



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 DECEMBER 2020

To date our Calls: 90530 & Runs completed: 88391

MERRY CHRISTMAS EVERYONE



Let's just hope we don't get too much of the white stuff. Great for ski's, snowmobiles and sledges, even 4 x 4's, but not so good for motorcycles. Be careful out there PLEASE.

2020? A memorable Year!

But not in a good way. We have lost people from one thing or another and Covid-19 has taken many people, some family, some friends, but it's not stopped us doing what we do.

"Volunteers Who Care"

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Registered Charity 1147282

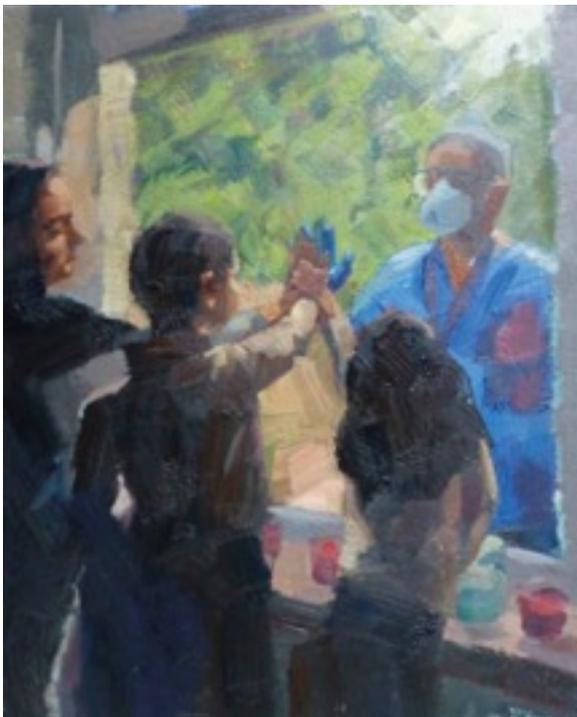
The heroes of 2020 are without doubt our glorious NHS staff. There are stories of Nurses and Doctors working round the clock, some 18 hours a day and some even more trying to save as many people as possible, whilst putting their own lives at risk and some losing theirs.

Our call-outs have increased and we have not only carried the usual items, we've carried Covid samples too.

So, from all of us to all the NHS staff, we love you and



An example of what our NHS staff are still going through:



Dr Muhammad Salman, 36, is a gastroenterology registrar at James Cook university hospital, Middlesbrough. During the first wave, he was redeployed to the Covid-19 ward.

“I spent six weeks living away from the family home – from my wife and three children, who are five, seven, and nine, because one of my daughters is asthmatic.

This painting is based on one of my rare trips to see my family, through a window.”

Painting by Thomas Croft

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Angels on two wheels and other Angels:

This is the time of year where Real Angels are everywhere, (click on the link) to remind yourselves what you do and why you do it. Make sure the sound is on.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Q9kXjt82bOw>

A Picture from 2017:

Events teams, do you remember pictures like this?

When we were able to raise much needed funds. Obviously, we haven't been able to since March 2020 and right through our normal season.

We continue to spend money on the upkeep of the fleet and other items, so the sooner we can get back to normal the better.



To all our great teams, chin up there is a glimmer of hope on the horizon and a big THANK YOU for being so patient.

Covid-19 The Tiers or the Tears? All Lancashire Tier3

Lancashire's council leaders had submitted a proposal to the Government to divide the county into two different tiers after the national lockdown is lifted, but this suggestion has not been adopted by the Government.

The Council's recommendations had been for Preston, as well as the East Lancashire boroughs of Blackburn with Darwen, Hyndburn, Rossendale, Burnley and Pendle to go into Tier 3 restrictions, whilst Blackpool, Fylde, Wyre, Lancaster, Chorley, South Ribble, Ribble Valley and West Lancashire would go into Tier 2.

The Department of Health said decisions on tier levels had been based on a number of factors, including case detection rates in all age groups and, in particular, amongst the over 60s.

How quickly case rates are adding local pressure on the NHS, including current and projected capacity.

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What's the difference in Tiers?

Differences between the new tiers include restrictions on where households can meet up:

Tier one - the rule of six applies everywhere, indoors and out

Tier two - the rule of six applies outdoors but there is no household mixing anywhere indoors

Tier three - can only meet other households in outdoor public spaces like parks, where the rule of six applies

What happens now?

The health secretary said areas placed in Tier 3 will be offered support from NHS Test and Trace and the Armed Forces to deliver a six-week rapid community testing programme, making use of rapid lateral flow tests which give results within an hour.

A review of the new tier system is scheduled for December 16.

The return to the tier system in England comes as scientists warned easing coronavirus restrictions over Christmas could lead to a third wave of the pandemic and another national lockdown in the New Year.

Following today's announcement, the Prime Minister has urged the public to "think carefully" over the festive period after it was confirmed that three households will be able to form a Christmas "bubble" from December 23 to 27.

MHRA Approve Pfizer vaccine.

Well it looks like there's light at the end of the tunnel.



With Coronavirus on its way out (fingers crossed)

According to the scientists, who have done something as never before (by that I mean at lightning speed) by finding vaccines, they are not 100%, but it is felt that they are close

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enough to bring us all out of this awful pandemic. Amazing work and collaboration by scientists around the world.

Stay well and stay safe.

Blue Light Card & Another:

Doug Nowell, one of our members, has come up with another money saving system many of us didn't know about and it is for Health Service workers and volunteers.

www.healthservicediscounts.com All you have to do is sign up on their website and if you don't actually work in the health service, you are by nature a Volunteer, which is catered for.

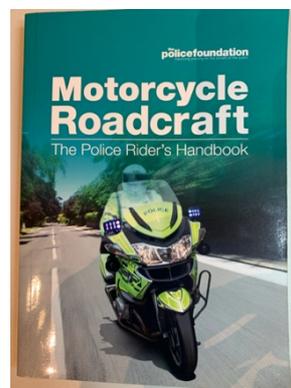
Also, just as a reminder, if you haven't already signed up for a Blue Light card you are missing out on some good deals. www.bluelightcard.co.uk

Road Conditions:

"Ride so you can stop in the distance you can see to be clear".
That's a quote from the Police Bible "Motorcycle Roadcraft"

This time of year, the roads we travel on get slippery, whether it's from the weather, rain, ice, snow or from other vehicles, oil, mud, debris, so we have to be extra careful and extra vigilant.

Below are pictures from a Blood Biker (not one of ours) who came across mud left by a local farm vehicle whilst the rider was travelling in foggy conditions.



It wasn't necessarily the rider's fault it was because the farm vehicle left a deposit on the road. Please be extra careful. It's better to arrive late than not to arrive at all.



Fortunately, the rider only suffered minor injuries.



PLEASE BE CAREFUL OUT THERE.

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When Covid-19 is sorted:

We're starting a new bike training school. Here's a taster of what it will be like:



Lancashire Constabulary
Driver/Rider training school circa
early 1970's.

In those days Lancs training school was one of only a handful in the UK and Officers came from all over. It was also one of the first to be Home Office approved.

For sale:

This from member Colin Kendal following the passing away of a dear friend to cancer:

It's a 2014 Honda CB500 in excellent condition.



“Tom Bentham was a lifelong friend, who I attended primary school with. He was 2 years older than me & got his first bike at 16. I rode on the back until I was old enough to get my own bike & then we rode together until he got an A35 van!

I never stopped riding bikes & Tom started again when he retired. We had about 10 years going out once or twice a week for a few hours covering Cumbria, Durham, Northumberland, Yorkshire & Lancs & reliving our youth!

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Tom always kept his bikes very clean & well maintained. The CB500F was his pride & joy.

I hope it is worth £2,800 but near offers will be considered. All proceeds will go to his son who is a Paramedic with NWSA." Colin.

Yet another epidemic: Stolen motorcycles!

MUM BLAMES POLICE FOR RIDER OF STOLEN MOTORCYCLE COMING OFF IT, Mmmm! Make sure yours is secure at all times.



https://www.manchestereveningnews.co.uk/news/greater-manchester-news/mum-blames-police-after-youth-19286297?fbclid=IwAR0NSsvqhE8cUtMjYMzUsbfLKZITAbXv_liiid5xl4Uvfl2-EGsMJJa4eH7U

Another lost former member:

Many may not remember or even met with former member David (Dave) Wood BBR188



As his BBR number shows he joined us pretty early on and was a Rider for our North Area as he lived in Ulverston.

Denise & I met him on several occasions, he was only small but always smiling and happy.

He had a huge history of helping people, which until now we didn't know about and it is only upon reading his Obituary, published in The Guardian and sent to me by Trustee and fellow Founder, Graham Jones that we have got the full story.

Our sincere condolences to David's family and friends with the hope that his humanity passes on to others in a position to help those in need.

Please check this out: <https://www.theguardian.com/society/2020/nov/09/dave-wood-obituary>

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New Bike “Eric” to replace “Paul”:

Well, the Honda ST1300 “Paul” has served us well, thanks to the East Lancashire Rotary who bought it for us, but he’s done a lot of miles (a bit like the Paul who’s writing this 😊) so he’s being replaced by “Eric” a BMW R1250RT, which has just been dressed by Paul Pain at HQ and looks the part. “Eric” needs a few miles putting on him first before being let loose on Central.



Pity it’s not a Honda though!
(sorry, had to get that in 😊)

Thanks to Paul Pain for the photo.

Speeding in Lancashire:

Speeding motorists are the worst in Lancashire, according to a new survey (something many of us know, it sometimes looks like there are no speed restrictions especially on the motorways) and as a result 88 more speed cameras are being positioned along 5 of the worst roads around the County.



<https://www.lancs.live/news/lancashire-news/lancashire-roads-among-most-dangerous-19309149?fbclid=IwAR1Xdzp21buDW0UwsAyl7TkZvqUeJnC8MxFIsHjWalqomOoLqFtbaYpAoyk>

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A bit of nostalgia picture courtesy of
Becky Newton & Lee Pow

Circa 2017 RPH Gordon Hesling Building.



Where have those 3 years (nearly 4) gone?

Please Remember

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 😊

STAY SAFE AND PROTECT OTHERS

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