



NORTHUMBRIA BLOOD BIKES

December
2015
Newsletter



“All work and no play....”

The hard-working volunteer riders, drivers, call-handlers fundraisers and administration team had a long-overdue chance to relax & unwind on Tuesday 1st December, as Northumbria Blood Bikes went bowling! Those who were able to attend had a great time....but our service continued and there were several who kindly volunteered to deliver blood, platelets, specimens & notes instead of joining in the with the frivolities. A special thank you to Driver Mervyn Hilton, Riders Gary Loader, John Watts & Jonathan Dixon, and Call-Handler Chris Mitchell for keeping the service running while we let our hair down. Also to Fundraising Guru Graham Moor, who was in Gosforth doing a publicity & awareness presentation instead of joining the party!

Just a few Bikes riding around at night time?

On the pages this month (and listed below) you'll get an idea of just how much work our volunteers undertake each and every month to make sure there's petrol in the fuel tanks, insurance, uniforms etc.

Please consider joining us at one of our events to keep this fantastic momentum going... We really do rely on these fundraisers for the very survival of our charity.

This Months Newsletter:

Events:

ASDA Wansbeck Rd, Gosforth
ASDA Cramlington Town Centre
Team Valley Christnas Market
ASDA South Shields
ASDA Ryhope
Washington Galleries Shopping Centre
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We're currently looking for anyone with an editorial flair to assist in creating the newsletters... and it's not too complicated: Stories are created in Microsoft Word, and the information is gathered from Facebook, Twitter, our website and our events calendar. What we lack is a good wordsmith to convert reports into a "good read". If you fancy seeing your creativity in our newsletters, please see the advert on page 17 of this newsletter and get in touch! We'd start you off with a couple of stories to report on, and increase to a few pages if you're enjoying it...

If you're involved in any events, or instrumental in arranging any donations, presentations, sponsorship, talks or publicity, please remember to make us aware to ensure that it is included in the Newsletter, and shared with the companies or organisations involved. You can do this by contacting Alan Ross (alan.ross@northumbriabloodbikes.org.uk). If including any photos, please identify the people photographed so that we can include the image in a news feature!

A weekend at **ASDA**

On Saturday & Sunday 14th & 15th November, we were lucky enough to get plenty of volunteers to attend the Asda stores in Cramlington town centre and Wansbeck Road, Gosforth. Kindly donating their time to support us were Debbie Todd, Kim Bryson, Ben Shelley, Philippa Bromley, Ross MacKenzie, Alan Johnston, Paul Bainbridge, Johnny Kerr, Tegan Rawlinson, Anthony Simm, and anyone else I've missed out! Thank you so much!



Both venues were surprisingly busy, and it would have been a perfect weekend of fundraising were it not for the minor disaster on Saturday evening. One of our new bikes, the Pan European called “Hylton”, had been used for the majority of the day with it's blue lights flashing to wow the kids...sadly it resulted in a flat battery at the end of the evening: Access to the battery requires the Blood Box shelf to be removed, but there were no tools to enable access so that the bike could be jump started!

After a few panicked phone calls, Dave Lucas came to the rescue with the right tools to gain access to the battery, and the bike was started ready for its journey home. We need to do plenty of similar events over the winter to keep our service running, so please check our events list at the back of this newsletter and help us for a few hours if you can!



Nigel Barlow “Rocks the W.I.”

With the winter weather starting to close in, we're finding that there's a lot less in the way of festivals, open days and outdoor events. Instead, we're seeing a steady increase in demand for talks with local clubs & societies, so we need more confident volunteers to present the charity & explain what we do in front of eager audiences. First to step up was Nigel Barlow (left), to assist Richard Penna by co-ordinating the requests for talks. He's been compiling a list of members who would like to become involved. This will hopefully include those who have already hosted talks, and those who would like to shadow an experienced “talker” to see how it's done. He's pictured here presenting to Cramlington Womens' Institute on Monday 16th November.

- Fancy getting involved? Email Rob at talks@northumbriabloodbikes.org.uk and he'll get in touch!



Appeal for drivers as winter arrives:

If you're not involved with the operational side of our charity, you may not be aware that blood cannot be carried on a motorcycle when the outside temperature drops to 3 degrees Celsius or lower.

We still use bikes if it's safe to do so, but for documents, equipment & medication... The blood has to go by car. As you can imagine, this means a surge in demand for appropriately qualified drivers to step up & cover shifts. November saw its fair share of winter weather, and several days where the bikes had to be suspended from carrying blood. Once the snow hits, the bikes stop completely. The above photo was taken on Saturday 21st November when a freak blizzard briefly stopped *all* bike activity.

The weather may stop our bike service, but sadly it doesn't stop the demand for blood. Quite the opposite; so we're looking to fill the rotas with drivers on colder nights. If you're an advanced driver, please try to make yourself available for us. If you're not a member, but fancy doing "your bit" in our time of need, please get in touch and we'll tell you what's involved to become a volunteer driver.

- Or check our website for more information.

...And while we're on the subject, congratulations, Jo!

Most of our members already know the dulcet tones of Jo Moor, wife of fundraising Guru, Graham Moor. Her voice is well known as she answers the phones and co-ordinates riders on many occasions.

What you may not know is that in November she passed her Rospa Advanced test with a "Gold"! Congratulations Jo... no doubt we'll have you swigging back Costa coffees at 3am in the RVI in no time!

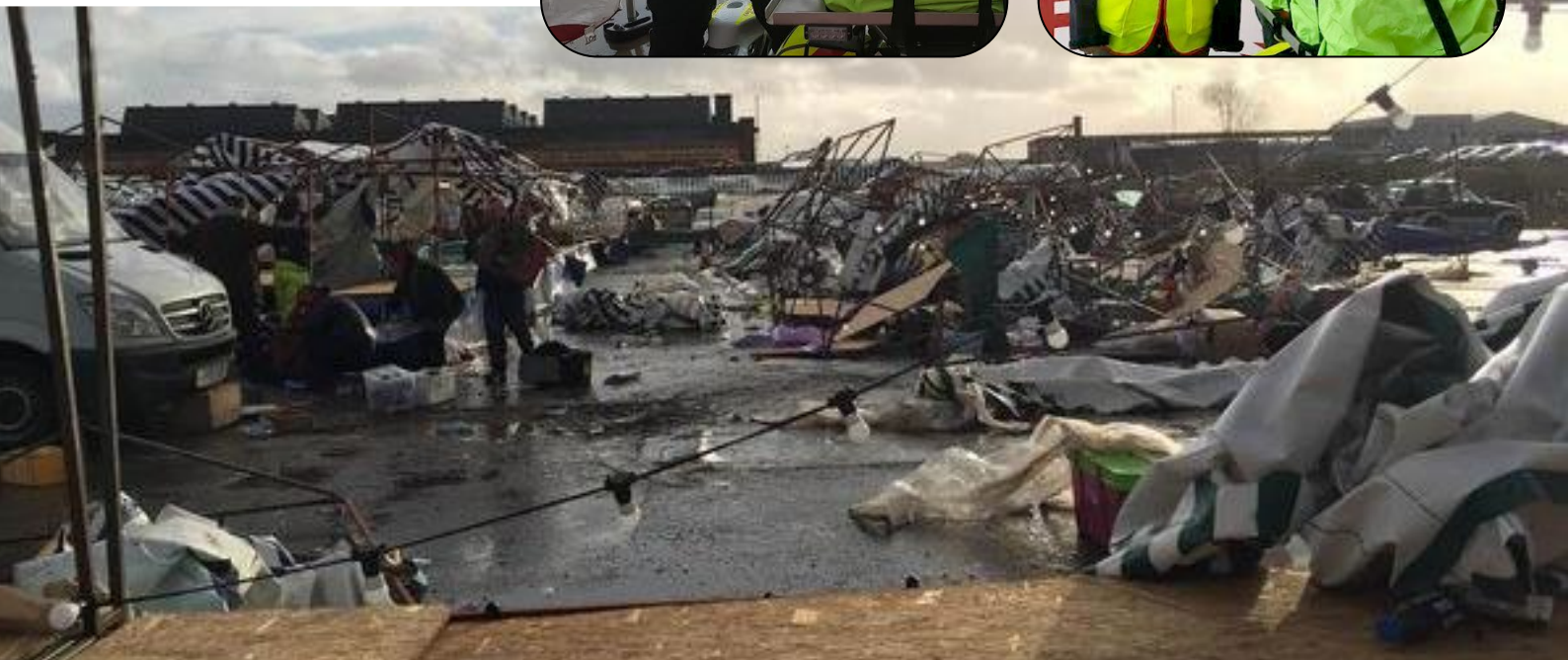


In the nick of time! - Team Valley Christmas Market:



We knew the weather was going to be bad....but not that bad! Our volunteers braved the elements at Team Valley on 27th to 29th November for their annual Christmas Market, but eventually decided to call it off as the weather was getting increasingly worse. - Good job they did, because the picture below shows the carnage caused as the wind increased, resulting in the entire event being called off.

Many thanks to Stevie Brain (right), Kirsty Lawrence & Matt Dinnery (far right), Peter Kelly, Suzi Hutchinson (above), Ross Mackenzie, and duty riders Graham Mitchell and George Laws... They all assisted in making the event happen. What a pity the weather didn't...





Lady Biker North East Calendar Girls at Marshall's of Eston:

The fabulous calendar girls were once again back in action promoting their calendar to raise funds for Northumbria Blood Bikes & the Great North Air Ambulance, this time at Marshall Motors of Eston, Middlesbrough.

Chris Marshall was kind enough to hold this event and we're grateful to everyone that came and showed their support. Chris raised £15 from tea & coffee and £40 from a lid/gloves raffle, as well as selling 11 calendars. The girls also managed to raise £80 on a football card, where the biker-themed prize was for

powder coating for 2 wheels, kindly donated by Ashington Powder Coatings. Pictured (below right, left to right) are Calendar girls Ria, Trudi, Bev Jackie & Kirstie with Chris Marshall, owner of Marshall Motors. Thank you all for your on-going support of the two charities! The Lady Bikers Calendars are still available: please contact Jackie on 07964058213 or email jackiegee@live.co.uk to get your copy!



It's not very often you'll see this...

Low temperatures and bad weather warnings resulted in a first: all three of our vehicles parked on standby at the RVI (30th November). - It lasted just 2 minutes before a call came in!

ASDA South Shields & ASDA Ryhope

We're very grateful to Asda for giving us so many opportunities to raise funds in their stores this month. Having already attended Wansbeck Road and Cramlington (see page three), we then attended the South Shields store on Thursday 19th November. Pictured left to right are our stalwart volunteers Gary Saunders, Steve Rawlings, and Ben Goodsall, who staffed the publicity & awareness stand with the help of "Octagon", our Honda Pan European Blood bike that was kindly funded by local motoring club MG Northumbria.



Just two days later, we were back in Asda again for our fourth appearance in just over a week. Saturday 21st was the day for or volunteers Wayne Rand (left), Rob Wilks (below centre) and Philippa Bromley (below right). Thank you all of you for helping to raise vital funds to keep the service operational.



We are always looking for people to attend these fundraising events, so if you're wanting to do something to help us, but don't ride a motorbike or can't work through the night, please consider helping us at an event. Details of the activities we have during December are on the last page of this newsletter. Please get in touch with us if you can help...even if just for a couple of hours! It can make all the difference!



**Our first display at
Washington Galleries:**
Saturday 28th November.

Many thanks to volunteers John Parish and Malcolm Farley for attending our very first appearance at The Galleries shopping centre in Washington. They managed to raise a whopping £221.50 from the shoppers passing the display...and without a bike to help them! (Shopping centre rules meant we were unable to use a bike indoors, just the mini-moto pictured). Hopefully we'll be there again, now that our foot is in the door!

Cheque Presentations this month:



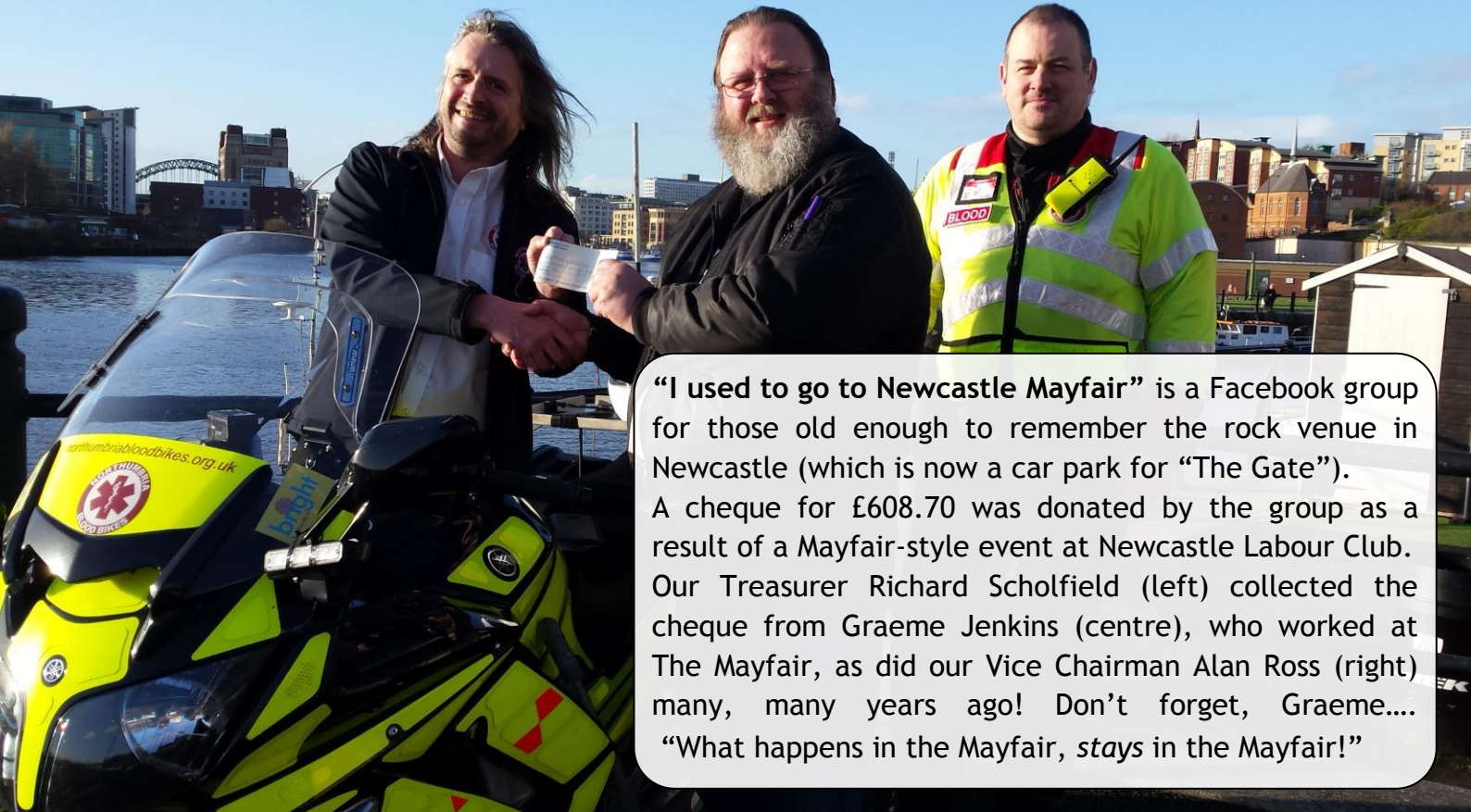
Peter Johnson Funerals Ltd have been raising vital funds for both Northumbria Blood Bikes and the Great North Air Ambulance. On 26th November, volunteers Gary Loader and Alan Ross attended the GNAAS air base at Durham Tees Valley Airport, where each charity was presented with a cheque for £500.00.



ASDA South Shields also presented a cheque to NBB volunteers Steve Rawlings and Malcolm Cramman on 1st December. We were awarded £200.00 as a result of the Community Life green token scheme, which brought the total raised from this one store to £1,953.60 with just two fundraising attendances! Wow!



Cheque Presentations this month (continued)



Rotary Club of Blaydon, Ryton & Whickham

Vice-Chair Alan was back in action on 9th December, attending a concert at St.Mary the Virgin Church, Whickham, hosted by the B.R.W. Rotary Club. He took a blood bike along, and said a few words about our work, and was presented with a cheque for £500.00 donated by the Club. He's pictured receiving the cheque from Club President Ivan Marsham. Many thanks to all for a lovely donation & a great night!



» News » Teesside News » Stockton

Lambretta scooter accident dad: 'They thought I was dead, that I was a gonner'

13:52, 11 DEC 2015 UPDATED 14:31, 11 DEC 2015 BY DAVE ROBSON

Brian Loughran was given blood transfusion at crash scene :: Car made U-turn ahead of collision with Lambretta



In the Newspapers this month:

Fair enough, we weren't mentioned in this article, but our volunteers know only too well that this fella is alive today because of our commitment to deliver Blood to the Great North Air Ambulance every day, 365 days a year. - And articles like this make us feel really proud!

A scooter rider left fighting for his life after a road accident has visited the air ambulance paramedic involved in his rescue to thank him. Stockton dad-of-two Brian Loughran, 46, was riding his Lambretta scooter in heavy traffic on the A178 Tees Road, between Seal Sands roundabout and Port Clarence, at 4.15pm on June 30, when a car made a U-turn and was in collision with his vehicle.

The Great North Air Ambulance Service (GNAAS), fire brigade, police and ambulance rushed to the scene and after he was rescued from beneath the car, GNAAS anaesthetised him and gave him a blood transfusion.

GNAAS is one of only a few air ambulances in the country to carry blood, having introduced the service in January.

He was then transferred to the major trauma centre at James Cook University Hospital in Middlesbrough by road.

Brian said: "I've spoken to some people who were there and they've told me they thought I was dead, that I was a gonner.

"I was unconscious most of the time but I woke up briefly while I was under the car and I felt like I was getting burned from the exhaust. Then I went again."

Brian, an electrician, suffered a smashed sternum, collapsed lung, a lacerated liver, fractured vertebrae and broken ribs.

"He spent seven days on ventilation in intensive care and two weeks in hospital.

Now he has visited the GNAAS' Durham Tees Valley Airport base, along with wife Catherine Loughran and their sons, Billy, nine, and Jamie, four, to thank the paramedic on board the aircraft, Colin Clark.



Brian Loughran with paramedic Colin Clark

"Words cannot express how grateful we are," Catherine said. "We wanted to say thank you for their wonderful work. "Doctors have been very impressed with Brian's determination. It's going to be a long road to full recovery but we will get there.

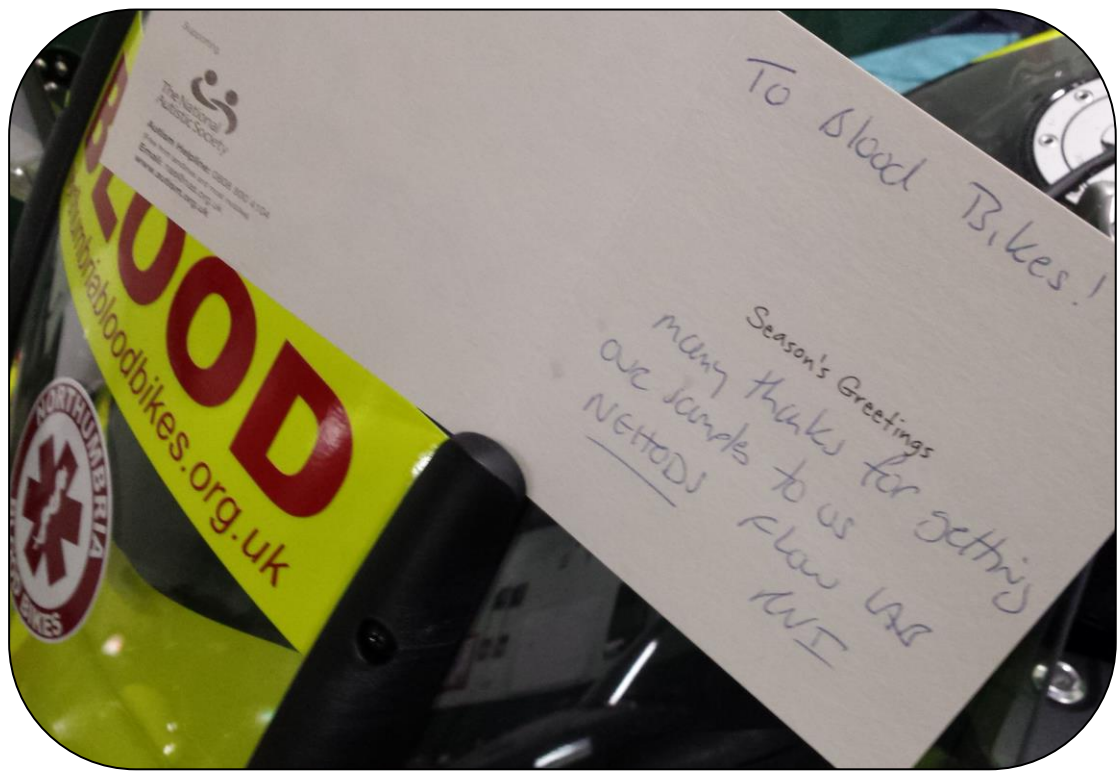
Colin, who has worked at the charity for 10 years, said: "Blood on board makes a huge difference. Catastrophic blood loss due to serious injuries and accidents kills around 50 people in our region every year. The quicker patients like Brian receive blood transfusions following their injury, the better their chance of survival. It's been great to see Brian again and looking so fit and healthy. It was a pleasure to meet his family too."

A nice “Thank you” from the RVI

This card is on display at Netherby Ambulance Station. A lovely gesture from the Laboratory Staff.

We also just received a wonderful card from Doctor Rachel Hawes and the staff from the Great North Air Ambulance, too!

-Thank You all!



NBB Open Meeting:

Thursday 3rd December: University of Northumbria

There's a lot goes on behind the scenes to make sure our service keeps running smoothly, and sometimes it's difficult for members to see what's going on, or ask questions.... So once every quarter, we hold an open meeting where any members can come along, find out how we're performing, what changes we plan to make, and offer the opportunity to put questions to the team, make suggestions etc.



This meeting was in a new room, a little 'cosy' (we had to keep the door open for fresh air!), but sufficient for the number of people who attended. Guest speaker was Doctor Rachel Hawes, who works on board the Great North Air Ambulance. Rachel updated us on how the service is working and gave us some statistics for the preceding quarter.

There were also reports and updates from most of the departments within the group, including Finance, Fundraising, Publicity, Membership, IT etc. A new rota system was revealed, which was designed and created as a direct result of members' suggestions at a previous open meeting.... It should make the booking system far easier to use and will be introduced over the coming weeks, with a "Go Live" date of January 1st next year.

At the end of the meeting, Kirsty Lawrence displayed some new branded clothing samples, and Graham Moor held a quick sale of car stickers, badges and sew-on patches... quite popular!

There were several comments about the difficulty of trying to find a parking place in the city centre during Christmas shopping nights, and rightly so; even our guest speaker struggled to get parked! We're already on the case, looking for new venues for future open meetings, where parking should be considerably easier. - Keep an eye on the website and social media for updates!

FUTURE EVENTS FOR YOUR DIARY:

A quiet month... The effort from our volunteers is fantastic, and they deserve a break at Christmas just like everyone else! Only two events to publicise, so please support them, they're all we have! NBB members can register their attendance for most of these events on our website (login required).



ASDA, Benton 10:00-16:00

Five days before Santa... The store should be packed with shoppers who've just finished work for the holidays and will hopefully be in festive spirit! Come and join us for a day of fundraising and awareness at the Benton store!

ASDA



Sainsburys, Washington BAG PACKING! 09:00 - 17:00

Bag Packing three days before Santa comes.....means only one thing: We need lots and lots of volunteers - there are dozens of tills to cover! This could be our busiest ever bag-pack...please help us to make it a success!

Sainsbury's



www.northumbriabloodbikes.org.uk



facebook.com/northumbriabloodbikes

twitter.com/northumbriabb

linkedin.com/company/2866951

FUNDRAISING HOTLINE:

07766 479 770

- for any opportunities to increase our funding through sponsorship, locations for collecting tins, supermarket events etc...

.....and finally:

A huge "Thank You" to everyone who has supported us over the last twelve months.

We wish you all a wonderful Christmas, and a happy New Year.



We hope you won't need the life-saving packages we will be delivering through the holidays. But if you do, we'll be there for you. Every Night.

