



January 2016 Newsletter



Chairman's bit:

HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL

I hope you all had a Merry Christmas and a great celebration for New Year. Let's hope it's a good one for all ☺

2015 saw the number of completed dispatches rise from an average of 7,000 a year to 8,677, our busiest year so far, with 245 dispatches between midnight on Christmas Eve to midnight on the 31st December 2015. Then 53 on New Years day, taking the total for the holiday period to 298, just amazing!

We did unusual relays too, from Furness General to Manchester Royal Infirmary and St Mary's Children's Hospital and this seems to have finally got us recognised at Furness. (story near the end)

We have a fantastic team and we have welcomed many new members, but inevitably and sadly some have had to leave for one reason or another.

According to our Secretary (Graham Miller) we have had 21 enquiries to join us since the floods.

One thing I have come to realise is that we are more than colleagues within a charity, we all have the same goals and care for others; therefore we should all be friends and not just acquaintances.

The definition of "friendship" is:

"Friendship is a relationship of mutual consideration and affection between two or more people. Friendship is a stronger form of interpersonal bond than an association."

Heart warming tale:

In December we had a collection at ASDA Blackburn and besides other guys, Tim Fairless was there collecting when approached by a lady with a pram, and this is Tim's story:

A young woman with a baby in a pram came up to make a donation at ASDA today. She said that she was very grateful to the NWBB service as she had been admitted as an emergency to the Burnley Birth Centre, and had overheard the NHS staff saying that they needed a blood bike. I said that I was pleased to see that she was fit and well and she replied, "and him" pointing to the pram. The encounter put what we do into perspective. Must admit that I had a lump in my throat!

Yes it does Tim, but makes you realize what we do is very much appreciated ☺

From Steve Dunstan (North AM);

I recently received an email passed to me by Bob Bryne asking if we would like a donation from a sponsored head shave - so of course I accepted.

The money was raised by Julie, Amanda and Nicola three Sedbergh friends who decided to

"Volunteers Who Care"

shave their heads for charity – quite a sacrifice to make when you have a full head of hair. They organised an evening of entertainment, food and music at which they all went under the scissors for charity. They expected to raise a few hundred pounds and were pleasantly surprised when they totalled a massive £4,800, which they decided to split between NWBB-LL, Great North Air Ambulance and St. Johns Hospice.

As a result Bob Bryne, Mike Wilkinson and I were invited to a presentation held at The Bath House in Sedbergh where we received a cheque for a massive £1628.30. After the presentation we retired for coffee and cakes and had the opportunity to speak with the three “victims” as well as the representatives from the other charities. As you can see from the photo the three friends were still sporting short haircuts and massive smiles.



Before:

After:



Well done to all.

Donations

£50 Lodge of St John (Masons)

£500 Leyland in Tune

£130 Via Partnership

£500 Lakeland

£750 Wigan Pie Eaters

£225 Yealand Carol Singers

£114 from Brian Lord’s (Northern rider) wife and daughter who each ran a separate raffle, one at kindergarten and the other at work.

£100 from Morecambe Classic Bike Club who had a raffle and collection at their Christmas dinner and £150 from auctioning a donated painting at the Morecambe Classic Bike dinner.

£1,000 from BAe Systems at Barrow

£500 from the Provost Marshall’s at Cannock, thanks to Red Cap, Toby Townsend (Lee’s son)

£305 from the Quiz night at The Woodsman just before Christmas and an amazing:

£3,150 from a Christmas Cracker at Accrington organised by Rachael Astley in memory of her late father. Rachael, together with Danielle Miller (Scott’s wife) organise our annual Black tie Dinner Dance.

And finally, various amounts from collection tubs dotted about together with private donations from people who have donated the amounts they would normally have spent on sending Christmas cards.

Many thanks to all.

Can we help? Yes we can: (A call from Furness)

Prior to the Christmas holidays, duty Controller, Duncan Oag, received a request during his shift from Lynn Baines, the Ante Natal and New Born Screening Coordinator at Furness General Hospital, who was asking if we could take some samples collected over the Christmas period to

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**NWBB-Lancs & Lakes, Willowbank House, The Clough, Clayton-le-Woods, Chorley. PR6 7DG
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Manchester. Duncan took the details and passed them up the chain.

North area Manager, Steve Dunstan, contacted Lynn who told him that samples were taken from babies at Furness General, Westmorland General and Royal Lancaster Infirmary and had a 4-day shelf life. Normally the Royal Mail would ensure a prompt delivery to St Marys in Manchester, but with no post over the Christmas period, they had a problem. Steve gladly agreed to help and sorted out collection times and then got riders in place. Steve recalls that in one email exchange he was asked, "How do I arrange to pay you?" It gave him the biggest thrill of the week to be able to reply and say, "There is no charge - We are volunteers. It's what we do"

To minimise the distance travelled by the riders, relays were set up. At 8:45am on Tuesday 29th December, Barrow rider Neil Wallis-Tennant texted the Controller Manager, Neil McCall, that he had collected the samples from Furness General maternity unit and was heading off to junction 36 of the M6. Meanwhile Kendal rider Malcolm McDowell headed to Helm Chase at Westmorland General for his collection at 9am before heading off to meet Neil.

Handover complete at 9:25am and Malcolm set off to junction 34 to meet up with Lancaster rider Steve Ingle who had collected samples from Royal Lancaster Infirmary at 9:50am before heading to junction 34. Handover completed at 10:05am

Steve then set off down the M6 heading to his handover point to meet up with Central rider Paul Brooks at junction 8 of the M61 who would do the last leg to Manchester. Handover completed at 10:40am

Paul safely delivered samples from all 3 of our northern hospitals to Manchester St Marys New Born Screening Lab at 11:20am

When Lynn was informed that the samples had been delivered she said "What a great service" and was very appreciative to all those involved.

Although the run was outside our normal operating hours it was another great team effort from our volunteers who gladly gave up their own time and fuel, which avoided the NHS having to use taxis on the 110 mile journey and ensured that the samples got delivered within the time period.

Finally:

Many of us have suffered from the unusual severe weather and many have helped out those in distress, which just goes to show we go above and beyond helping our fellow man. It truly is remarkable. Well done everyone.

Take care especially in this bad weather and remember:

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

Paul (Founder, Chairman & Trustee)

If I've forgotten something, forgive me, (but let me know) or you want something including in the newsletter? Feel free to Email your copy (text and images) directly to me, chairman@nwbb-lancs.org

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