



December 2017 Newsletter



Welcome to the December newsletter

The Fat Man comes down the chimney this month, so answer me one question: Where did this year go?

There is an old saying: “*The older you get the quicker time flies (Tempus Fugit)*” and I know it’s true and I think some of it is down to the hectic pace of our fantastic charity.

Headlines: Chairman’s Letter: New HQ officially opened: A wedding goes well & Straps for every Rider:

Letter to all Members

Wow, what a year this has been so far, and in 19 days from writing this, the fat man will be coming down your chimney, and I will take this opportunity now, to wish every one of you and our readers a Merry Christmas and a Happy & Healthy New Year. Please don’t forget those who will be on duty over the festive period because that is who we are, that is what we are about, on call whenever we are needed.

What we have all achieved over the past 12 months is absolutely incredible, we are averaging 1,100 call-outs per month (Duncan may correct me on that) from our 5 Hospital Trusts. Some areas are busier than others and on the very odd occasion we have had to close down areas, due to flooding or other severe weather, but we continue to do what we can to help our friends in the NHS.

We have had a few changes to the Committee and as well as managers and members, but we continue to go from strength to strength. We have received some serious funding from several sources allowing us to renew some of our fleet, both ageing bikes and troublesome bikes over the next few months, we now have 3 x Brand new BMW’s on order from the factory in Germany and we have already managed to purchase the last two Honda Pan Europeans in the country, so it seems we are going with Honda and BMW and I have to say the two best marques money can buy. (No doubt there will be some arguments there 😊)

Volunteers Who Care

**NWBB-Lancs & Lakes, Unit 5, Momentum Place, South Rings, Bamber Bridge, PR5 6EF
Registered Charity 1147282**

Our Controllers are a fabulous bunch and sometimes cheeky with it, and that makes it all like a family. If you can't take a joke you're in the wrong place 😊

We have also got a great bunch of fundraisers too, always ready to attend events and even bake cakes, what would bikers do without cakes. Not forgetting all the Back Office people;

Membership, Recruiting, Rota Manager, Events & Talks, we couldn't do it without you.

It's a very inadequate phrase, but THANK YOU all.

New Headquarters:

After 5½ years North West Blood Bikes Lancs & Lakes has been registered with the Charity Commission at my house, and lots of the equipment has been stored in my garage and a spare bedroom. Now we have finally taken possession of a small industrial unit at 5, Momentum Place, South Rings, Bamber Bridge PR5 6EF, which is just off Wigan Road at the back of B&Q, and Denise and I will finally get our house back (which means even more work for yours truly 😊).

Over the past few months several of our members have worked their socks off getting it ready for the official opening, by none other than World Superbike Champion, Carl (Foggy) Fogarty on 3rd December 2017.



But, just prior to the official opening a couple of our members, Russell Curtis and the now Tracey Curtis (nee Ward), who have been working on the unit every weekend for about 3 months, got married in a ceremony performed and blessed by our own Bishop Michael.

Massive congratulations to them.

Photographs by: Niall Miller & Simon Gardner

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Straps for every Rider (for boxes not people 😊) Thanks to Steve Ingle.

Safety equipment manufacturer SpanSet have donated 250 custom made straps to us. The straps will be issued to riders to tie down blood boxes and other items carried on our bikes. The safety and security of our precious cargo is important to us and these straps are made to a high standard to ensure that they do their job properly. Huge thanks to SpanSet for their generous donation and to Suzy Furlong from the company who masterminded the development and production of the straps. Many thanks also to rider Steve Ingle who approached SpanSet to ask for their help in the first place.



Steve Dunstan, Suzy Furlong & Simon Hanson

A Message from UHMB

Hi John, (John Walker)

I just wanted to send you a note to personally thank you for giving up your time to support the Academy of Fab NHS Stuff visit on Tuesday at FGH. I understand that you took time off work to come along to meet with Roy and Terri, and I wanted to let you know how much we appreciate it. The work that you and your colleagues do to support our hospitals and many more across the north west is invaluable, and we are thrilled that you were able to share this work.

Both Roy and Terri were very positive about the things they had heard and thoroughly enjoyed the day. They were particularly impressed with the selfless commitment you and your colleagues show towards the local NHS. I echo that sentiment and on behalf of the Trust, I would like to thank you all for everything you do.

Thank you once again – your input in the day really did help make the visit a success.

Best wishes,
Jackie



Dr Terri Porrett @ Furness General

#hello my name is...

Jackie Daniel
Chief Executive
University Hospitals of Morecambe Bay NHS Foundation Trust

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Relay Donation:

Saturday 11th November, I was asked to help in a relay run from Birmingham City Hospital to Furness General, so I duly rode down to Keele Services to meet up with a Midland Freewheelers rider for the hand over. Whilst waiting for the rider I partook of a Coffee and a man came up to me and said, "I'd like to donate. I'd rather ride for you, but can't, so here's a fiver". I asked him why he couldn't ride and the poor fella had been knocked off his bike a year or so ago and his left arm sustained multiple fractures which left him with only the use of one finger and thumb and a severely twisted wrist, the poor man. He told me that he had received several litres of blood and insisted we may have carried some meant for him.

I explained that we were actually in Staffordshire and the money should go to them, but then he explained that he was from our area, so I pocketed the fiver for our funds. I really did feel sorry for the man, but thanked him profusely, wishing him well.

We never know who we've helped, like him or the person for whom the relay was for, but we know we help someone.

He was a keen biker and loved to ride, so be careful out there you never know what's around the corner.

Events & Talks by Neil McCall

All charities rely on donations, and we are no different. The donations come in many forms but there is no better way in getting word out to the public about our services than meeting people face to face. Talks and events are one of the best ways to meet the public and during 2017, our members have attended over 150 talks and 80 events.

Brenda (events manager) and the team of area coordinators, Becky (Central), Tony (East), Gary J (Fylde), Tracie (North) assisted by Brian (Lancaster) and John (Barrow) and Gary W (West) are responsible for ensuring we get members to attend as many invitations as possible. On top of organising the members, the area coordinators also look after the events equipment and stock in their areas.

Brenda says; "*People always ask if there is a charge for us attending to give a talk and are taken aback when the answer is no.*" All our members give up their time and attend the talks for free. It's not always about the money but more about the awareness. If each person who attends a talk about Blood Bikes tells 10 friends, it raises the awareness of the charity. This could mean the next time they see us at a supermarket, they come and say hello, or they see one of our riders out on the road and give them that bit more room to ensure safe passage through traffic knowing that they could be on a lifesaving run. It could even be that they join the charity as a fundraiser, controller or even rider.

The events we attend can be almost anything.

Tony says *“In the East, the breakdown is something like 9 or 10 outdoor events, 2 food and drink festivals, 3 or 4 kids holiday clubs, 3 or 4 cheque presentations, umpteen talks (some with lunch) and a black-tie dinner to boot! Many of these organisers have rebooked for future dates and some even passed on details to other organisations for bookings.*

Always interesting to see the range of people who like to ‘have a sit’ on the bikes – notably are some of the more senior ladies and even the Lady Mayoress from Leyland.

A vote of thanks goes out to Tim Lightbown of Robin Bank Motor Cycle who sponsors some equipment donations etc. – also for the prize draw that was put on by them at their open day.”

Central coordinator, Becky writes *“We had a very busy and productive year in Central with the vast amounts of talks delivered by our amazing speakers raising awareness and large amounts of money, we were very busy with events too.*

We began the year with the Chorley Yamaha Open Day which despite being in the pouring rain ALL day we managed to attract a lot of people and this was the event that introduced the world of cake to central events as I showcased my baking which went down very well indeed.

The biggest sole event raising nearly £1000 was the Vintage Tea Party which saw members join together with their families and members of the public for an afternoon of tea, cake and blood bikes. This was intended as a one-off event but I have been asked to do it annually and now am already planning the tea party for 2018.”

As well as attending events, we also sell merchandise on our stands. Brian Lord, who looks after the Lancaster area stock, has sourced some extra items to attract people to our stands which we will be trialling in 2018. Lego style models, kid’s diary and an etch-a-sketch type board. All reasonably priced at pocket money prices. These are in addition to the mugs, pens, badges and keyrings that we also sell to raise funds. Denise Brooks (Chairman’s wife) has also just received a delivery of Mop Head pens, which will hopefully attract the kids.

If you have any suggestions on what you would like to see on the stands or have any contacts who may be able to supply items, please contact events@nwbb-lancs.org or your local coordinator.

Requests for talks are coming in thick and fast for 2018, with bookings also being taken for 2019. If your group is interested in the charity attending an event or giving a talk, please visit the website or contact Brenda on talks@nwbb-lancs.org

Easy Fundraising: (Advert, but they do raise money for us 😊)

Did you know that you could be raising free donations every time you and your supporters shop online with <https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk>

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I'm already collecting valuable funds for North West Blood Bikes Lancs & Lakes and easyfundraising is helping another 100 thousand good causes across the UK - just like you - raise millions of pounds a year!

It's really simple - all you need to do is register and tell people to join to support you.

There are over 3.2 thousand shops and sites on board including Amazon, John Lewis, Aviva, thetrainline and Sainsbury's, so funds can be raised on everything, from weekly shops to annual holidays and it doesn't cost you or your supporters a single penny extra to use.

The shop or site pays easyfundraising a percentage of what the shopper spends and easyfundraising turn that into the donation, so it doesn't cost anyone a penny extra.

Over £19 million has been raised so far, so it really does work!

Register now using this link and give your supporters a way to help you that doesn't cost them - <https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/invite/RAUI4F/71LSK1/>

Swan Song:

Cambridgeshire Police were called to a Road Rage incident, only to find a Swan causing the incident by attacking vehicles. The brave Officers eventually arrested the Swan and placed it in their police car.

They suspected it was injured when struck by a truck (well anyone would be annoyed after that), but following a check-up by a vet it was released and.....wait for it.....

IT SWANNED OFF!!!!!!!



Remember what we do

“SAVES LIVES”

but also remember:

NO JOURNEY IS SO URGENT AS TO PUT YOUR OWN LIFE AT RISK

Paul (Founder, Chairman & Trustee)

If I've missed or forgotten something, forgive me, (but let me know, I can always do another supplement) also, if you want something including in the next newsletter? Feel free to Email your copy (text and images PLEASE) directly to me, chairman@nwbb-lancs.org

FINALLY: Stay Safe & Healthy and have a Great Christmas



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