

## Newsletter July 2015

-Please feel free to print, copy, save or forward this newsletter to increase awareness of our charity!



## Aviva Community Fund

Supporting what's important to you

Buy 2 motorbikes to transport urgent blood

Northumbria Blood Bikes
Location: Type and Wear, United Kingdom

£25,000.00!

## Our biggest single voting campaign win since the charity began: ...and it's all thanks to the efforts of our supporters who voted for us!

We campaigned tirelessly on Facebook, Twitter, and our own website. Our members promoted the campaign at every event we attended over four weeks, and asked friends, family and work colleagues to add their vote in favour of us. And it worked! The fact that we have been successful and gained £25,000.00 for two new motorbikes is testament to the loyalty, support and determination of our members and the respect that the local community hold for our cause. "Thank You" just doesn't quite cut it.... We're humbled by the level of support, and honoured to have such loyalty from you all.

Since being told of the award, we've struck up a good relationship with the "Cramlington Rockets" Rugby Football Club, who were our biggest competitors for this award. They also received a significant donation from Aviva thanks to the Community Funds' underspend this year, so a happy outcome for us all. The Rockets have invited us all to a Rugby League finals day at Kingston Park, and have even invited our Chairman to a attend a home game in the new season!

#### "Just a few Bikes riding around at night time."

That's how I heard someone describe our group while attending an event this month! If only it were true, life would be so much easier. On the pages this month (and listed below) you'll get an idea of just how much work our volunteers undertake every month to make sure there's petrol in the fuel tanks, insurance, uniforms etc.

Please consider joining us at one of our events to keep this fantastic momentum going... We really do rely on these fundraisers for the very survival of our charity.

#### This Months Newsletter:

#### **Events:**

#### Tyne Bar Fundraising Music event 3 Asda Gosforth 4 Durham Regattta 4 6 Ashington Town Fair Morpeth Fair Day 7 Sainsburys Washington vote campaign 7 Durham Auto Jumble 10 Armed Forces Day, Sunderland 11 Darlington Fire Station 12 Fatfield Summer Fair Dinnington Clay Pidgeon Club 14 North East Van Exhibition 15 Trefoil Guild (Consett Fire Station) 15 MG Northumbria Classic Car Show 15

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If you're involved in any events, or instrumental in arranging any donations, presentations, sponsorship, talks publicity, please remember to make us aware to ensure that it is included in the Newsletter, and shared with the companies or organisations involved. You can do this by contacting Alan Ross (alan.ross@northumbriabloodbikes.org.uk). If including any photos, please identify the people photographed so that we can include the image in a news feature!

#### **Donations:**

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Donation: Stagecoach	8
Donation: Steelers Football Club	8
Donation: Bill & Jean Anderson	8
Donation: William Edward Wilks' family	8
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'The Tyne Bar' - never heard of it? Well same here, until I got a message from our Treasurer Richard Scholfield asking us to go. A friend of his, Ronnie Semple (Below, centre), was putting on an all-day music event and asked if Blood Bikes could attend for six hours of the finest blues, rockabilly and R&B from the famous Tyne Bar Outdoor Stage. The Tyne Bar is probably Newcastle's best kept secret, and has been open since 1944, and is run by the same people that brought you the legendary Barley Mow and the Egypt Cottage in its pre-wine bar heyday. The picture above is a view from across the water, they couldn't have built it much closer to the Ouseburn viaduct if they tried! To the left of the pub, and under the shelter of the archway above, is the music area with the stage on the very left, and the Barbecue area under the smaller canopy between both. Sue and I said we would go, and contacted Ronnie to say we were coming, although we wouldn't have a bike to show them. We arrived midafternoon in time to see one of the first bands setting up, and Ronnie dragged me up on stage to do a piece to the audience about who we are and what we do!



We spent a pleasant afternoon watching the first two bands, and then took a short break, returning in time for the last band of the day. They put on a really good show that had the audience dancing the night away. The day was great fun; we met some really nice people as well as discovering this fantastic watering hole!

Thanks to Ronnie for the invite, to the bands that kept everyone entertained throughout the day, and of course to the public who came in their droves to make it such a success. (and Arthur Guinness!) Story: Owain and Sue Harris.



We were joined at one stage by Amanda Simmister (above), a volunteer fundraiser for the Great North Air Ambulance Service, and her paramedic bear who you can just see sat on the handlebars of our bike... 'Bearly visible'... Sorry...

Thanks as always to our volunteers who attended the event.... we couldn't fund our charity without your help!

## ASDA Gosforth, 13<sup>th</sup> June:

Undisputably one of our favourite venues for fundraising due to the friendly warm welcome form the store staff.

Asda Gosforth is one of our more regular locations for awareness and fundraising.... And rightly so, considering how frequently we deliver blood, samples, documents and equipment to the nearby Freeman Hospital.

This event was timed perfectly alongside our participation in the store's Green Token scheme, although this will have closed by the time you read this.



# DURHAM REGATTA

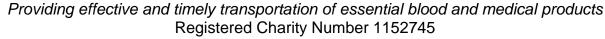
Despite miserable weather to begin with, we had a very successful event at this years' Regatta on Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> June at the Riverside in Durham City centre.

Sadly there are not many photos to go with this event: Alan Ross (who normally takes pictures once an event is up & running) was on a mad-dash to Morpeth town Fair to set up another display, and rushed off as soon as the gazebo was up, leaving our poor volunteers to brave the rain. One photo that did appear was this lovely creation on the right... a balloon blood bike! After last month's Lego bike, I think we're starting to see a trend here...



With one full-sized bike and a mini-moto on site for the day, there was plenty for the kids to

clamber on while our volunteers explained our work to their parents. The weather steadily improved as the day progressed, and our prime location on the riverfront gave us the perfect opportunity to boost our funding through donations from passers-by. Thanks as always to our volunteers, Including Nigel Martin and Grace Hodges (left), and Wilf Moralee & Alan Johnston, who both managed to avoid the camera! Thank you all for your volunteering ©





This is going to be a biggy for Northumbria Blood Bikes..... We expect it to be the busiest fundraising event we've ever staged, if not in financial terms then certainly in terms of visits to our stand. The potential exists for us to have over 100,000 people walk right past the front of our display!

Unfortunately this one was not for free... we've had to speculate in the hope that we raise enough donations from the public to make it worth the gamble, so we need to make sure we have plenty of staff on the site for the three days of the airshow. If you're a member, you can register your willingness to attend at the event now on the events section of our website (login required).

Please spare us a couple of hours of your time to support our stand and help to raise vital funds to keep our bikes fuelled and on the roads.

If you're not a member, come on down and join in the day! There'll be a full sized blood bike on display, at least one mini-moto for the youngsters,

and rumour has it there might be a few things going on in the sky above us. On Friday night, there's "The Illegal Eagles" Live Band and a free fireworks display to launch the weekend. Please come along and show your support!



#### **Ashington Town Fair:**

Sunday, 28<sup>th</sup> June, and Northumbria Blood Bikes were, well, everywhere. We were on day two of our busiest events weekend since the charity began, and thankfully had the support of our loyal volunteers to ensure each one was adequately staffed.

Many unusual sights were encountered during Ashington's annual summer fair, including the Minion on the left, and a display of vehicles including Film Celebrities "KITT" (Knight Rider), and "General Lee" (Dukes of Hazzard) among many of the classic cars which also attended the event.







One completely unexpected surprise caught us all off-guard, as Mike and Dennis (pictured right, with our Chairman Peter Robertson) from Enviro-Clear presented us with a cheque for £100.00! It is greatly appreciated and will pay for a good few tanks of petrol for the bikes, thank you fellas!



Even the on-site first aid team (below) visited us & took an interest in "bright Northumbria" our FJR1300





Some of our more regular readers could be forgiven for looking at the picture on the left and thinking "Kirsty & Clair have let themselves go a little"...but it's not them. In fact, we have no idea who they are... Lettuce leaf them alone and move on...



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#### Morpeth Fair Day

#### 14th June 2015

Pictured right is our Madathlon bike after leading the parade at the Morpeth Fair.... With the Harleys that took part lined up behind it. There was no parade in 2013 and 2014 because of the flood defence works in High Stanners, but this year saw a return to "business as usual", with a parade of classic cars & bikes through the town centre.





The fair was a tremendous success despite a fairly dull start to the day, and there were plenty of visitors to our stand... with one or two enquiries about potential membership. Hopefully we will become a permanent feature in future Morpeth Fair days, as the chance to be in pole-position at the front of a parade is a great opportunity to promote ourselves and the work we do!

#### Did you vote at Sainsburys?

Rarely does a month pass by without us asking you to do something for our charity that won't cost you a penny. A few months ago, we asked you to vote for us in the Nationwide "Big Local" campaign, which saw us gain a £5000.00 contribution to our charity. Last month, we were asking you to vote in the Aviva campaign.... The Jury is still out on that one, but hopefully it will be good news.

This month, we were asking you to vote for Northumbria Blood Bikes to be the charity of the year for the Washington Galleries store. Winning this would enable us to have collection and awareness events inside the store and comes with additional publicity and promotion of our charity.

Pictured right is our volunteer Kirsty Downham putting in her vote, though it seems that the majority of entrants chose to vote online. Unfortunately, we lost out on this one, as "Brysons", a charity offering shelter to abandoned animals, won the voting campaign. We can always try again next year though..... and undoubtedly will!



# More cheque presentations and donations this month:



Remember the talk we did back in February with classes at the Joseph Swan Academy? Well, on 15<sup>th</sup> June our Treasurer Richard Scholfield received a cheque from them for £200.00 as part of the schools "Respect" programme. - You never know how these talks can result in something beneficial further down the line! Thank you, Joseph Swan Academy; we'll make sure your donation is used wisely to further our service.

Sometime ago in April we received a donation of £250.00 from Walkers Crisps, the workplace of one of our members, Peter Watson. Unfortunately we missed this event on previous newsletters, so it's time to catch up! Thank you to all the staff & management at Walkers, and to NBB Volunteer Peter Watson for the part he played in promoting our charity. Remember, if you have any news you would like to see in these newsletters, send the information to <a href="mailto:alan.ross@northumbriabloodbikes.org.uk">alan.ross@northumbriabloodbikes.org.uk</a>.





...And the generosity of the local community continues! On Saturday 20th June, our Treasurer Richard received another cheque from Durham City Spiritualist Church, for £114.00. They have contributed to our charity previously, and we're grateful that they are continuing to show us their support.

An unexpected (but very pleasant) surprise landed on our doorstep on 26<sup>th</sup> June in the form of a Cheque for £300.00 from the p.a. to the directors at Stagecoach....Thank you!



Thanks also to NBB volunteer Adam Morris, who I believe played a major part in getting this donation.



NBB Volunteer John Parish knows Bill & Jean Anderson, who recently celebrated their 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary. The couple kindly chose to collect for us instead of receiving gifts from friends & family, and as a result handed over a collection tin with £185.00. Thank you for your kindness Mr & Mrs Anderson, and congratulations on your milestone!

NBB Volunteer Rob Wilks was kind enough to forward a collection which was made at the funeral of his brother, William Edward Wilks. We hope that Williams family are comforted to know that the £90.40 collected will be used to deliver blood and hopefully save lives... a fitting way for something good to come out of a sad occasion.







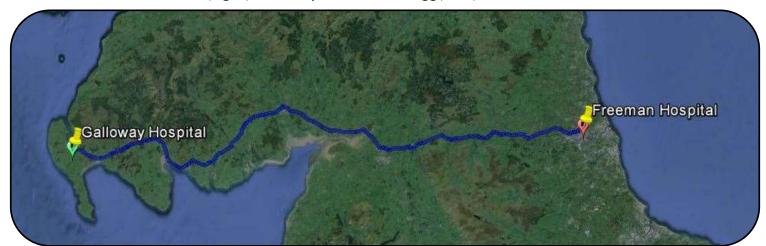
NBB Volunteer Wilf Moralee is associated with Steelers Football Club, who recently wound up after nine years. As a result, Northumbria Blood Bikes were one of several charities to receive a donation from them to disperse their remaining cash to good causes. Thank you Wilf for arranging this, and please convey our gratitude to those at Steelers FC who made it possible.



Double-Relay Run: Monday 7<sup>th</sup> July Exceptional teamwork between three NABB groups this month ensured the prompt delivery of an urgent frozen sample. The journey started at 9am when the item was collected at Galloway Community Hospital in Stranraer. Dave Hook from Dumfries & Galloway Blood Bikes took it to a handover at Gretna, where Alan Bragg from Blood Bikes Cumbria Community carried it to a second rendezvous point at Low Row, near Carlisle. Alan Ross from Northumbria then



took the package for the remainder of its journey to the Freeman Hospital in Gosforth, Newcastle. The entire operation was flawless and took just over three hours, covering over 170 miles with three separate groups, none of which provide a service on a Monday daytime, but all agreed and arranged to do the job without question. Well done guys.... a brilliant example of co-operation between groups! *Pictured above*: Dave Hook (right) Meets up with Alan Bragg(Left) for the first handover at Gretna.



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#### Another one bites the dust: Owain is standing down⊗

After the announcement last month that Barry Bullas would not be standing for the role of Membership Office at the AGM in August, we have learned this month that Owain Harris (right) has decided to vacate his Publicity role. Owain will be a difficult person to replace as he threw his heart and soul into the role of Publicity Officer, contributing more hours every month than most of us would be capable of. Soon after his announcement, the acknowledgements & thanks for his dedication and commitment flooded in from all directions. Hopefully he will remain involved as a member, and enjoy the restoration of a more tranquil lifestyle once his role is fully relinquished.





This, of course, leaves a big gap to fill in our endless struggle to promote our charity. Owain was excellent at arranging and conducting talks, attending cheque presentations, radio interviews, press releases, and organising so many talks & meetings within the community. We think whoever is up to the role will certainly have their work cut out. Do you think you've got what it takes? ..and the free time that a role like this would require? If so, please get in touch.... We are dividing the role between us at present, but need a single person as a point of contact to co-ordinate future events and provide a consistent, strong presentation of the charity. Not an easy task, but if you're up for it, drop an email to our Chairman, Peter Robertson (Chairman@northumbriabloodbikes.org.uk).

#### Durham Auto Jumble, 27<sup>th</sup> June This time, the weather was nice..... and

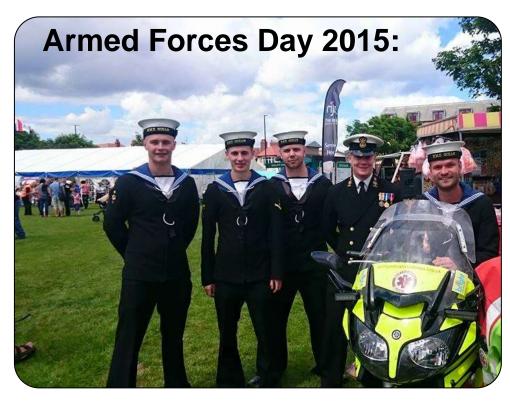
Our volunteers were also joined by the Skoda Yeti 4x4, which was on active duty during the day, but was based at the event between calls. Many thanks to all who were supporting this event. This time, the gate receipts were being donated to our charity, which is very much appreciated. Hopefully we will have the opportunity to make another appearance at a future Auto Jumble...

believe me, that makes *all* the difference! You may recall that we nearly turned our gazebo into a large kite last time as the wind wouldn't die down, and the rain remained with us for most of the day. This time it was a totally different story, with glorious sunshine and an impressive number of customers flocking to the event.

ND64 HOP



Not exactly a day, more like the whole weekend! Northumbria Blood Bikes had an awareness stand at the Roker Recreation Ground, Sunderland, on Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> and Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> June, with a blood bike to help to gain support and public donations.



It was an action-packed weekend of celebrations for all members of the public and their families to join in and support, with activities including a military parade, classic car demo, stalls, fairground, assault course and much, much more. The weather was excellent (once the high winds had calmed down!) and our presence there lead to several enquiries about volunteering. With what was probably the busiest weekend for fundraising events we've ever seen (Four separate events on the Saturday and three on the Sunday!) it was great that our volunteers were willing to attend and represent our charity throughout. Thank you to everyone who made this, and our other events, such a huge success!





#### County Durham and Darlington Fire and Rescue Service

Thousands of people experienced a day in the life of the emergency services at an open day on Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> and Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> June, and Northumbria Blood Bikes were there both days to help to cement our position with the community in the South of our region.

Darlington police station and fire station opened their doors to the public to give people the chance to see the work of the town's police officers, firefighters, paramedics, and blood bikers!



Northumbria Blood Bikes volunteer Torben Stockmarr, on "Auckland", a Honda ST1300 Pan European, and our newest addition to our fleet.

Held over two days, the event attracted around 6,000 people of all ages from across Darlington and the wider area. The free events ran from 10am to 4pm on both days and included demonstrations by the fire service and police dogs Jet and Ben. Visitors were given tours of the police's custody suite, following the journey of an offender from arrest to being charged or released, and demonstrations from crime scene investigators, the police support unit and the dog unit. There was a chance to view a range of emergency service vehicles and even aerial ladder platform rides for the kids.

Phil Innis, Darlington area district manager, said: "This was the first year that the fire service, police and ambulance joined together to host an open weekend in Darlington and it was a great success. We would like to thank everyone who came along to the fire station and took part. We hope that everyone enjoyed the weekend and also got to find out more about how to keep themselves safe from fire and crime at the same time." Colin Gibson, operations manager at the North-East Ambulance Service (NEAS) said: "It was absolutely brilliant - the back of the ambulance was full all weekend. We have gained a lot from it and it has improved relations with the other emergency services."

Youngsters also tried their hand at firefighting and wearing breathing apparatus, as well as sitting in the back of an ambulance and learning vital lifesaving skills from paramedics.

Right: Only for the bravest.... Families had the opportunity to send their kids up on one of the stations aerial ladder platforms to see the view from a firefighters perspective!





#### The Dynamic Duo Kirsty & Clair have another cheque for Blood Bikes!

The last charity night organised by Clair Gray & Kirsty Lawrence raised over £1000.00 for Northumbria Blood Bikes, but we were this informed month that another cheque from the same event was on its way! Tesco Charity Trust offered to top up whatever funds were raised by further 20%, and enough, a cheque has now arrived for an additional £230.97.... Fantastic. thank you Tesco, and of course Kirsty & Clair whose efforts made it possible.

Don't forget that they have decided to do it all over again in October, raiding funds for the same two charities, "Bright Red" and ourselves. A £20 ticket gets you a fabulous 3-course meal, and six hours of entertainment, from Ellie Rae (Below) and a resident DJ.

There are still some tickets remaining for this event, and if you're quick, you might still be able to book a room for the night, so you won't need to worry about driving home. We will have a blood bike on display in the function room as we did last time, and hopefully plenty of our members attending!





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# Fatfield Summer Fayre, Washington, Sat 4<sup>th</sup> July:

Despite the fact there was no mention of this event in dispatches the other day, Sue and I had it already covered!

The day was wet to start with, and probably just over a mile from home - but enough to get the bike dirty again. We declined the offer of the field, opting instead for the hard standing playground for obvious reasons. After checking the wind strength and direction, we picked a corner spot sheltered by the trees, which also provided some shade later on.

The bikes were a huge draw, the burgers from the BBQ were whoppers, and coffee and ice creams were the order of the day. Some ex work colleagues from Northumbria Police were next to us with a police car and all the gear, and there were more familiar faces in the crowd - ex colleagues, people we had done talks for, and some neighbours!

Story: Owain and Sue Harris.







#### **Consett Fire Station**

was the scene for another talk on 15th June, this time to the Trefoil Guild (Retired Guides) and there were some familiar faces in the crowd, as we have done several talks in the Consett area. Sue and I attended the community room in the Fire Station, and were treated to home baked cakes and tea! Another donation for the charity, another talk crossed off, job done! Library picture used as we forgot to take any - sorry! Story: Owain and Sue Harris.

### Mowden Park RFC

(Darlington) was the venue on Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> July when we were invited by SG Petch to have an awareness stand at the North East Van Exhibition; Two days of some of the UK's biggest commercial vehicle manufacturers represented by their dealers and supported by local businesses. Pictured right are Val & John from SG Petch with the girls from FIAT UK. The event kicked off at 10am when van experts were on hand to answer any questions about their products. Saturday was a Family Fun Day with live acts, food stalls and entertainment for everybody.





#### Morpeth Soroptimists

presented a cheque to Peter Robertson and Brian Slassor (left) at a talk they did at Morpeth Golf club on 23<sup>rd</sup> June. One of them, Anne Finlay (right), said afterwards "Thanks for a brilliant and informative evening. It's a great job you do. We'll be on the lookout for you and the bikes"

In addition to the talk and the cheque presentation, there was our Lindisfarne bike which as you can see was put to good use, and a collection bucket which raised almost £50.00! Thank you, Morpeth Soroptimists for your support...it means a great deal to us and will help us to continue our invaluable service.



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#### MG Northumbria Classic Car Show:

4<sup>th</sup> July: An excellent turn-out for both the show itself and the Blood Bikes awareness stand. NBB Volunteer Anthony Sim played live at the event, both by himself and alongside "the Ghost Riders". Many thanks also to Volunteers Ross Mackenzie, Geoff Spencer, Brian Slassor and Dave Lucas for supporting our stand & bringing "Octagon", the Honda ST1300 Pan-European funded by MG Northumbria, to the show.

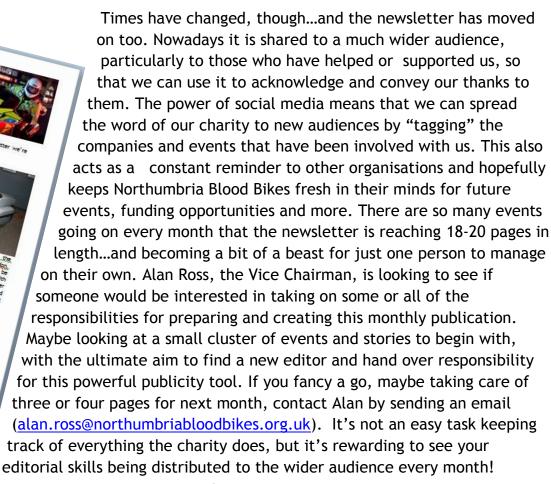
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## "This Newsletter is okay, but given the chance I reckon I could do it better myself!"

We're kinda hoping that someone, somewhere is saying that about this monthly newsletter. In the early days of Northumbria Blood Bikes the newsetter was a two or three page summary of activities, primarily aimed at reassuring our members that we were actually doing a lot of work in the background, despite little obvious progress with the start of our planned services.

Northumbria Blood Bikes





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#### Heaton Probus Club 1st July:

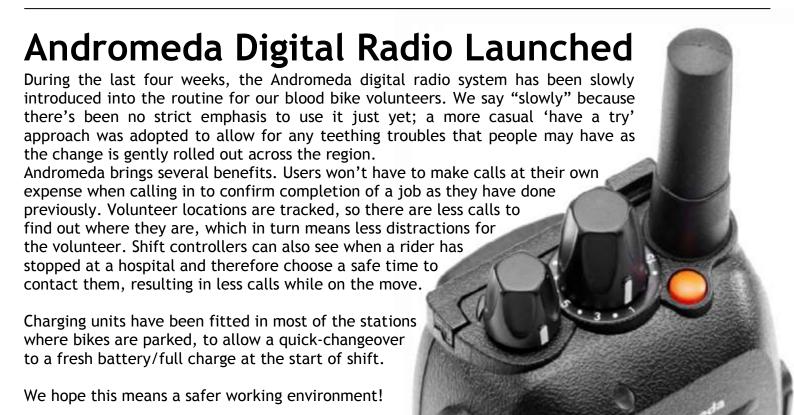
Our Chairman Peter Robertson gave a talk to Heaton Probus Club, which resulted in a cheque for £25.00 being presented alongside a collecting tin which raised nearly £40.00! During the talk, this cheerful gent pictured left introduced himself with "I'm the dad of one of your volunteers!" which lead to a huge amount of guessing and speculation when the photo was posted on Facebook. I'm sure I wasn't the only one who thought he looked like our Fundraising Guru, Graham Moor. It turns out that this is Ron Kelly, father of NBB driver Ken Kelly. (I still think Ron could be Grahams' dad though!). To our knowledge this is the first time we've had the dad of a riding member on a blood bike...but I'm sure it won't be the last. Thanks to everyone from the Probus club, whose generous donation will be used to ensure the service we provide to the regions hospitals continues....

#### NECAM magazine article for us....



The North East Central Advanced Motorists (NECAM) is an independent charity affiliated to the Institute of Advanced Motorists (IAM). NECAM volunteers offer training for IAM recognised courses - Skill for Life and the IAM Masters. Several of our members have gained their advanced driving qualification via NECAM, and one of them, Peter McEwen, has been involved in preparing an article for their magazine. A regular feature highlights the best drives and tours around the region, but Peter saw the opportunity to combine the article with Northumbria Blood Bikes and promote both at the same time. He borrowed the Blood on Board car (the Vauxhall Mokka) and took the IAM journalist & photographer on a whirlwind tour of the North East. During the journey, he met up with fellow IAM members (and fellow Blood Bike Volunteers) Mike Wilkinson, Bob Scott and Tim Fisher.

The article is still in production at the moment, but hopefully in next months' newsletter we'll have some photos taken from the day, and perhaps even a date for the magazine article being released.



## FUTURE EVENTS FOR YOUR DIARY:

Lots of things happening, and we need your help to support them! If you can help, even if only for a couple of hours, please contact us....information is at the bottom of this page. NBB members can register their attendance for most of these events on our website (login required).

Saturday 18

Hospital Familiarisation Ride-out 10:30 - 16:00

A chance for our newer riders to get a tour around the various hospitals we serve and familiarise themselves with the collection points & entrances. for info, email hospital.liaison@northumbriabloodbikes.org.uk or call/text Sean Storey on 07581087247.



July Sunday 19

Bikewise, Durham Police HQ 09:00 - 17:00

We'll be there with a Gazebo and a blood bike....and we have a pitch right next to the Great North Air Ambulance stand! Come and join us!



July Sunday

North Shield Fish Quay Bike Show 09:00 - 17:00

Surprisingly enough at North Shields Fish Quay! Celebrating their 10<sup>th</sup> Annual show. Blood Bikes will be there too, can you help staff our stand?



July Friday 24

Saturday Sunday 26

July Sunderland International Airshow

Probably the busiest event we've ever attended, and we paid to have a pitch there, so we need to make sure it's a roaring success! Please help us!



August Saturday

ASDA, Leechmere Road, Sunderland 10:00 - 16:00

A fundraising and awareness stand at this busy superstore. Can you spare us an hour while your missus trawls the aisles?



August Saturday

Chilton Gala Day 10:00 - 16:00

Chilton Primary School Field Chilton, Co. Durham DL17 0PT We'll be there with a Blood Bike and a Mini-Moto for the kids....



August Number Au

Crawcrook Fair 11:00 - 16:00 (satnav postcode NE40 4TX)

Looks like it's a busy Saturday for us! Our third event today takes place at Crawcrook Park. We'll be there with a Blood Bike and a Mini-Moto...



August Sunday 16

Annfield Plain Cricket Club Family Fun Day 10:00 - 17:00 Enterprise Park, Greencroft, Stanley, Co.Durham DH9 8PP. We'll be there with a Blood Bike and a Mini-Moto...





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www.northumbriablood bikes.org.uk

facebook.com/northumbriabloodbikes

twitter.com/northumbriabb

linkedin.com/company/2866951

## FUNDRAISING HOTLINE: **07766 479 770**

- for any opportunities to increase our funding through sponsorship, locations for collecting tins, supermarket events etc...