

**Headlines: AGM: Chairman's bit: Hot off the Press: We will carry on: Swim-marathon: Office 365: Chorley Yamaha: ASDA: Funny phone calls: Bomber Command: Coffee Morning: A bit of fun ☺ I think we need it.**

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## Chairman's Bit:

I am trying to make this May Newsletter as normal as possible because "Life Goes On" as they say. I have struggled so far, but will keep trying.

So many people attended Russell's funeral, not just the 470 bikers and blood bikers, but people from all walks of life and I'm sure Russell would have come up with a joke about it, but things said, and thoughts thought bring us back to the start, so Russ, this poem is for you and I have to confess I have stolen it from Facebook ☺ but thought it so true.

What we have all achieved (past & present members) is truly amazing and our supporters know that.

What we do & give brings rewards, but we should never give what Russell gave. R.I.P. Russ. You will be in our Hearts & Minds forever.



## ***Volunteers Who Care"***

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



This was the scene at the gathering point, the Auction House, just off junction 36 of the M6 this morning (Friday 18<sup>th</sup> May 2018, a day we will never forget) when Vice Chairman, Lee Townsend gave a briefing to the bikers ahead of the funeral procession. At a rough count, at least 470 bikers.

Amazing, there were Blood Bikers and bikers from all over the UK and from Southern Ireland. As far away as Dublin, Cornwall, Sussex, Suffolk, Scotland and many more areas and all in the name of the Brotherhood of Bikers, be they Blood Bikers or just free spirits.

I have to say a massive thank you to everyone, but special mention to our Secretary, Graham Miller and our Fleet Manager, Simon Hanson, because between them they organised the route and logistics, and Lee Townsend for being the family liaison with Russell's family, keeping them and us informed of everything as it was happening. Likewise, Rob Clarke, North Area Manager and all other who knew Russell well.

The people of Kendal were also amazing, especially at Westmorland General Hospital where staff and even patients waited outside and applauded when the cortege went through and slowed to a stop for a brief moment.

On every junction and every corner on the route to the Parish Church, people waited to pay their respects as we passed.

I can't forget Cumbria Constabulary. We had a Police bike rider at the front, making sure we were safe and a Police Officer or PCSO at every major junction and the officers at these junctions each showed their respect by either bowing their heads or saluting as the cortege went by.

If it didn't bring a lump to your throat, you are not human. I had to constantly fight back the urge to cry and at one point failed.

Lee said to me, he had read through the poem he was going to read out in church 100 times to try and get through it in one go, but hadn't managed it without emotion kicking in. Well when he read it in Church he didn't manage it again, and at the same point if you looked around at "Rufty Tufty Bikers", you would see they were not so Rufty Tufty, including me. Such a poignant poem written by a Biker. For those who didn't hear it here it is:

The Biker © Nigel Ward 2016  
(Special permission given)

The old biker rode up to the gateway, not sure of the welcome he'd get.  
His leathers were battered but comfy, and bugger all use in the wet.  
'Ere chap, is it ok to park here?' he called to the guy with the beard  
'Not there' replied Beardie 'They're waiting' which the biker thought a little bit weird.

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'Bring your bike in and park it inside pal' said Beardie whilst opening the gate.  
'Take your time now, there's no need to rush it. No one minds if you're a little bit late.'  
'To be honest, I'm not normally greeted' said the biker a little non-plussed.  
'Us bikers are sometimes looked down on by some folk who really aren't fussed'

'You won't find many of them around here mate' said Beardie with a hint of a smile.  
'Those we don't refuse entry right sharpish are only up here on a trial.  
You see we don't judge by appearances, or the number of tattoos we can see.  
There are far better measures of character as I'm sure you'll be quick to agree'

'The Boss has a soft spot for bikers, as not many down there realise.  
And any that speak ill of bikers, well He gives 'em a few words of advice.  
Some folk look at your outside and shudder at just how fearsome you look.  
With those studs, and leather, and metal, some might be tempted to call you a crook.'

'But here we consider what's inside, and how many good deeds you've done.  
And bikers, well generally speaking, they've accomplished far more than have some.  
I'm not talking of chapel on Sunday, 'cos I know you'd prefer to ride out.  
Or how many toffs you are friends with, 'cos up 'ere that carries no clout.'

'Your language hasn't always been cultured, though you often haven't meant to offend  
And the only time you've been seen on your knees was when you went into a bend.  
But how many times have you gone out of your way to help a brother or sister in need?  
Or given your time, or what's in your pocket, regardless of race, colour or creed?'

'Those days when you've visited a sick child and managed to put a smile on their face,  
Or acted as escort for one of your boys as he's laid in his last resting place.  
These acts that no-one else notices, we keep a close eye on up here.  
And whenever a biker rides to them, we always have somebody near.'

'So underneath all of those oil stains, which don't look the best, truth be told.  
The rough, tough exterior does it's best to disguise, a soft heart, more precious than gold.'  
'St Peter's the name, how'd you do mate' and he offered his hand, strong and steady.  
'Park your bike over there, next the others, then come in 'cos we've got a brew ready.'

WHAT MORE CAN BE SAID?

Purposely left blank:



## Hot off the Press:

First:

By now most are aware that the Freemasons in our area have given us funds to buy new bikes, as well as Frieda and the Rotary. Well the Freemasons of Cumberland & Westmorland met with our Fleet Manager, Simon Hanson on Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> May 2018 and he handed the area's top Mason, Norman Thompson a Thank You Certificate from us. (see photo), but there's more.



This group of Masons, because of what happened, are going to buy us another bike, which we will name "Russell", and Simon has already ordered it.

Secondly: A request has been made by Lancaster Royal Infirmary to Russell's family to name the new Blood Sciences building after Russell, i.e. "The Russell Curwen Building".

Purposely left blank:

## 4 *Volunteers Who Care*

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## **We 'will' carry on:**

Year 7, where have those years gone? Annual General Meeting done and new Committee in place. So, what does the future of the charity hold?

There was only one position on the charity which was challenged, and that was for the post of Vice Chairman. The nominees were Lee Townsend (the outgoing Vice Chair) and Graham Jones (Founder & Trustee). Lee was voted in, but my sincere thanks to Graham for still being there as a friend too.

Over the past few years we hope we have established a bedrock which will continue to let us do what we do. No doubt the NHS will change in some way, it has to, or it will fail, but that's political and as Chairman I am not allowed to voice political thoughts, but it doesn't stop me thinking them 😊.

There are some interesting things on the horizon. A Surgeon at Addenbrooke's Hospital in Cambridge, has asked if all Blood Bike Groups in the UK would be willing to help with a trial by transporting biopsies from potential transplant organs to one of 6 Hospitals around the UK. The answer, "of course we will".

Another is the possibility of having a Doctor on board our Air Ambulances. Up to now the helicopters have Paramedics on board in our area of the North West. Paramedics cannot administer blood to patients, they can only administer a supplement.

Some Blood Bike Groups already run blood on a daily basis to the Air Ambulances in their areas, because they carry a Doctor and it is being discussed here, so watch this space.

At the AGM I informed everyone there that this year will be my last year as Chairman. I'll have done 7 years by then and I think it needs someone younger to progress this fantastic charity. I will however remain as a Trustee, just to keep an eye on things 😊.

Thanks to all members, new and old, for your support. It certainly is a fantastic charity with fantastic people, all with the same state of mind, to help others.

I hope this next 12 months keep us going from strength to strength.

**Full minutes from the AGM are now on the website for all Members to read.**

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## **Other items which have been delayed for obvious reasons:**

### **Swim-marathon:** by Richard Gross

Thursday evening 10<sup>th</sup> May 2018 I, along with Paul Brooks, Colette Courgie Falloon & George Korol were presented with a cheque for £3,000 for NWBB, from Fleetwood & Cleveleys Lions Club as a result in a charity Swim-marathon. This event was a team effort, with people coming together for a worthy cause. Thanks goes to Karen Carton for without, her input, effort and sheer dedication I'm sure it wouldn't have been the success it was.



They even fed us with hot pies and gravy, in cardboard boxes, really different and wooden knives and forks, not a bit of plastic in sight.

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### Office 365: By Neil McCall



If you are like me, a bit of a technophobe, then it can be frightening, but there is help at hand, and the following is from **Neil McCall**:

Thanks to a donation by Microsoft Nonprofits, we have been able to provide all our members with a NWBB Lancs & Lakes email account. The donation from Microsoft is worth up to £108,000 per year.

As well as business class email with a 50GB inbox, all our members will also benefit from access to office online, 1Tb of cloud storage, online meetings and Instant Messaging through Skype for Business, the ability to collaborate on documents with Sharepoint, intranet site for each area plus other features for producing reports or sharing tasks. All this is within a GDPR compliant environment.

As part of the issue of the NWBB Lancs & Lakes email addresses, all our members will be required to use these email addresses to access our online rotas. By now all of our members should have received details of how to access their email account and link the account to google to ensure access to the rota. If you don't have the email with your username and password contact **Neil McCall** on [bbc027@nwbb-lancs.org](mailto:bbc027@nwbb-lancs.org) who will send you the details and instructions. *(It really is easy, it must be, even I did it (ed))*

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## Chorley Yamaha: By Becky Newton

### Chorley Yamaha Open Day 7th April 2018

For the second year in a row this event has been an incredibly wet one, but we didn't let the rain dampen our spirits.

We had the lovely Marion to attract people over and have a chance to sit on a liveried blood bike. (thanks Simon for entrusting her to us), a large selection of merchandise and of course as has become a tradition a selection of cakes to raise money through donations. We had lots of enquiries and hopefully these will result in new members of the charity plus a few future events.



Chorley Yamaha kindly divided the proceeds of their raffle between ourselves and the very worthy North West Air Ambulance which was incredibly generous and gave us a total amount raised on the day of £331.

Thanks to all those members who braved the weather to come and show support, it really does make a difference and its always lovely to have a catch up with friendly faces old and new 😊



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## ASDA: By Becky Newton



ASDA have yet again done us proud with their support of North West Blood Bikes. We have been very fortunate over the last few months in many stores across the region being chosen by customers to win the green token scheme.

Chorley ASDA store is no exception to this and on Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> April we were privileged to be presented with a cheque for £500.

Danny Cronin, Community Champion, a huge believer of Blood Bikes and the

work we do also invited us to do a store collection.

We had a large turnout of members to man the instore merchandise collection as well as to collect outside the store with the liveried bike.

We had an incredibly productive day and the generosity of ASDA customers was outstanding, we raised a total of £535 in donations and through merchandise sales so a massive thank you to all concerned.



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### Coffee Morning:



Pat Thorsby, Tracie, Erin & Dougie were at a coffee morning in Kendal Town Hall by the South Lakeland Lace Makers who have made us their charity of the year.

Poor Pat managed to bring us Frieda for all of 5 minutes before he was called away again!

Pictured is Kendal Town Crier trying Frieda out for size! Sadly the last photo of Frieda.

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### Funny phone calls:

Occasionally we get calls from people who try to spell words using a type of phonetic alphabet I've never heard of. I saw this on FB so thought it might be an idea to pass it on. Anyone with a background using radio transmitters will already know this off by heart, so this is simply for the uninitiated ☺

And, although Morse Code has been officially dispensed with by NATO I still think it's a useful tool in an emergency.

THE INTERNATIONAL PHONETIC ALPHABET			
A	Alfa	S	Sierra
B	Bravo	T	Tango
C	Charli	U	Uniform
D	Delta	V	Victor
E	Echo	W	Whiskey
F	Foxtrot	X	X-ray
G	Golf	Y	Yankee
H	Hotel	Z	Zulu
I	India	0	
J	Juliett	1	
K	Kilo	2	
L	Lima	3	
M	Mike	4	
N	November	5	
O	Oscar	6	
P	PaPa	7	
Q	Quebec	8	
R	Romeo	9	

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### Bomber Command:

I know this has nothing to do with Blood Bikes, but we have a number of volunteers who served in the RAF and of course Army & Navy, but the extract below came in a monthly magazine I receive from my old job and thought it might be of interest. It was written by Ivor Foster (Plymouth):



*I am an ex. Sergeant of the Devon and Cornwall Constabulary and also an ex Bomber Boy of WW2*

*A committee of volunteers has been set up in the Lincoln area and they are dedicated in obtaining as much evidence as possible about the exploits of Bomber Command in the last war. They are also running a competition on Google [www.bombercommandmedal.com](http://www.bombercommandmedal.com) and later delivering all their information to the Military Medals Review in order to get Bomber Command Members a medal for their work in WW2.*

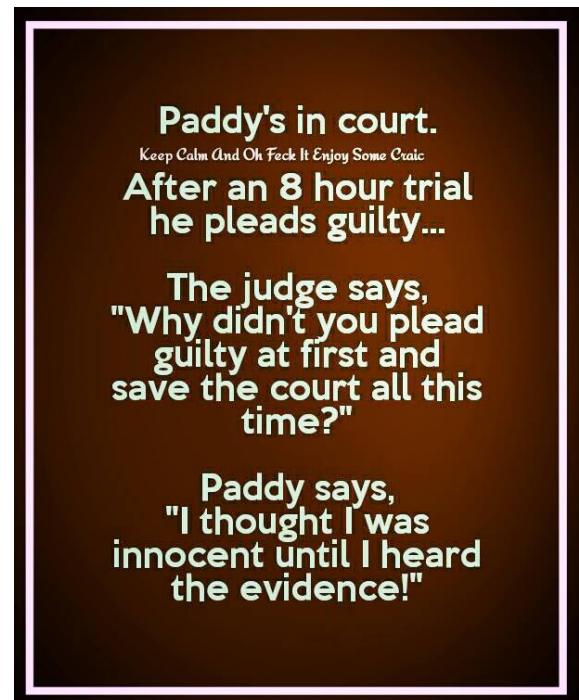
*The leader of Bomber Command, Bomber Harris as he was known, asked Mr Churchill to award this medal to Bomber Command at the end of WW2, but it was refused.*

*This year the R.A.F. will be celebrating their Centenary and this committee feel that this will be the opportunity to present all their findings to the Military Medals Review.*

My feelings for what it's worth, are that these very brave people helped us win the war and should be treated the same as all the other personnel. If you have any evidence, please contact them.

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## Fun Time:



There's more:

## 9 **Volunteers Who Care**

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Speaks for itself



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**Remember what we do  
“HELPS TO SAVES LIVES”  
but also remember:**

**and SADLY this has greater meaning now!**

**NO JOURNEY IS SO URGENT AS TO PUT YOUR OWN LIFE AT RISK.**  
**IF YOU DO THERE COULD BE TWO LIVES 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](mailto:chairman@nwbb-lancs.org)*