



EAST DEAN RESPONDERS

Community First Responders For East Dean, Friston, Birling Gap & Crowlink

Basic Life Support Provided By Local Volunteers

Registered as a Charity No. 113744

edresponders@gmail.com

Annual Report - 2017/18

East Dean Responders is a registered Charity with the objective:-

To provide, at the request of the Ambulance Service, early first response to local medical emergencies primarily in East Dean, Friston, Birling Gap, Crowlink and surrounding areas by volunteer Community First Responders.

We meet our objective by recruiting, supporting and managing a team of Community First Responders (CFRs) who are all volunteers. The CFRs are local people who attend medical emergencies in our community and provide vital care, comfort and reassurance in the moments before an ambulance arrives. They are trained in cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and carry an Automated External Defibrillator (AED) and oxygen, as well as basic first aid equipment. In addition to the defibrillators carried by CFRs we own and maintain two static ones located outside the Village Hall and inside the Barn Stores

CFRs are trained and assessed by the South East Coast Ambulance Service (SECAmb). Regular local training and refresher sessions also take place. Anyone of 18 years and above may become a CFR; and no previous experience is needed. The only requirement is that they have access to a car and can commit to at least 4-6 hours per week.

CFRs log-on to an on-line rota system trying to cover as many hours as possible. Should a local medical emergency arise SECAmb will contact the CFR who is on duty and request that they respond. They cannot be called out by the public – only via 999 SECAmb.

As many will be aware via the media, SECAmb is going through a very difficult time at present. This in turn has impacted on responders including how shouts are managed - hence our call-out statistics are not reported this year. All training and recruitment was suspended and regrettably for various reasons we have lost four team members. This has placed a heavy burden on the present three responders who have faithfully done their best but with what is acknowledged to be a low or no cover for the village over recent months.

Normally our CFRs only attend local emergencies. This is mainly because most of our funding has come from the local community, but also because we can seldom get to an incident before the ambulance if the incident is too far from our area. However, we are

required to respond within a particular radius and so respond to shouts in respect of Old Town in Eastbourne, and Seaford.

We have no regular income stream - all our receipts come from donations. Our thanks go to the Parish Council, the Art Group and the Gardening Club for their generous donations, and to all residents who have so kindly supported us during the year. Pending the outcome of the SECamb reorganisation we have placed a hold on seeking further donation support.

At the year end the EDR charity had nine trustees, four of whom were CFRs; this helped ensure a close working relationship within the organisation. We are here to serve the local community and our thanks go to the CFRs for their dedication and commitment in meeting our objective. We are particularly lucky, and indeed blessed, to have such a willing and hard-working band of trained volunteers in the village making such a significant contribution to the community. We now look forward to the situation at SECamb being resolved as this will allow recruitment and training to restart.

Stewart Fuller

Chair, on behalf of the Trustees of EDR

June 2018