

The

# Blood Vessel



The Bi-Monthly newsletter for Serv Oxon, Bucks, Northants & Berks

Emergency Blood Transport Service

Issue 4

www.servobn.org.uk

email: newsletter@servobn.org.uk

August 2010

As you may have noticed, our monthly newsletter has become a bi-monthly newsletter!

We decided, as we were often struggling to find articles to put in the newsletter, that quality was more important than quantity and so our monthly edition of The Blood Vessel became a bi-monthly edition.

You can get more regular updates on Serv OBNB by following our [Facebook Group](#) or you can follow us on Twitter @ [www.twitter.com/servobn](http://www.twitter.com/servobn) If you have an article you would like to see featured in The Blood Vessel, just send an email to [newsletter@servobn.org.uk](mailto:newsletter@servobn.org.uk)

## Upcoming Events.....

You can find out more details about these and more events by visiting [www.servobn.org.uk](http://www.servobn.org.uk) and clicking on "Events"

### 24th September

Live Music Charity Gig in aid of Serv Fat Lil's Live Music & Comedy Club  
Corn Street  
Witney  
Oxon

### 24th 26th September

British Superbikes  
Silverstone Circuit  
Silverstone  
Nr. Towcester  
Northants

### 25th-26th September

Kop Hill Climb  
Centenary of an historic hill climb  
Kop Hill Road  
Princes Risborough  
Bucks  
HP27 0LB

## Have you joined our Facebook Group yet?

Just visit [www.servobn.org.uk](http://www.servobn.org.uk) and click on "Join our Facebook Group" Or go to Facebook and Search for.....  
"Serv OBNB"



George White in Slough, have kindly offered to service our dedicated bikes for the cost of parts only - [www.georgewhite.co.uk/](http://www.georgewhite.co.uk/)



## BOX FOR BABIES Campaign Gathers Pace

Our "Buy a Box for Babies" campaign is really getting into full swing, we have surpassed our original target of 20 Boxes and have a new target of 40 Boxes although we fully expect this target to increase as more Milk Banks come on board.

We currently have 33 boxes sponsored.

Our campaign has been given a big boost by "The Rotary Club Of Hungerford" who stepped in and donated £1,100 for 20 boxes.....

Serv needs to purchase these specialist boxes to allow us to provide a free service to the Milk Banks.



John Stepney Receiving a cheque from Hungerford Rotary Club

When Donor Breast Milk is transported, it must be kept frozen until it reaches the milk bank.

Serv & the UKAMB (UK Association of Milk Banks) hope to en-

courage more women to become milk donors.

Until now, Donors have had to deliver their own milk to the milk bank which can be some distance away. This has understandably put people off from donating breast milk.

If a Sick or Premature Baby is given Donor Breast Milk instead of Formula, The Baby's chances of survival can increase by up to 10 times.

On a recent visit to John Radcliffe Milk Bank in Oxford, I was shocked to discover that there had been a shortage of donor milk at a time when the Infant Intensive Care Unit were caring for Sextuplets.

We want to make sure this never ever happens again!

Each Milk Box can hold 24 Sterile Bottles of Breast Milk.

When a Donor has 24 or 48 Bottles ready for collection, all they need to do now is call Serv and we will arrange collection.

You could sponsor a box as an individual, company or group, or even in the name of a child or loved one.

Each box costs £55 and we will be

happy to display a name & or logo on both sides of the box.



Our first batch of boxes has now arrived and we look forward to increasing our service to the milk banks over the coming weeks



If you would like to Sponsor a box, please contact [publicity@servobn.org.uk](mailto:publicity@servobn.org.uk)

## SERV OBN carries out more than 300 runs so far this year

Serv OBN is now busier than we've ever been and we look set to get even busier as the we role out our service to the Milk Banks.

At the time of writing this article, we had completed 320 runs this year, saving the NHS Thousands of pounds

This allows the Hospitals to divert funds to where they

are needed most.

As we entered 2010, we knew we would be busier than last year but had absolutely no idea how busy.

We have already responded to more than 3 times as many calls than we did in 2009.

With The Heatherwood Hospital in Ascot and

Amersham Hospital (Bucks) recently being added to our list of client hospitals and Milton Keynes General Hospital & Wycombe General Hospital set to increase their use of our service, plus the predicted influx of Milk Runs, it looks like we are going to get even busier.



## 12 Serv Volunteers set to jump off a 7 storey building

No, the stress hasn't got to us!  
Serv OBN now have an Abseiling Team.

And No, we're not branching out into mountain rescue!

We're going to be doing a sponsored abseil in aid of "The Fund for Children", Oxford Children's Hospital.

The Abseil will be taking place on Sunday 19th September at the Women's Centre at John Radcliffe Hospital in Oxford.

Serv members have previously surprised the Kids at the Children's Hospital at Easter when they distributed Easter Eggs to everyone (including some of the nurses!).

The Women's Centre which is home to the Human Milk-Bank stands 7 Storeys high.

Serv OBN have put together a team of 12 fine men (& women) who aim to collectively raise at least £1200.



John Radcliffe Hospital's 7 Storey Women's Centre

There have been concerns by some of the team about the strength of the ropes coping with their middle aged spread. We're also hoping the building will take the strain!

Some of the team aren't particularly comfortable with heights and have taken to getting in some practice before hand (see right).



John Allen getting in some practice on a Rock Climbing Wall

If you would like to give some moral support or generally watch us make fools of ourselves staggering down the outside of a building, you will be more than welcome to come along.

If you would like to sponsor our team, please email [publicity@servobn.org.uk](mailto:publicity@servobn.org.uk)

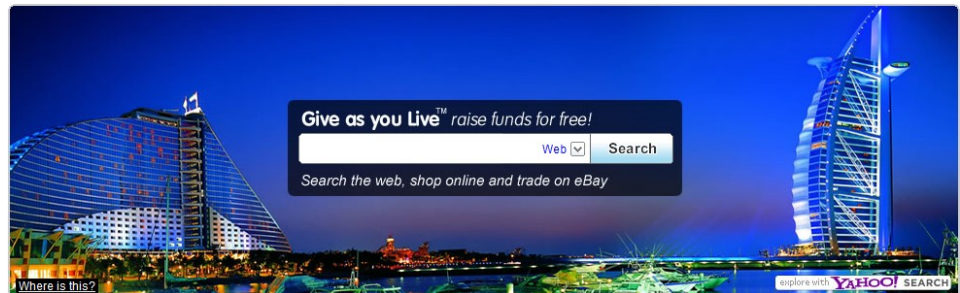
## Raise Money for Serv just by searching the internet.....

Serv obn have teamed up with Everyclick to help raise funds.

Search engines like Google, Bing & Yahoo earn their money when you click on a search result.

Everyclick which is owned by the "Charities Trust", will pay 1p (plus Gift Aid) to Serv obn when you click on a search result.

1 penny (or 1.28p to be precise) doesn't sound like much, but if enough people participate.....well, as my Grandmother used to say.... "If you look after the



pennies, the pounds will look after themselves".  
Just visit [www.everyclick.com/serv-obn](http://www.everyclick.com/serv-obn) and the pennies will start rolling in!

At the time of writing this article we had already raised £245.31



## Live music for only a fiver?

We still have tickets available for the Charity Show at "Fat Lil's" Live Music & Comedy Club in Witney.

There will be live music from the likes of "The Book of Genesis" (*Definitive Genesis Tribute Band*), "Out of the Blue" (*Mustang Sally to Great Balls of Fire*) & "Cracker

Dummy" (*traditional rock covers*),  
All proceeds will go to **SERV**.  
Where else can you get a nights entertainment for only £5?

To buy tickets, please give Paul Long a shout at [pjl1964@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:pjl1964@hotmail.co.uk) or phone 0777 159 2383

We are now able to accept online donations at [www.servobn.org.uk/donate](http://www.servobn.org.uk/donate)

# Serv OBN exhibit their new Exhibition Unit

Well, we've been using our display tent at many events for the past three years and it has stood up to some really bad weather conditions including at Hendon when another Serv groups' tent next to ours was completely destroyed in high winds.



Our old display tent at Northampton Balloon Festival

Our tent took it's worst hit recently at the Festival of Transport in Newton Longville when we had to take it down before it broke apart.

So it was time to replace her, but what with?

The Oxfordshire branch of the IAM were selling their exhibition trailer and offered it to us at a very reasonable price

so we decided to buy it.



The Display Unit Before it was refitted

The trailer was then washed, de-stickered and then passed on to the capable hands of Serv volunteer and north route trainer—John Mason who put his skills as a builder/joiner/cabinet maker to work.

The result being a very professional looking Mobile Display Unit which can

be set up by one person if necessary and takes a lot less time to set up than the tent used to.



After being refitted

So what will become of the old display tent?

The tent is currently being fixed up and will be great as a back up to use when we have more than one event.



The New Display Unit at Bicester Carnival (above) and at the Berkshire 4x4 Show (below)

A big thank you to John Mason for donating his time and effort to producing an Exhibition Unit that reflects the professional image of SERV





Devitt Insurance currently insure all of Serv's dedicated bikes, free of charge. What's more.... If you phone them for a quote on 0800 200369 and quote "SERV", they will beat your renewal quote. If you then take out a policy with them, they will also donate £25 to SERV.



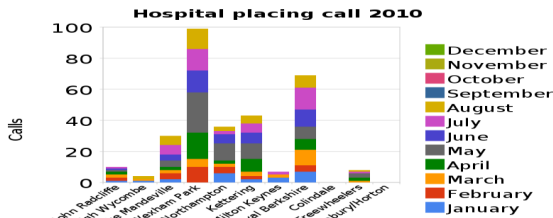
**Call Logs**

Serv OBN Has had a busy year so far with 320 calls (as of 27/08/10) from Hospitals since 1st January 2010 Saving the NHS an thousands of pounds



We are getting busier as each month passes with a total of 127 calls in June, July & August, Our year end projection is now heading towards a staggering 500 calls

Our heaviest users of 2010 so far are Wexham Park in Slough, followed by Royal Berks in Reading.



**SERV OBN Committee contact details.....**

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <b>Steve Parker-James</b><br>liaison@servobn.org.uk | <b>Hospital Liaison Officer</b>               |
| <b>Danny Bateman</b><br>publicity@servobn.org.uk    | <b>Publicity Co-ordinator</b><br>07877 544572 |
| <b>John Stepney</b><br>co-ordinator@servobn.org.uk  | <b>Group Co-ordinator</b><br>07803 620655     |
| <b>Mel Smith</b><br>treasurer@servobn.org.uk        | <b>Treasurer</b><br>07801 748550              |
| <b>Peter Smithson</b><br>membership@servobn.org.uk  | <b>Membership Secretary</b><br>07971 719517   |
| <b>John Fortin</b><br>rota@servobn.org.uk           | <b>Operations Manager</b><br>07710 482234     |

**You guys saved my life.....**

So there I was waiting to watch a big monster truck about to drive over the top of some parked cars.... It was a warm sunny day at the Berkshire 4x4 Show, a lot better weather than the day before, (We were there with the Serv mobile display unit for the weekend) when someone walks up behind me and taps me on the shoulder..... "Erm Excuse me, I would like to shake you by the hand", ok that got my attention. As I turned round to see who it was, he continued.... "You guys saved my life", "We did?" I said, he continued.... "A few months ago, I was rushed into hospital with a Brain Aneurism (A bleed from the brain) and you guys got the blood to the hospital. I wouldn't be here today without you guys and the job you do, Thank You". We had a chat for a short while before shaking hands again and off he went. It's not often we get feedback on the work that Serv does. You Guys (& Gals) really are making a difference, there are people alive today because of you. Well done!



*Article by Danny Bateman*

**Serv prepares for the charities 30th birthday next April**

Serv is preparing for the charities 30th anniversary next year..

Keep a look out for the planned events and celebrations.

Serv has come a long way since the early days back in April 1981.

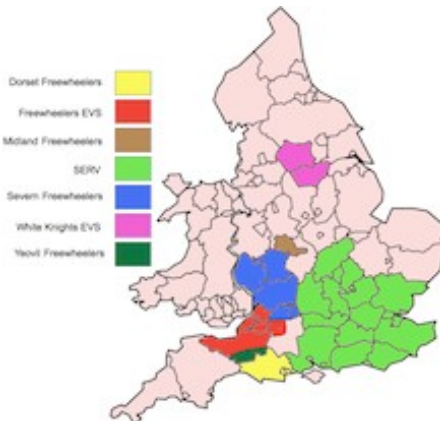
Set up by a small group of bikers in Surrey to supply a quick and reliable means of Transporting Emergency Blood and Blood Products to the hospitals and medical facilities at night.

Serv was to be a free service to the NHS, provided by volunteers who receive no compensation for their time and costs.

Almost 30 years on and Serv has become a much bigger charity, with hundreds of volunteers operating over 11 Counties in the south east of England, having covered thousands of runs and in turn saving the NHS tens of thousands of pounds that can now be spent where it is needed most.

We rarely receive feedback about the patients that have benefited from this service, but we can be sure that there

are many people (both young and old) that are alive today, because of the service our volunteers provide.



Serv & our other sister organisations have also come together to form the Nationwide Association of Blood Bikes (NABB) which will enable all the groups to maintain a consistent and professional service, as well as assisting new start up groups with the regulations & training that is required to provide the service.

You can visit the NABB's website at [www.bloodbikes.org.uk](http://www.bloodbikes.org.uk)



A lot has been accomplished over the past three decades but that's nothing with what we plan to achieve over the next 30 years.