

Broseley Community First Responders

annual report for 2017

Community First Responders are unpaid volunteers trained by West Midlands Ambulance Service to respond to 999 calls in their local area. Every CFR response is backed up by WMAS paramedics, but, as the name suggests, the intention is that the CFR will arrive first, and those vital minutes can be of crucial importance in the care of a patient.

As well as responding for the ambulance service Broseley CFRs also train local people in lifesaving CPR, and work with others on the installation and management of public defibrillators. WMAS supports the scheme with training and medical supplies, but all other costs have to be raised within the community.

In December 2017 there were three CFRs in Broseley, with one in training. Your local responders in 2017 were: Mark Jones, Phil Revell (sec.) Stewart Hallyer – with Emily Jones in training.

In November Simon Harris kindly offered to act as 'Chair' for the group, but he does not respond.

Call-Outs

This was a busy year for the response team with 146 emergency triple-9 callouts by Broseley's three responders, including three callouts on foot!

2730 miles were covered in the Broseley scheme car, purchased in January

Lots of events were covered, including: Broseley Cricket fireworks, Broseley Xmas Lights, Broseley Joggers Xmas run, Broseley Juniors Hospital Cup, Classic Motorbike Rally. Lots of support received from our many friends and supporters.

Scheme Car

In January 2017 we were fortunate to be offered a Honda CrV in very good condition that had served as the scheme car in another area. We bought the vehicle for £1000, and spent a further £696 on responder markings. Stewart Upton offered to be the 'scheme mechanic' and he has done a great job in keeping our car on the road this year.

CFRs with the correct level of training together with scheme vehicles with appropriate markings may attend road traffic incidents. The Broseley team were signed off at this level in September, and attended our first call a couple of weeks later.

In just less than 12 months we spent £808 on fuel, £672 on insurance, and £562 on fitting a Terrafix communication system. WMAS fitted an ARP radio and dock and by the end of the year we had the same standard of comms equipment as used by professional crews.

Public Access Defibrillators

The Broseley First Response scheme also supports the installation and maintenance of public access defibrillators in the area. The first installation was outside the Victoria Hall, and in 2017 we worked with the Birchmeadow Centre and Birchmeadow Fields Committee to install a second PAD site attached to the Birchmeadow building. We have also given a defibrillator to the Cricket Club, and we expect that in 2018 we will convert that unit into a PAD site by installing a defb box to the

outside of the building. We have two 'spare' defibrillators and we are in discussions about possible sites in Jackfield and near the Tileries. In each case we can supply the defibrillator if the community can supply sufficient funds for the defib box.

Finance

In 2017 we raised £4446 and spent £6318*.

We have a community bank account with Lloyds. We began the year with a balance of £3469 and ended with a balance of £2271*

£1582 was raised in Broseley via our collection boxes and donations. A further £1700 was raised via bids to local funding groups. We would like to record our thanks to the Lady Forester Trust who donated £1500, and to the Blakemore Foundation (Broseley Spar), who donated £200.

Ongoing support is offered by a number of Broseley businesses and groups, but special thanks must go to Broseley Cricket Club, who have raised nearly £700 for the Responders over the year.

In November we applied for a lottery grant via the Big Lottery Fund to enable us to upgrade our personal defibrillators and scheme car equipment. In December we learnt that we had been successful with our bid, being awarded nearly £8000 – this will pay for the comms equipment mentioned above, plus two new defibrillators at nearly £2000 each, plus some additional equipment for the car. We received this money in January 2018 and expect to complete the programme upgrade by the end of March 2018.

* The bank figures include some expenses refunds from WMAS and do not include a cheque issued in December – so overstating our financial position by about £674.

Training

Through 2017 we have been undergoing training for a new CFR qualification – the Certificate in Ambulance Service First Responding. The paperwork elements to this process have been frustrating due to staffing difficulties at WMAS, but the practical training has been well worthwhile, and all the Broseley Responders are well on the way to completing the qualification.

Looking Ahead

We are looking ahead to a successful year in 2018, hoping to serve our community in any way we can.

The main challenge for the future is the need to replace the scheme car. We think the current vehicle is good for another couple of years, perhaps three if we are fortunate. Our fundraising effort therefore needs to be focused on buying a new vehicle – not necessarily brand new – in 2020 or thereabouts. At that time we will need to consider new vehicle graphics and the transfer of the current 'responder adaptations' in addition to the cost of the new vehicle. The fundraising for that begins now. We also need to consider the need for additional CFRs in Broseley. Three years ago there were six CFRs, now we are down to three. Three is not enough to offer adequate cover. At the moment WMAS are not training new CFRs due to staffing commitments, but we need to make the case for recruiting additional people as soon as WMAS is able to restart training.

Phil Revell – secretary, Broseley First Response Scheme. March 2018