



The NHS in the North West  
Excellence in Supply Awards  
2015  
WINNER

OUR NEXT RIDE MAY SAVE A LIFE. WILL YOURS?

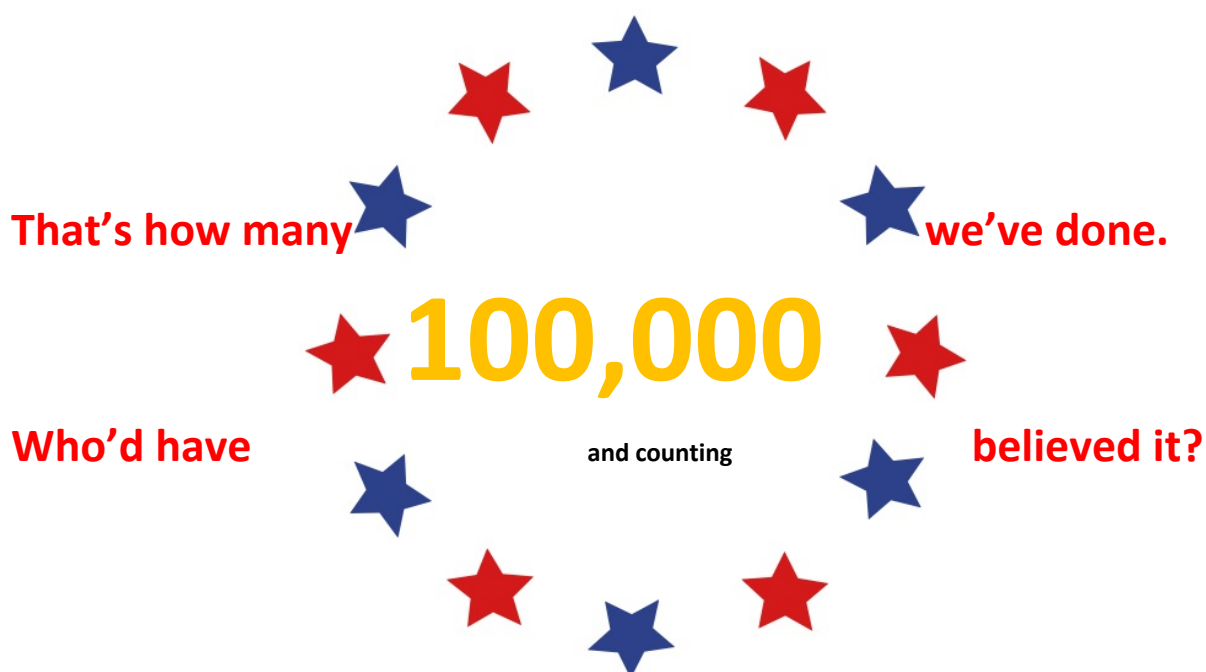
IN ASSOCIATION WITH **NHS** ENGLAND

# NEWSLETTER

## SEPTEMBER 2021

To date our Calls: 103,430 & Runs completed: 101,005

---



At 00:30 on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> August 2021, on a Regular Run from Ormskirk to Whiston, Rider **Phil Murphy** and Controller **John Chisholm**, recorded our **100,000<sup>th</sup>** run, and this time carrying samples for analysis.

During the 9½ years we've been operating we have built up a trust between 5 NHS Trusts. From the very beginning, when the people at Lancashire Teaching Hospitals (our first Trust) couldn't believe we could do, what we said we would do, completely free of charge.

However, headed by the Pre-analytics Manager at RPH, Maria Burn, (who asked the most questions) they allowed us to start and to prove it.

Starting very slowly with 812 call-outs in the first 12 months to an average of 1,300 call-outs a month now. It is something we are all very proud of.

If you wish to read the full History of how it all started up to present day, click this link:  
<https://nwbb-lancs.org/history/>

***"Volunteers Who Care"***

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

This amazing figure has been achieved by the dedication of all our volunteers past and present. Paul Brooks, one of the original 4 founders says, *"This is just amazing, none of us ever dreamed it would be so successful when we started, but it wouldn't have been if it wasn't for the dedication of all our friends and members, past and present, and the staff at all the hospitals who supported us then, and still support us now"*.

---

## There's more:

### Quote from Aaron Cummins re Blood Bikes Service story on achieving 100,000 transports

Aaron Cummins, Chief Executive of University Hospitals of Morecambe Bay NHS Foundation Trust (UHMBT), said: *"To have reached 100,000 blood transports is an absolutely tremendous achievement by the North West Blood Bikes Group."*

*"We owe the Blood Bikes volunteers an enormous debt of gratitude for their selflessness, kindness and commitment to keeping our patients safe by transporting blood in a timely manner. Their dedication enhances the care we provide to patients across Morecambe Bay and is a marvellous support to the NHS in general."*

*"On behalf of our Trust, I would like to say a huge thank you to each and every one of the Blood Bikers. We are delighted and privileged to have this outstanding service in our area."*

---

## Following on - Here is some terribly sad news:

In last month's Newsletter I was more than happy to feature a story on the Freemasons at Leyland buying us a brand new BMW R1250RT to help us carry on with what we do. So the following is something I am truly sad to report.

On Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> August 2021 a Freemason from the Leyland Lodge, Terry Derbyshire, lost his life in a motorcycle crash whilst out on a run with several SLAM members and at least



one of our members from our East area, where the new liveried BMW motorcycle is working. The Leyland Lodge recently gave us this new BMW motorcycle, seen here in the picture with Terry outside our HQ and again at handover, with Terry stood next to it.

Our hearts and minds go out to Terry's family, Brother Freemasons and his friends, both in SLAM and elsewhere, at this very sad time. R.I.P. Brother.

***"Volunteers Who Care"***

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

## On that same note of sad news:

Paul Dixon (BBM016) Blue light trainer and retired Police Officer has passed away following a fight with Cancer over a couple of years.

Paul was a really fun guy to be with, but sadly lost his wife several years ago which knocked the stuffing out of him and it took a while to get some fun back in his life.



Left to right: Nigel Greenhalgh, Paul Brooks and Paul Dixon. R.I.P. Brother.

---

## On a brighter note. A Gratefully Received Donation:

**Pete Marquis**, seen here handing over a cheque to Paul Brooks for £3,900. This will go a long way to keeping our bikes on the road.



Paul has known Peter for quite a few years, from when he was a Traffic Cop to present day, and even worked for him for a short while following retirement.

As you can see Peter is a big guy but with a heart to match. He raises money regularly for other charities besides us, most notably **St. Catherine's Hospice** and has just been voted the 75<sup>th</sup> Most Influential person in the Preston area.

The last 18 months have certainly hit us in the pocket, because donations, usually raised at Talks and Events have been almost nil. Thankfully people like Pete, the Freemasons and others have helped enormously. So, a very big **Thank you Peter**.

---

***"Volunteers Who Care"***

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





## The Story of Ray Semmens from SERV:

Found in Motorcycle News by our member Warren Pollitt.

Since carrying one of the first Covid-19 samples in the UK, back in January 2020 Ray Semmens has been on call every day until finally retiring early in July. Over the last 18 months, Ray has carried just shy of 1,700 boxes of blood, platelets and samples on nearly 1,100 runs covering 52,000 miles in the process.

Ray, a 64 year old retired Detective, has decided to call it a day on 11 years of blood biking due to pain from osteoarthritis in his neck, hips and knees. "I've been doing charity work for 45 years, but nothing like this last 18 months" says Ray. "Before this I would do maybe 10,000 to 15,000 miles a year, with the air-ambulance and milk drops. When the virus broke out, I did the first transfer from Merseyside and I've done every weekday and weekend since. Once people stopped being on furlough and returned to work, the requirements just went up and I was doing around 400 miles a day. I didn't mind it though – I love riding. I'm a member of the 'Iron Butt' and **I once rode from my home in Weybridge all the way to Bangkok.**"

Despite the taxing nature of the job, Ray says he wouldn't have changed it for the world. "It may sound odd, but there's no better feeling than hacking through the rain at 2am, turning up at a hospital and them snatching the blood from you, whilst shouting, 'thank God you're here', adds Ray. "You realise that you're doing something worthwhile". Now I'm looking forward to riding my own bike a little – a Triumph Tiger 900 Pro. Just need to get myself a new pair of knees first".



Ed. Ray has become a bit of a Legend with SERV and doing what he did I think that Title is well deserved throughout the Blood Bike Family.

---

## All in a Riders Duty:

From Rider Peter Leonard

It's been a funny sort of Blood Bikes shift today.

Torrential rain of course but modern riding kit keeps you fairly dry and Nikwax Visor Proof (highly recommended) meant I could see where I was going. However, the M61 was closed junctions 4 to 2 and the resulting traffic queues meant I had to filter through stationary or

***"Volunteers Who Care"***

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

slow-moving traffic for what felt like 2 or 3 miles in order to deliver urgent samples to Manchester Royal Infirmary. The diversion then took me through Walkden so more filtering. All very stressful but I was most grateful to those thoughtful and considerate drivers who, on seeing me in their door mirrors, would manoeuvre gently out of my way to let me through. My thanks to them and I would ask all drivers to do the same. Anyway, the samples and I got there in one piece so I suppose the patients will be diagnosed, treated and discharged more quickly so the next patient can then be admitted all the sooner. Plus, of course, we will have saved the NHS a few quid in the bargain. Put like that, the jolly soaking and filtering don't seem so bad after all.

---

### David Lloyd Fitness: From David Wilson (Central)

David Lloyd have an offer of a FREE 1 months family membership for David Lloyd Chorley  
Needs to be activated before 1st Jan 2022.



---

### Events Done in August From Chris "Red" Ryder

**GARSTANG SHOW 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> August 2021.** A bit wet and windy, but it didn't deter our members, Gill Ryder, Peter Wood, Gary Eastham, Andy Fox and of course Events Master Chris Ryder.



***“Volunteers Who Care”***  
NWBB-Lancs & Lakes, Unit 5, Momentum Place, Bamber Bridge, Preston. PR5 6EF  
Registered Charity 1147282



## Pipers Height Caravan Park BBQ: 28<sup>th</sup> August 2021

Great turn out by our Fylde Events team and Riders:



## Wesham family Fun Day: 29<sup>th</sup> August 2021

And again great turn out. Ed: I think Chris Ryder has an outfit for every occasion 😊

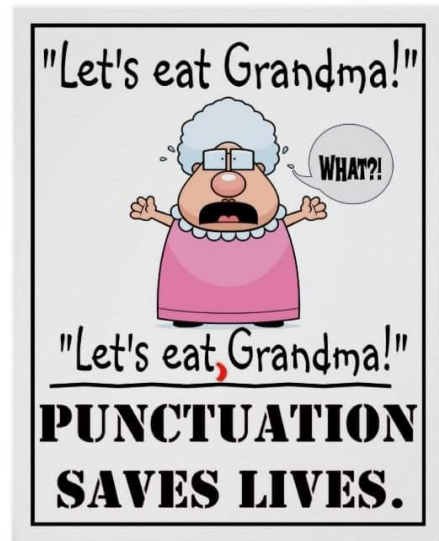


***“Volunteers Who Care”***

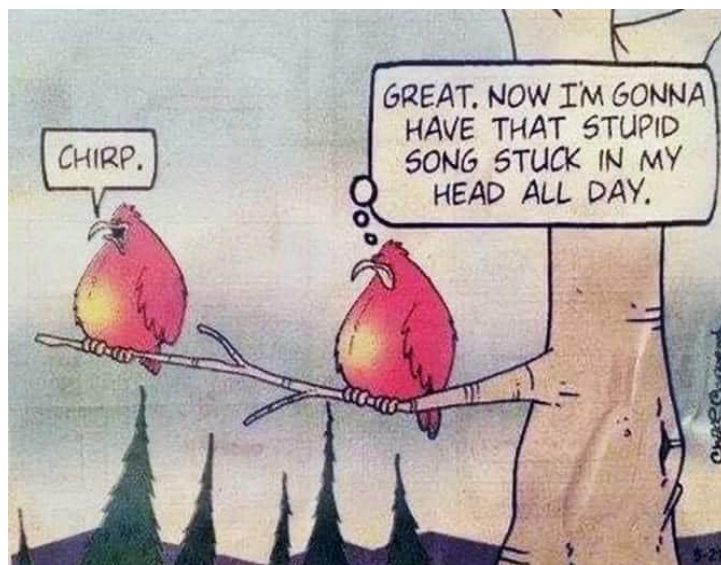
NWBB-Lancs & Lakes, Unit 5, Momentum Place, Bamber Bridge, Preston. PR5 6EF  
Registered Charity 1147282

## Fun Stuff:

Not so funny...sadly true:



Summer footwear for riders?



Please Remember

No journey is so urgent as to put your own life at risk

*"Volunteers Who Care"*

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

## 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 😊

**We also welcome news/funny stories from our friends in our NHS Trusts:**

Please email them to [editor@nwbb-lancs.org](mailto:editor@nwbb-lancs.org)

---

## **STAY SAFE AND PROTECT & HELP OTHERS**

***“Volunteers Who Care”***

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