



NWBB L&L News



September 2022 Issue



Welcome to the Northwest Bloodbikes Lancs & Lakes quarterly newsletter. Designed to keep everyone up to date with what's going on across the charity. Each month we'll include region, event and personal highlights.

Team News

Message from the Chairman

Welcome to our new format newsletter. Our intent is to publish at least every quarter, with an eventual goal to produce monthly.

As you can tell by our headline picture the main story has of course been the passing of her majesty Queen Elizabeth II and her succession by King Charles III. Many of us have been deeply affected by these events and have grieved in our own ways. As a mark of respect we took the decision to cease attending fundraising activities until after the funeral and national mourning had taken place. We also immediately updated our social media presence and website to convey our condolences.

You might be aware that in 2016 we received The Queen's Award for Voluntary Service (QAVS). Created in 2002 for the Golden Jubilee, QAVS awards have been shining a light on the fantastic work of voluntary groups for many years. Equivalent to an MBE, QAVS are the highest awards given to local voluntary groups in the UK, and they are awarded for life. This will be a constant reminder to us of the service given by the Queen, and will always be displayed proudly on our masthead.

The Committee and Trustees have been very busy in the background implementing the recently approved Constitution, increasing the allowances we pay to riders and drivers given the current cost of living. We are also increasing allowances for our Controllers too, so please watch this space.

Finally if you would like to contribute in any way to the newsletter please email editor@nwbb-lancs.org with your ideas or articles.
Thanks! Colin

Steve Davys - BBD008



On Thursday 15th September Greenacres Funeral centre at Rainford was packed and overflowing as family friends and colleagues gathered to celebrate the life of Steve Davys - BBD008. Steve was an energetic and popular member of the West team having joined first of all as a driver, and who latterly started his training so he could move from four wheels to two.

NWBB were there in full support with the cortege accompanied by two liveried Bloodbikes and a group of riders paying their respects.

At the family's request the service was conducted by NWBB Chaplain/East rider Peter Leonard. Peter spoke from 1 Corinthians of the greatness of love and how Steve radiated that to those around him.

Steve's wife Tracey has told us "Thank you for the support from your amazing team. I feel privileged to have met you all and I'm sure Steve would have had the BIGGEST smile on his face. Thank you everyone who gave up their precious time to honour Steve. Thank you for putting me in touch with Peter Leonard..... I have had so many lovely comments about the service. I knew as soon as I met him he was 100% the right man for the job. Please take care of yourselves, keep doing the amazing work that you do. You are truly heroes!! xx"

To our brave and sadly missed friend - safe home.

Events

You can always find out what events we are attending by checking in online at NWBB L&L website <https://nwbb-lancs.org/events.php>.

While we cannot always be represented at every event, (our core work always takes precedence) thanks to the events team we do attend many every month. Here we are at the Classic over Sands car show when over £3600 was collected for us. An amazing job by David Rees, and organisers Geoffrey Critchley and Derek Seward,



We attended Westmorland County Show over 2 days 7th - 8th September where had the chance to meet up with well known Chef Simon Rimmer (of Sunday Brunch fame) who was keen to sit on the bike in between his appearances at the food theatre. We managed to collect over £1500 at the show. Thanks to the 12 riders and fundraisers who helped out, and a special thanks to Susan Parks and Colin Kendal.



10th Anniversary Celebration

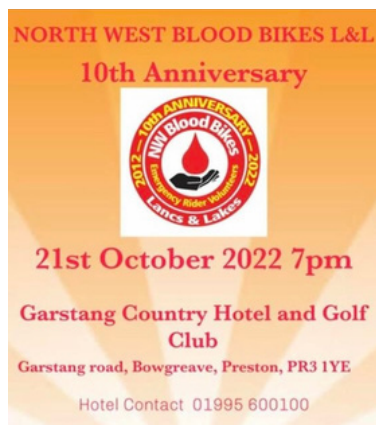
Hopefully you can't fail to have missed that it is our 10th Anniversary Celebration which takes place on 21st October at Garstang Country Hotel and Golf Club.

Thanks to Val Walker, Sue Wolstenholme and Trish Fitzpatrick, tickets have been quickly selling. We are limited to 180 guests for the evening, so if you haven't yet decided to go, get in quick and contact the organisers above.

To keep things informal the event is Smart Casual dress, and we will have a celebration buffet, desserts and tea and coffee together with a DJ for the evening.

We are also holding a raffle with all proceeds going to the charity with some very generous prizes already having been donated.

Tickets are only £25 per person and of course you are invited to bring a partner.



New Members

We are ALWAYS on the look out for new members, so please spread the word, be it controllers, fund raisers, drivers, riders, people with marketing or social media expertise send them to us at membership@nwbb-lancs.org

Fleet Update

We have just taken delivery 2 new BMW R1250 RT LE's which are currently in preparation by Fleet manager Paul Pain ready to be brought into the fleet after being run in and conducting their 500-mile service.



You may wonder what work needs to be done to transform a brand new bike below into a Blood Bike? The extensive list includes fitting of a Tracker for location and speed, high visibility graphics and livery fitted, camera systems for the front and rear, engine and rear crash bars, and of course a custom rack designed to accept the red "daniels" and boxes of blood.

We also have a new Honda NT1100 in service which is currently in use for test purposes in the Central. This will return to HQ this week for evaluation by West region as well. We intend to get feedback from all areas so look out for a message from your Area Manager. So far the NT1100 has performed very well with no adverse comments and plenty of feedback on how it can be improved once aftermarket accessories become more widely available for this model.

Finance Update



Our charity continues to be financially robust and it is hoped that the recent increases in the mileage rate paid to those using their own vehicles will help them as they continue to assist the NHS.

A significant donation has recently been received from Mrs June Hart amounting to £15,000 for the purchase of a new bike in memory of her husband.

Over £3,867 so far been raised by the Just Giving page in memory of West member Steve Davy's, and £2,000 from the Infocus magazine on the Fylde.

A big "THANK YOU" to our Events Teams and Talks Presenters who continue to keep the collection tins rattling and cash register ringing.

Social Media News



The charity has really started to embrace the power of social media with a number of WhatsApp groups being set up across the regions to better facilitate real time communication amongst members. Particularly to ensure that we are adequately covered on shift, or in case of last minute changes.

While this does not replace our tried and tested rota systems and email messaging, (and the good old phone), this is already improving our communications and sense of community amongst the groups.

We are also getting strong engagement on our [Linked In](#) and [Facebook](#) pages. While these social media may not be for everyone, it does allow us to respond rapidly to events - for example, we were able to immediately convey our condolences and at the passing of Queen Elizabeth II.

We also have a Private Facebook Group which is a members only group intended for communications amongst ourselves. The administrators are Paul Pain, John Walker, Mark Entwistle and Martin Walsh. If you would like to join, send a message to any of the above via the Facebook Messenger app.

There is a lot of work to do to maintain and moderate our social media, so if this is something that interests you, please contact any member of the Committee. We would also like to take this opportunity to thank Lee Maddocks, who recently has taken over as webmaster, for the great job he is doing on maintaining the [website](#).