this that we can afford to keep it on the road, so thank you.

Volunteers

We have 2 people wanting to join us. One will be able to help cover the odd day at a weekend and the other who will be able to assist where we are vitally short – during the week. Unfortunately one of the new recruits has suffered an accident and has a broken ankle, so he has not been able to attend his training session. The other recruit will attend training as soon as is possible.

We are always on the look out for weekday volunteers, so if anyone knows somebody who may be interested, please ask them to contact us.

Team News

As you may have recalled Gary, our group co-ordinator was appointed as one of the 3 public Governors in Berkshire for the South Central Ambulance Foundation Trust and has been an active member since the Foundation Trust was formed. Gary decided not to seek re-election due to the treatment by the South Central Ambulance Service of Community Responders in connection with their complete u-turn on the use of amber light bars by responders together with the complete lack of any financial recompense from the Trust. 2 things have since happened. Firstly we are delighted to say that Ian Hammond, the founder of our Group has taken up the mantle and was elected as the new Berkshire Governor and secondly in the past couple of weeks we (& other Responder Groups affected) received a letter from the new Operations Director in the Ambulance Service, offering financial recompense. At our group meeting last week we all agreed that we would respond to this letter and ask for compensation.

HEARTSTART SWALLOWFIELD

This continues to be a great success. At the time of writing this update we had trained 96 people, our next course is full and the one after that has 6 people on it. We are currently trying to schedule another course for Global Knowledge, who have 10 people wanting to be trained. If you have not seen what people are saying, please visit: <http://www.heartstartswallowfield.co.uk/what-people-are-saying/>. We think that the following really encapsulates what it is all about: *"Thank you for a brilliant HeartStart course last week – you have given me the confidence to help in an emergency. Fantastic teaching – very clear and hands on. Everyone should go on one!"* If you, yourself have not as yet been on our course, then please consider doing so as its only a couple of hours of your life and that might just be enough to save someone else's! We have already had 2 people who attended our course come back to us saying that they had already used the skills taught and were confident in doing them – so it really can make that difference! Future course dates can be found at <http://www.heartstartswallowfield.co.uk/events/>. Please help spread the word as our aim is to train as many people in the Community as we possibly can.

As ever, we thank each and every one of you for your support, past present and future.

Regards,

Swallowfield Community Responders

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