

Debenham First Responders



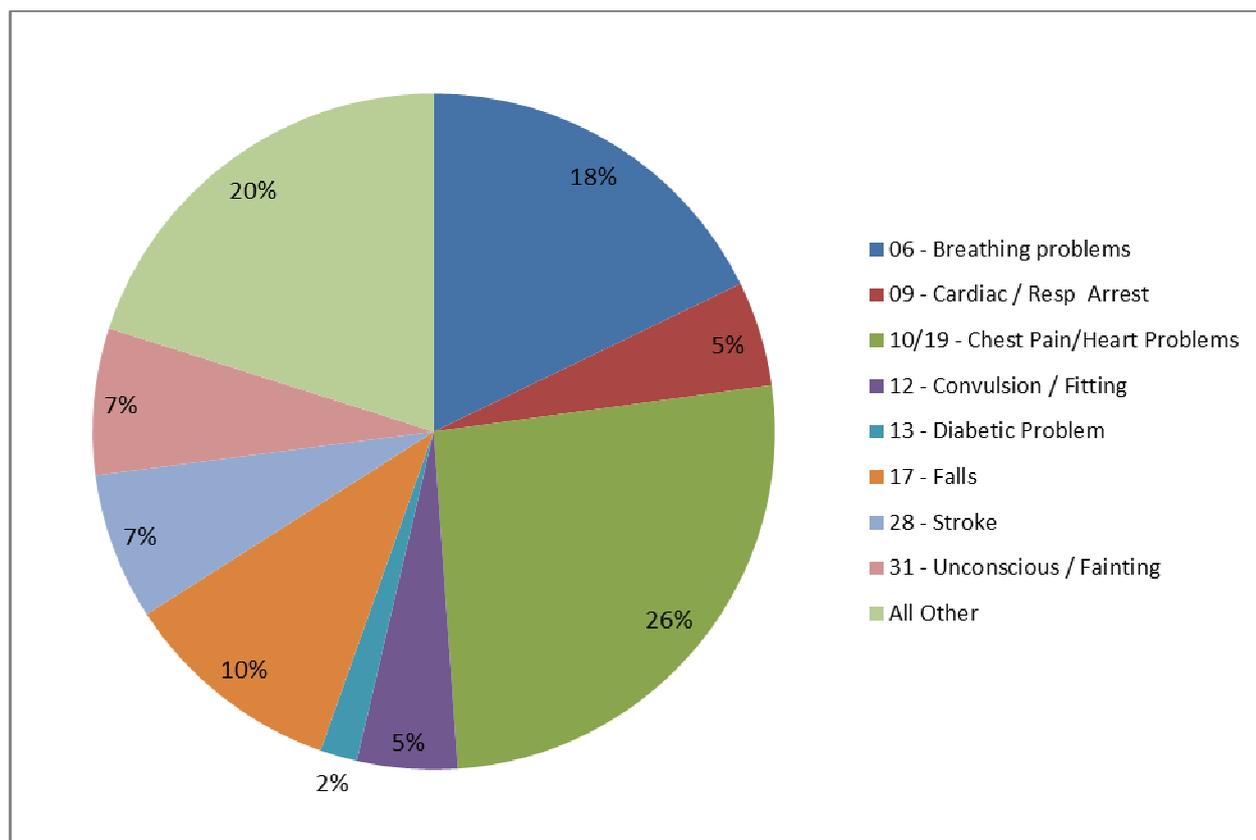
Report to Debenham Parish Council, 27 April 2015

We are a charity funded group of volunteers who provide emergency medical care to the people of Debenham and the surrounding villages. We work with the East of England Ambulance Service and are dispatched by them in response to 999 calls for certain medical emergencies such as cardiac issues, chest pain, breathing difficulties, and suspected strokes. Because of the relative remoteness of Debenham it is not unusual to wait 20 minutes or more for an Ambulance; by contrast we generally arrive in less than 5 minutes!

Call summary, year ending December 2014

2014 was our busiest year ever, we responded to 119 calls in total, 20% more than 2013 and 27% more than 2012. Approximately 75-80% of our call are within the parish of Debenham.

The chart below shows the major categories of complaint we attend. The figures refer to the 399 call-outs between Jan 2010 and Dec 2014.



Debenham First Responders



Open evening

Following the success of our September 2013 open evening we held another open evening in September 2014 in lieu of our usual monthly training meeting. Several member of the community came along to see us and we were able to use our training kit to provide hands-on demonstrations of life saving techniques. As last year, the evening was a great success, we had several people come along who expressed an interest in joining us and we hope to make this an annual event.

New team members

I am very pleased to report that we have welcomed five new volunteers to the team in the past 12 months: Jennifer Townsend and Joanne Hayward (nee Walsh) qualified in December and are now active members of the team; Angeles and Martin Liston qualified just last week (23 April) and will become active very soon; Nicole Ker-Gibson is awaiting a suitable date for her induction training.

We aim to provide cover 24 hours a day, 365 days a year and we hope that having our new colleagues will enable us to maintain our goal of achieving this target >95% of the time whilst putting considerably less strain on the team as a whole.

Finance

We hold our funds in a local Cooperative bank account and in the East Anglian Ambulance Service Trust account. Current balances are:

Cooperative Account	£1,215.39
Ambulance Trust Account	£1,741.99

We currently operate three sets of kit; each kit includes resuscitation equipment including a Defibrillator; Oxygen therapy equipment; numerous other medical items and more practical items such as SatNav, torch etc. We have placed an order for a new kit which will cost approximately £1800 and we need to purchase protective clothing for new team members which will reduce these balances considerably. We hope if possible to replace our aging SatNav devices in future with a system that will allow us to more quickly pin-point addresses.

We are purely voluntary; we don't get paid at all and even when attending incidents use our vehicles at our own expense. Capital and running costs of equipment are all financed through charitable donations and we are grateful to individuals and organisations in the area that we cover for their generosity. During the past year we have received donations from several local organisations including Debenham, Pettaugh, Helmingham and Winston Parish Councils, our County Councillor's Locality Budget, as well as donations from individuals. The full list of sponsors is posted on our web site <http://www.debenham.first.responders.org.uk/sponsors>. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Debenham parish council for their financial support over the last year and their commitment to an annual grant.

John Feeney-Howells
Coordinator
t: 01728861777 m: 07818402362 e: jfh@atec.co.uk
25 Deben Rise, Debenham, Stowmarket, IP14 6QQ