

Carols were led by Farnham Brass Band and the school choir which sang carols in the school hall.

Family given best Christmas present

THE Farnham community pulled together to save an elderly man's life and give his family the best possible early Christmas present last Friday.

Brian Younger, 79, was walking past the skate park in Dogflud Way at around 9am when he suffered a suspected heart attack and stopped breathing.

He was found by Carly and Dan Redwood who lifted him off the ground into the recovery position, called 999 and sent two skateboarders to ask for help at Farnham Leisure Centre.

Off-duty nurse Tamsin Cowman responded and administered CPR, restarting Mr Younger's pulse before an ambulance crew arrived just four minutes after the 999 call was made.

The leisure centre's defibrillator was also used in the lifesaving efforts and an air ambulance arrived soon after the emergency call, landing in nearby Brightwells gardens.

Mr Younger was taken to Frimley Park Hospital by road ambulance, where according to his family he is in good spirits and making excellent progress.

His granddaughter Sara Pitkin said: "I would like to say thank you to all involved. They saved my granddad's life and I will be forever thankful - he is centre of our family."

"He is stable, awake and cracking jokes. My nan has thanked everyone involved



An air ambulance arriving at the scene

in saving him and will be forever grateful. We can look forward to an amazing Christmas."

Mr Younger's daughter, Sheila Osborne, added: "I would like to thank every one who helped my dad. He is making good progress laughing and joking. It will be a fantastic Christmas."

And Tamsin, the off-duty nurse who came to Mr Younger's aid, said: "Everyone was amazing, the team work was fantastic and I am so happy he has made a great recovery."

"Having the defibrillator so quickly was fundamental to his outcome. Glad I was

there to help, well done Brian on your speedy recovery!"

A spokesman for South East Coast Ambulance Service also thanked Mr Younger's rescuers, commenting: "We'd like to say a big thank you to everyone involved at the scene. Their quick thinking and actions were vital and gave [Mr Younger] the best chance of survival."

• Three public access defibrillators are available in Farnham town centre - on the outside wall of Farnham Town Council's offices in South Street, at the St John Ambulance offices in Lion

and Lamb Way and at the Farnham Maltings.

Free two-hour courses in emergency life support skills such as CPR and the recovery position are also available via the Farnham Lions' Heartstart group. For more information, email heartstartfarnhamlions@hotmail.co.uk.

The British Heart Foundation currently advocates the Call Push Rescue model for CPR: "CALL 999 immediately. PUSH hard and fast on the centre of the chest 30 times. Give two RESCUE breaths. Keep going until the emergency medical services arrive."

Feared raised over safety