

PRESS RELEASE – IMMEDIATE

BURNT BURGER FALSE ALARM GETS CLUB NEW BARBECUE

Members of The Fourteen Club at Wantage were last night presented with a new top-of-the-range barbecue courtesy of Wantage Fire service. Earlier in the summer, the Club's barbecue and disco at Fitzwaryn School was brought to a sudden halt when some overcooked burgers triggered the fire alarm. The club's barbecue equipment had fallen to pieces during building work at the school and as a result, the cooking was being done indoors in the kitchen. We were all acutely embarrassed as the fire tender arrived within minutes and a team of firemen rushed into the school ready to deal with a real emergency. The fire crew was very understanding and very quickly calmed the situation for our members, all of whom have learning disabilities. Not only that, but our members spent the next half hour being shown over the fire engine by some very patient and professional fire officers.

Last night, Watch Manager Tony Whiting, who had been on the original call-out, arrived out of the blue at the school with colleagues and presented us with a fantastic new barbecue. Club Leader Mark Clutterbuck said "We are all thrilled at this amazing and generous response to what was, after all, a false alarm. Our members thoroughly enjoy our club barbecues and this will ensure they will carry on for many years and save us having to buy expensive new equipment".

Tony Whiting explained that all three emergency services in Wantage raise money for charities which goes into the local '999 Emergency Fund'. They were very pleased to donate the equipment to such a good cause and hoped it would save a few emergency call-outs next summer!

The Fourteen Club is an independent club and provides a variety of social, educational and recreational activities for people with learning disabilities aged 14 years and over from the Wantage and Faringdon areas. We meet every Monday evening during school terms at Fitzwaryn School in Wantage. For more information and details of how you can help us, please contact Tim Pocock on 01865 760526 or email timpocock@lineone.net

Also if you require any more information about this press release, please contact Tim Pocock as above.



The picture shows Watch Manager Tony Whiting (centre, behind barbecue) with members and helpers of The Fourteen Club during the presentation of the barbecue.