

## **A Birthday That Won't be Forgotten.**

Born on the 4th of July, Sgt Brian Goodall, a member of staff from 1220 (March) Sqn, celebrated his 50th birthday this year. It was a birthday to remember for reasons, known, unknown and unplanned.

While Brian was at Easter camp with Beds & Cambs Wing his wife Carole conspired with his Commanding Officer, Flt Lt Kirsty Burnham, to arrange for the cadets to be doing an activity on 4th July that Brian was needed at. Carole was planning a surprise Birthday party for him and wanted him out of the house during the day so that she could get the house ready for the party.



Shooting is an activity that 1220 Sqn are keen to improve their skills with and as a result of Carole's request WO Tammy Curwen arranged a weekend of Dry Training and .22 Shooting at RAF Marham. On the day of his birthday Sgt Goodall took cadets from 1220 Sqn to RAF Marham where he put his qWHT to good use in testing cadets after they had completed the relevant training. During the morning break the cadets all sang Happy Birthday and shared birthday cake.

After a successful days training everyone returned to the Sqn HQ for dismissal. When Brian had pulled away Flt Lt Burnham phoned his wife to let her know that he was on his way home.

On his way home Brian came across a road traffic accident on one of the back roads just 3 miles short of his house. A man riding a motorbike had overtaken a car and had hit another car travelling the other way head on. Brian stopped and got out of the minibus to see what he could do, he was one of the first to arrive at the scene. On his way over to the biker the man who had been driving the car that was overtaken was walking away and gave Brian the impression that the biker was dead.

Brian approached the biker with his First Aid head on and tried to see if he was conscious. He wasn't so he checked for breathing and tried to find a pulse while assessing what other injuries he could see. While doing this a woman also at the scene had dialled 999 and was speaking with the Control room to inform them of the accident. She had just informed them that there was no movement from the biker when Brian felt a pulse, the man then twitched and made a snore like noise, Brian was relieved that he was breathing and shouted to the lady on the phone that he had found a pulse.

The telephone was passed to Brian who then gave further information to the controller about the position the casualty was in and other signs of injury. The controller asked Brian to turn the casualty onto his back to aid his breathing which Brian did with the help of two others at the scene. Shortly after this the first paramedic arrived at the scene.

Brian was holding the bikers head still while the paramedic set about his work. He was asked to take the bikers helmet off, after doing this with a struggle he continued to hold the head still. When the ambulance crew arrived Brian was beginning to shake and so asked one of the crew to

take over allowing Brian to recover. While standing up he was asked to hold a drip for the man which he did until the Magpas team arrived with a doctor.

An Air Ambulance had been called but they were unsure where it could land. Brian volunteered to find a spot for it. With the help of a local he found an area approx 100m away that was suitable. When reporting this back they asked if anyone had a spare Hi-Viz vest which could be used by someone to wave the helicopter in with. Brian had been driving the Sqn minibus which had a Hi-Viz vest inside so he offered this and was then asked to wave in the helicopter himself. He did this approx 5 mins later when the helicopter arrived. Once the doctors had stabilised the biker (which included having his lung re-inflated) he was flown directly to Addenbrookes Hospital in Cambridge.

Brian's youngest son Scott is a cadet and he had remained in the squadron minibus throughout the time the incident was managed which was about an hour. Scott had telephoned home to say that they would be delayed and so Brian's surprise visitors were all waiting anxiously for his arrival home.

Brian was indeed surprised! There were over 50 well wishers at the party and some of these were people he hadn't seen in twenty years. There was a bouncy castle in the garden and in one corner of the garden was a small tent city where party goers were to stay overnight! There was more birthday cake and of the many presents given one was a sweetie jar full of Brian's favourites!

by: Flt Lt Kirsty Burnham RAF VR(T) OC 1220 (March) Sqn - Beds & Cambs Wg

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