

# SARS Update, Winter 2020-21



We really hope this finds you well, let's keep everything crossed that 2021 turns out to be a brighter year. It's been a challenging time but the amazing SARS volunteer clinicians gave over 6,000 hours of advanced prehospital medical care throughout Suffolk in 2020. Team shifts were up 25% and they were called out to over 100 locations across the county - all of this during a pandemic and very testing time. We are really proud of the emergency medical care we continue to provide to those living in and around Suffolk. Thank you for your continued support and generosity.

## TREECYCLING

At the end of last year we decided to try a new fundraiser and had a fantastic response to our offer to collect old Christmas trees. We provided this service to local villages between Stowmarket and Thurston. Over 225 trees were recycled and £1,800 raised for SARS – what a result! Thank you to all who booked in trees for us to pick up and recycle - your generous donations are so gratefully received and you often gave way over the minimum donation amount of £5. Our first year of doing this and we will certainly be bringing it back next Christmas. We could not have done this without the wonderful Jamie at JPM Tree Services who collected over 100 trees. Huge thanks also to the team at Sunskips Stowmarket for recycling the trees at no cost to SARS and Woolpit Nurseries for helping us get this off the ground.



## NEW SOLO RESPONDER

2021 has also started well with Critical Care Paramedic Colin Treece recently set up as one of our voluntary SARS solo responders. It can cost around £12,000 to get a SARS solo responder kitted out and ready to respond. This covers all the essential costs of blue lighting the vehicle, blue light insurance, a monitoring unit, critical care bag, specialist drugs and personal protective equipment.

The SARS network of solo responders volunteers thousands of hours of coverage each year and includes some of the most experienced critical care practitioners in the East of England region. These clinicians can make life-saving interventions at the scene of incidents and have helped thousands of patients.





## OLLIE HANDLEY

Nearly a year ago young racing driver Ollie Handley was racing at Red Lodge and in avoiding another accident he came off the track and crashed at 58mph. Ollie suffered a nasty break in his leg but thankfully volunteer SARS Paramedic Steve Murrow was on scene. Steve treated Ollie whilst mobilising the East Anglia Air Ambulance to assist with his treatment and transfer to hospital. Ollie has made a brilliant recovery and after just 6 months was back in the driving seat – he is now racing again and proudly displaying a SARS sticker on his car. Take care Ollie and good luck when racing properly starts up again.

## COVID VACCINATIONS

SARS charity volunteer and retired responder, Dr Andy Mason, previously a GP at Woolpit Health Centre, is currently helping combat the pandemic by vaccinating staff at the West Suffolk Hospital. Thank you Andy for volunteering your expertise and helping keep our NHS heroes in Suffolk protected.



## HOW YOU CAN HELP SARS IN 2021

There are many ways you can help support SARS this year, click on the 3 icons below (fundraise, volunteer and partnerships) to find out more.....

Any help, any leads, any spare time you may have or just great contacts and ideas are always gratefully received as we navigate our way through the “new normal”. It is so important we continue to find ways to spread awareness of the work of SARS and ultimately keep the necessary funds coming in - thank you.



Or Sign up to the **SARS 999 Lottery** to help raise regular income to support our charitable activity. For as little as a £1 a week, you can support SARS volunteers and be in with a chance to win up to £25,000. To sign up please click on the SARS lottery logo or scan the QR code:



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