



NORTHUMBRIA BLOOD BIKES

June 2017

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



**The Queen's Award
for Voluntary Service**

The MBE for volunteer groups

Find out more on pages 14 and 15



In last month's issue we featured an article about the staff at P&G Longbenton that had fundraised to buy us a new car. The other night our new Nissan Juke went out on its first shift. Thanks to Lookers Nissan for providing a great rate and graphics. It will be fully operational by the end of the month and members will get a sneaky peek at it at our next open meeting.





We need your vote! Help us win up to £25,000 by voting in the MCF Community Awards.
Your vote matters #MCFawards



VOTE NOW

mcf.org.uk/region/durham/



Northumbria Blood Bikes are appealing to all its friends, supporters and service users to vote online to help them receive a £25,000 Community Award from the Freemasons.

As part of Freemasonry's 300th anniversary celebrations, the Masonic Charitable Foundation is distributing three million pounds to 300 charities across the country, and Northumbria Blood Bikes is one of those selected.

Each of the nominated charities will receive a grant, but the public vote will determine how much they receive, ranging from £4,000 to £25,000. Those who want to vote should visit the MCF website **mcf.org.uk/region/durham/**, and vote for Northumbria Blood Bikes. The voting period has opened until Monday, 31 July.

Graham Moor, Fundraising Manager and Vice Chair at Northumbria Blood Bikes said:

"A grant of £25,000 would make a huge difference to our work. I would urge anyone and everyone to go online and vote for Northumbria Blood Bikes. Please remember that every single vote counts."

The Masonic Charitable Foundation obtains all of its funding from Freemasons and their families. It is estimated that half of Freemasonry's total charitable expenditure of over £33m goes to charities that help people in communities across the country.

Right Worshipful Brother Eric Heaviside from Durham Freemasons said:

"We are proud to be able to support many charities across Durham, but in this special 300th anniversary year we want to involve the public, as well as local Freemasons, in deciding which of the nominated charities should benefit most. I urge everyone to visit the website and vote."

To vote for Durham to win up to £25,000, visit **mcf.org.uk/region/durham/**



Why I volunteer...

“Ever since I walked to school I would dream of owning a BMW or Mercedes. Aye, times were hard, that was all my pocket money saved away. Since then I am happy to say that I did eventually pass my motorcycle test, my car driving test and HGV test all first time. I passed my IAM motorcycle, car and commercial test, RoSPA car and motorcycle at gold level. I have driven vehicles all my life having owned a black taxi, (and eventually a BMW and Mercedes), for twenty five years in Edinburgh before retiring early a few years ago. I love touring abroad on my bike and any excuse will have me riding a couple of hundred miles in the UK to meet a mate for a coffee. I’ll go anywhere on my bike, at home or abroad, if time allows, just ask me. Yes, motorcycling is my hobby.

And so it was, on a bike tour in Slovenia in the scorching heat I failed to realise the symptoms of dehydration. 13 years ago this month, my life was in the hands of a Thoracic Surgeon in Slovenia who had to operate to stop blood from entering my punctured lung because of five broken ribs. Once he succeeded in this, and several days later, other surgeons were then able to operate on two breaks to my spine, fixing pins and screws to hold my spine together, ooh, and the easy part, my left clavicle.

After more than a few weeks in intensive care I was transferred to high dependency, where I was taken care of until I was strong enough to breathe again on my own without the aid of a machine. Also without all the other amazing pieces of machinery that had kept me alive.

At this point I had only discovered how long I had been under sedation, from 24 July, to the day the doctor wished me happy birthday for yesterday. “But my birthday isn’t until August” I said. “Yes”, she said, “it’s the third of August!! Heck, I thought, where did last week go?

It was much later when my travelling companions came to visit me in Glasgow Southern General Hospital that they told me that on the evening they visited me in Slovenia, they had asked if they could visit me in the morning before they left for the rest of their tour in Europe. They were told not to bother returning in the morning as the doctors did not expect me to survive the night.

Continued on the next page...

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So, I spent many weeks in high dependency and many more months in GSGH. I couldn't move my legs, just a tingly feeling all the time, couldn't detect the 'pin or cotton wool' test very well. But it didn't stop me from trying. Then one day my big toe moved, just a little and only once, until the next day and it moved again. Thereafter I spent every day in the exceptionally well equipped gym being strapped into various types of equipment building up my strength in an effort to walk again. As I was told that I may never walk again, I asked how did they see me leaving here, I was told probably in a wheelchair, 'maybe' on crutches. It was eight and a half months before I returned to work and even then it was part time. To this day I suffer from spinal cord injury; the nerves will never fully recover in my legs.

Being self-employed it also took some time to recover financially. I was often asked; will I ever return to motorcycling, will I ever get back on a bike? Of course I will, when I can afford it, I still had a mortgage to pay. So some three years later I was coerced along to a demo day where I ultimately purchased my new bike, a BMW R 1200 RT, and took up where I left off. A few weeks later we were in Spain.

For many, many years I donated blood and platelets to the National Blood Transfusion Service. Now I am no longer able to donate blood as I have received blood myself. If it wasn't for the Slovenian blood donors who had taken the time to donate blood, if it wasn't for the skills of dedicated surgeons, if it wasn't for the skills of dedicated doctors, and if it wasn't for the skills of dedicated staff in the NHS, where would I be?

So if blood donors can take the time to donate blood; if dedicated and skilful doctors and surgeons can take the time, years to learn a skill, and if dedicated and skilful nurses can take the time, years to learn to take care of patients, I can take the time, a few hours of my bonus years of life, to fill a small link in the chain. If a surgeon, a doctor, or a patient requires a lifesaving piece of equipment, drugs, blood or platelets instantly, call on any of us at Northumbria Blood Bikes.

Volunteering as a rider for NBB means I am able to continue doing what I love doing, my hobby, riding a motorcycle, whilst helping someone somewhere save the life of someone who desperately needs someone's help.

My name is Jeff Glen and that's why I volunteer for Northumbria Blood Bikes."

To sign up or for more information on the roles visit:

<http://www.northumbriabloodbikes.org.uk/support/volunteer>



Last year you may remember that 3 bikers Darren Callaghan, John Campey and Andrew Richardson took on the challenge of riding from Lands End to John O’Groats. All in aid of raising funds to help buy the life-saving equipment. Recently George Young, NBB volunteer rider, visited North East Hearts with Goals to collect our new defibrillator.

Graham Moor, from Northumbria Blood Bikes, said “We spend many hours each weekend attending events to raise funds and awareness. In the event of a cardiac arrest, it is vital that rapid treatment is available to patients, and having an AED supports this. Our volunteers who wish to use the AED are being trained to use the devices.”

We recently had the message below posted on our Facebook page but we are yet to find out which of our volunteers was at Strensham Services. Whoever you are we thank you for networking with a fellow blood biker.

It's amazing who you meet on the road
back from [#manchester](#) @NorthumbriaBB
badges being handed out at [#strensham](#)
RT





At the start of June we attended Consett Festival and a great time was had by all. We even had a visit from Mrs Brown who completely looks the part on a blood bikes. Over the weekend we raised 89.24 from our bucket collection and a further £15 from the sale of pin badges.





Our volunteers had a fabulous time at the Northumberland County Show with lots wanting to sit on the bikes including some four legged fur babies. Top left is the very gorgeous Ragnar with his owners Stephanie and Daniel and top right is Sprocket who's owner is Ian Judd one of our volunteers.

A great day was had by all with entertainment from show jumping, sheep shearing, monster trucks, birds of prey and much more. Our buckets came back £444.50 heavier after being filled with people's kind donations.





Dobbies
GARDEN CENTRES

Brighten your day

**Fundraising at Dobbies
Ponteland has continued to
go from strength to strength.**



**Molly likes to come
along to assist with our
collections; alongside
her owner Anne of
course.**



We have been shortlisted for **Sainsbury's** Local Charity of the Year

At the Newcastle Heaton Store, Etherstone Avenue, NE7 7JW



Voting is open now until 25th June 2017 in store or online



VOTE NOW

www.sainsburyslocalcharity.co.uk

Vote in store or online, at the Sainsbury Newcastle Heaton Store, Etherstone Avenue, NE7 7JW. We only have until 25th June to get as many votes as possible, so time is of the essence, and we need your help.

www.sainsburyslocalcharity.co.uk

We were invited to attend Prudhoe Town Fair again this year and we're very pleased we were as we raised £256.92

northumbriabloodbikes.org.uk

Northumbria Blood Bikes is a registered charity offering out-of-hours delivery of life-saving medical supplies to hospitals and health centres in the North East.

FREE





Top left: Springwell Ladybirds and Top Right: Murton WI

We have a great team of speakers who attend varies groups, clubs or schools that have requested a presentation. If you would like one of the team to pop along as a guest speaker please get in touch with our talk's guru Nigel talks@northumbriabloodbikes.org.uk

Thanks from a nurse practitioner...

"I was on night duty over the cyber attack period and wanted to personally thank you for all the additional services you provided. I called several times for transportations of cds with urgent MRI results ECT. I was very grateful that you were available to transport this data for us and I'm positive it enhanced patient care massively."

Well done to the team who were volunteering during this time!

Northumbria Blood Bikes

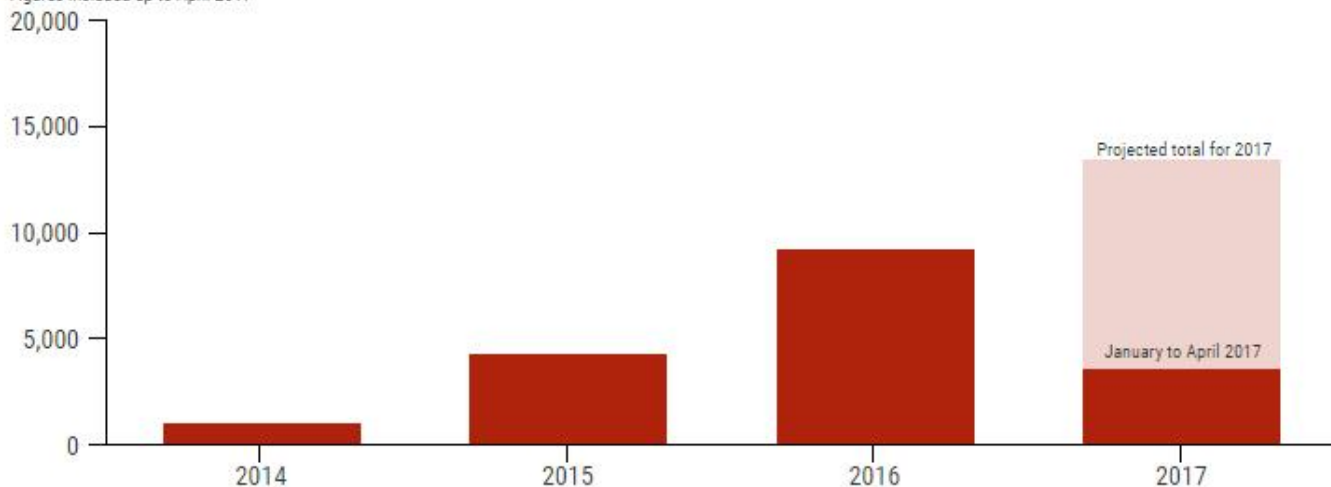
From the beginning...

Northumbria Blood Bikes was established in 2012 and started delivering packages free of charge for the NHS in 2014. To date, we have delivered over **18,000** packages for free.

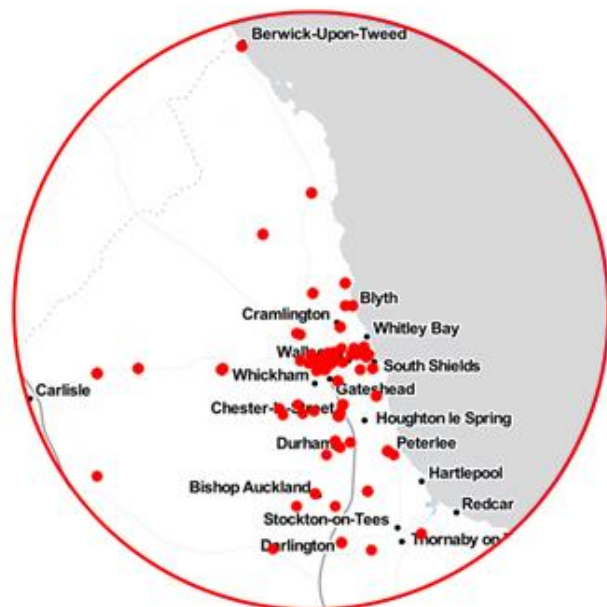


Number of deliveries made per year

Figures included up to April 2017



Covering over **80** different locations across the North East



This translates into estimated savings of **£385,000** in taxi fares for the NHS

*Using an estimate of £2 per mile



All with the help of over **800** volunteers since inception



The Queen's Award for Voluntary Service

The MBE for volunteer groups



We are extremely proud to announce that Northumbria Blood Bikes have been honoured with the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service for 2017.

The Queen's Award for Voluntary Service is the highest award given to local volunteer groups across the UK to recognise outstanding work in their communities. It is their equivalent of an MBE. The awards were created in 2002 to celebrate the Queen's Golden Jubilee and winners are announced each year on 2 June – the anniversary of the Queen's Coronation.

However, as a result of the award, a founder member of the charity, Geoff Spencer, and his wife Jude, attended a garden party at Buckingham Palace where they had the chance to meet the Queen and other winners of this year's award. *As seen below:*



A message from our chair...

When I agreed with Kirsty that I'd write a short article for each newsletter I did worry that I'd have nothing to write about, but it's turned out to be reasonably straightforward so far. Having had last month's donation from P&G to write about, this month of course I must mention the announcement from Buckingham Palace that we had won the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service.

Winning the QAVS is a fantastic achievement for a charity like ours (the government themselves compare it to being awarded an MBE) and I hope you all took some pleasure and some pride in the announcement. It takes a lot of hard work and a huge team effort to make NBB operate and this award recognises that. Well done everybody.

I'd just like to remind everyone, that we will have the actual award on display at the June Open Meeting on Thursday 22nd June 19.00 at Forest Hall Ex-Servicemen's Institute for anyone who wants to come along and see it. You'll also get the chance to hear updates from the committee, ask them any questions you may have and it is likely that the new Nissan Juke will also be on display.

On a less celebratory note, can I remind everyone about our social media policy and draw particular attention to the sections on grievances and hateful comments. NBB has around 500 registered members and I'd suggest that there are very few people, if any, who know personally the other 499 members. Thus, any idea that we are posting in a "closed group" must be questioned. If there are faults to be reported or complaints to be made, please consider if social media is the best, or most effective, way to do that.

Finally, can I ask you all to get behind Kirsty and Graham this month. As well as our usual fundraising regime, we've a couple of significant public votes coming up. In one poll we could become the nominated "local charity of the year" for the Sainsbury's supermarket in Heaton.. Another poll could see us awarded a huge sum of money from the Masonic Charitable Foundation's Community Fund – we're already shortlisted and we need as many votes as we can get to increase the donation we receive. Voting opens on 12th June for both polls, so please vote, and get all your friends to vote for us at:

- Masonic Charitable Foundation: <http://mcf.org.uk/vote>
- Sainsbury's: <https://www.sainsburyslocalcharity.co.uk>

As these will make a huge difference to our fundraising efforts this year.

Mike

Contact: Sam Henderson, Louise Curran, Jayne Walton, Ryan Curran, Craig Walton,
Andrew Walton, Kathryn Herdman for tickets, or 07792556921.

Charity Night In aid of great & north run®



Blackhill
Working Men's
Club.

Friday 21st July,
From 7pm.

Tickets
£5 each



The
Buskers



360 CHALLENGE 2017 UPDATE

DRUM ROLL



The totals for the event are well in excess of £12,000! This is pretty amazing for a one-day event. We would like to thank each and every person who took part in the activity, and all of the sponsors for supporting you. John and the team have done a fabulous job (again) in organising this for us, and we look forward to seeing you all again the next time. Thank you all so much. These kinds of numbers will fuel our entire fleet for more than 2 months, allowing us to undertake a good number of jobs, helping the public and the NHS.



Back in May we were invited to Poplar Tree Garden by the Durham Lions Club. They had a weekend door collection in which they split the money raised between the Guide Dogs and ourselves. We are extremely grateful for them considering us to benefit from this money. Alan popped along to visit them the other day to collect a cheque for £700. Brilliant effort from those involved and thank you Durham Lions Club.



Helping blood bikes to stay on the road

KIND-HEARTED locals turned out in their hundreds for Wark's annual charity lunch last week, raising over £4,000 for Northumbria Blood Bikes.



Last Wednesday was Wark's 28th charity lunch, and 200 people from Wark and beyond gathered in the village's town hall, raising a total of £4,400.

This year, the organisers chose Northumbria Blood bikes as the beneficiaries of the funds raised, and John Buxton from the charity came along with his bike, named 'Dobbies', to speak to those who attended.

Northumbria Blood bikes is a charity run by volunteers, who work day and night to deliver blood samples and urgent medical supplies to hospitals, healthcare sites and laboratories across the North- East.

One of the charity lunch organisers, Judith Weir, said: "One of the blood bikers came with his bike. He came before we even started and was speaking to everybody, telling them what they do and what it was all about.

"The money from this charity lunch always goes local. When we meet in January, people come forward with ideas and this was the one that was chosen this year.

"Up until last year we had raised up to £72,551. It all started in 1990 when we raised £722 and in the last five years we've raised more than £4,000 each year. People are very generous; we have a big raffle and we had a day selling tickets for that at the Mart."

Feeding 200 people throughout the day requires a lot of hard work by the organisers, and around 30 volunteers helped out during the day, doing everything from washing the dishes to serving food and making tea and coffee.

"We are very happy with how much we have raised over the years and with how kind everyone is to support the lunch," said Judith.

Published: 16 May 2017 5:34PM

We would like to say a special thanks to The Society of Northumbrian Craftsmen for their donation. Their society has recently closed down, after 41 years, and their members nominated us to receive funds from the winding down of the group.



easyfundraising.org.uk
feel good shopping

Did you know that whenever you buy anything online - from your weekly shop to your annual holiday - you could be collecting free donations for Northumbria Blood Bikes?

There are over 3,000 shops and sites on board ready to make a donation, including Amazon, John Lewis, Aviva, thetrainline and Sainsbury's – it doesn't cost you a penny extra!

It's as easy as 1, 2, 3...

- 1. Head to <https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/nbb/> and join for free.**
- 2. Every time you shop online, go to easyfundraising first to find the site you want and start shopping.**
- 3. After you've checked out, that retailer will make a donation to your good cause for no extra cost whatsoever!**

There are no catches or hidden charges and Northumbria Blood Bikes will be really grateful for your donations.

Thank you for your support.

MERCHANDISE

Available from our friends at Red Dog

www.northumbriabloodbikes.org.uk/merchandise/reddog



Bag for Life with NBB logo
vinyl printed large to one
side.

£3.50



Beanie in Black with NBB logo
embroidered to front.

£8.99



Classic Canvas Shopper with
Northumbria Blood Bikes logo
vinyl printed large on one
side. (Also available in black).

£5.00



Zippered Hoodie with NBB logo
embroidered to left breast.
(Ladies & unisex available)

£22.50



Black/Red/White Cap with
NBB Logo embroidered front
middle.

£10.00



Hoodie with NBB logo
embroidered to left breast.
(Ladies & unisex available)

£20.00

10% of your purchase will be donated to Northumbria Blood Bikes



**Our door collection at Tesco Gateshead
Trinity Square raised £515.59**



**We also attended Durham Fire Station's
Past and Present Event**

CALLING ALL MEMBERS...

- ⊗ **We are looking for applicants for a new assistant secretary. If you're interested in applying for the role please email Brian Slassor, secretary@northumbriabloodbikes.org.uk, by Monday 3rd July 2017.**
- ⊗ **Don't forget our next open meeting on Thursday 22nd June, 7pm until 9pm, at Forest Hall Ex-Servicemen's Institute, 26 Crescent Way, Forest Hall, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE12 9AR.**

New riders...

- ⊗ **Mel Simmons**
- ⊗ **Jim Ludford**

New drivers...

- ⊗ **Mark Taylor**

Assessment rides...

- ⊗ **Nathan Harold**
- ⊗ **John Langan**
- ⊗ **Graeme Mitchell**

Assessment drives...

- ⊗ **Shaun Anderson**

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).



Armed Forces Weekend Friday 18:00 until 21:00 and Saturday/ Sunday 10:00 until 18:00

Seaburn Recreation Ground (*Full details on the event calendar login and volunteers required*)



Howden Nursery Summer Fair 10:30 until 16:00

(*Full details on the event calendar login and volunteers required*)



Dobbies Ponteland 09:00 until 17:00 and Sunday 10:00 until 16:00

Door collection as charity of the year – probably lots of cake consumed by volunteers (*Full details on the event calendar login and volunteers required*)



Induction Meeting 09:00 to 12:00 (*NEW location – please see events calendar for details*)

Shift Controller Workshop 12:30 until 15:00 (*NEW location – please see events calendar for details*)

Classroom based session for new shift controllers or those who'd like refresher training (*Register your attendance via our website, login required, Members > Forms > Register to attend shift controller training*)



Swalwell Community Fire Station Open Day 10:00 until 16:00

(*Full details on the event calendar login and volunteers required*)



St Francis Church Hall 12:00 until 14:00

The Festival will be held at St Francis Church Hall, Cleveland Gardens, High Heaton NE7 7QU (*Full details on the event calendar login and volunteers required*)



Hexham Young Drivers Event 18:00 until 21:00

Awareness stand at the road safety event for young drivers with the Police and Fire service at Hexham Mart (*Full details on the event calendar login and a bike still required to attend*)



www.northumbriabloodbikes.org.uk



facebook.com/northumbriabloodbikes

twitter.com/northumbriabb

linkedin.com/company/2866951

FUNDRAISING HOTLINE:

0191 364 3113

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

Providing effective and timely transportation of essential blood and medical products
Registered Charity Number 1166689