



The NHS in the North West
Excellence in Supply Awards
2015
WINNER

OUR NEXT RIDE MAY SAVE A LIFE. WILL YOURS?
IN ASSOCIATION WITH **NHS** ENGLAND

NEWSLETTER AUGUST 2021

To date our Calls: 102,026 & Runs completed: 99,628

New Bike from Leyland Freemasons:

As we all know it costs to run any charity and North West Blood Bikes Lancs & Lakes is no different. We rely on donations and we have been very fortunate to receive new bikes and funds from many organisations. The Freemason brotherhood throughout the North west have been extremely generous and on Wednesday 21st July 2021 Leyland Masons donated a brand new BMW 1250RT to us. One of our Lady Riders was asked to collect it specifically, Colette Falloon (seen here near the bike) and across from Terry Derbyshire and with our own Chaplain Bishop Michael.



BBC Radio Lancashire was also there and the interviews can be heard by clicking the link below. Once clicked move the time bar to 20:00 and it runs to 25:40.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/play/p09myj7r?fbclid=IwAR3aZVpKo2Ri03WnnJBr1YFq3IZBeQuAcCvR85nvlK902Mi3C03gESGeyQ>

“Volunteers Who Care”

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Registered Charity 1147282

Newsletter compiled and edited by Founder Member: Paul G Brooks

“Mason” First Shift: From East Area Rider Paul Hartley.

Thanks to Leyland Freemasons the new BMW 1250RT (seen above at the hand over) makes its Debut at Pendle Community Hospital, doing just what it was meant to do, help the NHS and maybe one day help save a life.



Hospitals we help, but don't go to:

We all know that all our NHS Hospitals work together, because some have facilities that others don't, so they have to send some samples up and down and across the UK, and like all other Blood Bike Groups we help one another.

Most Christmas and New Year holiday periods our Northern Riders are asked to help relay samples across to Newcastle Children's Hospital. So for you guys/gals this is what Newcastle Children's Hospital looks like, it's part of the Royal Victoria Infirmary, which is a huge hospital on the outskirts of Newcastle-upon-Tyne.

Apologies for the quality of the picture on the left, but it was taken from the top of a "Toon Tour" Hop-on hop-off bus ☺,

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so here's a slightly better one, but boring ☺



Events Past and Yet to Come:



3rd July 2021 and a rather wet day at the **FYLDE VINTAGE STEAM AND FARM SHOW** with 5 Fylde members braving the weather.

Well done all.

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Hopefully the newsletter will be read before this happens, but again volunteers needed for the **GARSTANG COUNTRY SHOW** on 7th August 2021



Yet to come and volunteers needed **THE VILLA WREA GREEN AUTUMN STEAM FAIR AND FAMILY DAY** 4th & 5th September 2021

YET ANOTHER ON THE FYLDE 8th 12th September:

St. Anne's on Sea Town Council are delighted to announce a 5-day September Spectacular in Ashton Gardens.

The event is FREE to attend. Our 'Big Top' tent and marquee venues will showcase music, dance, community group, and business activities from across the Fylde.

A section of the gardens will provide family entertainment with rides, slides, bouncy castle and Helter Skelter, etc.

Local businesses will be present with their Arts & Craft stalls. Food and drink stalls will also be on site.

The whole event has community at its heart and is organised by the Community and Neighbourhood working group of St. Anne's Town Council.

And another:



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Contact us on info@stannesonsea-tc.gov.uk to participate.

Blackpool Vehicle Preservation Group: Classic car and vehicle show, Lytham green, opposite the Clifton Hotel. Sunday 12th September 10 00 ~ 16 00.. Free entry.



Bake a cake:

Ed: I have just been reminded that Becky Pow (nee Newton) and Lee Pow baked a load of cakes and held a Tea Party for our 5th Birthday and Karen Carton baked and dressed a cake just for us. Let's hope we can have one for our 10th Birthday.



From a Controller: Who the public don't see, but who we can't do without

This is the story from just one of our unseen Controllers. When they're on shift they never stop:

This tale begins in 19-frozen-to-death or more precisely 1986

1986 was the year that Allen Artis and Paul Brooks became neighbours, and eventually friends. Motorcycles became a mutual interest, Paul being a long time 'biker' Allen being a novice. Allen needed an economical form of transport to get to and from his work location. So, with encouragement and guidance from Paul, Allen set off on the road (pun intended) to obtain his motorcycle licence. Licence obtained, bigger and better motorcycles were bought until eventually settling on a BMW K100 RT (this is an image taken from the internet, not Allen's bike, but same colour), and this became his mode of transport for a number of years.



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Time past – 11 years – and Allen and Family moved away. Regular contact and the occasional visit kept the friendship going. Many more years past and Paul broached the subject of Allen becoming involved with Blood Bikes. Allen's motorcycling years were now a thing of the past as previously intermated 'it was a means to an end'. Paul wasn't about to give up and suggested Allen could become a Controller. Once again Allen couldn't accept – he was living and working abroad but would give the notion some thought when he returned to 'Dear ol' Blighty'.

Allen returns

Although Blood Bikes was in his thoughts Allen was committing himself to golf, joining a golf club in Blackpool, getting involved with Senior Section (elected Senior Captain), getting involved with Golf Club duties and becoming Club Captain 2016/ 17. All of which prevented him from committing to Blood Bikes!



It is now 2019

Allen visited Paul and got the informal recruitment presentation and Allen said 'YES'. Controller Training Session at HQ was duly booked and attended. Introduction to Sue Wolstenholme, Duncan Oag, Paul Pain, and other potential Controllers completed the course proceeded – Crikey! That was intense! So much information to assimilate in what appeared to be a short time but was actually a couple of hours. Sue became Allen's Mentor and arranged for a 'look-see' session. The session was conducted at Sue's house whilst she was 'ON Shift'. After a brief period of watching and listening (sic) Allen took the helm for a couple of 'live calls' (a bit daunting especially with Sue literally looking over his shoulder). After a cup of tea and a couple of biscuits the session was over, and Allen was looking forward to his first shift – not too bad a prospect because Sue was 'ghosting'.

It is now 2021

From his first shift 07:00 to 13:00 on Sunday 23 June 2019 Allen now has completed approximately 100 shifts, during that time he has spoken to numerous Riders and Drivers, and Controllers while on shift, enjoyed the banter via Facebook, and looks forward to much more of the same - #itswhatwedo!



Ed: In 2020 the Committee asked Allen, a Technical Author, to apply his skills by updating to a controlled status, all the many documents and procedures we rely on.
Thank You Allen.

Another Controller: From Val Walker

A rider, who shall remain nameless to spare his blushes, was sent to a hospital he had never visited before to collect medication from a pharmacy on the fourth floor. The phone rang and he proceeded to tell me that there was no fourth floor. The lift only went up two storeys, would I please check with the sender and get the correct information?

The sending pharmacy didn't know anything other than what they had passed onto me. They made a phone call back to me and advised me that the collection pharmacy was definitely on the fourth floor. By this time I was panicking that I had sent the rider to the wrong hospital!!

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It turned out that some of the lifts only went to the second floor and the rider had to seek out a different lift that went all the way up and the collection was duly done after an hours panic.

*For those that have never had the joy? of working with me, I have a Scottish accent. A polite one and easy to understand, **I think!** I had complained to one of my riders about having difficulty on a regular basis with the accents of staff in a hospital in a particular area. He began to roar with laughter and replied, you are one to talk with an accent like that!!! Duly noted.*

I have been a controller for 3½ years and in the last six months I have taken half as many calls again as I did in the first 3 years.

Ed: Since the Pandemic started **calls to our Controllers** have increased dramatically and consequently so have jobs to our Riders, but remember the Controllers get every call. And considering their numbers have decreased they continue to do a fabulous job. So, **High Praise to them & a Big Thank You.**

Driving Licences (Over 70)

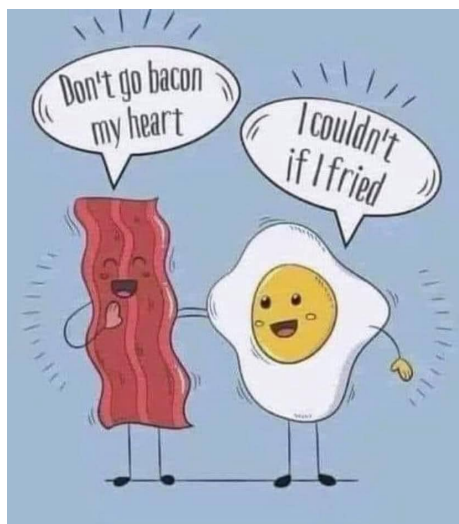
Some of us are over 70, but still active and enjoying Riding & life. Those of us who cherish our Driving Licences for both Bikes and Cars, should have a look at this from DVLA:

<https://www.gov.uk/renew-driving-licence-at-70>

Basically, due to Coronavirus an extension to a driving licence for the over 70's, which only lasts for 3 years, when it has to be renewed, has been extended for a period to allow for the application and renewal of an existing licence during this pandemic. You **MUST** still apply before the expiration of the licence anytime from 90 days prior to it running out.

To all Rider members, don't forget if you renew your licence for any reason, including the Photo expiration date. Please let the Membership Secretary know, when you change.

Fun Stuff:



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An 80 year old lady was marrying for the 4th time.

Keep Calm And Oh Fack It Enjoy Some Cunt

A newspaper asked if she wouldn't mind talking about her first 3 husbands and what they did for a living.

She smiled and said, "My first husband was a banker, then I married a circus ringmaster, next was a preacher and now in my 80's, a funeral director.

When asked why the 4 men had such diverse careers.

She explained, "I married one for the money, 2 for the show, 3 to get ready and 4 to go."

STILL NOT FOUND MY OTHER SOCK!!



Please Remember



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No journey is so urgent as to put your own life at risk

Your thoughts, your ideas, your stories, your Newsletter:

North West Blood Bikes Lancs & Lakes was built on **thoughts and ideas** and they are still as vital today as they were 9 years ago. Best practice always wins, so if you have any good ideas, speak to your Area manager. Likewise, your stories about Blood Bikes or even personal stories if you are willing to share them. If they are personal, **the Editor** will contact you before any publication unlike the National Press people 😊

We also welcome news/funny stories from our friends in our NHS Trusts:

Please email them to editor@nwbb-lancs.org or paulgbrooks@nwbb-lancs.org

STAY SAFE AND PROTECT & HELP OTHERS

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