

On our February meeting, Roland Johns came back once more to give us all a talk this time on 'Blood Bikes'.

It's an organisation run purely by volunteers. There are 36 regional Blood Bike groups consisting of over 3,000 volunteer. Other items are taken besides blood. X-rays, patients notes, Covid samples, Platelets and Vaccines, to name a few. If long distances are required taking these samples then a relay system is in place for those occasions. Roland did state that organ replacements, such as Kidney or Heart for example, are not delivered using the group. They are still delivered using the present day emergency vehicles.

The bikers all belong to 'LEBBS', which stands for Lincolnshire Emergency Blood Bikes Service. This was formed in 2012. A test run was first done between Grantham and Lincoln to see how it all worked out.

The group have Controllers, who all work from home. They hold the incoming phones, designate runs, track all the riders etc. All the bike riders must be over the age of 25, have an advanced riding qualifications and are re-tested every 3 years. Roland stated that all riders must observe speed restrictions wherever they travel and they are monitored to ensure this requirement is adhered to. If anyone wishes to get more information on the Blood Bike group then there is this website:-

<https://www.lincolnshirelife.co.uk/heritage/lincolnshire-emergency-blood-bikes-service-lebbs/>

This explains in a bit more detail about the Lincolnshire organisation.

Our thanks go to Roland Johns for taking the time to come and talk to us about, what is a very interesting and essential voluntary service that they carry out for the NHS.