

Cornwall Blood Bikes

Registered Charity Number: 1140165

Riding for Life



April 2015 Newsletter (ramblings from the saddle).

Hello

We have not been as busy this month with 165 jobs completed, which brings our total this year to 611. There are probably lots of good reasons why this is the case. We know that there is now a courier service that leaves the pharmacy at Treliske on a Saturday morning but it is only delivering supplies. Our answer phone message has been changed which could also have an effect on jobs. The message now states that a volunteer rider may not be immediately available and the fact that callers have to listen to end of the message before they are connected to a coordinator could also be a contributing factor. Then of course they could just have fallen asleep while listening...

There were three collections last month in Padstow and at Asda in St Austell. Padstow raised about £250 and the two days at Asda raised about £1080 both brilliant sums of money.

Can I just take a minute to raise the issue of collections and members volunteering to help? Its becoming obvious that it is the same names that are stepping up to the challenge of attending these supermarket collections and with quite a few more already confirmed for the rest of the year we need everyone to take their turn. Even if you only do two hours it is two hours less for Roger Alway or myself to have to worry about filling. We are a charity and it is part of our agreement to join that we put ourselves forward for these events, likewise any of the other events we have coming up in the next. I have just read that again and it seems like a bit of a telling off, maybe it is, but rattling money pots is how we get a lot of our money and spread the Blood Biking word out to the public.

Ok so this month has been very press orientated with appearances in newspapers and on the telly.

Conrad and Roger were in the local paper for the Bude area and Ian and I appeared on Spotlight on a soaking wet day in Truro. This appearance caused a few ruffled feathers but all the issues have been sorted without bloodshed.

A positive aspect of our appearance on Spotlight was a meeting with Dane from Devon Freewheelers at Tremadart House (<http://www.tremadarthouse.com>) near Looe graciously hosted by Dave and Phillipa who produced the most amazing chocolate brownies just as the meeting was slowing. Boosted by huge amounts of sugar and coffee we were all re-galvanised and the meeting continued well into the afternoon. Thanks to both of you for giving up your day and your wonderful house. Lots of things to discuss came from this meeting so I will keep you posted as and when I have news.

Preparations for the relaunch event on the 6th April have been a constant theme throughout the month. It was with a great deal of shock that we heard that Chapter 1 Diner had been victim of a fire early in the month but with stoic resolve and determination Darren has got things back on an even keel and has pulled out all the stops so he will be part of our big day. We wish him luck and support in the coming weeks. If he offers you a dishwasher cheap I would leave it...

Do remember that from the 6th April onwards we are hosting a bike night at Chapter 1 every Monday through the 'riding' season. It will be great for as many members to attend on these nights to raise our charity's profile with any bikers who turn up.

With events in mind we have committed ourselves to a Rat Pack night of music at the Princess Pavilions in Falmouth on 11th July. This will be an evening of music provided by NGM Productions (<http://www.ngmproductions.co.uk/Welcome.htm>) for 120 lucky people. The evening will consist of a meal then the full Rat Pack show all for £40 per person. It's a black tie dinner but then what would you expect if Frank Sinatra was singing?

The purpose of this event is to raise lots of money for our organisation so to that end we will be hosting an auction and the usual raffle but here is where we can all help. I'm trying to source three single rooms for one night on the 11th July for the Rat Pack as a donation so if anyone has contacts in the hotel or B&B trade in Falmouth can you see what you can do. If we can get accommodation as a donation we will save ourselves a substantial amount of money on the night. We also need good prizes that people will be prepared to pay good money during the auction. I have already got some beer from Skinners so what else can you guys come up with. I'm also offering a pillion ride along the coast road from point of pick up to Lands End and back to point of pick up for one person but it would be good if we could offer at least two places in case people want to go as a group. So there are a couple of ideas, the world is our oyster please let me know if you have any ideas either by email or phone. Come on chaps don't let me down.

Ok this month (April) we have some supermarket collections so put your availability down on the Riders Rota as soon as possible.

There is also an updated Members Contact sheet on Dropbox so if you have not updated yours for a while perhaps you should now. We have also been doing well with people wanting to join and there are a couple of ladies who are in the system which is fantastic news may we have many more joining soon both as riders and helpers.

The list of jobs for behind the scenes people is growing so please be patient if you have a question and it takes a while to get an answer, some of the Committee Members may look like ducks above water but believe me they are paddling like mad below surface.

On a personal note I would like to send our combined condolences to Martin Gaffney on the passing of his Dad and if there is anything we can do to help please just ask. Martins Mum asked for donations to Blood Bikes at the funeral for which we are very grateful. See you back riding soon Martin.

If you have any bits you would like me to include in future ramblings please email me at fundraising@cornwallbloodbikes.org and I will see what I can do.

Right that's it for today don't forget to put your availability down on the rota and if you want a marked bike check out the booking form on Dropbox. **My last plea concerns Dropbox, remember to take the form you want to read or amend out of the box and put it on to your desktop. That way we don't get duplicate forms, which leads to confusion.**

Ride safe

Mark