



# DOWNLAND HEARTSTART

## Community First Responders

### For East Dean, Friston, Birling Gap & Crowlink

#### Basic Life Support Provided By Local Volunteers

Registered as a Charity No. 1137441

### TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT 2013

Since we started in December 2009 our Community First Responders have dealt with 330 emergencies. During the past year - 1st March 2012 to 28th February 2013 there have been 69 calls and the average response time has been (Call to on site) 6minutes 7 seconds. The average time that the Responder is on site before the Ambulance/Paramedic is 10minutes 23 seconds and there has been only 11 instances where the Paramedic or Ambulance arrived before our Responder. There have been 10 instances when our Responders have been stood down before arriving at the patient.

The Responders have not attended as many 'shouts' in the last twelve months as in previous years. There are two reasons for this. (1) The ambulance service now operates a triage system whereby a 999 call will not always be dealt with by sending out a paramedic or an ambulance. Instead the caller may be asked to contact their own GP or take themselves to hospital. So, if an ambulance or paramedic is not sent nor are our Responders. (2) There are now five active Responders and there used to be nine. Clearly the amount of time that they can cover between them is limited and so there are cases when none are on duty when a local medical emergency arises. Clearly more people are needed to volunteer before coverage improves. Finances are in good shape and donations continue to be received from time to time.

There are now five fully trained Community First Responders in our team and a further volunteer is awaiting training. SECAMB have modified the training system which is now done by a series of compulsory modules.

Our membership has barely increased during the year and we are currently checking to see if those names that we have really want to remain on the membership list. Because there is no annual membership fee there is no means of checking this otherwise. The Objective of Downland Heartstart as registered with the Charity Commission is - To provide early first response by trained CFRs to any appropriate emergencies primarily in East Dean, Friston, Birling Gap & Crowlink areas at the request of the South East Ambulance Service. Trustees are pleased to report that this objective is being fulfilled, limited only by a shortage of volunteers.

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