



Swallowfield Community Responders

Dear Supporter

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

In March we were despatched 32 times, including 6 stand downs, which when you imagine the adrenaline is pumping after having received the call and you are on your way, can be quite frustrating.

The analysis of the call areas was as follows:

	March	YTD
AREA	Calls - Month	Calls - YTD
Other	6	15
Spencers Wood	5	19
Shinfield	4	9
Farley Hill	3	8
Whitley	3	10
Reading	3	6
Swallowfield	2	2
Arborfield	2	7
Riseley	2	3
Three Mile Cross	1	7
Lower Earley	1	2
Beech Hill	0	1
Hampshire	0	1
TOTAL	32	90

We were called out 6 times to areas outside of our area, mostly Mortimer as we were the closest available resource at the time of the call. Obviously without having the capability of using blue lights and being allowed to drive faster than the speed limits, our response times to these incidences can be quite long and sometimes because of this we are not always the first to arrive. The important thing however is that we attended to help someone, as it only takes that one time to make the difference.

That being said, our average response time in the month was still just over 7 minutes.

The calls we attended included; chest pains; stroke; breathing difficulties; convulsions; continual vomiting and an allergic reaction.

The ladies dominated the call outs this month as we were despatched to 20 ladies, 10 men and 2 children, with average ages of 58, 62 and 9 respectively.

Events

As we move into spring, we are now securing places at various events:

15th April – Speaking at the Beech Hill Annual Parish Meeting 7:30pm

31st May – 1st June, we will be at the Farley Hill Equestrian event within Swallowfield Park

14th June is the Swallowfield Church Fete

28th June is both the Lambs Lane School Fair and the Shinfield Church Fete.

If you are able to, please do come and see us.

Volunteers

We are pleased to say that Andy has passed his exam and is now able to respond. We just need to sort out his uniform and his driving assessment and then he is ready to go. Barry has kindly offered to take him out on a shift on the Responder DRV vehicle in Reading where he will gain some very valuable experience.

Stephen is due to take his exams next week and we hope that he too will be able to respond.

We urgently still need some volunteers and will be running an advertisement in the Loddon reach again soon. Again if anyone knows somebody who might be interested, then please do let us know.

Team News

The team members all undertook their 6 monthly recertification in March, which is a requirement of the South Central Ambulance Service and all passed.

Equipment



This month saw a change in our hand held terrafix unit. Thanks to the generosity of [Global Knowledge](#) we are now the proud owners of a Galaxy Tab unit, which is slightly larger than our old HTC unit, has a longer battery life and has a better signal reception. I am sure that all of the team will agree that the [Terrafix unit](#), apart from our vehicle is the best investment we have ever made. For those of you who are not aware, the Terrafix unit is effectively a normal phone turned into a data terminal which allows the Ambulance Service to track us and despatch us automatically which is a lot easier than via the normal procedure. It provides us with much more details about the call and turns into a satellite navigation unit with normal pin point accuracy as it uses grid references rather than postcodes. This is invaluable as in our area there are quite a lot of houses with no numbers. It also allows us to seamlessly go into other areas without fear of getting lost! We really must thank Global Knowledge for

their continuing support.

We also took delivery of a new top for our gazebo which we use when at events. The difference with this one is that it is printed with our name and logo on all four sides, so it should make us stand out a bit more and bring more people to our stand. We have to thank Gala Tents who supported us with this acquisition and we hope to have some photos of it very soon.

HEARTSTART SWALLOWFIELD

We were in the [paper in March](#), courtesy of the [Wokingham Times](#), which caused some further interest in our courses, so much so that we have no further spaces until August. We are therefore now trying to put on some additional dates.

The people of Stratfield Saye have asked us to deliver another course for them which we are doing in April and the British Rowing Association have also come back and asked us for some more dates.

We hope to be training up some new instructors soon, to enable us to deliver more courses to more people. So far we have trained 127 people with another 64 yet to be trained (based upon current bookings). We are very pleased with the uptake, but also particularly pleased in the interest it is generating about Automated External Defibrillators and their importance in the community.

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