



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 JANUARY 2021

To date our Calls: 92,214 & Runs completed: 90,033

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**From all the Trustees & Committee Members**

**to**

**All Members**

*Let's hope it's better than 2020*

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***"Volunteers Who Care"***

NWBB-Lancs & Lakes, Unit 5, Momentum Place, Bamber Bridge, Preston. PR5 6EF  
Registered Charity 1147282

## **“90,000 runs for the NHS”**

At 18:30hrs on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> January 2021 this figure was achieved by our members. Controller was Sue Wolstenholme and Rider was Peter Wright.

Unbelievably this figure has been reached in less than 9 years and it's down to all our members past and present.

What makes it so special though is not particularly the number of runs, but more the number of people we have collectively helped and the amount of money we have saved for our 5 Trusts since Graham Jones and I got together with 2 others (no longer with us) in 2011 to set it up.

At this rate 6 figures is not too far away and that will be a cause for celebration (Covid-19 allowing).

A pat on the back to all members, well done everyone.

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## **Reflect:**

2020, started as any other year, but then things went from bad to worse, not only with Covid-19 but other issues too.

By far the worst was losing a member Gary Entwistle R.I.P. Gary. 3 Committee members resigned. Some issues were not covered but thankfully our new Committee and the Trustees got together made a few changes and now everything is covered.

Our Riders have had more work to do, because of Covid-19 and our Controllers have been stretched, but we have done what we set out to do, and long may it continue.

Our Fundraising teams have somewhat been furloughed, and we have had to rely on the money we have saved because we need the bike maintenance and have to replace older bikes simply because they cost more to repair than newer ones.

We are so fortunate that our Controllers use their own equipment and we owe them a great deal for just getting on with the job, still with that tongue in cheek cheekiness they all have. You have to laugh otherwise you'd cry.

We have had praise from not only the Hospitals, but in December on BBC Radio Lancashire Volunteers were mentioned and a special mention was made to NWBB Lancs & Lakes in the form of *“What a tremendous organisation they are”* spoken by the DJ.

So, here's to 2021 Cheers everyone.

That said we have just gone into another *Lockdown*, so lets hope that with the new vaccines things will get better sooner rather than later.

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## Preston hospital workers line the grounds to pay tribute to worker who died of Covid-19

Chris Mortimer, 71, who worked for more than 20 years at the Royal Preston Hospital in the pathological lab as a phlebotomist, died on the 18<sup>th</sup> November after contracting Covid-19.

As a mark of respect, staff at the hospital requested that his funeral cortege be driven passed the main entrance and the hospital flag was lowered to half-mast. A single North West Blood Biker, Paul Pain, led the cortege through the Hospital grounds at the request of our honorary member and pre-analytics Manager, Maria Burn and Chris's Family.

Chris's daughter Tracey, 51, said: "We weren't expecting so many people to come and stand outside and pay their respects all because my Dad was a phlebotomist, and we were really grateful that a blood biker escorted the hearse through."



Chris leaves wife Anne, children Tracey, Paul and Damian as well as eight grandchildren.

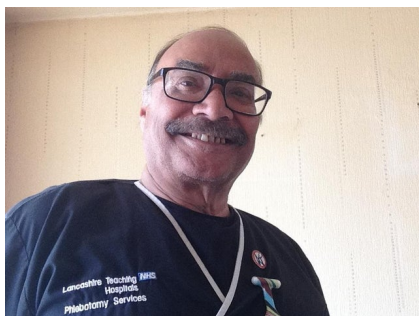
He was still working part-time up to his death.

Colleagues pay tribute their tribute



Tracey said: "He was very adaptable and he had brilliant people skills. He even volunteered to take blood at events run by the hospital for prostate cancer screenings.

Karen Partington, Chief Executive at Lancashire Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, said: "Our thoughts and deepest condolences are with the family and loved ones of Chris Mortimer at this time.



The late Chris Mortimer in his hospital uniform.

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## Above & Beyond

The Camaraderie and Dedication of members of our group knows no bounds. Here's a message from East Area Manager Neil Demaline:

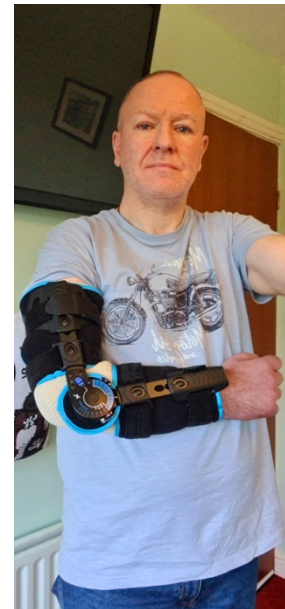
*"I had an op on my elbow in September where they removed a 3" tumour. As a result Trevor Goff, my Deputy, has pretty much run the daily basics on East which has helped my recovery no end. We speak on the phone a couple of times a week, to make sure everything runs smoothly. Without Trev I would have really struggled."*



Trevor (Rainman) Goff, the all-weather man.  
Due to be co-named "Snowman" ☺

Neil goes on to say: *"I have 2 fully functioning legs and 1 fully functioning arm and the other arm will be okay soon, if I keep working on it. I still have to wear a metal brace (picture) which locks my arm at 90° but I am now allowed to take it off in bed, hopefully I will be allowed to take it off permanently in 6 weeks."*

*"My gob still works, so I'm sorted. The tumour was benign, so consider myself lucky. I've been off work since the end of September and have found that not being around people during the day while Julie is at work is challenging. I've been that tired I've been in bed by 7 or 8pm every night for the past 3 months."*



*"During the first Lockdown I had loads I could do, but this last time I've been very limited because I could only use the one hand, but I can now make a one handed chilli and tie my laces, which was a real challenge. My cat "Poo bear" (don't ask) has not left my side and sleeps on my pillow or under the duvet with me. I think she might miss me when I go back to work"*

Neil would like to send special thanks to Peter Leonard and Dave Clough for unwaveringly spending a lot of their own time over many days moving bikes around and getting repairs done, and he goes on to thank all East Riders for filling in the yellow boxes on the Rota at short notice. (ed) [That is mirrored throughout our group, fantastic people and camaraderie.](#)

[Good Luck with the arm Neil, and I think I speak for all of us.](#)

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## Eric Wright Construction:

Are massive supporters of ours and Trustee, Graham Miller, introduced us to them. Since then their charity side has given us funds to continue doing what we do and have recently funded two new motorcycles, seen here with Fleet manager John Garnet and Graham, along with Eric & Alison Wright. The bikes are named Eric & Alison for obvious reasons 😊



## Rudolf The Red Nose Reindeer:

Last year a lady from Wrea Green and her husband made and sold reindeers made out of trees for charities and they kindly chose us last year raking in £650 for us. Well low and behold they have done it again and have donated another £650, which at this moment in time with no fundraising possible is absolutely fabulous of them.

Here's a picture of the little fella.



## The spirit of Christmas, at The Christie



Had a relay run from Blackpool to The Christie on Sunday 20/12/20. First leg by Peter Travis from Fylde and then yours truly and I was amazed to see all these people not wearing face masks, can you believe it 😊

Truly though there were several people taking pictures and even an NWAS crew filming it, it seemed so normal at this time of year and that's just what we need to get back to, some form of normality.

Good on them.

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## Bike Gear for Sale, by North West Air Ambulance Blackpool:

A Lady by the name of Judy (pictured below on one of our bikes) works for the NWAA and they have been given some Bike gear which they want to sell. All money raised by their sale will go to the charity NWAA.



Judy tells me the jacket is a size 50" chest, so assumes the pants match the jacket.

She also says they are in excellent condition and any reasonable offer will be accepted and the money will go to NWAA.

Obviously, NWBBLL doesn't allow the wearing of denim pants because to the public they look like unprotected pants and we try to set an example, but private riding is up to the member.

If you are interested please contact the [editor](#) for contact details for Judy.



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## Now to cheer you up:

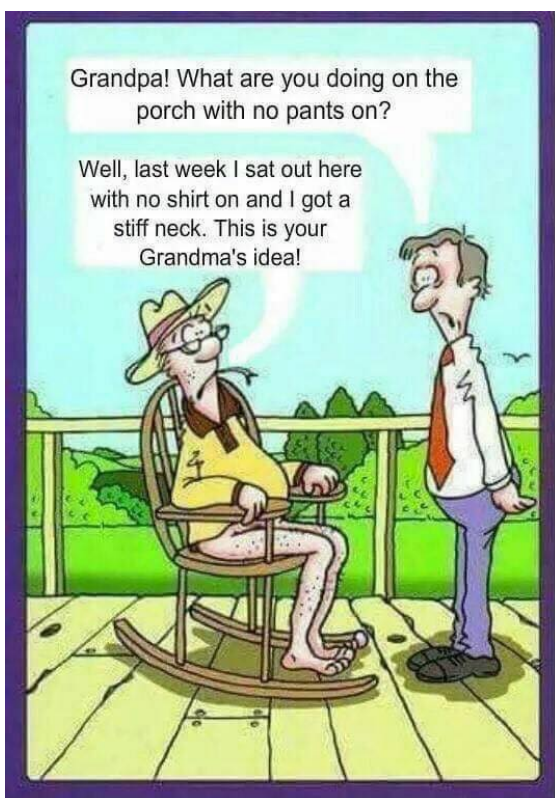
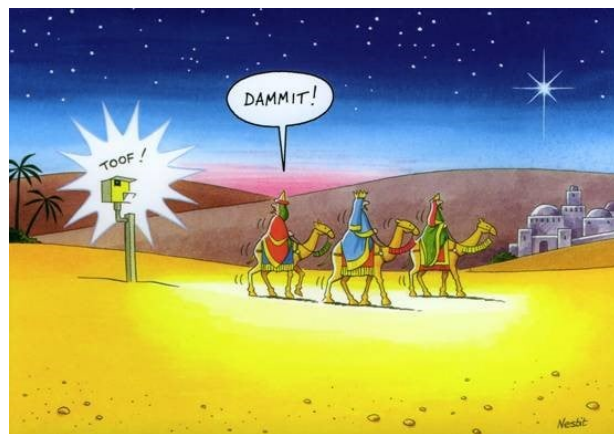


There was an incident at Chorley Hospital a few days ago that all members and Hospital staff need to be aware of and need to be on the alert for any repetition.

A naughty Christmas elf was found to have stowed away on the regular run blood biker's wheels.

The Blood Biker, Keith Bridge, was concerned about leaving him alone to find his way home so opted to take the elf with him on his runs and he was returned home successfully, later in the evening.

The elf has been formally chastised. Keith was rewarded for his compassion with a bar of chocolate.



(ed) As the proud father of twins I thought this quite funny.

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So far 13 birds, 24 aeroplanes, 4 Police helicopters and Superman have been fined for speeding this week.

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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 😊

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**STAY SAFE AND PROTECT OTHERS**

*“Volunteers Who Care”*

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