

# Skylines

**Summer 2025**



**“That day, I thought  
my daughter had  
been taken from me.”**

**| Page 8**

**“I love my job - I  
get to fly a helicopter  
and help people”**

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**Find out what's  
happening  
in your area**

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**“Hi I’m James,**  
Chief Pilot at NWAA, welcome to our Summer edition of Skylines, full of stories from across the charity.

On pages 2-3, you can read about the impact your support has had on not only patients, but also their friends and family. Without you, we wouldn't be there for patients like Ayda, whose story is on pages 8-11.

We've also caught up with Ammie, one of our Patient Aftercare Coordinators, on pages 6-7, who tells us about her role. Hear from me on pages 12-13 on what it's like to fly for NWAA.

Some of our wonderful fundraisers, Gillie and Middlesbrook M&S share their stories, and you can find out about events happening in your area on pages 14-19. Supporter Gillian also shares how she supports the charity in memory of her dad, Colin on pages 20-21.”

## Thanks to you, we've been able to continue our service.

Here's the impact we've made between January and June this year.



**1,986**

Missions have been made, over 400 more than the same period in 2024

**503**

Times the night car has been dispatched, over 300 more than this time last year

**61**

Patients have received a blood transfusion



**Medical**

Emergencies have been the most common incident we've been called to

**90**

Patients have been placed into a medically induced coma at the scene



**50-59**

Is the most common patient age, but we have treated patients from 0 – 100

### Missions by region in 2025 so far

Greater Manchester	850	Merseyside	252
Lancashire	465	Cumbria	91
Cheshire	289	Other	29



Alice

## Your donation is powerful

Your generosity fuels our helicopters and cars, allowing us to deliver critical care 365 days a year.

But, it also gives families time.

Time to make more memories. And sometimes, the time to say goodbye. It gives loved ones precious moments they might not otherwise have.

“

**I will be eternally grateful to NWAA for enabling me to climb mountains, travel, ride horses, and live a normal 29-year-old's life. I think I owe it to them to make the most of every minute I have!**

Alice, NWAA Patient

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Your support doesn't just impact patients; it affects their families and friends. If you can, donate today and be there for families across the North West. You never know when you'll need us, but we need you every day.

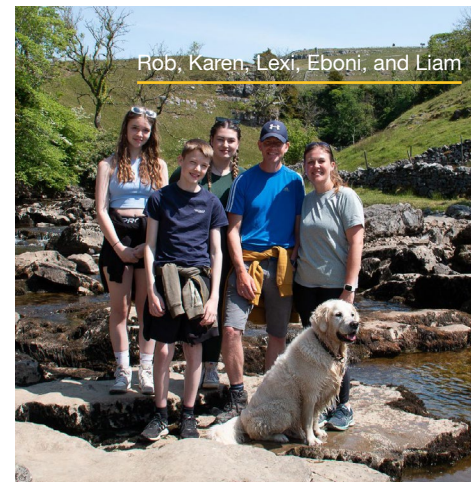
Visit [nwaa.info/donate2025](https://nwaa.info/donate2025) to donate or scan the QR code.

“

**Because of the amazing team, we've been able to appreciate small moments in life that we used to take for granted - a trip to the cinema, a walk around Ingleton Falls, a family holiday, and so many more.**

Karen, Wife of Rob, NWAA Patient

”



Rob, Karen, Lexi, Eboni, and Liam

“

**If it weren't for NWAA, there's a very high possibility that Nicola wouldn't be here now. She wouldn't be able to watch Emily grow up, and Emily wouldn't have a mummy.**

Ben, Husband of Nicola, NWAA Patient

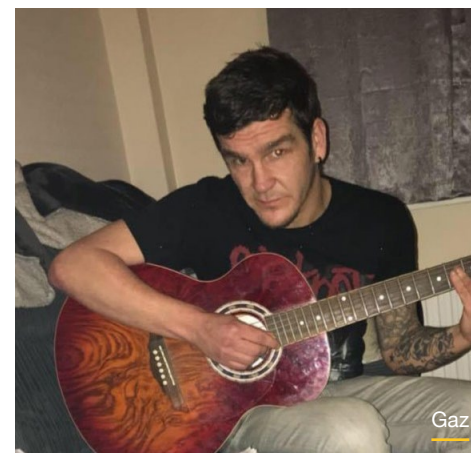
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“

**Thanks to the amazing NWAA team, they kept him breathing and transferred him to Aintree Hospital where his loved ones got to say goodbye, along with his friends. We will be eternally grateful for that.**

Emma, Sister of Gaz, NWAA Patient

”



Gaz



# Our Patient Aftercare Team

**Hi, I'm Ammie!  
I'm a Major Trauma  
Coordinator at Salford  
Royal Hospital.**

My role is all about the patients. I support them through their hospital journey and beyond. There's so much we do, from coordinating and providing specialised nursing care, to supporting families, discussing rehabilitation options as well as providing a follow up service.

I've been part of the NWAA Patient Aftercare Team at Salford since June 2023. The wider Patient Aftercare Team is spread across all six major trauma centres in the North West.

We act as a link between the hospital and the charity, liaising with the patient and their family, building a rapport with them, and explaining how NWAA was involved in their care.

We support them through their recovery and provide direct feedback to the crew, something they didn't previously have. Now, the charity can find out how the pre-hospital interventions provided impacted the patient and their recovery, often giving a full-circle moment.

We're also supporting NWAA's research through feedback and data collection. This is something I feel very passionate about as it will help shape the care NWAA provides in the future.

I feel so privileged to work in this role where I meet patients and their families on what is often the worse day of their life and help them navigate through their hospital journey, recovery and beyond.





# Ayda's story:

## 6th April 2024

### Saturday morning

**"Ayda was three years old at the time. She's autistic and non-verbal, so she's as quiet as a mouse.**

I'd taken her out in the morning and then my mum came round to my house to look after her while I took my son to the safari park."



Ayda and Mum, Alex



Ayda on the swings

**"I remember getting a phone call from my neighbour, Sarah, and the panic in her voice. 'Ayda's gone.'**

I immediately jumped in the car.

When I arrived, it was chaos, everyone was out searching.

There were ambulances, police cars, neighbours, and even an air ambulance helicopter overhead. I couldn't breathe..."

### The police find Ayda

As the police were searching, they heard over the radio that there was a lake opposite the home.

One of the policemen shouted he'd seen her in the lake. They all headed into the water. Taking their body armour off and going straight in, boots on, full uniform.

**Her nappy was keeping her buoyant, but she was face down in the water.**

When they rolled her over, she was unresponsive, just staring up at the sky. She was so cold to touch. They thought they were too late at the time.





Paul, Advanced Paramedic and HEMS Paramedic

## The emergency services start CPR

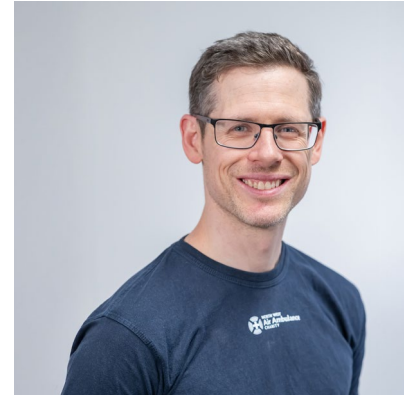
“The police started CPR. A neighbour’s sister, Janet, who was a Respiratory Nurse, was also helping lead the CPR.

Ayda looked so unwell. But then my colleague said, ‘**Paul, I think we’ve got a pulse.**’

To be honest, I couldn’t find it. But the next thing, she took a breath.

That’s when the first NWAA crew came over.”

## The second NWAA team arrive



Air Ambulance Doctor, Mike

“Ayda was very cold and deeply unconscious, with signs she had inhaled and swallowed a large amount of water.

We gave her an anaesthetic, placed her on a ventilator, inserted a tube to relieve pressure in her stomach, and began warming her.

Her oxygen levels improved on the way to Alder Hey Children’s Hospital, where she continued to receive specialist care.”

## The first air ambulance lands

“We knew our doctor aircraft, H72, was inbound, so our role was to stabilise her as best we could and get her into a position for a pre-hospital emergency anaesthetic.

With the other emergency services, we moved her from the lake, up the embankment and into a land ambulance.”



Senior Team Leader and Critical Care Paramedic, Rob

## A few days later, Ayda woke up

“That day, I thought my daughter had been taken from me. But a whole army of people, police, nurses, paramedics, pilots, and doctors refused to let her go.

From the police getting there so fast, to them diving in the water, and Janet sliding down the bank, then the paramedics and doctor arriving in the air ambulance.

Everyone played their part in keeping Ayda alive.

**I’m just so grateful. It’s an absolute miracle; it’s like winning the lottery. I can’t thank everyone enough.”**



Ayda and Alex



## Catch up with the crew!

We sat down with our Chief Pilot, James, who's been flying with the charity for over six years!

### Do you enjoy flying with NWAA?

"I love my job with NWAA and feel very privileged to be part of bringing critical care to people in need. I've been with the charity for over six years now.

Our helicopters are EC135s; they're incredibly capable and fly in almost all weathers. Occasionally, we get thick fog or lightning, which aren't safe to fly in; that's when the crew might go on a mission by road."

### What's it like flying round the North West?

"There's a huge variety of flying around the North West. We go to some weird and wonderful places, but stepping out having landed on a motorway will always be a strange feeling; you're alone on a giant empty stretch of tarmac."

### What's your role at the scene?

"My primary role is to look after the aircraft. I'll do a post-flight check, prep the cabin and calculate how far we are and how many people we can carry to hospital.

Depending on the incident, I might help the crew with equipment. I'm not medically trained so I'm always in awe of what they can deliver at the roadside.



The patient is at the heart of everything we do, but if we're out of sight of the incident and the crew doesn't need my help, it's a great opportunity to speak to the public and show them the aircraft.

The usual question I get is, 'Is this a training flight?' as people can't quite believe we've just dropped in on their day. Kids usually want to know, 'How fast do you fly?' (about 150mph) and 'Why are you here?'. The answer to this question is always 'To help someone'."



## Gillie's skydive



I was trembling as we got into the plane, and my instructor even asked if I wanted to back out. But I thought of all the donations from friends and family and felt like I'd let myself down if I didn't do it.

To make it even more of a challenge, I was supposed to be jumping at 11,000ft, but my husband paid extra for it to be at 15,000ft. He said, 'If you're going to do it, you might as well go the whole way!'

It was an unbelievable experience, I'm really glad I went through with it. I was so relieved when I landed, although it was a bit bumpy.

NWAA does such amazing work that's only possible due to public support. By doing a skydive, I raised £1,270 plus £500 through Gift Aid.

**I'd encourage anyone to give it a go; it was incredible!**



## I achieved something I never thought I could do!

My name's Gillie, and back in March this year, I took on a skydive to raise money for NWAA.

I've always supported NWAA, I play the Lift off Lotto and I often donate items to my local shop. At the start of the year, I saw an advert for NWAA's Skydive Day on Facebook and thought I'd challenge myself.

20 years ago, I had a surgical procedure that didn't go to plan, my husband thought he'd lost me. But I'm still here, and I wanted to do something I never thought I'd be able to do.

I can't lie; I was absolutely terrified on the day. I had my husband with me and a family friend who's known me since I was a child, cheering me along; they were so proud.



**Take on a skydive for NWAA. Join us on one of our skydiving days at the Black Knights Skydiving Centre or choose your own date. We'll be there to support you throughout your journey!**

Scan the QR code or visit [nwaa.info/skydive2025](https://nwaa.info/skydive2025) to find out more.



# What's coming up in your area!



## Cumbria

- Taste Cumbria in Cockermouth 27th-28th September
- Taste Cumbria in Cockermouth 6th-7th December



## Lancashire

- Blackpool Airshow 9th-10th August
- NWAA's Skydive Day 20th September
- NWAA's Moonlight Mission Walk 4th October
- Lytham shop celebrates the 1940's Festival Wartime Weekend 16th-17th August



## Merseyside

- New Brighton Summer Festival 16th-17th August
- West Lancashire Charity Golf Day 25th September
- Liverpool Santa Dash 7th December



## Manchester

- Manchester Half Marathon 25th October
- NWAA Fire Walk 7th November



## Special thank you

to all who attended our Corporate Crew event at the Barton airbase in March - including members A&B Engineering, Glasdon Group, BrightHR and Fletchers Solicitors. All were treated to an insight into our Blood on Board operations.



## Cheshire

- Nantwich Food Festival 29th-31st August
- Chester Marathon 5th October



# Ready, set, FUN-RAISE!

**We're calling on all our supporters to fundraise for NWAA and turn your passion into lifesaving action.**

Every pound raised powers our next mission. Last year, you raised over half a million pounds in unique and wonderful ways.

Fundraising with colleagues, friends, and family can be lots of fun! You could have a fancy dress day at work, take on a challenge with friends, or get sponsored as a family.

Colleagues at M&S Middlebrook in Bolton recently fundraised for NWAA.

"Every year, we help a different charity, and we do fundraisers.

We try to raise as much money in store for the charity. We chose NWAA because of a personal connection with one of the staff members. She needed the medical care of the crew from NWAA. It's also a great charity to support.



Sophie Owen,  
Charity Team  
at M&S Middlebrook

"We'd like to say a huge thank you to the team at M&S Bolton Middlebrook. The whole team has turned a passion into action, from the sponsored walk, to raffles and even bag packing in store, your support has helped to save lives across the North West!" commented Chris, Community Fundraiser for Greater Manchester

This year our challenge was to take on the Derwent Water Circular, it was 16km in total, lots of staff members took part, and it was five hours of walking, but we raised £1,800. We've also held raffles for staff and even had the NWAA team bag packing for customers too!" said Sophie Owen, Charity Team at M&S Middlebrook.



**Feeling inspired? Find out more or register for your fundraising pack today at [nwaa.info/fundraise](https://nwaa.info/fundraise)**





**In memory  
of Colin...**

**Your support is special to us, especially when it's in memory of a loved one. We feel incredibly privileged when we're chosen to be supported in this way.**

Whether it's through a fundraising event, a collection at a funeral or memorial, sharing their story on our memory wall or creating a Much Loved tribute page, we're eternally grateful.

Gillian chose NWAA as the charity to support when her dad, Colin, passed away.



“

**Dad didn't have any personal connections to the air ambulance, but he was always a very keen walker. He knew all the beauty spots and moors around Chorley.**

**If he'd ever had a fall or medical episode, he could have depended on the air ambulance, so we thought it would be a fitting and worthwhile charity to send donations to.**

Gillian, Daughter of Colin and NWAA Supporter

**Much Loved is a lovely way to remember him. I feel close to him and tell him what's going on in our lives. I like lighting candles for dad on birthdays and anniversaries, or if I'm having a bad day and miss him.**

**The page makes me feel closer to him and like a little bit of him is still here. It's a permanent tribute; he deserves to have that and not be forgotten.**

”

## How to support

Through a Much Loved tribute page, which is free to use, you can share stories, poems, life events and more. You can light candles or send virtual gifts to celebrate your loved one's memory.

The tribute pages can also be a way of sharing details of a funeral or memorial service digitally, and a central place where donations can be made in lieu of flowers.



Find out more about Much Loved and supporting the charity in memory of a loved one on our website.

**Visit [nwaa.info/in-memory](https://nwaa.info/in-memory) or scan the QR code.**





## NWAA strikes gold

Volunteering is vital to our charity. Donating just a couple of hours of your time each week can make a huge impact.

One of our amazing volunteers is Sarah! She's been volunteering two days a week for three years since retiring at the age of 55. In that time, Sarah has taken on many roles to help the team, but a chance find led to Sarah completely transforming the way we process jewellery at her store.

"I was sitting in the staff room, eating lunch, when I noticed a box labelled jewellery."

“

**I asked if I could go through it - little did I know what I'd just taken on! As well as the box, there was more donated jewellery in the back room. With the ok from the shop manager, I took a couple of bags home that night and began sorting through them.**

Sarah, NWAA Volunteer

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"I found gold, silver, and diamond rings. I knew I needed help, so I asked another colleague, to research the jewellery."

Since October 2024, we've raised over £7,000 by sorting through the jewellery! We sell some items in the shop and through our eBay store, as well as weighing in broken gold and silver items.

We've found eight Rolex watches so far, all fake, unfortunately. But we did find an Yves Saint Laurent ring which is on eBay for £235.

Now, we sort through donations fortnightly, with stock labelled and priced ready to sell in-store and online!"



## Celebrating 25 years of volunteering

Since 2000, Anne Burrow has been supporting NWAA, alongside her husband Peter, in memory of their son Teddy. With over £500,000 credited to their fundraising, Anne still volunteers at our Kendal shop and does whatever she can to support us.

Thank you so much, Anne and Peter, for your dedication and commitment to NWAA. You've made a huge impact on us and families across the region.





# I'd like to donate

Name

Address

Postcode

Email

Telephone

I would like to make a donation of:

£

☐ I enclose a cheque/postal order made payable to 'North West Air Ambulance'

OR

☐ Please debit my account: Card Type ☐ Visa ☐ Mastercard

Card no:

End date:  CVV:

Signature:

Date:

North West Air Ambulance Charity would like to keep you informed about our work, how your support has helped us keep our helicopters in the air, and how you can be involved in the future.

We promise to never share your information with any other organisation for their marketing purposes. Please see our privacy statement at [www.nwairambulance.org.uk](http://www.nwairambulance.org.uk) for detailed information about how we use your data.

Using email and text messages helps us be more cost effective. Please tick if you are happy to receive information about the work of the North West Air Ambulance Charity.

☐ By email ☐ By text

Please tick if you do not wish to receive information about our work.

☐ By post ☐ By telephone

☐ I'm interested in leaving a gift in my Will. Please send me more information.

**Boost every £1 you donate by 25p, at no extra cost to you through Gift Aid.**

☐ **Yes**, I am a UK tax payer and I understand that if I pay less Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax in the current tax year than the amount of Gift Aid claimed on all my donations, it is my responsibility to pay any difference. I would like the North West Air Ambulance Charity to claim Gift Aid on any donations I make to the Charity, up until I notify them of any change in circumstance.

☐ **No**, I am not a UK tax payer. If you are not able to Gift Aid we'd still like to know.

Date:

*giftaid it*

**Please notify the charity if you:**

1. Want to cancel this declaration.
2. Change your name or home address.
3. No longer pay sufficient tax on your income and/or capital gains.
4. If you pay Income Tax at the higher or additional rate and want to receive the additional tax relief due to you, you must include all your Gift Aid donations on your Self-Assessment tax return or ask HM Revenue and Customs to adjust your tax code.