



NORTHUMBRIA BLOOD BIKES

May 2016

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

The annual Prescott Bike Festival, which raises vital funds for the Nationwide Association of Blood Bikes (NABB), took place last month on Sunday 17th April. Traditionally, the event always starts and ends with a “Lap of honour”, where all the blood bikes (from the various charities attending) do a lap around the track.



More info: Page 15.

Photo: Ria Burnett

**“Everything that follows
is a result of
what you see here”**

Dr. Alfred Lanning, ‘I-Robot’

Just a movie quote, but with a poignant message to our readers. Everything that follows from today onwards... our services to hospitals & the Great North Air Ambulance, the success of our charity, the provision of uniform, fuel, servicing, insurance, road tax, *everything* is a result of what you see here.

‘What you see here’ is the amount of effort our volunteers put into publicising our charity and raising the vital funds we need to keep it operational.

‘What you see here’ is just our activities in the last four weeks. It’s an incredible amount of work, and we need to do it every month to sustain our services. 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.

EVENTS:

<i>Tyne & Wear Federation of W.I.s</i>	3
<i>Easter at The Bebbey</i>	3
<i>Talk - Allendale W.I.</i>	6
<i>Talk - Cleasewell W.I.</i>	6
<i>Talk - Witton Gilbert W.I.</i>	6
<i>Talk - National Womens’ Register group</i>	6
<i>Koast Radio interview</i>	7
<i>Blood on Board anniversary</i>	8
<i>Fundraising events - Dobbies, Ponteland</i>	11
<i>North East Bikers Presentation Night</i>	12
<i>David Richardsons funeral</i>	13
<i>Prescott Bike Festival</i>	15
<i>The Northumbria 360 Challenge</i>	16
<i>Barclaycard Raffle Day</i>	18
<i>Future events for your diary</i>	20

NEWS & DONATIONS:

<i>Our New Mokka</i>	3
<i>A new, Home Office approved blood bike?</i>	4
<i>Time for a new fleet photograph</i>	5
<i>Our New Publicity Officer</i>	7
<i>London Marathon Fundraiser</i>	7
<i>Publicity gained from BoB event</i>	9
<i>Blood on board survivor donates £1000</i>	9
<i>Thank You, Mr. “AA” Man !</i>	10
<i>Another relay</i>	10
<i>Donation - Cramlington Churches</i>	11
<i>“Have you got the Blues?”</i>	15
<i>Change of our registered charity number</i>	18
<i>EGGER UK choose us as Charity of the Year</i>	18
<i>The Fresh Prince of the Clutchless FJR”</i>	19



Our new Mokka:

With daily journeys to Carlisle and Darlington, it doesn't take long to clock up the mileage on our Blood-on-Board car.

After hitting 20,000 miles, it was time to replace the Mokka with this shiny new one, with

new, magnetic livery to ease the costs incurred when we change to new vehicles in future. The car is provided thanks to a deal which was brokered by the Henry Surtees Foundation, who also provided

much of the equipment required to start the Blood on Board project at the two airbases we serve. The vehicle arrived just in time to visit the Blood on Board anniversary at the RVI, but no doubt it will only be a matter of weeks before we clock up the mileage on it once again and seek yet another replacement!



Our Chairman, Peter Robertson, manages to find a bit of vacant wall to project one of our awareness presentations...



Tyne & Wear South

A couple of pictures from the talk given by our Chairman, Peter Robertson (right), to the Tyne and Wear South Federation of WI's. The event took place on Saturday 2nd April at Wrekenton, Gateshead end was easily the biggest group yet for Peter, with over 100 people attending!

A cheque for £100.00 was generously donated on the day of the talk, and a collection taken during the evening raised a further £109.92! Many thanks to all who attended & donated to our charity.



EASTER AT THE BEBBY



On Thursday 7th April, Volunteers Alan Johnston, Malcolm Farley & Adam Morris attended the Bebside Inn to collect a cheque from their "Easter at The Bebb" event.

They took along two of our blood bikes (The MADATHLON Triumph Trophy, "Bella", left, and Malcolm's favourite Yamaha XJR "Bright Northumbria" (Right, a.k.a. "Marmite") for this photograph.

Their event raised an amazing £543 which we will use to keep our service operational. Thank You!!!

A new, Home Office approved, purpose-built blood bike?

Story: John Stepney, Chairman of NABB. Photo: Midland Freewheelers Blood Bikes



As you may be aware, Northumbria Blood Bikes don't have a specific design of bike which can be bought "ready to use", because there has never been one. We generally purchase standard bikes from whichever dealer offers the best price at the time, then we go through the process of fitting a blood rack, lights and livery etc. It's a long, drawn out process which delays the deployment of a new bike, and always means an extra insurance premium for non-standard modifications to the vehicle. Hopefully, that is all about to change... For the last year or so, the Nationwide Association of Blood Bikes (NABB) has been engaged in negotiation to have a formal test regime created and recognised to ensure that the bikes we have can be safely used at speed (loaded) once the Section 19 amendments are ratified. (Section 19 amendments is a proposed change in the law to allow Blood Bikes a variety of exemptions, which may include approval to go through red traffic lights or break speed limits if safe to do so). You will appreciate that deploying machines at high speed, loaded in a way that they were not originally designed for, is not the most professional way to operate.

I am pleased to inform you that we now have a Home Office Authorities approved machine for our industry. Most of the main bike manufacturers were approached and Alistair Borland (NABB Fleet Technical Officer & Chair SERV OBN) was successful in gaining commitment from Yamaha to work with us to develop such a test. The development prototype as approved by Yamaha was then submitted for type approval fully tested by the Met Police, on track and road, to the Home Office approved "Cast" Speed and Stability Test Process, as required for emergency service roles. This included high speed and low speed trials, manoeuvrability testing, braking trials etc. The test process was conducted at excess speed, fully loaded with both blood box and pannier loads, such that we now have a validated/approved machine for our "loads" plus a machine fit for Sec 19 Speed Exemptions, should they be ratified and should any group decide to adopt them.

In terms of specification, the machines will be supplied equipped with specific type approved alloy racks mounted in line with the bike behind the rider (see photo). The bikes will be in white and fully liveried to the NABB agreed specification, with ABS, Traction Control, Cruise control, electrically adjustable screen, extended mirror shrouds, and variable heated grips. In terms of warning equipment, they will be equipped with one touch front, side and rear blues. In addition, the machines will be equipped with a 3-tone 100W siren and auto flashing head lights with appropriate tell-tale /on indications (emergency service sirens have a button for on only operates when blues are on - horn button then cycles the tone, double tap for off).





Controls for the emergency equipment are positioned to left and right clusters. All this equipment is such that we are Sec 19 "ready" - and so that the approved speed and stability testing could be conducted and validated with the bike so equipped. They will also be equipped with a universal tele-fiz-rizer Ram mount to the central yoke, allowing each group to fit their own preferred Sat Nav. Trackers will not be fitted, but there are two 12v sockets on the machine that can be used to power one. The current version of the approved bike is based on the 2015 (5 gear version). As these are used up, the 2016 (6 speed version) will become available.

John Stepney, author of this article, would like to thank Alistair Borland for his tenacity and attention to detail that has bought us this far. This stage in the development of the blood bike industry marks a significant milestone. This is the first time we have formal approval for a blood bike and is further recognition from the Government that we are considered to be a legitimate emergency service. With regard to other manufacturers, NABB have confirmed initial discussion with BMW on the same subject. However, these discussions are preliminary at this point and BMW have asked that they only have one point of contact for this which will be NABB, via Alistair Borland. Alistair will keep us regularly updated on the progress of the project.

Time for a new fleet photograph!



The first time we had a planned photo-shoot of the entire fleet was, believe it or not, the day before we started our service back in February 2013 (below). Back then it was easy... we only had two bikes! Times have changed, as have the bikes, and the volunteers.

Now we're planning to get a group photo once again, this time with the current fleet of eight bikes, three cars and an event trailer. Weather permitting, the plan is to do it on Wednesday 25th May. The nice people at Lumley Castle, near Chester Le Street, have kindly allowed us to take some photographs on the grounds of their prestigious hotel, and we're very grateful to them for doing so!

Members; if you're available on 25th May, please come down to the hotel... Exact timings will be posted nearer the date.



theWI

INSPIRING WOMEN

A talk to Allendale W.I. on 22nd April was hosted by our volunteer Peter Kelly. He brought along the Madathlon blood bike "Bella" (below!)



theWI

INSPIRING WOMEN

After a recent blood bikes talk at the Cleaswell Womens' Institute on 8th March, we were contacted to be informed that the collection tin that went round had now been counted and it contained £42.11. Thank you, Ladies! We hope you enjoyed the presentation and will use the donation wisely to further our services to the regions hospitals & Air Ambulance...

theWI

INSPIRING WOMEN

...and another talk, this time on 11th April, to Witton Gilbert W.I. -Northumbrias' Gary Saunders kindly hosted with his son, Aidan to assist!



National Womens' Register:

Wednesday 13th April: Some of the ladies from the National Womens' Register group were treated to a talk from our Rota Manager Steve Rawlings at the Masonic Hall, Norham Rd, Whitley Bay. He was accompanied by members Glen Campbell, David Glennie and Sean Jamieson, and our blood bike "Hylton". As you can see the bike was a popular extra! There was also a collection/donation made during the evening... Much appreciated, thank you, ladies!

Gateshead Council

Youth Offending Team donation:

Wednesday 13th April: Chairman Peter Robertson and Vice-Chair Alan Ross attended a cheque presentation at Gateshead Civic Centre from the Youth Offending Team, part of the Children and Families Support Service.

The £1000.00 donation was the proceeds from sales of garden planters and ornaments which the team had created and sold over several months. Pictured here is Mick Mullen, Reparation Team Co-ordinator, with his wife Gill.

As Peter explained to Mr.Mullen on the day, the donation will fund approximately three hundred potentially life-saving journeys delivering blood, platelets and equipment to our local hospitals. Thank you all for your kind generosity.





Our New Publicity Officer:

Introducing Kirsty Lawrence, our newly appointed Publicity Officer. Publicity-wise, she's off to a pretty good start, considering her photo appears no less than seven times throughout this month's newsletter! You'll hear plenty more from her in the months ahead.

We're now also looking for a new Membership Officer, as our legendary Mr. Barry Bullas, who currently holds the role, is planning to step down at the next A.G.M. Please contact us by 11th May if you're interested... membership@northumbriabloodbikes.org.uk.



London Marathon fundraiser:

Our new publicity officer Kirsty also wanted to congratulate one of her colleagues from her daytime work, Andrew Elliott, for completing the London Marathon on Sunday 24th April. He's also going to be doing the Great North Run this year for Northumbria Blood Bikes.

The Virgin Money London Marathon is one of the great British sporting events, combining elite athletics, mass participation and record-breaking fundraising in one race. The course is a gruelling 26 miles 385 yards long, passing through the streets of London from Blackheath to the famous finish line at The Mall.

Andrew has managed to raise £235.00 so far (including Gift Aid) which will be shared between the two charities he was running for... Alzheimer's Society and Northumbria Blood Bikes. Well done, Andrew, and thank you so much for supporting us!

Koast Interview:



Northumbria's Vice-Chairman Alan Ross was invited to Koast Radio's Ashington studios for a live interview on Friday 22nd April.... Although he didn't know it was 'live' until about a minute beforehand! The 45 minute interview was with presenters Graeme and Annie (above, with Alan) during their 10am Coffee time show. Graeme also hosts the Monday night "Renegade Rock Show - in association with Northumbria Blood Bikes", and kindly repeated the interview on Monday 25th April at 8:40pm. Alan is hoping to get a copy of the interview to post on social media, and plans are afoot to join Koast Radio at some of their outside broadcast events in the coming months. Thank you Graeme, Annie, Caz & the Koast Radio team for the excellent opportunity to promote our charity and the services we provide. ☺

Excellent publicity from an emotional event: “Blood On Board” Celebrates its first anniversary

On Saturday 2nd April, The R.V.I. played host to the survivors of the “Blood On Board” project, which was one year old in February. During that year, eighteen people survived as a direct result of being treated at the roadside with blood transfusions. Nine of them are considered to be “Unexpected survivors”, meaning that they would have lost their lives if the service had not been in operation.



For most, it was the first time they had returned to the hospital since their accidents, and they had the opportunity to meet the people behind the scenes who contributed to their recovery.

The Great North Air Ambulance Service (GNAAS) landed their helicopter on the rooftop helipad and invited guests to see it. The hospital labs who store the blood and condition the boxes also arranged a tour of their facilities. Outside, both Northumbria and Cumbria blood bikes had representatives to talk to the survivors, and several bikes & cars on display. We were also on active duty, so the visitors had an opportunity to see our service in action... At one stage we had six bikes and two cars, and we would have had a seventh bike were it not for a puncture en-route!



We provided a cake, but it was well & truly dwarfed by the amazing creation above which was provided by GNAAS, complete with a mini “Rachel” (Dr. Rachel Hawes, who founded the project). There were several members of the press attending, including BBC, ITV, and Forces TV....because the idea originated while Rachel was working in the Territorial Army in Afghanistan. Our Treasurer & Fleet Manager, Richard

Scholfield (left) did an interview with the BBC which was broadcasted on the same evening.

At the same time, ITV Tyne-Tees featured the event in their evening news, and again at 9pm.

The event was very emotional for everyone; to meet and greet the people who are only alive today because of a service to which we have directly contributed really brings home the importance of the voluntary work we do. For some, it's perceived as just delivering boxes, but this event brought home how significant our contribution is.



Providing effective and timely transportation of essential blood and medical products

Registered Charity Number 1152745

The Publicity gained by the event both beforehand & afterwards was phenomenal. BBC NEWS also published to their website, as did ITV, with several videos from the day. Forces TV also covered the event in great detail with a presenter on-site to interview the various people attending. We had some coverage before the event (thanks to a press release from the RVI) from The Northumberland Gazette, and also from Sunderland's radio station Sun FM.

After the event, we became aware of additional features on the NHS website Newcastle-hospitals.org.uk, and a large editorial in the Newcastle Chronicle. The Northern Echo ran a story about Blood on Board being used in the Merit Car (a car that patrols in the town centres on a night-time). On the other side of the country, "Cumbria Crack" ran a full article for our neighbouring colleagues, who also did an interview with Bill Bertham, Chairman of Blood Bikes Cumbria, for radio Cumbria. Then of course there was the obligatory coverage on the Great North Air Ambulance Website, The Henry Surtees Foundation site, and our own blood bike webpages.

It's very rare to get so much media attention and publicity from a single event, and we're thankful to all of the media who assisted in promoting the story. Time will tell if we have gained new membership enquiries, volunteers, and maybe even some sponsorship from it all...



BoB Survivor donates £1000.00:

John and Margaret McNeil were two of the visitors to the Blood On Board anniversary. John, pictured here with our Chairman Peter, had received a blood transfusion from the BoB service and was delighted to meet and thank everyone in person for helping him on the day of his accident last year. "It was a team effort and what a fantastic team!" said his wife, Margaret.

The couple were kind enough to present Peter with a personal donation of £1000.00 to assist us in keeping our voluntary service going. We found it really humbling for us to meet with him, and the other beneficiaries of Blood on Board, and of course we are very thankful for the incredibly generous donation, it will help keep our bikes on the road and that's all-important for us.

Best wishes, John, for your continued recovery, from everyone here at Northumbria Blood Bikes.

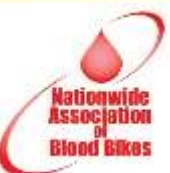


Thank You, Mr. 'AA' Man!



What a very, very nice man... For the 6th year running, the AA has just renewed the free of charge 'top of the range' vehicle fleet breakdown cover for over 140 NABB charity bikes for another year. It's a superb example of business supporting the community.

Thanks also, of course, to the hard work of the Nationwide Association of Blood Bikes for negotiating this deal on behalf of all the UK Blood Bike Charities!



Another Relay run:



On Thursday 14th April, Dumfries and Galloway Blood Bikes contacted us because they had a frozen sample at their Royal Infirmary which needed to be transported to the Freeman Hospital in Gosforth. Despite the fact that it was outside of our normal operating hours, we agreed to assist, and the package left D&G infirmary at 09:00.

Northumbria's volunteer Chris Mitchell met up with them at Low Row on the A69 at 10.30 hours, and took the package to complete the run. Nice one. Chris... Once again the blood bike groups pull together to get the job done!





Dobbies
GARDEN CENTRES

Funds raised to date from the staff and customers of Dobbies Ponteland:

Friday 25 th March	£586.00
Saturday 26 th March	£470.00
Monday 28 th March	£595.98
Saturday 9 th April	£436.21
Sunday 10 th April	£317.21
Thursday 14 th April	£242.38
Friday 15 th April	£390.17
Saturday 16 th April	£483.23
Sunday 17 th April	£365.31
	£3886.49

This last month has seen more activity than ever in the Ponteland store that named us their “Charity of the Year”. We had no less than seven days of fundraising in April alone, and five more lined up for May. This is a fantastic opportunity for us to raise our profile and ensure the service we provide to the regions hospitals can continue. We’re incredibly grateful to Dobbies staff for selecting us! The totals (top right) suggest that Dobbies are well on their way towards funding the purchase of a bike for the charity, which would ensure that the legacy of their generosity will continue long after our “Charity of the Year” status has been passed on to another worthy cause at the end of 2016. March this year was our busiest month yet with 766 jobs, so we need all the help we can get!

Cramlington Churches

Also at Dobbies this month: Our Chairman, Peter Robertson, was presented with two cheques for £900.00 and £100.00 on Sunday 17th April. The donation was from members of a number of the Cramlington churches who get together for a lunch-time bowl of soup and a service. They chose us as their Lent Charity and collected donations and promoted our work during the lead up to Easter. Pictured right is our Chairman with Margaret Watson, who visited Dobbies with her husband Terry while we were holding a fundraising day.



Our Talks Co-Ordinator, Nigel Barlow, did a talk to the group at the beginning of Lent where one of the ladies had made 100 pancakes and sold them for a quid each - so we knew there was at £100 donation on its way. “They made a canny bowl of broth too”, said Nigel. He was told at the end of the period they had raised £1000 and was meant to go and receive it from them on 16th, but due to a mix-up the presentation didn’t take place. Undeterred, Margaret and Terry tracked us down to Dobbies and did the presentation there instead. We’re sorry for the mix-up, and really appreciative of you coming to see us!



There are plenty more appearances planned for Dobbies over the next months, the first five of which are promoted in our events diary at the back of this newsletter. Hopefully we may see you at one of them!



NORTH EAST BIKERS Charity Presentation Night



This is just one of those occasions where it's better to let the photos do the talking!

Saturday 9th April was the presentation night for North East Bikers, who handed over donation cheques to the Great North Air Ambulance and Northumbria Blood Bikes. It took place at The Philadelphia Pub in Houghton Le Spring, and featured live music from "Elenbak". NBB volunteers Alan Johnston and Malcolm Farley were on hand to receive the donation, which is the result of several fundraising activities over recent months. - Fantastic news for us, Thank you!!!!

Thank you also to Andrew Menzies, whose photos here paint a far better description of the evening than any words can! A great night with great people... Thank you all so much!



David Richardson:

Northumbria Blood Bikes volunteer rider.



On 9th April we announced the passing of one of our Blood Bike Volunteers, Mr. David Richardson. He had suffered a heart attack a few days earlier and sadly passed away on Thursday 7th April with his family around him. His sons, Steven & Phil, contacted us and said "He got so much enjoyment from his motorbike and was so passionate about blood bikes, and so very proud to contribute to the work you do."

The funeral took place on Tuesday 19th April, and Northumbria Blood Bikes were kindly invited by David's family to escort him on his final journey. Riding them were Committee members Richard Scholfield, Mike Thompson, Chris Mitchell, Barry Bullas & Alan Ross, and NBB rider Malcolm Farley.

A service of thanksgiving was held at Ewesley Road Methodist Church, Sunderland, followed by buffet refreshments. Naturally, a substantial number of our volunteers attended to pay their respects. The family requested donations in lieu of flowers at the service, with donations in aid of Sunderland Methodist Circuit and Northumbria Blood Bikes.... in the words of his sons: "To carry on the proud work our father did".

“Have You Got the Blues?”

Some musings from one of our members,
NEAS Ambulance driver Nigel Martin,
on the use of blue lights...

“You know, when I first started to drive the Skoda Yeti, in its finest livery and oh yes, the blue light sitting on the roof, I kind-of thought “wouldn’t it be great to get a Blue Light Job”. If the truth be known I guess we will all ‘step-up-to the plate’ and possibly use blue lights on the car and bikes if the need arises. We have all attended the Blue Light Awareness course, and I am certain learnt a great deal; if nothing else, be ‘selective’ how and when to use these wonders of modern science high output LED’s, fitted to the fleet. I hope the message was forcibly put by the Tutor, (I think it was), that “My brethren, the responsibility and liability is on you, if you decide to switch the Blue Lights on. You alone”, a sobering thought! If you cause an ‘incident’ the Police may well prosecute, especially if a moving traffic offence has been committed. This is I guess, a bit ‘doom and gloom’ but it is not meant to be.

Have I used Blue lights in NBB? Yes, but very sparingly, and I hope in a considered way. From RVI to Darlington, only reaching Darlington, in stationary traffic I used the lights, allowing all the traffic very clear view of me, and my intentions, past the ‘plug’ of traffic, lights off and I safely delivered the package. In all of the driving I have done thus far, this is the only occasion I have used the lights, I have in fact been cleared to use lights on other occasions, but at 3am from RVI to Freeman seemed, well, totally uncalled for. We have these Blue Lights on the vehicles, and perhaps inwardly would love to use them on the roads, but as one person said at the outset of driving for NBB, “don’t forget all of our deliveries used to be provided by Taxis”...

Back to the reason I have put these few words together... The moment drivers see/hear an emergency vehicle approaching they adopt some totally unpredictable characteristics, panic if you will, indicate left turn right, just stop where they stand, cut off you intended route, the list goes on. NBB vehicles with blue lights on will encounter exactly the same, but you do not have the advantage of Sirens. We all enjoy the satisfaction of doing an incredible job, riding and driving some fabulous vehicles for the NBB, long may that continue! But what I would say as a closing statement, do be very careful out there if you decide to use the lights. Be safe! ”

-Nigel Martin, NBB volunteer, Ambulance crew for NEAS.

Editors response: (not NBBs response!)

Fortunately, we work mostly at night, when there’s so little on the roads that we would hardly ever need to use them. Under current legislation we have no exemptions to red traffic lights, speed limits, solid white lines etc, so the use of blues give us no advantage over an ordinary vehicle, other than to make others aware of our presence.

Safety is the key issue here. By using blue lights, you introduce new risks to a role which already has inherent dangers. To introduce new risks to our own safety in our role as a rider or driver is bad enough....but to risk the safety of a member of the public is illegal, and could indeed leave you facing prosecution. So be careful....and safe!





Just like the “Hoppings” on the Town Moor in Newcastle, you can always guarantee a muddy, slippery field at Prescott Bike festival! This time we took the Trailer (no bikes!) but still needed help to move it!

The event enjoyed decent weather this year, and a bumper year for attendance figures. Why do we go so far out of the area to support this event? - Because the Nationwide Association of Blood Bikes (NABB) is one of the main benefactors of the funding raised by the festival. NABB represent us at national level to gain advantages like VAT exemption, free roadside Recovery, discount on sat-navs, trackers etc. They also helped us to set-up the charity, and continue to be a valuable source of information & guidance, so it’s important for us to show our appreciation. Besides, it’s a great opportunity to see other groups and discuss how they operate, get ideas for leaflets, marketing, equipment etc. A great day all round!



Pictured above left are Northumbria volunteers Colin Granton and Graham Moor alongside Amanda Mealing, star of BBC’s Holby City & Casualty. Amanda is one of the patrons of NABB and was promoting the blood bikes ethos to the many guests who attended the event. Above right are some additional impromptu visitors who suddenly arrived (from a galaxy far far away).





The first 360 Challenge: Exceeding expectations!

I think it's safe to say that the 360 Challenge on Saturday 23rd April turned out to be a more successful event than anyone (including organiser John McQuade) had expected, and has probably cemented itself into the Northumbria Blood Bikes calendar as an annual event.

Mike Casey, one of the riders on the event, commented "Well done John McQuade and Northumbria Bloodbikes for organising such an event. The route was brilliant taking you through the best of Northumbria and the Northern Pennines along the best roads you will ever ride."

86 single riders and 18 riders with pillions registered for the event, bringing the total number of participants to 122. The weather was on our side, staying mainly sunny and dry for the day (though many of us froze as the temperatures along the route were well below the average for April!)

Special thanks also has to go to these two ladies, Kirsty Lawrence and Alison McQuade (right), who sat at the start / finish location for nearly ten hours taking registrations, collecting donations and issuing completion badges. Well done, ladies!





360 challenge “Special award” winners:

An extra badge was created for anyone who managed to raise over £300 in sponsorship or donations for the event.... And the people on this page all managed to do it!

Steve Tulloch (above left) informed us on the day that he had raised an incredible £2300.00, and the figure may still rise! Graeme Mitchell (above right, in black) raised over £400.00. Ronnie Paton (above right, in hi-viz) and his wife Debbie raised £322.00. Unfortunately we missed the chance to photograph Debbie! George & Caz Laws (left) raised £300.00. Colin Granton and Joanne Hudson (Below left, in orange) raised at least £500.00... Their total is still being added to. Finally, Tim Beattie and his three team-mates (below right) raised £500.00 and will be receiving their special gold badges in the post.

We cannot thank you all enough for your fantastic support, which helps to ensure the continuation of our services to hospitals in the region, and delivery of life-saving blood to the Great North Air Ambulance. You're heroes, every single one of you!



It's only a little number, but it's a big deal!

Our charity number will be changing..... from 1152745 to 1166689. This is because we identified that the group was expanding rapidly and needed to restructure in order to protect our members from liability. We are in the process of closing the original charity and re-opening as a CIO (Charitable Incorporated Organisation), as agreed by members at the last open meeting, and this is on target to take effect from 1 July 2016. Now starts the long task of changing all our letterheads, posters, collecting tins, leaflets, and much more to indicate the new number. We also need to provide details to HMRC, our banks, and the various donation streams (Virgin Money Giving, BT MyDonate, Just Giving etc) to notify them of the change, too. Quite a lot of work involved, but worthwhile to safeguard our future!



Longframlington Pipers

and friends

Blue Caribou, and the Wannie-Liners

invite you to an evening of
music and song in aid of

Northumbria Blood Bikes

at Memorial Hall, Rothbury Road,

Longframlington

on Saturday 7th May 2016

at 7.30pm

Bring your own drinks

Raffle and refreshments

Adults £6.50 Children (under 16) £2

Pay on the door



EGGER UK choose us as Charity of the Year:

Over the past few weeks, we've been quite successful with engagement. The Specials Laboratory where NBB volunteer Debbie Paton works, and Dobbies in Ponteland, where NBB volunteer Alan Johnston is good friends with store management, both chose us to be their charity of the year.

A few weeks ago, Egger UK in Hexham were looking to make a similar decision. Volunteer Anthony Bewick works there and was instrumental in their choice of us a charity of the year for them. Peter Robertson delivered a presentation to their Charity Committee and we have once again been selected! This outlines the importance of our members in our efforts to sustain ourselves. By far the most successful method of obtaining corporate sponsorship is from the inside, staff supporting good causes. If your employer is likely to support a 'charity of the year' scheme, please do investigate it and if there is potential, please let us know!

fundraising@northumbriabloodbikes.org.uk



Steve Tulloch and his daughter Emma Hedley (who organised the event) attended a Raffle Day at Barclaycard on Friday 15th April to raise funds for us.

They also took along the Madathlon Blood Bike "Claire". Pictured right are Emma, Claire Cook, Matt Hunt, Danielle Thompson and Sue Scott, just some of the many people who helped them to fundraise. Thank you all for your kindness!



The **Fresh Prince** *of the* **Clutchless FJR**

A little ditty to explain how Malcolm Farley, one of our regular volunteers, has developed an obsession with our clutchless Yamaha FJR Blood-Bike. (In the style of "The Fresh Prince Of Bel-Air"):

*Now, this is a story all about how,
My life got flipped & turned upside down,
I'd like to take a minute, Just sit where you are,
And I'll tell you how I came to like an FJR*

*Beech Square, Columbia, Born & Raised,
When I started volunteerin' I sure got praised,
Chillin' in my uniform, lookin' fly,
Sittin on a wall at the RVI...*

*When a guy called Richard was up to no good,
Swappin' all the bikes in my neighbourhood,
He swapped one little bike and I shouted "Naaaah!"
He said 'You're Gonna have to use this 'ere FJR'...*

*"Bright Northumbria" it was called,
& When it came to Monkton I Cried & I Bawled,
My homies all said "It don't amount to much",
but when I started it up: "Woah, It's got no clutch!!!"*

*First time I saw it, Man I cried,
"Cancel my shifts, I ain't takin' this ride.."
Peter replied & said "Quit your Bawlin'...
You're gonna have to go on a run with Steve Rawlin' "*

*After a while I thought "Is this what it's like?"
Had to admit that it ain't a bad bike...
Pretty soon I knew, my heart was aflame,
so I called it "Marmite" & now that's it's name....*

*I pull up to the RVI at 7 or 8
And I can't help thinkin' "This bike is great"
I send thanks to the folk at Yamaha who made her
And I yell to my pals 'Yo homies, smell ya later!'*

*Now I ride it every time, and I don't care who sees,
& I even put a "Marmite" badge on the keys,
I look at the bikes & mine's better by far,
Now I'm the Fresh Prince of the Clutchless FJR...*



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).



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?



Bishop Auckland Community Fire Station 09:00-17:00

Green Lane, Bishop Auckland, Co. Durham DL14 6RS

We will be in attendance as the local fire crews take part in the United Kingdom Rescue Organisation extrication & trauma regional challenge.



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.



Morpeth Town Fayre 08:00-17:00

We're becoming a regular guest at this annual event, with at least one blood bike in the parade through the high street! Come & join us on this large family fun day and help staff an awareness stand for its 30,000 visitors!



Tynedale Beer Festival

Another annual event where we are lucky enough to be both guests and beneficiaries... You can visit their website at www.tynedalebeerfestival.org.uk



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...