

Annual Report

2025 - 2026

Final

Red Horse Vale
Community First Responders



Emergency Care. Community Driven.

A message from our Chairperson

Working with the team to produce our annual report is always an eclectic and rewarding experience. Another 12 months have passed, and it is truly humbling to reflect on everything our charity has achieved. Each year, we look back at our meetings, review our incidents and statistics, and celebrate the dedication and accomplishments of our volunteers and responders. This year is no exception.

Over the last 12 months, our volunteers collectively contributed 2,799 hours to on-call duties, meetings, training, events, and the many unseen tasks required to keep the charity running. By asking all volunteers to record every hour they give, we are building a clearer picture of what it truly takes to deliver our organisation's objectives.

What stands out most is the unwavering commitment we see from our Responders. Regardless of the time of day or the weather, they continue to offer care, compassion, and professionalism during some incredibly difficult moments. Their ability to step forward when their community needs them is the foundation on which this charity is built.

This year also marked the launch of our new charity sponsorship programme. We are delighted to continue our long-standing partnership with Kineton Music Festival, and we warmly welcome Avon Studios, Gilks Garage Café, and several others who have joined us in supporting the mission we work so passionately to deliver. Their contributions, financial, practical, and moral, make a tangible difference to our ability to serve the community.

We were also honoured to be named finalists for the Stratford-upon-Avon Charity of the Year Award, a recognition that reflects not only the dedication of our volunteers but also the trust and support we receive from the communities we serve. Being shortlisted alongside other outstanding organisations is a testament to the impact our team continues to make.

As we look ahead to the next 12 months, we do so with ambition and realism. Our goals include increasing our callout numbers through greater availability, expanding our life-saving training sessions, and managing more public-access defibrillators across the region. We recognise the challenges we face, particularly around the recruitment of new responders due to external factors within West Midlands Ambulance Service's recruitment processes and ongoing budget pressures. Despite this, we remain committed to offering the best possible service to the communities, villages and organisations that rely on us



James O'Neill
Chairperson

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What do we do?



Community First Responders

Our dedicated team of CFR's attend emergency 999 calls to some of the most unwell patients in South Warwickshire, such as cardiac arrests, strokes, road traffic collisions and chest pain. They are highly trained volunteers who receive training from the ambulance service to a national standard. Their quick response, prior to an ambulance, can make the difference between life and death.



Community Training & Engagement

Our Community Training and Engagement Team deliver a range of awareness training to community groups and members of the public in such things as basic life support and stop the bleed!

They also deliver engagement and speaker sessions for those who just want to learn a bit more about what we do, from show-and-tell to presentations.



Community Defibrillators

We support several communities with managing their Public Access Defibrillators (CPAD).

These units are accessible by members of the public who call 999, the call handler will give them directions and the code to their nearest cabinet.

We work with parish councils and other organisations to keep these life saving resources as available as possible.

100% Volunteer | 100% Donation Funding

Find out more - www.redhorsevalecfr.org.uk

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Our Trustees



James
Chairperson &
First Responder



Mary
Treasurer



Sarah
Sponsorship
& Fundraising



Nikki
Community
Training



Dave
Community Response
(Scheme)
Coordinator

Our Team Members



Tim
First Responder



Hilary
First Responder



Barry
First Responder



Martina
First Responder



Emily
First Responder



David
Trainee
First Responder



Rachel
Trainee
First Responder



Louise
Logistics & Event
First Aider



Cath
Community Defibrillator
Coordinator



Keith
IT Support



Lucy
Community Training
Officer



Becca
Community
Engagement Officer

Our People

There have been several changes across our teams over the last 12 months, welcoming numerous members, and we also see some long-standing members depart.

Barry, who has been our resident CFR in Wellesbourne since 2017, has decided that the time is right with his career and family to step away from the charity and hang up his stethoscope.

Louise has also made the difficult decision to resign from her post as our Logistics Officer, stepping away to spend more time with her family.

Sarah, our Secretary, has also made the decision to move away from her position as the Secretary from our AGM in June.

We welcome on board Lucy, a registered Nurse, to take on some of our Basic Life Support Training, Emily, our newest CFR based in Long Marston and Becca, our Community Engagement Officer.

At the heart of our charity is a simple mission:

Saving lives and strengthening the resilience of our communities. We do this through emergency response, life-saving training, and by increasing access to community defibrillators.

What makes this mission truly special is the people behind it. Our volunteers come from all backgrounds, retirees, students, engineers, business managers, but they share one vision: to step forward for their community when someone needs help.



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Our charity update 2025-2026

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Our Operational Numbers

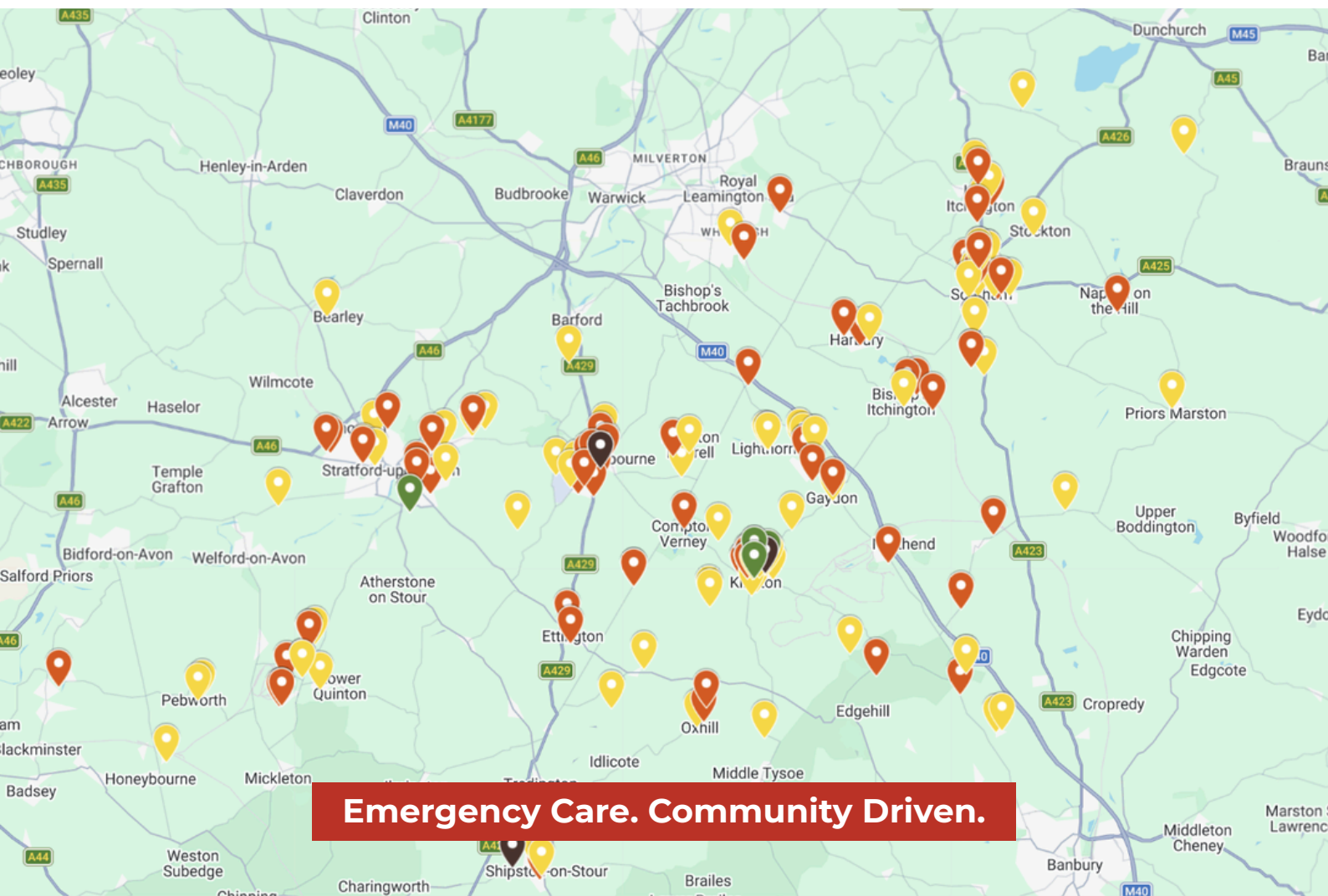
Our team covers one of the largest and most geographically diverse areas in South Warwickshire and within the West Midlands Ambulance Service footprint. Our patch spans 230 square miles, taking in farmland, major road networks, more than 60 villages, and two sizeable towns.

Over the last 12 months*, we have responded to **188** emergency calls, including 105 Category 2 incidents, and we arrived on scene before the ambulance resource in over 90% of cases. This early intervention remains one of the most impactful contributions we make to patient outcomes.

Thanks to the dedicated portal developed by Keith, we are now able to accurately record all volunteered hours and call-outs, embedding data-driven insight into the heart of our organisation. This system also enables us to create visual tools, such as the demand map shown below, which help us understand where our support is most needed and how we can best serve those communities.

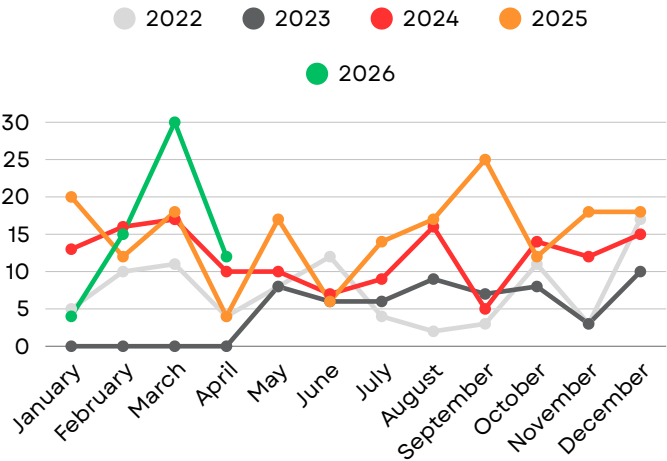
It is important to remember that even if someone calls 999 from outside of our operational footprint, our commitment is to deliver care and treatment to anyone who needs it, especially if a First Responder is available and able to arrive first on scene.

*From May 2025 - May 2026 - amended due to draft and finalisation of the report.



Our Charity In Numbers

Call Outs



In 2025, we responded to 188 incidents, and in 2026 we expect this to rise to around 192, an increase of approximately 5%.

In 90% of our call-outs, our First Responders arrived on scene first. The remaining 10% reflects occasions where we arrived after the ambulance crew, or where we were specifically requested by the attending crew to provide additional support.

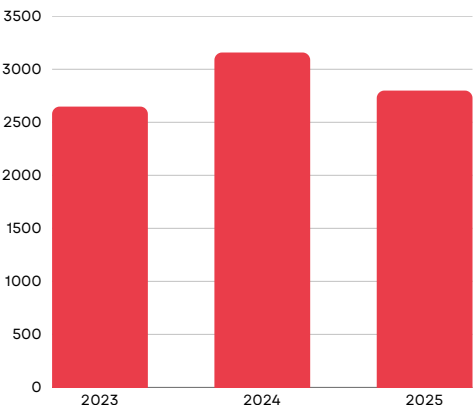
This year, we also saw a shift in our incident profile, with Category 2 incidents becoming our most prevalent call type.

Our volunteers provided 2,799 hours of On-Call time in 2025. While this represents a 14% reduction in hours, it coincided with an increase in 999 calls.

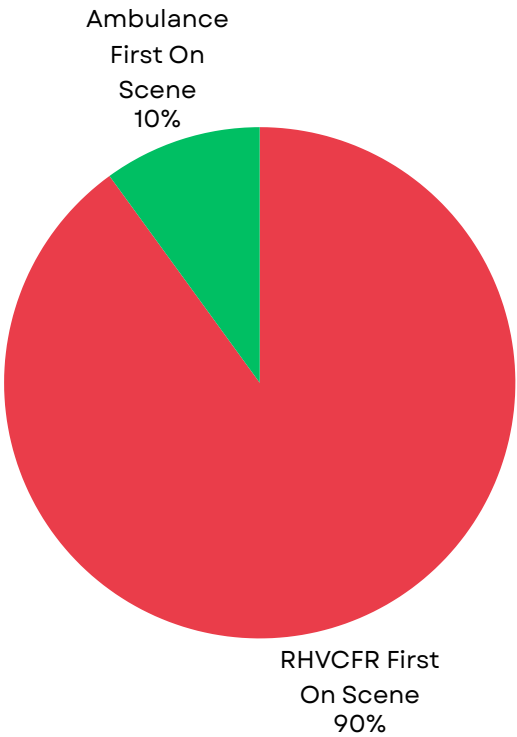
Total Call Outs

2024 - 144 **2026 - c192**
2025 - 188

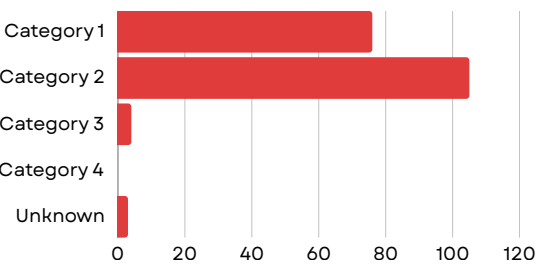
Hours On-Call



First On Scene



Call-Out Category



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Ambassadors

Ambassadors and those with lived patient experience are an essential part of who we are as a charity. Their voices, stories and perspectives help us show the real impact of our work in a way that statistics alone never can.

We are incredibly proud to be supported by our Ambassadors, including Andy Collett and Duncan Mitchell CBE, who each bring a unique and powerful connection to our mission.

Andy Collett, a cardiac arrest survivor from Kineton, offers a deeply personal insight into the difference early intervention can make. His experience, courage and willingness to share his story help our team, and our communities, understand the life-changing value of rapid, skilled emergency care.



Duncan Mitchell CBE, suffered two life-threatening emergencies in 2025 related to his stage 3 Multiple Myeloma, during which our Responders arrived within minutes to provide urgent care alongside West Midlands Ambulance Service. Duncan credits the combined efforts of our team, the ambulance crews and Warwick Hospital with saving his life. His story underscores the vital importance of rapid community response.

*“Your proximity to the communities you serve, combined with the skills and character of your First Responders, means you can reach people in imminent danger quickly and give them a chance of survival they may not have if they waited for an emergency ambulance” ~
Duncan Mitchell CBE*

Read Duncan’s Story on the next page

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Duncan's Story

The spring and summer of 2025 were very challenging for my wife and I. It was during this period that the Community First Responders helped to save my life, twice.

It all started when my T11 vertebrae collapsed causing intense pain, and a subsequent series of tests unexpectedly revealed that I had undiagnosed stage 3 Multiple Myeloma, an incurable blood cancer that had attacked my blood, bones and kidneys.

I started on what can only be described as a brutal course of treatment which included radiotherapy, weekly chemotherapy and immunotherapy, as well as an extensive cocktail of daily drugs.

Myeloma causes me to have a severely compromised immune system and puts me at high risk of rapid onset sepsis, in some cases I will have less than an hour to get to a hospital and start intravenous medications.

I called upon the services of the West Midlands Ambulance Service, who in turn requested support from Red Horse Vale's Responders, Tim and James, both of which were deemed life threatening and subsequently resulted in a blue light run to Warwick hospital.

On the second occasion, my wife called 999 as I couldn't stand up without feeling as though I was passing out and I was gasping for breath.

Fortunately for me, a CFR arrived within minutes and helped by administering oxygen. I was still very distressed and I genuinely believed I was dying. The ambulance crew arrived not long after and they worked together, performing an ECG and diagnosing dangerously low blood pressure.

When I arrived at Warwick A&E, it was discovered that as well as blood clots in both lungs, I was carrying almost 14 kilos of excess fluid, a side effect of my treatment, that had gathered around my heart and lungs, restricting their ability to function.

I ended up staying in hospital for three weeks as they worked on getting me well enough to be at home.

There is no doubt in my mind that without the efforts of Red Horse Vale Community First Responders, West Midlands Ambulance Service and the team at Warwick hospital, I would have died.

I'm extremely grateful that all of you work so hard to fundraise, equip, train and respond to our community's medical emergencies, helping to keep us safe, day and night, all year round.

Thank you

Duncan



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Community First Responders

Our team has worked hard to deliver on our objectives over the last 12 months, and increasing on-call availability has remained central to supporting our communities.

We continue to be 'in residence' at Wellesbourne Fire Station and were even invited to take part in a road traffic collision training exercise during one of their drill nights. This gave some of our team the opportunity to work alongside the firefighters in a simulated critical incident and to experience the intensity of providing basic life support while wearing full PPE including Hi-Vis jackets, helmets and gloves included.

Recruitment now takes place only once per year, with governance, clinical frameworks and operational response all managed externally by West Midlands Ambulance Service.

Unfortunately, all new recruits are still required to respond in a marked response vehicle rather than using their personal cars, as was historically the case. With only one marked vehicle currently available, this has inevitably limited our capacity to respond to 999 calls. Despite this challenge, our team has continued to attend an increasing number of emergencies.

We were incredibly fortunate to receive a £5,000 award from Jaguar Land Rover to support the purchase of a second response vehicle, an essential step in meeting the growing demand across our patch.



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Community Engagement & Training

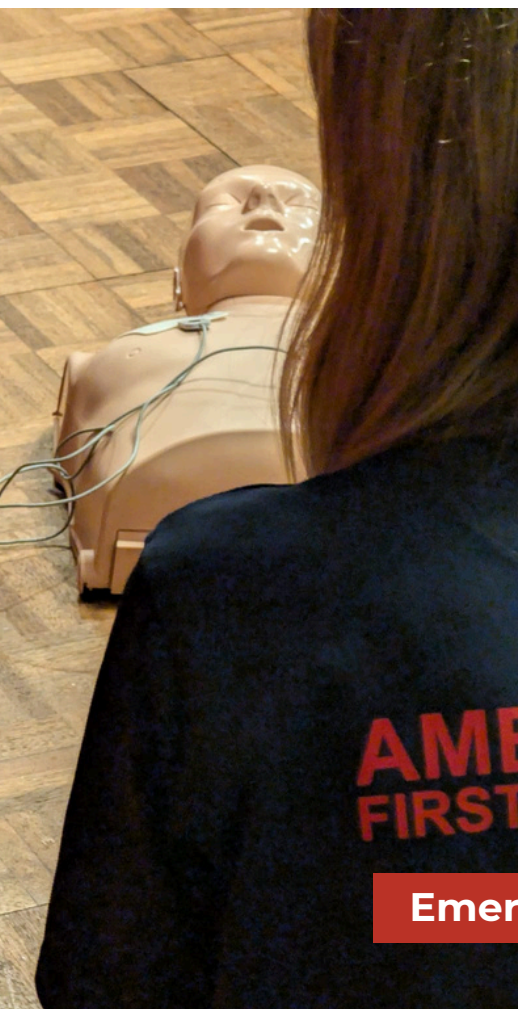
We continue to receive regular requests from local groups for community training activities. From Basic Life Support to catastrophic bleeding control, these sessions are always met with enthusiasm by the organisations that request them. Throughout the year, we also delivered numerous “show and tell” visits and engagement sessions.

Our focus is always on ensuring that the people we train get the most value from our time, providing clear, practical and accessible skills that can make a real difference in an emergency.

What we achieved this year

- Expanded our training and engagement team with additional volunteers
- Updated all training content in line with the 2025 Resuscitation Council UK guidelines

We recognise that this area of our work has significant potential to grow. We want to make it easier for community groups to understand how to access our training and what support we need to deliver it effectively. Strengthening this offering will help us reach more people and continue building confidence and resilience across our communities.



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Community Defibrillators

This year we continued to support and maintain a growing number of Community Public Access Defibrillators across our area.

Our work has included routine maintenance, replacing batteries and pads, resolving technical issues, advising community groups on new installations and providing post-installation training. We have also supported several communities exploring new CPAD placements, offered guidance on funding and governance, and helped improve access to The Circuit where needed.

New batteries and pads were installed across Ettington and Kineton, and a loan defibrillator was placed at Ettington SPAR. Norton Grange residents are progressing their own CPAD and have asked for our support, including PR involvement and a post-installation training session, with Kineton Sports & Social Club being considered as a venue.

Wellesbourne continues to be supported whilst they manage their own cabinets.

The pilot has been running well over the last 12 months with other villages, such as Pillerton Priors and Loxley seeking support with management.



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Sponsorship & Fundraising

We have been making progress with our Sponsorship & Fundraising program over the last several months, developing our sponsorship levels, meeting with potential sponsors to discuss how their money and their support will make a difference to our charity, and their communities.

We had the pleasure of being one of Kineton Music Festivals primary sponsors again for 2025, and also for 2026. Their donation of around £6500 enabled us to keep going out and seeing patients, continued delivering life saving education and enabled us to invest in new equipment and uniforms for our volunteers. (Check out our photoshoot on the next page).

We also have the pleasure of welcoming Gilks Garage Cafe in Kineton, and Avon Studios in Wellesbourne onboard as official sponsors.

Bespoke Sponsor



Bronze Sponsors



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Sponsorship Opportunities

Our charity area has grown and so has our team, responding to more 999 calls year-on-year. By sponsoring us, you directly fund essential medical equipment, vehicles and the sustainability of our charity. Together, we can ensure that every call for help in our community is met with a well-equipped responder, ready to make a difference when minutes matter.

Sponsor a Heart

£100

- Receive a unique Red Horse Heart plaque to display
- Name on our website
- Certificate of sponsorship

Bronze Sponsor

£500

- Logo and detailed publication on our website
- Certificate of sponsorship
- Social media recognition
- Recognition at community events
- Basic Life Support training to your business

Silver Sponsor

£1000

All Bronze benefits, plus:

- Your logo on our response vehicle
- Regular social media recognition throughout the year
- Logo included on our event banners
- Opportunities to be featured in press activity, including our AGM and community events

5

Places

Gold Sponsor

£1500+

All Silver benefits, plus:

- Sponsor a Responder - social media recognition, logo on equipment and uniform*

1

Places

Bespoke Sponsor

Sponsor community training, support us with meeting space or anything else. Working with you and your budget to ensure your support has meaningful community impact and appropriate recognition.

100% Volunteer | 100% Donation Funding

Interested in finding out more? Email us
Sponsorship@redhorsevalecfr.org.uk

Find out more - www.redhorsevalecfr.org.uk

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Events as Fundraising

From Kineton Music Festival to the British Pedal Cart Championships, from the Southam Remembrance Parade to Loxley Fireworks Night, Banbury Star Cycling Club, the Fulready Dog and Pony Show, and so many more – our team has been to loads this year.

Too much sun, too much fun, a bee sting, a twisted ankle, a head injury, and a whole range of other ailments... we've seen a bit of everything over the last 12 months.

Our events serve several important purposes. They help us raise vital funds through donations in exchange for our support, they give us valuable exposure by meeting people and sharing what we do, and they allow our responders to practise some of their lesser-used skills... including the occasional plaster application.



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Our Treasurers Report

Receipts	
Donations	£7,247
Fundraising	£7,100
Collection Boxes	£0
Other Income	£0
Total	£14,347

Payments	
Protective Clothing	-£887
Equipment	£843
Fundraising	£100
General Expenses	£2,843
Total	£2,899
Net Receipts	£11,448

Balance on accounts	
Current	£20,353

Treasurer's Notes

Please note the summary above is on a simple receipts basis and makes no allowance for depreciation of assets. 2025/26 accounts are formally submitted to the Charities Commission and available to view online.



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-End of report-

Our mission is simple, saving lives, and building stronger, more resilient communities through emergency care, life saving training and community defibrillators.



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