



Swallowfield Community Responders

Dear Supporter

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

May saw an absolute record of a month in that we were despatched a total of 64 times with a lot of assistance being requested to help in Reading.

The analysis of the call areas was as follows:

	May	TOTAL
AREA	Calls - Month	Calls - YTD
Reading	10	19
Whitley	8	23
Swallowfield	7	14
Shinfield	7	26
Spencers Wood	6	35
Burghfield	5	5
Three Mile Cross	4	11
Arborfield	4	17
Other	4	24
Riseley	3	6
Hampshire	2	3
Beech Hill	1	3
Farley Hill	1	11
Mortimer	1	1
Lower Earley	1	4
TOTAL	64	202

When being asked to help cover outside of our area, we can sometimes find ourselves being stood down en route, which is what happened 12 times this month.

We were first on scene 80% of the time, which again, is a great result considering the wide area of calls we were deployed to this month. Our average response times was 6 ½ minutes, although another record was set this month as our response time was actually **zero** as it was actually one of the team who made the 999 call and then asked immediately to be logged onto the job - quite an unusual occurrence!

The calls we attended included; chest pains; stroke; breathing difficulties; abdominal pains, anaphylactic shock and a drowning of a 2½ year old boy (who we understand made a complete recovery by the way).

Yet again, it was the ladies who needed us most with 27 calls, 25 to men, 7 to children and 5 where because we were stood down – we have no details. Average ages were 61, 54 and 9 respectively, so although the ladies need us the most, men need us at an earlier stage in their life than the women do.

In April we logged 404 hours of cover for the community, bringing our total YTD to 1,882, equivalent to just over 12½ hours for every single day.

Team News

At the end of the month we met with a couple of people who had showed some interest in joining our group to help out during the week so we hope that their application forms will be flying into the Ambulance Service as we speak!

Our regular trips on the Responder Dynamic Response Vehicle continue [a vehicle where we can log on and be despatched anywhere in the Berkshire area]. Barry and Gary were en-route to a standby point when they came across a pedestrian and motorcycle accident at Cemetery Junction in Reading. They stopped, were first on scene and soon became embroiled in all of the activity that an accident at a major road junction generates. The paramedics were grateful of their assistance and actually taught us some skills during the incident.

Events

In May we attended the Farley Hill Equestrian event within Swallowfield Park. Barry, Steve and Gary who covered the event thoroughly enjoyed themselves and learned a lot about show jumping! We managed to secure some more people for our Heartstart Courses and one local charity / group was going away to consider us doing some courses specifically for them.

Here is a picture of the crew keeping in the shade under our brand new canopy!



The event itself was also not without drama as whilst drinking a cup of coffee, who did we spy coming into the gates? None other than our own Responder Vehicle which had been despatched to attend a call! There was not much for us to do as there were doctors present and the Air Ambulance then arrived and landed in a field opposite to where we were, but nevertheless we were there in both an official and public awareness capacity.

We thank Farley Equestrian for asking us to attend. We were very impressed with the organisation and hope it was a tremendous success for them – we certainly heard a lot of positive comments.

A reminder that we will be at the following events, so please do come and support the event and pay us a visit.

14 th June:	Swallowfield Church Fete – where we will be demonstrating CPR and encouraging people to attend our Heartstart Courses
28 th June:	Shinfield Church Fete.

You may remember that in the last update we mentioned that we had attended the Beech Hill Parish APM. During our update with the Council this month, we were very surprised and very pleased to hear that the council had agreed to make a donation of £250 to help keep our vehicle on the road. This is the second year that Beech Hill have done this and we are extremely grateful.

Queens Award for Voluntary Service

Earlier in the year the Berkshire Community Foundation nominated us for the above award, which is to recognise groups of volunteers for all of the hard work that they put into the community. It is the equivalent of the MBE for groups. We were of course extremely delighted and very honoured to have been nominated. The Lord Lieutenant of Berkshire invited all of the nominated Groups in Berkshire to attend an event to commemorate their achievement of being nominated and here is a picture of three of our group picking up a certificate of commendation.



Even though our nomination made it through to the **final** judging panel, sadly we were not given an award for this year. Whilst we were obviously disappointed, the fact that we were nominated and made it through to the final selections is a tremendous achievement and one which we are all extremely proud of. We thank the Berkshire Community Foundation for nominating us in the first place and to the two people who sent in letters of support for our nomination.

Event Cover

As an alternative method of raising funds and to be able to help the numerous requests we get from local community groups, we are now actively looking into the possibility of a small team of us being able to provide event first aid cover. This will involve further training and means that we will have to purchase medical insurance cover, but we feel it will be worth it and will help bring some additional funds into the scheme as well as help lower the event costs for community groups. We will keep you informed.

HEARTSTART SWALLOWFIELD

In May we delivered 2 Heartstart Courses, our normal public event in Spencers Wood and one for the British Rowing Association. We are awaiting some dates to teach the residents of Beech Hill.

As our public events are full, we have put on two further dates: 30th June and 31st July, both in the Davis Room in Swallowfield, so please do book your places.

So far we have trained 166 people with another 42 booked but not yet trained and have received comments such as:

“Extremely friendly and well organised team”
“In an ideal world it should be mandatory”

We have to thank the Shinfield Parish Council for actively continuing to support the training of the community in life saving skills as once again they have provided a venue for us FOC, which is important to us as we totally rely on donations to keep us going.

We are particularly delighted to have been asked to demonstrate the CPR part of the Heartstart Course at the Swallowfield Church Fete and to explain a bit more about Heartstart. We hope that it will generate more interest in our courses and more people will get trained and potentially save a life!

The Swallowfield Parish Council has agreed to run an incentive where old mobile phones can be traded in for an Automated External Defibrillator. As soon as we can, we will be putting some artwork together to really publicise it – so watch this space and please do not throw away any old mobile phones!

Our 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

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