



DOWNLAND HEARTSTART

Community First Responders For East Dean, Friston, Birling Gap & Crowlink Basic Life Support Provided By Local Volunteers Registered as a Charity No. 113744

ANNUAL REPORT FROM TRUSTEES

From our formation in January 2009 to 31st March 2015 our Community First Responders (CFRs) have dealt with 417 calls. However, the number of 'shouts' that our CFRs have dealt with during the year ended 31st March 2015 is only 45. There are two reasons for this. First – The Ambulance Service no longer responds to every 999 call by sending an ambulance or paramedic to the patient. As a consequence a CFR is not alerted. Second - due to retirement or sickness we now have just five active CFRs and clearly they are unable to provide 24/7 cover and cannot respond to all the potential 'shouts'. However, when they do respond to a call they often get there before the ambulance or paramedic. This is very important with serious illnesses and relies on the fact that the CFRs live locally and know the area.

Statistics for the year ended 31st March 2015 are –

Total calls 45

Average CRF response time (Call to on site): 6minutes 3 seconds (this includes 'shouts to the Downs, into Friston Forest & Seaford)

Arrived before ambulance/paramedic: 31 calls

Arrived after ambulance/paramedic: 5 calls

Stood down before arriving: 9 calls.

We are grateful to member Simon Hunt who maintains these statistics for us each year

We are grateful for the commitment of our CFRs, for their skill and enthusiasm and for the many hours that they put aside for this voluntary work. The CFR Team Leader – Flora Richards– is an inspiration to them all.

It is obvious that we need more CFRs and we ask all residents to consider this valuable, life-saving work. No experience is needed although you must be 18 or over, be reasonably fit and have the use of a vehicle. The training is very thorough and on-going and provides skills which will last a lifetime. So please phone Flora Richards (our Team Leader) on 423882 or Lys Page (her deputy) on 423484 for an informal chat. You will be made most welcome.

During the year the Ambulance service decided that CFRs should be trained to take more specific and more detailed observations of patients. Our CFRs have now all undergone this training. Some of the necessary equipment needed was supplied by the Ambulance Service. The rest was purchased by us using money organized by the Parish Council.

We are pleased that we have adequate funds for any foreseeable expenditure.

We continue to check and maintain the defibrillators which we supplied for the Village Hall and the Barn Stores.

July 2015