



NORTHUMBRIA BLOOD BIKES

October 2015 Newsletter

“We don’t do funeral escorts...”

As a rule, we don’t do any escorts for funerals, but every once-in-a-while there’s an exception. On Friday, 2nd October, Hexham was brought to a standstill as hundreds of mourners lined the streets to say goodbye to Dane Curran, a well-known and well respected local 21-year-old, who was killed while riding his motorbike in Cambridgeshire last month. His family requested blood bikes to be there and had asked church-goers to donate to Blood Bikes in Dane’s memory.

Bikers applauded the hearse as it crawled through the streets of the town. Over two hundred bikers then escorted Dane on his journey to the West Road crematorium. And in a final act of kindness: as an organ donor, Dane went on to save the lives of others after he passed away.



Sign up today
organdonation.nhs.uk

NHS

Join the

**NHS Organ
Donor Register**

Call 0845 60 60 400
www.uktransplant.org.uk

“Just a few Bikes riding around at night time?”

On the pages this month (and listed below) you'll get an idea of just how much work our volunteers undertake each and 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.

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We're currently looking for anyone with an editorial flair to assist in creating the newsletters... and it's not too complicated: Stories are created in Microsoft Word, and the information is gathered from Facebook, Twitter, our website and our events calendar. What we lack is a good wordsmith to convert reports into a "good read". If you fancy seeing your creativity in our newsletters, please see the advert on page 17 of this newsletter and get in touch! We'd start you off with a couple of stories to report on, and increase to a few pages if you're enjoying it...

If you're involved in any events, or instrumental in arranging any donations, presentations, sponsorship, talks or 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!



On 19th September, Northumbria Blood Bikes volunteer Johnny Kerr took our Madathlon blood bike "Bella" to Morrisons Supermarket, Blaydon.

He was joined by Kirsty Lawrence and Gary Saunders to ensure that we had ample support to publicise the charity and spread the word about what we do.

Thank you to all who donated, and to our volunteers for staffing the event. As autumn kicks in there will be fewer fundraising opportunities, so we'll need to make the most of the ones we can get!

Whitley Bay Tangent club:

You may recall we featured a meeting in last months newsletter, when Steve Rawlings (right) hosted a talk for the ladies of Whitley Bay Tangent club. We have since discovered that they raised £111.83 for us... which will help to keep fuel in our bikes so that we can keep delivering blood! The donation also resulted in an article being published in the Whitley Bay Gazette this month, featuring the photo on the right... well done, all !!



**Tyne and Wear Fire
and Rescue Service**

Creating the Safest Community

www.twfire.gov.uk



We also mentioned in last months' newsletter that we had a gazebo & bike parked at South Shields fire station during the Great North Run, to cheer on the many volunteers who were taking part to raise money for our charity. Shortly after the event we received an email from Group Manager Bill Forster, District Officer for South Tyneside, to tell

us that they also had a donation to give to us as a result of fundraising on their recent open day! Vice Chairman Alan Ross (above) returned to the station with "Bella" for the presentation on Friday 25th September. He's pictured here accepting the cheque for £200.00 from Watch Manager James Ferguson. This was a lovely surprise, and we're extremely grateful to James and his crew for choosing us as the recipients, and also to all of the public for their generous donations..... Thank you all!

Hairy Biker becomes hairy builder!

Northumbria Blood Bikes were invited to take part in the filming of a new Television Programme featuring Hairy Biker Dave Myers, so NBB volunteer Malcolm Farley (below right) attended with "Octagon", our Honda Pan-European bike...



Dave Myers, one half of the Hairy Bikers duo, was in Sunderland on 23rd September for his new show, The Hairy Builders, which is about developments around the country. The filming took place on Roker Pier, which for the past two-and-a-half years has been undergoing a £2.15million restoration. It's hoped the lighthouse will be open to the public in the summer. During the same week that the filming was taking place, a dedication plaque was laid by the Mayor of Sunderland, Councillor Barry Curran. The service was attended by the family of Henry Hay Wake, the engineer who built the pier in the late 1890s.

It remains to be seen how much publicity will be gained from this photo-opportunity, and how much footage may end up on the cutting room floor. However, it's great to be given the chance of a little television exposure, and better still to have a celebrity photographed while sitting on one of our bikes!



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And now, on a more serious note..



A letter from Billy D'Arcy, MD - Public Sector Business (UK) - O2
to John Stepney, Chairman, Nationwide Association of Blood Bikes.

A Telefonica company

O2 is proud to partner with a number of front line volunteer organisations including NABB. We believe sharing our expertise is a great way to support the organisations who are on the front line every day supporting the wider emergency services. Opening up the possibilities of technology for NABB to use isn't just important, it really can make the difference between life and death.

Over the last twelve months, I've listened to the stories of dedication and heroism consistently demonstrated by your volunteers. I was struck by the resilience and unwavering support given by your teams and wanted to find a way to do more to support the men and women who give up their time to help others in their moments of need. As part of our ongoing commitment to you and your organisation, we, along with AXA Health Services and AXA PPP Healthcare would like to extend our "Be Supported" employee programme to every NABB volunteer for the next twelve months (1st October 2015 to 30th September 2016). "Be Supported" is our Employee Assistance programme, they offer a range of confidential support services to all employees and their family members and dependents here in the UK.

"Be Supported" will offer your volunteers a safe, confidential place to talk about anything that may be confusing, painful or uncomfortable, and allow them to talk with someone who is trained to listen attentively and to help them improve the situation. We all experience life-crisis issues at different stages in our lives. Experiences such as bereavement and loss, relationship and family difficulties and stresses at home can all preoccupy someone's thinking. A counsellor can provide a supportive service to alleviate symptoms of stress and anxiety.

"Be Supported" will offer a range of confidential support services to your volunteers:

Personal Support - counselling services to include depression, anxiety, career or relationship issues, trauma and bereavement, as well as many other concerns.

Health At Hand - A telephone based health information including access to qualified nurses 24/7, midwives and pharmacists.

Life Management - advice on financial matters, family matters, legal matters, housing matters, consumer rights and education.

Serious Illness and Incident Support - practical and expert advice on serious and terminal illness and support for individuals, teams and communities for suicide.

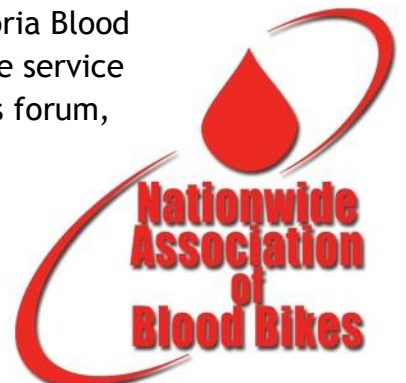
Bereavement Support - Support available for colleagues, managers, individuals or groups following a death in service.

How to contact?

Your volunteers can talk confidentially to "Be Supported" about any challenging situations they face whether they're related to volunteering, home, work issues or medical concerns. Whether they're calling because they have late night worries or a question they'd like to ask a GP, it's likely that "Be Supported" will be able to provide your volunteers with the information and help they need.

Because this is a service being offered to bona-fide members of Northumbria Blood Bikes, the telephone number, username & password required to access the service has not been posted here, but is available on the Northumbria Blood Bikes forum, which in turn is accessible from our website (members login required).

Many thanks to O2 for this kind offer to our volunteers.
Hopefully it won't be required, but reassuring to have
As an available resource all the same...



Morpeth Flower Club

Wednesday 23rd September: Volunteer rider Stephen Hodgson and fundraiser Kirsty Downham both attended the St.James Community Centre, Morpeth, for a cheque presentation from Morpeth Flower Club.

The club recently got in touch with us to let us know that they had a cheque to give to us, so this was an ideal opportunity not just for a photo, but also for the club members to see one of the duty bikes and ask any questions.

Thank you to all who contributed to this wonderful donation, which will help to keep us fuelled and on the road!



Local print and Embroidery company “Red Dog” have decided to support us as one of their 2 “charities of the year”. They’re a family run business based in Leadgate, County Durham, who pride themselves on providing a high quality, reliable & friendly service to all their customers, at affordable prices. They specialise in Personalised Printed and Embroidered Clothing and unique Personalised Gifts.

Red Dog were coming up to their second birthday and were looking for two local charities to support next year, by raising awareness via social media and also by dedicating certain products throughout the year to the chosen charities and donating a percentage of their sales.

And news just coming in.... they are also selling our Lady Bikers calendar (see page 9 of this newsletter) on their website to help raise funds for us!

Northumbria Blood Bikes was nominated to Red Dog by our very own Kirsty Lawrence, who is also organising some merchandise through them for us to sell. “Every charity which has applied has been a very worthy one”, said Red Dogs owners Ian & Sarah.

Thank you for choosing Northumbria Blood Bikes, and thanks also to Kirsty for nominating us! You can find out more about Red Dog and their range of products at their website: <http://red-dog.org>.

Spennymoor Fire Station

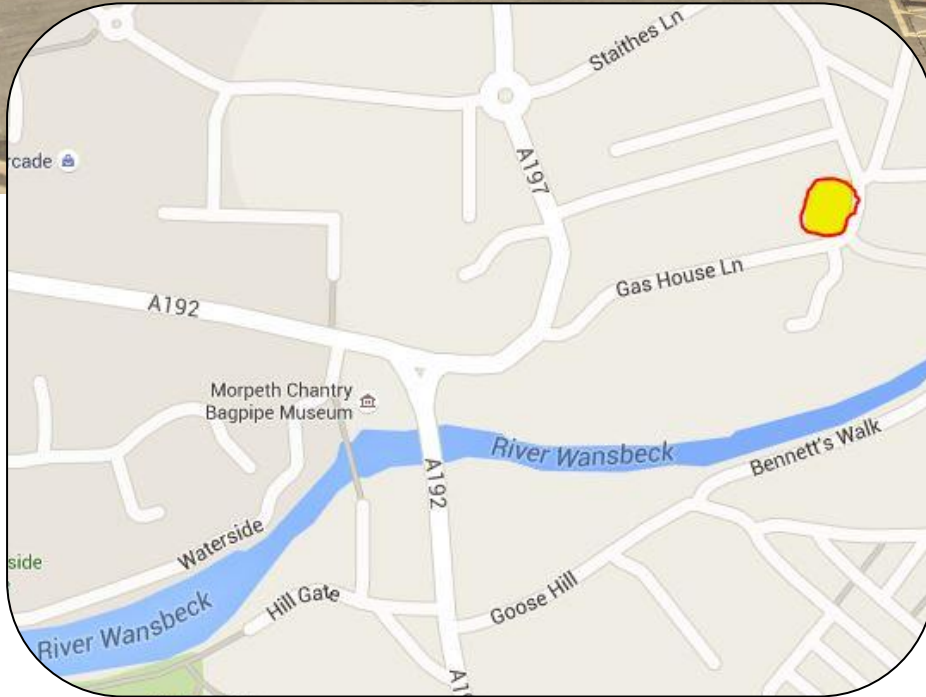
Saturday 12th September: Volunteer rider Len Potts was on his own for most of the day while representing Northumbria Blood Bikes at the Spennymoor Fire Station open day. He did manage to get this lovely photo of Councillor Pat Lawton, the Mayor of Spennymoor, trying out “Claire”, one of our Madathlon blood bikes, during the course of the day.

Many thanks to Len for providing a presence at the open day: Spennymoor fire station is one of our base locations for a bike, so it would have been a bad show not to attend their event!



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A new base in Morpeth...



We now have a base in Morpeth to make it easier for our northern-most volunteers to collect a bike!

The location is the North East Ambulance Service building on Gas House Lane, in the town centre (just around the back of Morpeth Motorcycles, highlighted in yellow on this map). By the time this newsletter is published, there should be videos and access instructions on the members only section of our website.

The bike stationed there is currently the one that was in Backworth station, but as soon as the new bikes are operational we will position one at Backworth again. (Three new bikes are currently being prepared for service thanks to the Aviva and Big Lottery funding wins over the last eight weeks!)



Roseberry Grange Open Day:

The sun shone down all day on Sunday 27th September, allowing Northumbria Blood Bike volunteers Gary Saunders and Rob Wilks (pictured left) the rare luxury of soaking up the sunshine at one of our events! This was the Family Fun Day at Roseberry Grange Community Golf Club, and it was a great success; they're already bouncing ideas for next years' event!

The event didn't appear in last months' newsletter as it was a last-minute addition to our events schedule. Thank you to Rob & Gary, thank goodness the weather was okay, as there wouldn't have been much shelter!



The way to a Blood Bikers' heart...

Is undoubtedly by offering them a hot drink on a cold night shift.... And The Roadhouse Grill have kindly offered to do just that!

"BLOOD BIKE RIDERS, we are located on Sandy Lane, Gosforth, an ideal location for the new Cramlington hospital. Whist on duty pop in and get a FREE tea or coffee"

You must be on-shift and in uniform, and of course we're talking about weekends as it closes at 5pm, but when you consider how much we seem to spend at the RVI, I can definitely see some of making this their regular "Haunt" between the afternoon hospital calls!

They're ideally located on Sandy Lane, Gosforth; just a short ride away from the new Emergency Care Hospital in Cramlington.

The Roadhouse Grill is a family owned, biker-friendly American themed diner where a warm welcome awaits you. Newly opened and offering a selection of "Hot Diggedy Dawgs" stacked burgers, Grills and a choice of Real Dairy Ice Cream Shakes. They're open Monday - Saturday 8.30am-5pm, Sunday 9am - 5pm. Every 3rd Thursday is "Rod & Bike Night" when they stay open until 8pm (Last Food Orders 7.30pm) Late opening can be arranged until 8pm for group or team meetings, simply get in touch. Many thanks to Mick Cave for making the suggestion, and to the management at the Roadhouse for delivering the promise! What a lovely gesture!



Lady Bikers North East

...You could hardly have missed our full page advert last month for the Charity Calendar, proceeds from which are shared between Northumbria Blood Bikes and the Great North Air Ambulance (GNAAS).

Well, it's now on sale, and the ladies have been hard at work promoting the calendars around the region. First stop was the Crown &

Anchor in Redcar, Cleveland (Right), where plenty of the girls were in attendance for the launch night, and it was a great success with many visitors and 30 calendars purchased! They were also paid a flying visit from Geoff Spencer, our training guru, with a blood bike for a little extra publicity.

Day two saw the girls at the Pit Stop Diner, Stockton, where they sold a further 34 calendars in the space of just a couple of hours. At the time of writing, They'll be at the Washington Wetlands bike meet, and there are plenty more venues to visit in the weeks ahead. The ladies are doing a great job, and we admire their determination, as well as their bravery for taking part in the first place!



Future dates and locations to purchase the calendar:

Wed 14/10 The Golden Lion, Weardale
Thu 15/10 Whistle Stop Café, Whitby
Mon 19/10 The Crown bike night, Redcar
Tue 20/10 Pitstop Diner, Stockton
Wed 21/10 Zetlands, Royal Quays Marina
Thu 22/10 Morpeth Market Place bike meet, Northumberland.

Check out the Lady Bikers North East website on Facebook for more information and one or two cheeky photos!

Postitive feedback:



Paul Bainbridge

24 September at 18:08

A friend of my mother was taken by ambulance to cramlington hospital last night and was given an emergency blood transfusion. She has cancer and took a major turn for the worse. On questioning the staff at hospital when she went to visit earlier, my mother was informed that the blood was brought up specifically for her friend and it arrived by motorbike. Without this it is unlikely she would have survived. So on behalf of my mother (who is an emotional wreck) her friend who had the transfusion and most importantly the lasses children who would've lost their mother. A huge thank you and all their love to all of you.

Thanks guys and gals, you rock!



Like



Comment

You, Matt Dinnery, Kirsty Lawrence, Malcolm Farley and 18 others like ✓ Seen b

View 2 more comments

Message posted to our Facebook page on 24th September.



ASDA South Shields

Sunday 27th September was a fundraising and awareness day for us at Asda South Shields, where NBB volunteers Nigel Barlow (left), Peter Kippax, Wayne Rand and Alan Johnston all chipped in to make sure the event was successful. As it happens, it was a very successful fundraising day for us; the one event raised over £520.00! The event also coincided with our participation in ASDA's green token scheme, so we took the opportunity to get some of the customers to vote for us as they left the store. These schemes play a major part in our funding! Thanks as always to everyone who contributed to this successful day.

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Charity Night

raising funds for



&



Lee Robson
Patient Grant
Charity Number
1105891

Charity
Number
1152745

23rd October 2015
The Derwent Manor Hotel

7pm - 1am arrival for 7pm

3 Course Meal, Raffle,
Music By Ellie Rae, DJ Disco

£20 per person
Table of 10 for £180

For Tickets contact

Clair 07539021425/Kirsty 07849830467

Forthcoming event: Sedgefield Superheroes day!

Saturday 31st October

Local people will have the chance to find out more about the work of our real-life superheroes, at an event hosted by Durham Police and Crime Commissioner Ron Hogg. And of course, Northumbria Blood Bikes will be there with some superheroes of their own!

The event is FREE, with free parking, and will be held on Saturday 31st October at Sedgefield Racecourse from 10am - 3pm. It will showcase and raise awareness of all the good work that is happening in our local communities.

All emergency services, including the police, fire service, ambulance, mountain rescue and coast guard are attending, so that families can get involved in exciting activities and see demonstrations from real life local superheroes. Other community safety organisations who make a difference to people's everyday lives will also be on hand with fun family activities and to provide information and advice, giving families and individuals a better understanding of what they do and how they can help.

Activities and demonstrations include police vehicles, dog displays, fire engine aerial platform rides, traffic collision rescue display, a children's Crime Scene Investigation treasure hunt, Halloween and superhero fancy dress competition, bouncy castle, police dogs Jet & Ben, soft play, ball pool, competitions with prizes and much more.

Ron said: "This is a wonderful opportunity to celebrate the real-life superheroes who put themselves in harm's way every day to protect the public. There will be fun, family-friendly activities all day, and chances to see our services showcase what they do. Please come along, have fun and show your support."



Those of you who've been around long enough may remember we have our very own Superhero, Blood Bikes volunteer John Parish, who was fundraising for us at ASDA Gosforth when he saved a man from choking! "Don't thank me man, I'm just doin my job" !



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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).



Northumbria Blood Bikes Charity Night 19:00-01:00
Organised by the legendary Kirsty Lawrence & Clair Gray....
-So you know it will be a brilliant night! See page 11 for more info.



Morrisons, Morpeth 9:00-17:00
A fundraising and awareness stand with either a bike or a car (or both!) attending. Please spare an hour or two if you can to show your support!



Sedgefield Racecourse Superhero Day 10:00 - 15:00
A FREE fun day out for all the family - see page 12 for more info.
We expect this to be a really busy day, can you help us to make it work?



Hospital Familiarisation Ride-out (NBB Members only) 10:30 - 16:00
Meeting point will be car park opposite NHSBT on Barrack Road.
Please email hospital.liaison@northumbriabloodbikes.org.uk
or call or text Sean Storey on 07581087247.



ASDA, Cramlington 09:00-17:00
As the winter months creep in, the Christmas shoppers come out!
Please help us to get some petrol in our fuel tanks to get us through the winter!



ASDA, Wansbeck Road, Gosforth 9:00-17:00(sat), 10:00-16:00(Sun)
A fundraising and awareness stand with either a bike or a car (or both!) attending.
Please spare an hour or two if you can to show your support!



That's it for this months' newsletter, thanks for reading, and ride safe.....



www.northumbriabloodbikes.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...