

NORTHUMBRIA BLOOD BIKES

Members' Newsletter November 2013



Our next open meeting is on **Thurs 12th December 2013, 7:00pm** at The Wheatsheaf, Woolsington.

-Your chance to find out what we've been doing, what our aims are for the new year, and how you can participate!

There are plenty of opportunities to help to promote the group, and to raise vital funds to ensure the ongoing development of the charity. So come and meet the people who've been working in the background.... There'll be presentations by some of them and a chance for an informal chat!

Next open meeting

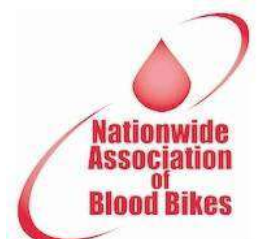
As always there has been a huge amount of activity since the last open meeting and we're keen to reassure members that we are doing everything we can to become fully operational. It often looks like things are not moving forward, but there's always plenty going on: this is our chance to inform everyone, hopefully recruit some willing assistance, and also your chance to ask questions. Time is fairly tight though, so we are asking that any members who want a particular subject to be raised or have a question they'd like to have answered, please contact our Chairman Peter Robertson (chairman@northunbriabloodbikes.org.uk) so that we can make sure we plan enough time to get your questions answered.

Website development

We're aware that many people have encountered issues accessing information on the website or the forum. In response to feedback from members, it's been decided that the time is right for us to change the hosting package we currently have to allow for greater traffic, and an improved user experience. Martin, our IT guru, is working on this now. Hopefully within a few weeks the troubles will be a thing of the past.

First female rider to pass our assessment :

Congratulations to Phillipa Bromley, the first female rider to pass our assessment via Geoff's observed ride. She's almost ready to ride with us, needing only her blue light training and a familiarisation run!



Blood Bikes go back to school!

On Friday October 18th the pupils and staff of Seaton Delaval First School welcomed Northumbria Blood Bikes. Pupils listened as Peter (Robertson) and Owain (Harris) explained why the service was needed and how important fundraising was to our existence. Two lucky pupils, Hannah and Adam got to sit on our BMW RT and mini-moto Blood Bike Maisie; they were especially happy to be allowed to turn on the blue lights! Other pupils took part by answering questions about the liveries of the different emergency services and asked loads of questions! Afterwards some of the pupils wanted to draw pictures of our bikes, and the results are really excellent!

The Headteacher Oliver Flitcroft pronounced the visit a great success and has agreed that the school will hold a non-uniform fundraising day for us in late November. Thanks Mr Flitcroft, and thanks Seaton Delaval First School!"



....and Geoff Spencer graduates!

IAM
DRIVING ROAD SAFETY



Congratulations to our training Guru Geoff Spencer (right) on passing the IAM Masters Programme and being selected as a mentor to boot!

Geoff is already a Senior Observer for motorcycle training with IAM and RoSPA, and the IAM Masters is recognised as the highest level of civilian driving standard in the country. We consider ourselves to be very fortunate to have someone as qualified as Geoff playing such a key role in our charity.



Providing effective and timely transportation of essential blood and medical products
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Publicity and fundraising activities since the last newsletter:



- A pledge of £1000.00 from the Rothley Trust
- Undisclosed donation (yet to be presented to us) from SCANIA
- Cheque from Waitrose, Eldon Square, for £268.00 (green token scheme)
- Green token event currently in progress at Waitrose, Ponteland
- Fundraising day at Sainsburys, Arnison Centre, Durham on Friday 29th November...come along and see us!
- 23rd Nov: Motorcycle Live! Event (Birmingham NEC): with Owain Harris, Sue Harris and Phil Roberts representing Northumbria Bloodbikes at the NABB stand.



Regrettably Hazel Askins-Hicklin, our fundraising Co-ordinator for the last year, has had a degree of ill health since becoming a committee member. This, combined with the volume of work she has been undertaking for us has resulted in her deciding that she can no longer continue in the role. She leaves on good terms and we hope she will stay in touch as the group continues to develop. Graham Moor has taken on the Fundraising Co-ordinator role, and we all thank him for volunteering and wish him every success with it. Fundraising is the life-blood of our group; without funding, we have no bikes, no fuel, no future. Please help us to raise awareness and funds by volunteering at one of our events, or suggest one if you know of somewhere we can fundraise. We're keen to find company sponsorship too; please ask around at your workplace, schools & businesses!



We are now registered with easyfundraising.org.uk, a free way to raise money for our cause, simply by shopping online. Please consider signing up to this. We spend a lot of money online and this costs us nothing to donate. Our charity is already on there, just search for Northumbria Blood Bikes when you sign up..... Easy!

Precious Cargo project



"Precious Cargo" is a motorcycle outreach organisation working to introduce effective healthcare delivery in remote areas of developing countries. On 5th November, three of our members travelled to Falkirk to take part in the event. Various Blood bike groups across the country are delivering a signature-filled scroll between hospitals, and we were approached by NABB to assist in transporting it from Scotland to Durham. After riding for several hours we handed it over to Whiteknights EVS Blood bikers at Durham services. Pictured below left are (left to right) Terry Dutchburn, Chairman of Whiteknights EVS, our Rota Manager Gary Annan, Vic Siswick (Whiteknights), Treasurer Richard Scholfield and Chairman Peter Robertson. Pictured (right) is our Vice-Chairman Alan Ross collecting the scroll in Falkirk.



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BLOODRUN *EVS*

Bloodrun: the “control room” approach...

During recent months we've been in communication with the Bloodrun group with a view to supporting journeys between James Cook Hospital, Middlesbrough, and the NBTS offices in Barrack Road. Although the progress so far has been fraught with issues, it's been a good exercise to test that our staffing levels, co-ordinator & bike handovers etc are ready to go live. We've also managed to get permission to use Peterlee fire station as a rendezvous point for transfers between groups. During negotiations we became aware that Bloodrun don't use co-ordinators, they have “Call care”. Call care are a 24 hour, 365 day call centre that takes calls for lone workers. They take all of the NHS calls for Bloodrun group, and they cover the whole of the UK.

Call care provide a radio for each worker (in our case, each bike) which is tracked by the call centre. They manage allocation of jobs to riders based on their current location, how busy the rider has been etc. Each radio has buttons that the rider presses to let the centre know they have picked up / dropped off / are en-route, resting etc. The system can also help to detect accidents based on lack of radio movement. They would, if we used them, provide a single dedicated telephone number for our hospitals to call. They also provide monthly statistics on distance travelled, number of callouts etc.

We're interested in the professionalism this service appears to offer, and have arranged a visit at the end of this month to see how it would work for us, and at what cost, if any. Watch this space... there may well be some news about this in the next newsletter.....

Our new bike!



Our last newsletter mentioned that we were on the verge of buying a second bike, and here it is! It's a Honda ST1300 Pan European, and as the photo shows, it's in remarkably good condition. Our Treasurer, Richard Scholfield, tested it out on the Precious Cargo Run and it handled well with no issues. The ST1300 has a far lower seat height than the BMW1200RT, and this was a major consideration when choosing the model as some members were finding the BMW a little too high to ride comfortably. We've now ordered the High visibility “battenburg” livery for it, and we're working on getting a bloodbox rack fitted together with the other requirements to put it into service. If the livery is fitted in time, we hope to bring it the new bike to the open meeting in December....

The purchase of this bike came about thanks to a very generous donation from MG Northumbria. We are extremely thankful for their contribution and will be arranging a photo shoot with them once the bike is ready to go into service. Now that we have two bikes, we're in a better position to go live with at least one NHS hospital trust. However we're also well aware that preparing a bike for use can take a long, long time (we still have no bloodbox rack on the BMW, but after having to get one custom made, we're very close to getting it completed!) So with this in mind, we're tentatively looking at the possibility of a third bike in the next few weeks. With the 2013 biking all but gone it's probably the best time of the year for us to try to get a bargain, so let us know if you see one! We're considering Pan Europeans, Deauvilles, FJR1300s, or any shaft-driven tourers of good condition.

Alnwick Gardens....

It was just too late to include in last month's newsletter, but at least we now have photos to show! Saturday 19th October saw Northumbria Blood Bikes at Alnwick Gardens, as part of the Harley Davidson Route 66 event. Pictured in the middle photo is Her Grace the Duchess of Northumberland trying our bike out for size. It was a good day which spread the word about our group to a new audience, and saw several new membership enquiries!



It's a long way away..... both in terms of time and distance, but the Prescott Bike Festival on 6th April 2014 is the Nationwide Association of Blood Bikes (NABB) biggest annual event. Next year they are planning a "Blood Bike Village", where they hope to have the largest collection

of blood bike groups in one place. The plan is to have a gazebo-sized pitch for each blood bike group around the country to present themselves, with a bike where possible. NABB supported us when we were first forming and continue to do so; for example they recently gave us a year of AA cover for the BMW. We've decided that we will attend in April, and for anyone who is interested in going, it's a great opportunity to find out what other groups do to promote themselves, which suppliers they use, what training they give etc. It's a rare chance to compare the way we plan to run with other, like-minded Blood-bikers, and will no doubt provide some remarkable photo opportunities! Stick the date in your diary.... In future newsletters we'll be reminding you and inviting volunteers to staff our stand at the event. Find out more at <http://www.prescottbikefestival.co.uk/>

And finally...

Barry Bullas (Membership) is going to be refreshing the mailing list to make sure we're not sending out emails to people who don't want them. If you get an email, please make sure that you respond to ensure that you keep receiving mail from us!

FUNDRAISING HOTLINE: 07766 479 770 - for any opportunities to increase our funding through sponsorship, locations for collecting tins, supermarket events etc...



www.northumbriabloodbikes.org.uk



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