



# November 2017 Newsletter



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## Welcome to the November newsletter



*"They shall not grow old, as we that are left grow old,  
Age shall not weary them nor the years condemn,  
At the going down of the sun and in the morning,  
We shall remember them"*

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### **Headlines: Grand opening of the new HQ: A wedding of two of our members; & Colette gets certified:**

#### **New HQ Opens:**

11:30 on Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2017 the new Headquarters of NWBB Lancs & Lakes will be officially opened by none other than Carl Fogarty, but there's more;

#### **Wedding at the new HQ**

Something which started as a joke statement (Note to oneself: Must learn to keep my mouth shut) has turned into reality, because at 10am (just prior to the official opening) on 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2017 at the new HQ, Tracey Ward and Russell Curtis (both members) are getting married by The Bish. OMG.

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

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## **Last but not least:**

Last Month Colette Courgie Falloon kept a promise to her Brother Marcel, (a member and extremely nice man who sadly passed away in 2016), by passing her advanced riding course with the I.A.M. Well done Colette, Marcel would be so proud of you.



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## **General Meeting 19<sup>th</sup> November 2017: Sir Tom Finney Rooms Preston North End.**

Just a reminder that we are holding our next General Meeting at 10am at the same venue we used in May. Hopefully everything will be sorted this time. They have given me their assurance that it will be.

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## **From little acorns!** (by Steve & Caroline Dunstan)

Earlier this year north rider Mark Livesey asked if he and partner Wendy Lawson (fundraiser) could put an NWBLL collecting box on the bar of the caravan site where they lived.

I think we expected to raise a few pounds over the summer months but hadn't reckoned with a couple of the other residents – Dot and Ernie Winstanley – who would take us under their wing and raise much more than we could have hoped for.

Dot and Ernie run the entertainment in the bar and they rolled up their sleeves and went for it in a big way. They set about organising a family fun day, which was held later in the summer and raised over £900.

Not content with that Ernie decided to do a sponsored cycle ride – from Calais to Marseilles. Now that is a fair distance for anyone but Ernie is 70 years old! He set about raising sponsorship for the ride and when one of the other residents, Keith Gallagher, heard about this he approached his employers who generously offered to double any sponsorship raised!

With the ride completed Ernie and Dot were now up to well over £2,000 raised.

## **2 *Volunteers Who Care***

**NWBB-Lancs & Lakes, Willowbank House, The Clough, Clayton-le-Woods, Chorley. PR6 7DG  
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They thought that they could do a bit more so they organised meat raffles, collections and other activities to take the total up to a massive £3030.

At this stage, we were invited to go along to an entertainment night in the bar to receive a cheque. We duly turned up with the big cheque, and as we walked in the bar we were told that they had increased the total by “another £150 or so” and would be raising more during the night

We were treated to a night of brilliant karaoke (I never thought I would ever say that!) as well as a pie and peas supper. A few drinks were taken, the big cheque was presented and then Ernie told us that they had raised another £210 on the night, taking the grand total to £3359.38



We were all blown away with the generosity and friendliness of those who were there and who had raised the money for us. We owe a huge vote of thanks to all of them but especially to Ernie and Dot who did all this despite a family bereavement during this period.

A special thank you also to Mark and Wendy for working with Dot and Ernie to make this happen and for doing what our fundraisers do – being there, taking part and raising much needed funds.

*pb. Fantastic all, there are some amazing people out there.*

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### **Rotary Talk:**

On a similar vein to the one above, Denise and I gave a talk to the Rotary at Cleveleys on 16<sup>th</sup> October 2017, nothing out of the ordinary, lunch then talk to some lovely people and of course they are part of the club who bought us the new Honda Pan European, but it's what was said at the end by their nominated speaker, which humbled us both.

The speaker stood up, obviously to thank us, but this is what he said:

*“It never crossed my mind how blood and things were transported between hospitals, and I would never have thought motorbikes would be used, but it will now stay with me forever.”*

*“What you and your team do is almost beyond belief, the dedication your team have to helping, not just the hospitals, but the patients too, is astonishing. There are few people in this world today who would not even consider doing it, let alone actually doing it. Your team deserve all the praise they get and I'm sure all the Rotary Clubs, certainly in the North West, applaud you all unreservedly.”*

### **3 “Volunteers Who Care”**

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This is one of hundreds of accolades we receive many times a week, but mainly in emails or letters, but to hear it first hand, beat them all.

All I can say to every member is, you are of a special breed and thank you for being a part of this team. Thank goodness there are more good people around than bad 😊.

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### **RPH Needed Help:**

Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> October 2017 and RPH phone our Duty Committee member, Graham Miller, asking for help because they were extremely busy. *“Can you take samples overnight to Bolton Hospital for us?”*

Obviously, Graham had to contact the Central duty rider, not just to make sure it was okay with him, but because of the atrocious weather of high winds and heavy rain, and to make sure he was prepared to use his car, as bikes had been stood down across the whole of our area. The Central rider was Graham Mair, and he agreed.

His first call was at 20:01hrs and during the night he answered 9 call-outs the last one finishing at 07:43hrs Sunday morning.

9 call-outs is by no means a record, but to do it in weather conditions where you wouldn't throw the cat out and to a hospital we don't normally go to is worthy of praise and thanks, not just from us but RPH too. I have spoken with Maria Burn, the Analytics Manager at RPH, and as always, she is awe struck with what we do.

All that said, every member who went out on that night, doing what we do, also need praising and thanks, again, not just from the rest of us, but from the NHS and the patients. So well done everyone.

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### **Something to consider:**

One of our members recently had his bike damaged in a collision and although rideable, he claimed on his insurance to get it fixed.

The Insurance company sent the bike to a company and their assessor came up with a price of £7,000+ and the Insurance company were going to list it as a category D total loss, because the bike was only worth £5,000+. But our member read the full assessment and found several anomalies, which included several parts being listed more than once.

So, he decided to seek the advice of an independent Assessor and lo and behold the cost of repair was around £4,000.

The moral of this story is, don't take the word of the first assessor, especially those directed by the Insurance companies, as all they want is to close the file and move on.

The bike is now fully restored and not listed as a Total Loss, but more importantly, the owner is very happy 😊.

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### **Boris:**

Does anyone remember Boris? A really comfy bike, and one of our first, but written off by a Lady Driver who was on the wrong side of the road, thinking it was a dual carriageway, which could be understandable had she not lived in the local area.

Astride Boris, in the picture, is former member Al Boyle who now lives in the country which is the home of BMW.



### **Attracting the kids:**

It would seem that Becky Newton, Events co-ordinator for Central, has found another way to attract the kids, not just with Ivy, but NWBBLL Balloons. Well done Becky, I think we need to order some of those.

Denise has just ordered some Mop Head pens too, which we're sure will go down well with the kids at events next year.



### **Printed T shirts, Polos, virtually anything including mugs (the drinking type):**

One of our Members, Paula, has started a business printing clothes, etc., and designing children's fancy tops, known as Fat Cat, named after their huge Garfield like ginger Tom. All reasonably priced and will make donations to NWBB Lancs & Lakes. You send her a logo/wording/idea and she will print it. Here's the link: <http://www.fatcatdesigns.co.uk>



**Whether you are a believer or not, these are nice words from an Irish saying/prayer:**

May the road rise up to meet you  
May the wind be always at your back  
May the sun shine warm upon your face  
May the rains fall soft upon the road behind you  
May you be kept safe through rolling hills and twisting turns  
And from Oil, gravel and dim-witted drivers  
And until we meet again may God keep you in the palm of his hand

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**Easy fund raising:**

NWBBLL is registered with [www.easyfundraising.org.uk](http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk) Please have a look at the website and if you feel like joining please do, because when you purchase items in listed shops or online NWBBLL gets a donation.

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**Finally:**

**Scam Warning:**

Drivers are being warned to ignore a scam email telling them they have been caught speeding. The warning has come from Greater Manchester Police who are being used as a fake front for the fraud.

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**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](mailto:chairman@nwbb-lancs.org)***

**6 *Volunteers Who Care***

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