



NORTHUMBRIA BLOOD BIKES

April 2016

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

Cockfield WMC
Family Fun Day:



Our new exhibition trailer had its' first official duty at the Cockfield Bike Show on Saturday 26th March. We worked alongside the Durham Advanced Motorcyclists, who deliver rider training to prospective riders. The trailer provided invaluable shelter as the heavens opened with torrential rain & wind... At least our volunteers Nathan & Andy (pictured) and visitors alike had a little bit of protection until the sun came back out!



Widows Sons Easter Egg Run:

Thanks to the Widow's Sons for a lovely donation and their good company on their Easter Egg Run, Tuesday 22nd March. The day saw many bikers delivering Easter Eggs to special schools, and the smiles on some of the kids' faces as they looked at our flashing blue lights were "priceless".

Pictured here are our volunteers Nigel Barlow, and John Watts, with "Lumley", one of our Triumph Trophy motorbikes. Also attending was Richard Scholfield, who managed to evade the cameras. Thanks, fellas, for supporting a worthy cause and cheering up the school kids!



New contributor to the newsletter:



Introducing Simon Lee (left), who has started to contribute to the Newsletter. Simon originally signed up with Northumbria Blood Bikes to be a rider but so far has trained as a shift coordinator as well trying to rustle up some publicity.

He has yet to pass his advanced test and given that on his most recent lesson his observer mentioned that there "might still be some way to go". It's probably best that we've got him doing some other things!

We're still 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 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...

Waitrose, Hexham, 11th & 12th March

Northumbria Blood Bikes were invited to Waitrose in Hexham again, with one of our bikes and a Mini Moto looking fantastic at the store.

Over the course of the two days many members of the Northumbria Blood Bike family were in attendance to meet with the shoppers, raise some funds and also highlight the work we do.



Volunteers Malcolm Cramman, Malcolm Farley, Stephen Ridley, Sean Jamieson & Adam Morris attended the event.

The good people of Hexham were as generous as ever with a fantastic £632 raised on Friday and £767 on Saturday, £1,399 in total.

...Massive thanks for the huge generosity of everyone at Waitrose; both shoppers and the management and staff of the store.

Story: Simon Lee

Providing effective and timely transportation of essential blood and medical products
Registered Charity Number 1152745



Peter Johnson Funerals have a strong relationship with Northumbria Blood Bikes:

Back in November last year, volunteers Gary Loader and Alan Ross were presented with a donation cheque at the Great North Air Ambulance airbase; the result of fundraising activities that the firm had held over previous months. The firm continued to think of us over the winter, and we were invited back on 4th March to their Hebburn branch to receive a further donation of £250.00. Gary is pictured above, with several of the PJF team who were brave enough to withstand the miserable March weather for a photo-shoot: Typically the rain started as soon as we were ready for the photograph! Thank you Peter, Moira and the entire PJF team for your kind donations and continuing support. As always, they will be used wisely to continue our life-saving service to hospitals throughout our region.



North East Bikers Charity Presentation Evening



In aid of the
Great North Air Ambulance
& Northumbria Blood Bikes



Performing live:

Elenbak

Free entry, but donations welcome

Saturday 9th April, 7pm-midnight

The Philadelphia

Success Road, Houghton Le Spring DG4 4JG.



Sadly we have to report that we had another accident this month, only our second since the charity began. Fortunately nobody was injured on this occasion, but the Honda Pan European bike ("Auckland", pictured above) is likely to be written off as beyond economical repair. The cause of the incident is under investigation.

Specials Lab chooses NBB as “Charity of the Year”

We consider ourselves to be very fortunate, as two local companies have each selected Northumbria Blood Bikes as their chosen charity of the year.... The first of which is thanks to the efforts of our volunteer Controller, Debbie Paton.

Debbie, right, worked her magic to ensure that her employers chose us.... And as a result, we have already received a substantial donation from them which will help to fund our services to the regions hospitals. We're very thankful to have been chosen by the Specials Laboratory, and to Debbie for her remarkable efforts.



Not content with her achievement, Debbie went on to stage a “Pie and Bake Sale” at work, and raised an impressive £117.00 in a single day from the sales to the office staff! They obviously thought highly of her culinary skills, as there have already been requests for another event. Perhaps we will be able to get her husband Ronnie, who also volunteers as a rider for us, to take one of our blood bikes over if there's a similar event in future, so the staff can see what their appetite is helping to raise money for!





Just a reminder...

The Roadhouse Grill, Sandy Lane, Gosforth are offering blood bike volunteers a free drink whenever they visit. 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 our volunteers making this their regular "Haunt" between the afternoon hospital calls!

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

Donations this month:

Sometimes we have very little knowledge about the donations we receive, but we still want to say a thank you to those who have contributed. Here's a few of the people who've helped us to keep the service running this month:

Billingham Team Parish - £150.00

Mr. Dodds - £25.00

Easy Fundraising - £40.75

St. Andrews, Corbridge - £1,206.00

Royal Kent Preceptory - £20.00

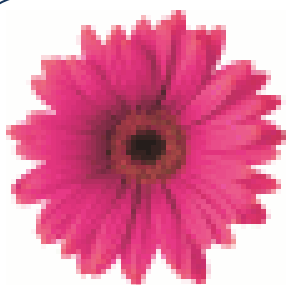
Hexham Lassies Morris Dancers - £70

NEWCASTLE FEPS HASSRA - £248

St. Colombas Reformed Church - £64

If you become aware of any donations, you can drop a line to us to make sure we include it in the next newsletter. Email: alan.ross@northumbriabloodbikes.org.uk





Dobbies

GARDEN CENTRES

Get used to seeing Dobbies, Ponteland, in our newsletters: They've chosen us as their "Charity of the Year"! This means that we will be at the store for no less than eighteen event days this year, and will also have collection tins at each of their tills. Furthermore, they've offered to donate the income from their plastic bag sales (disposable bags at 5p each), and invited us to several special one-off events later in the year, including a flower show and a craft fayre.



Gary Loader took along "Bright Northumbria", our FJR 1300 bike, when we visited the store to find out what they needed. He's pictured here with (left to right) employees Chloe, Dean, and Aileen Henderson, Community Champion at the store. The tills all have collecting tins now, and we've already had three successful days of fundraising (next page). If you look at the end of this newsletter you'll see that we already have another five days lined up for April and May. Something tells me you'll be hearing a lot more about Dobbies in the near future!



Many thanks to all our volunteers who helped us to raise awareness at Dobbies over the Easter Bank Holiday weekend, including:

Jack Blagburn, Paul Skelton, Peter Kippax, Tegan Rawlinson, Gary Loader, Sean Jamieson, Shaun Anderson, Adam Morris, Gary Saunders, Jeff Glen, Nigel Barlow, Mark Richardson, Graeme Leighton, and probably more that I've missed off the list!

We raised an impressive £586 on Good Friday, A further £470 on the Saturday, and £595.98 on Easter Monday, ensuring we have fuel in the tanks for a few more shifts. Thank you all so much for donating your time to attend, and of course to all the public for their kind donations!

Providing effective and timely transportation of essential blood and medical products
Registered Charity Number 1152745



TESCO
Every little helps

Family Fun Day

Our second outing for our new trailer was on Sunday 27th March, for the Tesco Consett Family Fun Day. Volunteers Graeme Leighton and Wayne Rand braved the wicked March weather (and had to move the trailer to provide a bit of shelter from the wind) to raise funds for us and promote our charity. They took along "Claire", one of our Madathlon Triumph Trophy bikes, together with a mini-moto for the younger customers.

-Thanks, fellas, for your time & effort to raise awareness, and of course for raising funds to keep our service operational!

EASTER AT THE BEBBY

Story: Simon Lee

Our friends at the Bebside Inn, Blyth invited us to spend "Easter At The Bebb" with them. This charity fundraising event takes place across the Easter weekend with good food and live music on Friday, Saturday and Sunday night. All funds raised across the weekend through donations, raffles and collections are shared between Northumbria Blood Bikes and the Great North Air Ambulance. Pictured here are Alan Johnston and Malcolm Farley with our Skoda Yeti and our Monkton-based Yamaha FJR Bike, "Bright Northumbria". (Beefburgers and sausage sandwiches not shown!)



A “New” Mini Moto is on its way...



Our poor Mini Motos don't have much of a life. They get sat on constantly at events from dawn till dusk by over-excited kids who want to make “Nee-Nar” noises, and force a bald-spot into the tyres by jerking the handlebars constantly from left to right. All that activity leaves them looking a little worse for wear in no time!

Luckily we have a new one on its way, thanks to the hard work of our volunteer Dave Lucas, who is preparing the livery and decals for the body panels which will give our smallest bike a new lease of life.

Good job, Dave! - Looking forward to seeing the finished bike in all its glory in a few weeks' time!

Our first members meeting of the year:



Three times every year we have a meeting where our members can catch up with everything we've been doing over the previous few months, and what's in store for the future. This time the meeting was held at Sunderland Minster, instead of Northumbria University, after many people struggled to park last time.

Topics this time included changes to our job logging system, and a discussion about the designing a box to go on top of our blood bikes instead of using tie-down straps. One very important topic was our plans to change the way our charity is structured, and become a “Charitable Incorporated Organisation” (CIO).

This is because we have identified a legal issue with our structure that could potentially expose our volunteers to financial liability if we were ever to face any unforeseen financial issues. The proposal was offered to change from a registered charity to a CIO, and was accepted unanimously. The next meeting will be in three months' time; hope to see you there!





Lady Bikers North East Calendar Final Cheque Presentation:

Sunday 13th March saw a pretty impressive finish to an amazing fundraising project, as the Lady Bikers North East presented the two beneficiaries (Northumbria Blood Bikes and the Great North Air Ambulance) with their donation cheques. The official total raised is £7284.00 which has been split 50/50 between GNAA & NBB with each charity receiving £3642.00. Thank you to everyone who was brave enough to take part, and to those who bought a calendar!



Bessie & The Zinc Buckets Christmas gig donation:



Remember back in December there was a blood bike on the stage at Newcastle City Hall for a fundraiser concert by local band "Bessie & The Zinc Buckets"? (If you look hard you can just see our bike in the middle of this picture!)

Well, there was a slight delay in counting this one, because the front man who organised the collection for us works through the winter season in Austria, and departed these shores a couple of days after the show, leaving the collection buckets locked in his house.

He caught up with us in March, and gave us an impressive £533.28 which was donated by the audience on the night.....
....Thank you to everyone who attended or donated!

Introducing our newest addition to the fleet (awaiting livery):



Undercover blood bike? Not quite. This is the brand new Honda Pan European bike, to be named "Mark Master Mason", and is bought from an £18,000.00 grant by the Mark Masons Benevolent Fund.

As part of its running-in, the Northumbria Blood Bikes fleet manager Richard Scholfield rode it on the PGL Northumberland Widows Sons Easter Egg run on 22nd March. Richard is a dab-hand at avoiding cameras, so it's pictured here with volunteer rider John Watts.

Next time you see it will be in full livery, proudly displaying the roundels above, ready for formal hand-over by Den Wilson and Gordon Craigs, the PGMs of Durham and Northumberland at the Durham Mark AGM on 22nd June 2016.

On a side note... an impromptu collection during lunch raised a further £237.00 for NBB, wonderful masonic generosity much appreciated by us all at Northumbria!

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).



North East Bikers Charity Presentation Evening 19:00 - 00:00
in aid of both Northumbria Blood Bikes and Great North Air Ambulance.
(see advert on previous page for details of location & entertainment)
We will also try our best to get a blood bike in attendance if we can...



Flower Show at Dobbies, Ponteland
Come and meet the staff who elected Northumbria Blood Bikes as their "Charity of the year" with this special awareness stand during their busy flower show event...



Northumbria Blood Bikes 360 Challenge Event (all day)
Motorcyclists only...a fundraising challenge which takes in spectacular views around the region! More details available from our website - (no login required), or see the advert on the previous pages...



Dobbies, Ponteland
Bank holiday weekends are the busiest for Garden Centres, and we'll be there each day to fundraise with at least on bike...come & see us!



Dalton Park 09:00-17:00
A day of fundraising and awareness at Dalton, the biggest outlet shopping centre in the North East. Can you spare us a couple of hours to help us?



Teeside Air Show 09:00-17:00
A cracking day at Durham Tees Valley Airport, home of the Great North Air Ambulance to which we deliver fresh blood every day! This is a ticketed event; visit <http://www.skyliveevents.co.uk/> for more info.



Dobbies, Ponteland
We're back at Dobbies again for another Bank Holiday weekend of fundraising & awareness. Please come along and support us if you can.



Northumberland County Show 09:00-17:00
Come and make a day of it with 'free parking' at Bywell Hall, near Stocksfield, NE43 7AB. We will be there with at least one blood bike.



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...