



## The Queen's Award for Voluntary Service

[www.nwbb-lancs.org](http://www.nwbb-lancs.org)

# December 16 Newsletter



### Welcome to the Last Newsletter of 2016:

Well, what a year, 29,000 runs quickly going on 30,000. Absolutely, Unbelievably, FANTASTIC. Every single member has contributed to this, and we should all be proud.

We, the doers, (Controllers, Riders, Fundraisers, Managers, including Membership, Rota, Recruitment, Areas, etc.) forget sometimes that we can't do it without the understanding of our families and loved ones, so double up on who contributed because they help too.

We have also been bestowed with THE most wonderful award the MBE for a voluntary service, the Queens Award (QAVS), which is very rare and has only been awarded to one other Blood Bike group, but they got that before we even started and they had been going a lot longer than 4 years when they were awarded it. We did it within 4 years.

There have been sad times too the worst by far was losing a friend, Marcel Falloon R.I.P. That affected everyone who knew him, such a genuine man and so keen to help, but thanks to Marcel, we now have a lot more friends, from his family and their friends.

We have also had incidents, which have made us change the way we do things, although small changes they have made life easier and safer for the Riders. Tweaking what we do is always on-going, but for all our benefit.

Our Events and Talks have changed course too. We have lost one Events Manager and another is willing but too busy to help, so in stepped Brenda

Taylor. Yes, the same Brenda as the North Yamaha is named after. Brenda took over organising the "Talks" and has recruited assistants in all but one Area.

Just recently Brenda has also taken on the Events and she has already made a difference, but I have to say Thank You to Kimi Kirkham for her help.

Email addresses for Brenda are:

[events@nwbb-lancs.org](mailto:events@nwbb-lancs.org) and

[talks@nwbb-lancs.org](mailto:talks@nwbb-lancs.org)

If you get asked to attend an Event or to do a Talk please ask the person asking you to Email Brenda at the above addresses, even if you are going to do it, because Brenda needs to know. Also if any member or member of your family can help with Events or Talks please let Brenda know.

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### Events, Talks & Donations:

Throughout the year we have done loads of Talks and been to many Events to raise money to keep the charity running. Lot's of you have given up your evenings or days off to help and we are ticking over very nicely financially thanks to you all.

It does cost quite a lot to run the charity and without these donations we would not be able to do what we do. Fuel alone costs somewhere close to £2,000 per month, so keep up the outstanding work.

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*"Volunteers Who Care"*

NWBB-Lancs & Lakes, Willowbank House, The Clough, Clayton-le-Woods, Chorley. PR6 7DG  
Registered Charity 1147282

## Gold Medal:

Today, 2<sup>nd</sup> December as I'm putting this newsletter together, Homeserve in Preston are holding a charity day for us and Haydn and Dougie France got together with a local girl namely Stephanie Slater, a Paralympian Gold Medallist for swimming.



Apparently the weight of the Gold medal causes the wearer to stoop when they are worn 😊

Haydn said *"I was amazed at how heavy these medals are, I can't imagine what it must be like to have 3 around your neck"*.

Dougie brought *"Brenda"* down so Stephanie could see what we ride.

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## The Good, The Bad & The Ugly



Many of you will no doubt know that one of our members, in fact our youngest rider, Niall Miller, had an altercation with some youths (for want of a better description) in Bolton whilst off duty and on his own bike. A bike he uses for doing our runs because although he's an advanced rider he cannot ride the fleet bikes, as he's not old enough.

**The Good:** Niall

**The Bad:** The mindless jobs

**The Ugly:** Niall's Triumph when the jobs had finished with it.

They tried to steal it from him, but because they couldn't they trashed it.

Haydn Williams (Treasurer) put out an appeal on Facebook for parts to repair Niall's bike and was almost instantly offered around 50 parts, mostly windscreens.

Then Jason Lee (Rider) set up an online appeal for funds to repair the bike, as Niall is a student and broke. The target was £2,000 and amazingly it was reached within 12 hours.

Youles of Blackburn sold parts to Niall at vastly reduced prices and Hogfather Bike shop in Southport have said they will carry out the repairs. Hopefully Niall will be back on the road soon.

Here is a picture from the Hog Fathers:



Does anyone fancy going to meet them ??? 😊

All this goes to prove what we already know, there are far more **Good** people than **Bad** people out there, as well as a few **Ugly** ones too 😊

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***"Volunteers Who Care"***

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## Crankshaft:

No, not the one that drives the pistons up and down or sideways on some Deutsch bikes, but “Crankshaft” the Brewery Engineered in Leyland☺.

We know that many people have hobbies, but some have better hobbies than others and maybe one in particular stands head and shoulders above the rest, (opinion) and that is brewing beer.

Haydn Williams and his wife Angela have started brewing beer and named their hobby “Crankshaft”. Angela of course got all the necessary licences and they now sell on Farmers Markets and to Micro pubs, and in my humble opinion the beer is superb, but don’t take my word for it ask others especially beer expert, Carl Farber ☺☺



Different strengths and different flavours and coming to a bar near you.....

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## BBC North West News:

Lee Townsend (Vice Chairman) has been approached by the team at North West News to appear on a live programme on the 23<sup>rd</sup> December 2016 along with up to 20 of our members. The venue and who goes is still to be determined, so if you fancy going watch out for an Email from

Graham Miller (Secretary) asking for nominations. Those going will have their names picked out of a hat so it’s fair to everyone ☺

The idea of the North West News team is to feature volunteers from all charities in the North West who will not be resting over the Christmas and New Year period, but helping to keep the wheels turning and we fit very well into that category.

Anchors; Roger Johnson and Annabel Tiffin will be presenting the programme, so should be a good day and will be finished at 7pm when the news programme finishes.

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## Who we help:



We are often asked if we know who we’ve helped and we very rarely find out, but one thing we can be certain of is that we help the Surgeons, Doctors, Nurses, etc., to do their job. The picture above came off Facebook and it’s quite clear that this particular hospital is under equipped and probably from some poor country, but wherever it’s from these people save lives often at their own expense and by that I mean physical exhaustion.

We never know when we will need people like this, but it’s almost inevitable that we will at some stage. At least two of our members know this already. So every time you collect and deliver, just know this: **“We Help Those Who Save Lives”**.

***“Volunteers Who Care”***

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*If I've missed or forgotten something, forgive me, (but let me know, I can always do another supplement) also, his wife 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)*

*From Denise and I and from all the Committee, may I wish all members and your families and loved ones a Very Merry Christmas and an even better New Year.*

*Likewise, from all of us at North West Blood Bikes Lancs & Lakes to all our readers who are not members, Merry Christmas and a very Happy New Year.*

*Peace on Earth and goodwill to all.*



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Now I'm going to try a few more bottles of Crankshaft beers, hic!

**Remember**

***NO JOURNEY IS SO URGENT AS  
TO PUT YOUR OWN LIFE AT  
RISK***

***Paul*** (Founder, Chairman & Trustee)

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