



NORTHUMBRIA BLOOD BIKES

December
2014
Newsletter



Northumbria Blood Bikes are moving... into cars!

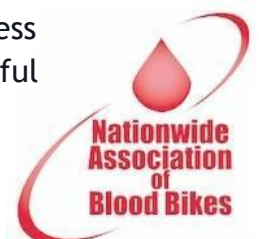
Don't worry, we are not abandoning the bikes or even changing our name... The cars will be used in the bad weather during the winter months when the temperature drops below 3 degrees (the cut off limit for carrying blood on the bikes). Two Nissan LEAFs and a Renault Kangoo are being provided courtesy of the Newcastle NHS Trust, and will allow us to continue to provide this life saving service regardless of the weather.

These are sample pics; when we have organized a photoshoot we will update you with the actual cars. The Nissan LEAF cars have the added bonus of being all electric, saving us a small fortune on petrol costs (Our average monthly spend on fuel is around £1000.00). The Renault Kangoo van has been donated to the charity and is ours to keep: After it's gone through servicing we intend to get it appropriately liveried and can use it for events, finally giving our publicity guru Owain Harris's car a well-deserved rest!



Many thanks to Newcastle NHS Foundation Trust for permitting us to use these vehicles, which means our service can continue in cold winter weather. Thanks also to Sean Storey, our NHS Liaison, and the other volunteers whose tireless behind-the-scenes planning and negotiation assisted in obtaining this successful outcome.

Photos will follow.....

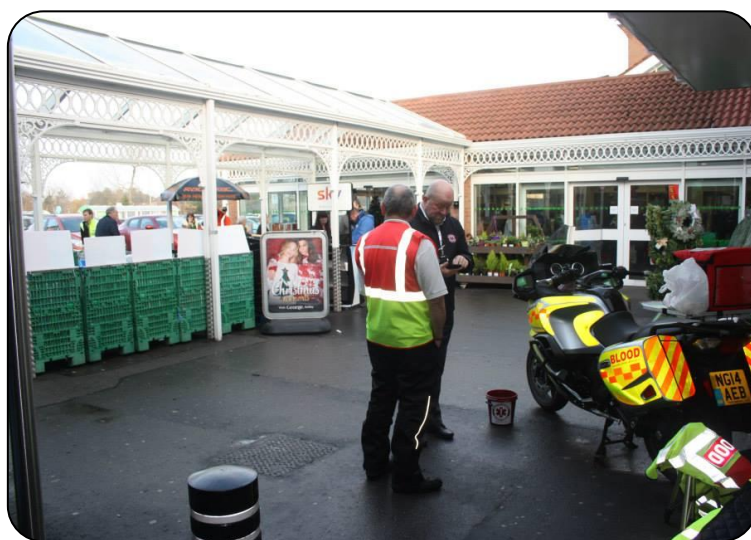


ASDA Boldon, 22nd November:

This was one of three planned events for the day; 'BELLA' the Madathlon Trophy was there, as were Chris Mitchell, John Parrish, Nigel Barlow, and Philippa Bromley.

There was a slight problem in that there was not a lot of space available that day, and so the awareness table went inside, along with the banner, and the bike was outside. However, the fundraising volunteers made the best of the space available, and enjoyed another good day of awareness and fundraising.

Thank you to all the customers who donated and asked about the service we provide for free! *Story: Owain Harris*



TESCO Kingston Park, 22nd November:

Another Northumbria Blood Bike double - with another Madathlon trophy, this one obviously was 'CLAIRE' on duty in the warmth of TESCO at Kingston Park

Pictured below right are (left to right) Alan Dalgarno, Rob Wilks, Jack Stewart and Stewart Wilkinson



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Back to School For Northumbria BloodBikes.... Part two!

Last month we reported a round of talks to pupils at assemblies at King Edward VI school in Morpeth. Northumbria Blood Bikes were chosen along with another charity to benefit from a 'non uniform' day recently. Owain Harris and Peter Robertson attended the school, and were presented with a cheque for £850-00!! Outstanding effort on behalf of the pupils, thank you very much to everyone who donated.



Wardley Club 22nd November:

After the previous page it may seem that we condensed all our fundraising efforts for the month into one single day! This was event number three on 22nd November: Northumbria Blood Bikes attended Wardley Club, where one of the local motorcycle clubs were holding a birthday celebration. The attendance of a Madathlon Triumph Trophy was a big hit!

“MadDog Mick” (in the red headscarf on both photos) Reported afterwards “It was a good night, what I remember of it...We’ve counted the money and we have £320.00 for Blood Bikes”



NBB members Gary Annan and Rob Wilks were there; Rob had already been fundraising at Tesco Kingston Park, and I believe Gary was due to appear at Asda Ryhope on the following day. Fundraising is a huge part of our responsibilities, and some do more than their fair share, so if you can help, please do... No funds = no service!

ASDA Ryhope, 23rd November



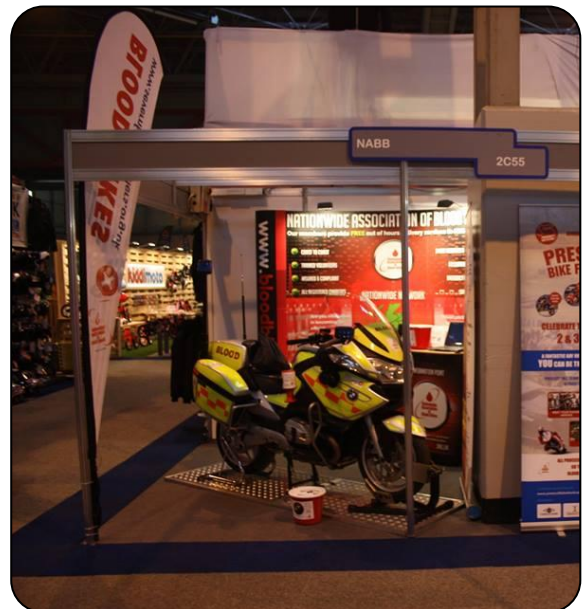
Northumbria Blood bikes completed their fourth appearance over the busy November weekend with a visit to ASDA at Ryhope. Although not as big as some of the stores that we have done previously, the location for the bike in terms of visibility and footfall were excellent - right inside the door!

'Dress codes' were relaxed on this particular weekend due to fundraising vests being temporarily misplaced, although they have since been located! The location was a sun trap as can be seen from the photos, and the following members were doing a sterling job: Gary Annan, Nigel Barlow, Stephen Winn, and our duty rider Tim Roberts who was present on "stand-by" as he waited for a call.

I'm not sure of the amount raised at the time of writing, but we would like to thank all those customers who donated to the charity to keep the service running - Thank You!

Northumbria Blood Bikes at Motorcycle Live 2014!

Owain & Sue Harris made the 400 mile round trip to the NEC to represent NBB at Motorcycle Live, by working on the stand on the Saturday of the final weekend. It was was busy all day; we had some lovely visitors to see the bike & the work that Blood Bikes nationwide carry out. Some you may know...John McGuinness, Steve Parrish, Charley Boorman, (Below centre), Leon Haslam, so a big thanks to all of them who took the time to say hello!



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PAY ATTENTION!

This is your chance to make a HUGE donation to us without spending any money at all.....

Northumbria Blood Bikes have been nominated for the Nationwide "Big Local" vote for December. If we win, we get a £5000.00 donation! All we need to do is get the most votes by calling upon everyone (friends, family, work colleagues etc) to visit the voting page and pop in a vote for us. It only takes a moment, and it's free.

<http://your.nationwide.co.uk/your-society/Pages/thebiglocal.aspx>

Please vote for us... and ask everyone to vote too... it means so much to us!
Share our link on your Facebook page (It's at the top of our public Facebook site)



Nationwide contributes to lots of community groups around the UK, but who should receive an extra £5,000?
You decide!

Charities helped in 2013 - 2014:

1019

Total Contributions in 2013 - 2014:

£1,289,760



How does it work?

1



Each month we choose charities from a different UK region nominated by you, our members

2



You can vote for the charity you want to win through the Big Local site

3



The charity with the most votes will receive £5,000



ASDA cheque presentation:

Northumbria Blood Bikes were lucky winners of the 'green token' scheme at Asda Leechmere in Sunderland recently. Community champion Lesley Watson, who had previously had the bikes at the store, was on hand to present a cheque to the value of £200-00 to the charity.



Blood Bike members Rob Wilks and Richard Scholfield attended with two of our bikes - the BMW RT(our first ever bike purchased off eBay and still doing sterling work), and one of the new Triumph Trophy's, bought by our friends at [Madathlon](#) - this one is 'Claire'.

Thanks to Lesley and her colleagues at Asda for inviting us in the first place, and to all those people who put their tokens in our slot!

Story: Richard / Rob / Owain.

Some great publicity on TV & radio!



We were lucky enough to get some great publicity on two local radio stations this month... both on the same day, Thursday 12th December.

It was a chilly morning, but Volunteer Mike Thompson braved the early morning frost to do a live interview with the "Alfie & Charlie Breakfast Show" at BBC Radio Newcastle, just a few yards away from the Regional NHS Blood & Transplant Headquarters at Fenham Barracks. Meanwhile, volunteer Owain Harris was busy doing the same thing at BBC Radio Tees for the Ali Brownlee Breakfast Show. Both talks came over really well, and one even gave us the chance to promote the "Big Local" vote with Nationwide.



To top it all, we also got some coverage on BBC's "Look North" television programme! Thanks to all those who braved the weather to make this happen. They are all on our Facebook site if you'd like to listen to them...

"Jankers Generator"....



This is "Jankers Generator", bought with funds generously donated by Susan Doyle and the good folk on the GB Bikers forum, in memory of Sue's husband John "Jankers" Doyle. It will be a regular feature at outdoor fundraising events, ensuring we can still run the multimedia aspects of the stand (and maybe even make a coffee on those colder days)!

Richard Scholfield, pictured, purchased the Honda EU20i Generator from Lloyd Ltd (Newcastle).

Middleton in Teasdale W.I. event:



On Thursday 11th December Owain Harris travelled to Middleton in Teesdale to give a talk to the W.I. Group there. Despite a round trip of over 90 miles in freezing conditions and sideways snow on arrival, they were very generous and held a collection at their Xmas Dinner & raffle (He didn't win). They are already supporting the Great North Air Ambulance as their chosen charity, but aim to support us in the future - good news!

Open Meeting at Northumbria University:



Thursday 11th December was also the day for our open meeting at Northumbria University.....and it was an excellent turn-out. The highlight of the evening was a presentation from Dr. Rachel Hawes, who delivered a proposal for an exciting new project involving the Great North Air Ambulance Service (GNAAS)..... more to follow in the coming weeks. Members also had the opportunity to register for the new NHS checks, as Membership Officer Barry Bullas had brought his scanner & laptops to record the required proofs of identity. Owain & Sue Harris kindly laid on some refreshments for everyone, and Alan Ross rallied some of the guests to vote on the "Big Local" campaign before they left. We finished off the evening by playing back the BBC TV feature that had only aired at 6:30pm...Howzat!

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Our first operational Christmas:

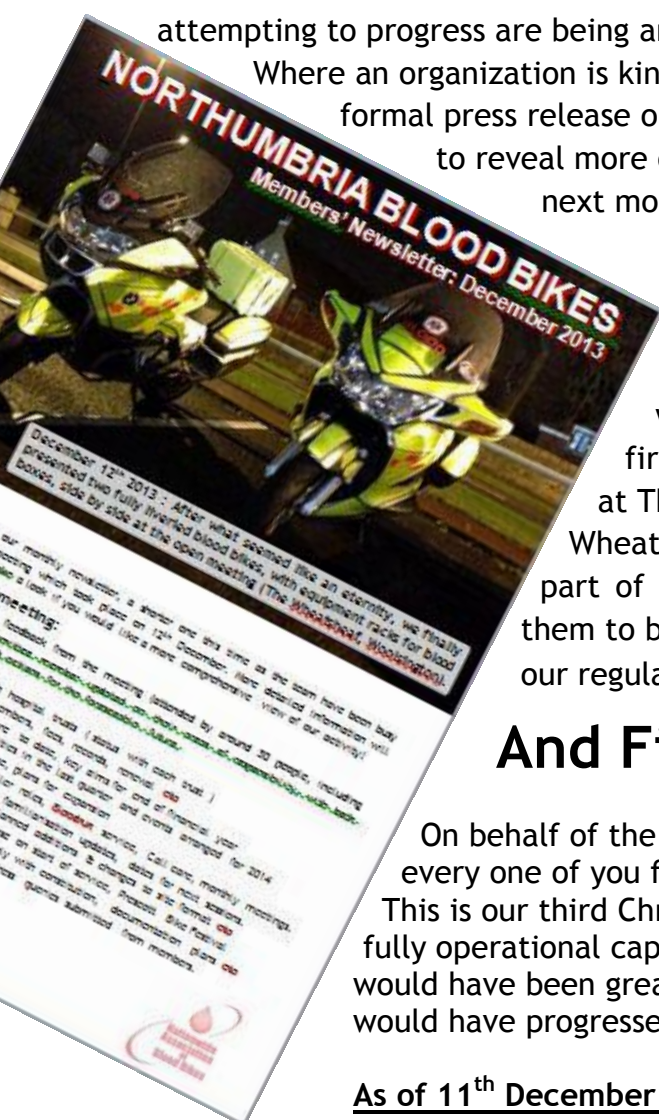
I think it's fair to say that the rate at which Northumbria Blood Bikes has developed over the last twelve months has exceeded everyone's expectations. Nobody could have predicted the phenomenal success of the group across multiple health trusts up and down the region, and the expansion of the fleet to six bikes, and now cars, too!

The cars are coming into play in the nick of time as the temperatures are plummeting, and we are having to withdraw service for the motorcycles more frequently.

Those of you with your finger on the pulse will probably be aware that there are one or two "omissions" to the stories featured in this month's newsletter. Why? Because some of the objectives the group are

attempting to progress are being arranged to coincide with local press or wider publicity plans.

Where an organization is kind enough to assist us, we respect their wishes to wait for a formal press release or an official date to inform the public. We should be able to reveal more over the next few weeks and have a lot more to tell you in next month's Newsletter.... If it's not in the press beforehand!



This time last year:

On the front cover of our December 2013 newsletter, we were proudly displaying our two bikes side-by-side for the first time, hurriedly prepared for our quarterly open meeting at The Wheatsheaf, Woolsington. We waved goodbye to the Wheatsheaf as a meeting place; the meeting room was to vanish as part of a refurbishment. We had no uniforms, but were expecting them to be delivered before Christmas. And get this... believe it or not our regular monthly newsletters were only four pages long!

And Finally....

On behalf of the Committee can I also take this opportunity to thank each & every one of you for your enthusiasm and commitment over the last year. This is our third Christmas as Northumbria Blood Bikes, but only our first in a fully operational capacity. We should be very proud of what we've achieved: It would have been great to have asked ourselves last year to predict how we would have progressed by now....I'm sure it would have made some good reading!

As of 11th December our totals to date for Blood Bike Jobs completed:

178 for County Durham & Darlington
243 for Gateshead, South Tyneside and Sunderland
83 on relay with other blood bike groups

112 for Newcastle (in just two months!)
265 for Northumbria
= **881 blood runs in less than a year!**

Most of all, we have earned the trust, support and belief in us from the health trusts that we aim to serve. Thanks to all of you for making us what we are. Have a wonderful Christmas, and we hope to see you all in the New Year. Ride safe.....

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Future events to put in your diary:

For more info on any event on this page, email Graham at fundraising@northumbriabloodbikes.org.uk



ASDA, Cramlington

09:00 to 16:00 We will be raising awareness with a blood bike and a collection for the day.



ASDA, Wansbeck Road, Darlington:

10:00 to 16:00 We'll be visiting Mel & her colleagues and lovely customers for our last pre-Christmas event. Please come and see us in the foyer...



Sainsburys, Arnison Centre, Framwellgate Moor, Durham:

10:00 to 16:00 Packing bags for customers and raising awareness



ASDA, Leechmere Road, Sunderland:

10:00 to 16:00
Awareness stand in store.



Gala Charity Night, Derwent Manor Hotel

19:00 to 01:00.
Methinks this deserves a bit more text!.....

One of our newer members, Kirsty Lawrence, has kindly organised this event to raise funds for ourselves and "Bright Red", a charity focused on improving the lives and treatment of those in the North who are dealing with blood cancer.

Tickets are £17.50 each and include a 3 course meal, raffle, live band & DJ to entertain you.

Proceeds from the event will be distributed between the two charities. Numbers are limited and tickets are selling quickly....Contact Clair 07539021425 or Kirsty 07849830467 to get yours!

Charity Night

raising funds for

 & 

Fighting blood cancer for a brighter future. Charity Number 1152745

27th February 2015
The Derwent Manor Hotel
7pm - 1am

3 Course Meal, Raffle, Entertainment
£17.50 per person

For Tickets contact
Clair 07539021425
or Kirsty 07849830467

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



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