

STAPLEHURST EMERGENCY HELP TEAM



Minutes of the AGM held on 24th March 2014 in South Hall, Staplehurst

In the Chair: Rory Silkin welcomed all those present who included members of other groups and people from Marden and Headcorn.

Rory reported that the year had been one of consolidation - the excitement now lay in keeping SEHT going. Several members had given talks in other parishes and to other organizations. The Staplehurst Plan has now become a template for other parishes, and it was willingly given to others (without personal details).

There have been no exercises this year, but there was one real call-out.

At Christmas we did not respond to a power outage because we were unaware of it; this is a matter for review. In February when electricity was out in Headcorn Road estate the telephone tree was activated. A shelter was offered; although no one came, the system worked smoothly - which is what matters.

Although this is the AGM, there will be no elections. Positions will be considered at the next meeting.

Chris Else of Kent Fire and Rescue spoke about emergency planning. He expects that Community Resilience across the country will become big news in the near future.

At present plans are being prepared for JESIP (Joint Emergency Services Interoperability Program) at national level to overcome previous failures of cooperation between emergency services.

Following from that will be the Kent Resilience Team, coordinating blue light services with KCC and others in emergency planning. Discussion and questions followed regarding the role of local teams such as SEHT.

More general questions and **discussion** followed about
SEHT's risk assessment
the distribution of the telephone to other groups, including churches
publishing our primary contact number more widely in the parish.

Finally Rory thanked everyone for attending and particularly Chris Else for his talk.