

# Partnership Matters

Issue 6 May 2010

Welcome to the latest edition of Partnership Matters! This is Wiltshire Fire & Rescue Service's regular newsletter for our partners.

It was a great honour to see the Safe Drive Stay Alive partnership receive recognition at Swindon Borough Council's Excellence Awards. The programme is a shining example of what can be achieved by pooling resources and sharing experience, and I hope we are able to continue delivering this highly effective road safety roadshow for many years to come.

I hope you find this newsletter helpful – if there is something you would like to know more about, please do tell us. Our contact details can be found on page 4.



**Andy Goves**  
Chief Fire Officer and  
Chief Executive

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## Road safety partnership wins Council award

A road safety partnership led by Wiltshire Fire & Rescue Service has won an award from Swindon Borough Council.

Safe Drive Stay Alive was presented with the inaugural Local Area Agreement (LAA) Award by Council leader Cllr Rod Bluh at a ceremony held at the Wyvern Theatre in March.

Given as part of the annual Excellence Awards, the LAA Award recognises the organisation or partnership that has done the most to help Swindon Borough Council achieve the needs of local residents, with nominations coming from the Swindon Partnership Board.

Road Safety Development Manager Ian Hopkins said the award had been welcomed by the entire Safe Drive team. "Every single person who is involved in the Safe Drive Stay Alive programme wants to keep young people safe on the roads. We also want to engage with partners such as Swindon Borough Council to make sure that the message is getting to everyone who needs to hear it. This award shows that what we are doing is recognised and appreciated, and hopefully this will help us to develop the roadshow further in the future."



**Cllr Rod Bluh with members of the Safe Drive team - (l-r) Steve Colwill, Jackie Cripps, Clare Brixey, Ian Hopkins and Adam Akers.**

Safe Drive Stay Alive is led and primarily co-ordinated by Wiltshire Fire & Rescue Service, and is well supported by other major partners, including Wiltshire Police, Great Western Ambulance Service, Wiltshire Council, Swindon Borough Council, SWIFT Medics, RoadPeace and road safety charity Brake.

# Fire Service task for skills competition

New College Swindon hosted the southern heat of the WorldSkills Uniformed Public Services competition on 29 April.

A total of 24 teams from colleges across the South competed for a place in the national finals, to be held in June, taking on challenges set by the Army, Navy and Fire & Rescue Service.

Each team comprised eight competitors, and they faced a range of different challenges including an Army standard fitness test, a military climbing wall, a written test, a command and teamwork task set by the Royal Engineers based on an IED stop and search exercise, and casualty extrication.

This last element, organised by Wiltshire Fire & Rescue Service, covered incident command, safe cordoning of an incident area, vehicle stabilisation, accessing vehicle safely, casualty welfare and safety, stabilisation of the casualty within the vehicle, treatment of injuries, extrication of the casualty and evacuation to ambulance.

The team from New College was the day's winner, and will now go on to represent the South at the national finals. The national champion will have the opportunity to compete in the international WorldSkills competition, to be hosted by London in 2011.



# 'Blue lights' Show makes charity donations

Cheques totalling over £12,000 have been presented to ten charities by the organisers of the annual Emergency Services Show. The presentation was attended by CFO Andy Goves, Chief Constable Brian Moore, and the Chief Executive of Great Western Ambulance Service David Whiting.

The Emergency Services Show, held at Hullavington airfield, is run by a volunteer committee from the three 'blue light' services. Last year's event, the fifth, attracted over 10,000 visitors who came from across the region to see the array of emergency service vehicles and demonstrations on offer.



All profits are ploughed into charitable donations to support organisations with links to the emergency services. Cheques from 2009 were presented as follows:

- The Fire Fighters Charity - £2,500
- Bobby Van Trust - £2,250
- The Ambulance Service Benevolent Fund - £2,250
- SWIFT Medics - £1,250
- WILSAR (Wiltshire Search & Rescue) - £1,250
- RAPID UK - £750
- Wootton Bassett Sea Cadets - £500
- Victim Support - £500
- Berkshire Search & Rescue Dogs - £400
- Have a Heart Appeal - £400

The 2010 Emergency Services Show will be held at Hullavington on Sunday 12 September. For further information, or to book a trade stand, visit [www.emergencyservicesshow.com](http://www.emergencyservicesshow.com)

## Partnership developed with SWIFT Medics

The Service is looking to work more closely with SWIFT Medics, which officially launched as a charity in its own right on 22 April with a reception in Devizes.

The group of doctors and paramedics provide immediate medical care across Wiltshire at the scene of road traffic collisions and at sudden, severe medical conditions such as heart attacks, meningitis and asthma attacks.

SWIFT Medics currently has ten active immediate care doctors, together with paramedics and nurses with immediate care interests as members. As well as close liaison with Great Western Ambulance Service and Wiltshire Air Ambulance, the charity has been a great supporter of Safe Drive Stay Alive - its doctors participate in the presentations.



ACO Chris Hartrick and GM Perry Payne were among the guests at the launch of SWIFT Medics.

It is hoped to involve doctors from SWIFT Medics in future extrication training, helping them to understand the constraints that the Service works within at road traffic collisions, and to give firefighters a greater knowledge of the care that can be provided at the scene.

To find out more about SWIFT Medics, visit [www.swiftmedics.net](http://www.swiftmedics.net)

## New Strategic Plan

The Service's new Strategic Plan 2010-2013, which incorporates the Integrated Risk Management Plan (IRMP) and the Corporate Plan, was adopted by the Fire Authority in February.

The plan sets out the Service's priorities and objectives over the next three years, and was developed following consultation with staff, Fire Authority members, and key stakeholders.

Presentations were given at all the Wiltshire Council Area Boards and the Swindon Borough Council Cluster meetings, to ensure that as many people as possible had the opportunity to get involved.



To view the Plan, visit [www.wiltshire.gov.uk](http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk) or call 01380 723601 to request a copy.

## Tackling arson together

The Fire & Rescue Service worked closely with Wiltshire Police during February and March after a spate of arson attacks involving fireworks in Chippenham.

A total of four separate incidents led to pillar boxes and properties being damaged, but the fear was that any future attacks could cause a serious fire and lead to possible injury or death.

The Service and the Police combined forces to visit young people at Chippenham's three secondary schools, where they highlighted the dangers of misusing fireworks.

In addition, residents in the affected areas were contacted in a bid to gather information about the culprits, and shops that sell fireworks were targeted to ensure that they were fully aware of their legal obligations, particularly in relation to checking the age of customers.

As a result of this joint approach, incidents of arson involving fireworks have stopped.

# Firefighters form part of international rescue effort

Two Wiltshire firefighters spent ten days deployed in Haiti earlier this year as part of the international search and rescue effort following the devastating earthquake.

Dan Cooke, who works at the Service's training and development centre in Devizes, and Stuart Hillier, a retained firefighter in Pewsey, are part of the Gloucester-based charity Rapid UK, which sent nine volunteer search and rescue experts to Haiti after the quake hit on 12 January.

Having deployed with technical search equipment, a water filtration unit and some cutting equipment, the Rapid UK volunteers spent seven days searching a number of collapsed structures in the capital of Port-au-Prince and surrounding areas, rescuing two female casualties and assisting other teams with a number of other rescue efforts.



More information about the charity – which relies on donations from the public – can be found at [www.rapiduk.org.uk](http://www.rapiduk.org.uk)

## Salamander course for young carers

A group of 12-14 year olds from Swindon Young Carers learnt how to be a firefighter earlier this year, thanks to the Salamander programme.

Salamander encourages participants to work as a team, while building up confidence and self-esteem – it involves firefighting skills with hose, pumping appliances and hydrants; abseiling; ladder climbing; search and rescue; casualty care; road traffic collision rescue skills; and water rescue.

Having spent five days at Drove Road fire station, experiencing a basic fire and rescue training course, the group finished by putting on a display of their new skills for family, friends and senior Fire & Rescue Service officers.



## Contact Wiltshire Fire & Rescue Service

You may visit Wiltshire FRS headquarters at Manor House, Potterne, Devizes, SN10 5PP during normal office hours (9am to 5pm, Monday to Friday).

Our switchboard number is **01380 723601** – if you know the extension or name of the person you wish to speak to, an automated system will put you straight through, otherwise you will go through to an operator.

**Email:** [enquiries@wiltsfire.gov.uk](mailto:enquiries@wiltsfire.gov.uk)

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