



- Hello My Name Is
- I'm a Rider / Driver / Volunteer with Northumbria Blood Bikes
- Thanks for the opportunity to share our story with you
- Straw Poll – “how many of you have heard of us or know what we do”

Imagine it is 'out of hours', a patient urgently requires a blood transfusion but the hospital has run out of the blood type you require.

What is your preferred method of transport?

A – NHSBT

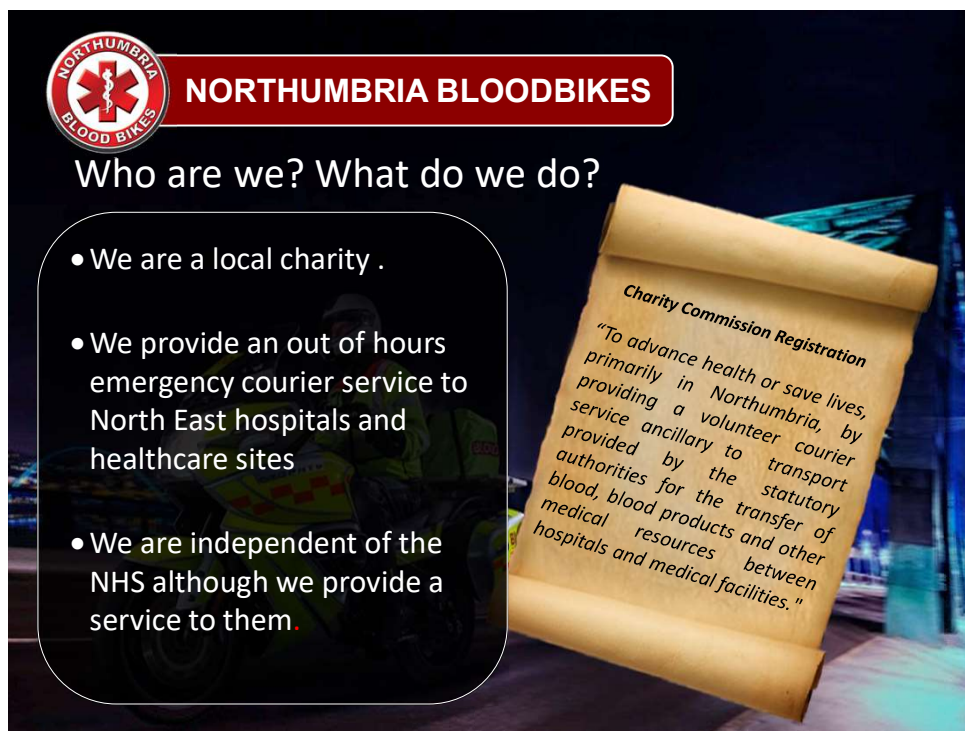
B – Ambulance

C – TAXI

D – Blood Bike

- This slide demonstrates how the NHS is not as “Joined up” as you might think.
- Set the scene –
  - embellish “a patient” with “someone you love”
  - Explain that there are 8 main blood types and each hospital has a limited supply of each type and can easily run out in the case of a serious trauma or having more than one emergency at a time (Road traffic collision?)
- Ask the audience to put the four possible supply routes in order, either in their heads or shout it out.
- Reveal the answers
  - Most people get bloodbike – that’s why we’re there
  - Most groups are surprised that taxi is the next choice, explain that it is a common occurrence to use taxis especially before we came along) but that it costs money and there is no service guarantee.
  - NHSBT do have a 24hr delivery service, however the charges are determined nationally and we believe it is around £150 per delivery
  - Ambulances have never been used to ferry equipment for hospitals, they are under enough stress dealing with the demand from patients.
- Now ask for an odd one out
  - Bloodbikes are the odd one out. NHSBT and NEAS are fully funded by the NHS, Taxi firms obviously do it commercially – we are the only provider

who do it for free run completely y volunteers.



**NORTHUMBRIA BLOOD BIKES**

Who are we? What do we do?

- We are a local charity .
- We provide an out of hours emergency courier service to North East hospitals and healthcare sites
- We are independent of the NHS although we provide a service to them.

*Charity Commission Registration*

*"To advance health or save lives, primarily in Northumbria, by providing a volunteer courier service ancillary to transport authorities by the statutory provided for the transfer of blood, blood products and other medical resources between hospitals and medical facilities."*

We are a charity.

When NHS couriers go home, hospitals used to rely on taxis or couriers to move urgent items out of hours.

We are not part of the NHS, or Blood Transfusion Service, but an independent charity.

Our charitable aim is to improve health and save lives.



## NORTHUMBRIA BLOODBIKES

### Background & History Blood Bikes

- Blood Bike groups have existed for 60+ years
- Volunteer led, free out-of-hours service carrying blood, blood products and other urgent items
- 2009: Nationwide Association of Blood Bikes (NABB) established
- 2013: 22 blood bike groups carried out 25,000 jobs across UK
- 2019: 36 blood bike groups carried out 100,000+ jobs across UK
- 2021: 36 independent Blood Bike groups (NABB Members) plus a handful of others now covering almost all of the UK

Only the North West of Scotland is not covered.

A group has formed in Aberdeen to cover the NE of Scotland

Of the ? groups that are not members of NABB, many are working towards the standards required for membership

In recent years NBB has carried out 13,000 jobs on average, that about 1 in 7 of all jobs nationally.

Queen's award for voluntary service is **regarded as the MBE for charities** it is open to **local** charities who have existed for 3 years or more deemed to enhance their local communities. Our view is that we are, of course, delighted to receive the award it recognises the importance of the service we provide as well as the professionalism and dedication of our volunteers




## NORTHUMBRIA BLOODBKES

### Background & History NBB



- **2012: Northumbria Blood Bikes formed in September**
- **2014: NBB began live operations in February**
- **2017: NBB received Queen's Award for Voluntary Service**
- **2019: NBB Won the 1<sup>st</sup> ever "Volunteer of the Year" award from Newcastle Hospitals.**
- **2021: NBB now performing an average of 13,000+ deliveries per year (over the last 5 years).**

In 2021 (or 2019) NBB carried out around 13300 jobs - 13% of the national total of 100,000 that's about 1 in 7 jobs From 1 in 36 groups

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Winning the "Volunteer of the Year at Newcastle Hospitals shows that the NHS Trusts value the work we do. This was the first time Newcastle Hospitals have had such an award so we were up against the likes of the Royal Volunteer Service (previously WRVS) and Daft as a Brush (to name just two) so we were especially proud that the staff and the management recognised the work we

do.



## NORTHUMBRIA BLOODBIKES

### What do we do?

- We deliver urgent Blood, Platelets, Specimens, Meds, Equipment.
- We recruit, train, and motivate volunteers to work with us
- We run a fleet of around 20 vehicles
- **We organise fundraising and awareness events**, and solicit donations, sponsorship and publicity from.. Anywhere and Anyone!
- We do our own publicity: Newsletters, radio & TV interviews, banners, posters, promotional items, talks & presentations
- We negotiate with Health Trusts, NEAS, NHSBT, GNAAS.
- We are accountable; we record statistics, legal administration, evidence-backed with receipts, activity logs & recordings.

Delivering to hospitals is the visible part of our service, our equivalent of a duck on the lake

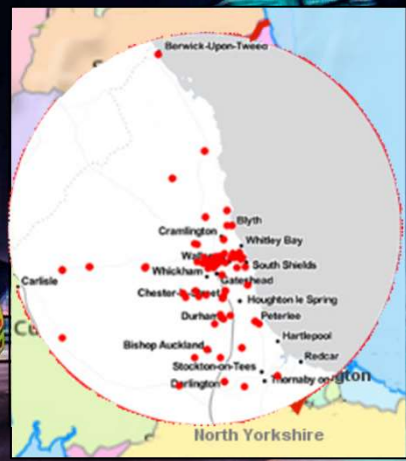
Everything else is what it takes to enable the delivery service – paddling like mad under the water.

## NORTHUMBRIA BLOODBIKES

### Our Coverage:

- We cover 7pm to 7am, every day, 365 days per year.
- We also work around the clock on weekends & public holidays
- We cover Northumberland, Tyne & Wear, County Durham and Darlington.
- From Berwick to Darlington & DTV thru Barnard Castle, & Hexham to Sunderland and North Tyneside.





The map outlines our region

It is more or less the medieval kingdom of Northumbria. (Originally it included North Yorkshire hence "North of the Humber Area")

We can do relay runs with neighbouring groups.

We have serviced over 80 locations in the region

**NORTHUMBRIA BLOODBIKES**

### Our Funding:

- Our service is completely free of charge to the NHS
- Nobody takes a salary..... every member works for free.
- Funded wholly by donations from the general public, sponsorship & events. No government or NHS contribution.
- Hundreds of Thousands of £££s saved in taxi & courier costs - which can be re-invested into patient care, equipment, extra nurses etc.
- Running Costs are currently around £12,000 per month over half of which is the cost of fuel.

We are led to believe that just one of the Trusts in the North East saved over £50,000 in a financial year as a result of NBB.

While corporate and large donors are happy enough to fund major capital items like vehicles, it is much harder to get funding for “running costs” as donors find it hard to see “what they get for their money”. We still, therefore, run hundreds (literally) of “tin – rattling” events collecting small donations to cover our running costs. After one busy bank holiday weekend our cashier had 35Kg of cash to take to the bank (that’s the equivalent of 35 bags of sugar).

We have no gender pay gap, the women get nowt the same as the men




## NORTHUMBRIA BLOODBKES

### Why use Motorbikes?

- Good for negotiating traffic congestion due to filtering ability
- Riders can use "No Car" lanes
- Motorcycles provide better fuel economy, reducing costs.
- We promote the positive image of motorcycling, hopefully changing people's perceptions and allowing them to see riders in a more positive light.
- Through our rigorous training requirements, we are putting safer riders onto the roads, with hundreds of riders having taken advanced rider training and slow riding technique training. Every rider has an annual riding assessment.
- However, we use cars too: When ambient temperature falls below 3°C regulations prohibit carriage of whole blood by motorcycle. We also use cars/vans for carrying equipment and towing our trailers and cars are now seamlessly integrated into our operations.

Filtering is legal in the UK

We can use "no Car" or Bus lanes except in Gateshead who don't/won't allow it. In Newcastle we have dispensation for our cars to use the No-Car lanes in Emergencies

We have a scheme to allow riders subsidised access to rider airvests to further improve their safety – unlike the BB uniform riders are able to use the airvest when riding their own bikes.

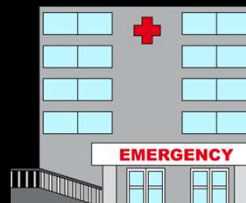
Our car fleet is now completely integrated into operations and we make no distinctions about their use, despite the charity still being called Northumbria Blood Bikes.




## NORTHUMBRIA BLOODBKES




How it works:




Alternatively they may wait for a callout at one of the hospitals



## NORTHUMBRIA BLOODBIKES



### How it works:



- We have a “virtual number” in the cloud for hospitals to call us.
- Our volunteers can redirect the number to their home phone.
- Hospitals call our ‘hotline’ number, our volunteer gets the call.
- We take the details of the job, and pass them to a rider / driver.
- Rider / Driver collects and delivers the package keeping controller informed.



## NORTHUMBRIA BLOODBIKES



### Operating Methodology:

- Members all carry photo I.D.
- All have an advanced riding or driving qualification
- Riding / Driving is assessed annually
- All receive GMP Blood Handling training
- Members use dedicated, liveried, vehicles - not their own.
- Tracking devices fitted to all vehicles which alert on speed infringements, or alert shift controller of any problems.
- Employer & Public liability insurances in place
- **Paid for by NBB fundraising, no formal NHS contribution.**



At the time of the photo (Feb 2014) this represented the complete fleet of vehicles  
- 2 motorcycles

there are 31 people in the photo (plus two taking photos) that represented about  
90% of the membership at the time

We refresh our group portraits regularly

You can see the fleet has grown considerably but even that photo now needs  
updated

The volunteers photo was taken early summer 2017 and we had around sixty  
people at the photoshoot – only now it represented just over 10% of the group.

While Carol Malia (Front and Centre) did wear her NBB fleece on the day – she  
clearly didn't get the message about black trousers being part of the uniform☺




## NORTHUMBRIA BLOODBIKES

### Our Vehicle Fleet:

- 6 x Yamaha FJR
- 2 x Honda ST1300 Pan European
- 2 x BMW RT12x0
- 2 x BMW F800GT



- 2 x Skoda Yeti
- 1 x Nissan Juke
- 3 x Skoda Octavia
- 1 x Exhibition trailer




Use big bikes for rider weather protection, rider visibility and load carrying capacity.

BMW F800s are slightly smaller to encourage shorter riders and lady riders to join

A number of our cars have automatic gearboxes to improve inclusivity



**NORTHUMBRIA BLOODBIKES**

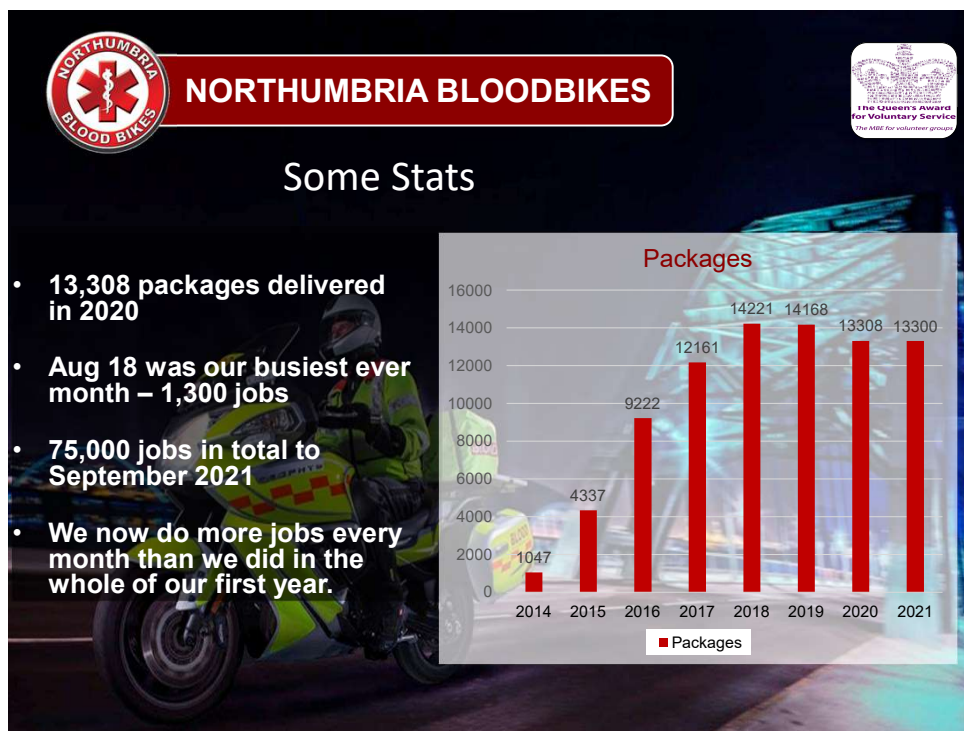
Membership:

- Over 300 Members in total.
- Around 110 fully qualified riders
- Around 103 fully qualified drivers
- Approx. 50 people both ride and drive
- Around 50 Shift Controllers.
- Around 50 active Fundraisers.

Numbers correct in Oct 2021

Analysis shows that around 50% of membership are “Active” in any given period

NABB reports 3,300 volunteers nationally in 2019 so NBB represent about 10% or 1 in 10



Pick your favourite stats

13,000 per year = approx. 40 packages per day – or at least 40 people everyday whose healthcare is improved by what we do. (many packages contain more than one item)


You could compare that to the number of people in the room

We grew quickly to start but seem to have reached a plateau at around 1250 packages per month – that's more than we did in our first year!


Average jobs per year over the last 5 years is around 13,300 or 1 in 7 of all jobs done nationally.

Figures for 2021 are an estimate in Nov 21

Reduction in 2020 /2021 represents 5% drop – probably due to reduced numbers of patients arriving in A&E or regular clinics not being completely balanced out by increase in covid activity???





**NORTHUMBRIA BLOODBIKES**



### Highlights

- Now operating up to 5 vehicles each shift
- Jobs from outlying areas (Berwick / Alnwick and Barnard Castle) now becoming much more common.
- We also perform a number of Long-Distance Relays with other groups
- June 2017 we received the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service.





We are doing jobs much farther afield as our service and reputation grows. This puts more stress on the duty riders / drivers as jobs can take much longer. Controllers also have to “box clever” to ensure that the “Newcastle Shuttle” (RVI / Freeman / NHSBT) is covered and all vehicles are not scattered far and wide.

We have been involved in a series of long distance relays including: A weekly run for several weeks of samples from Chesterfield Royal Hospital which needed to be tested at the Freeman as it was the only hospital capable of doing the tests. (reading between the lines this might have been a heart transplant patient) We relayed with Cumbria >> North West Lakes and Lancs

A series of runs from Northumberland to the Human Milk Bank in Chester- this was a lady in Northumberland who lost a very young baby and continued to express milk which was frozen and taken to the Milk Bank in Chester. (There is no Human Milk Bank in the North East) We relayed with White Knights (Yorkshire) >> Derbyshire.



We know of a long distance relay from Liverpool to Newcastle which was sent by taxi by mistake cost the trust involved around £250.



**NORTHUMBRIA BLOODBIKES**

### NBB and Covid Pandemic

- We have continued to operate as normal throughout the pandemic.
- Newcastle hospitals asked us to provide daytime coverage too.
  - Regular scheduled runs of Covid samples between laboratories
  - Delivery of medication
- Lockdown meant fundraising was hit badly
- Recruitment and Training also affected – many tasks moved on-line.

Our service continued to all trusts throughout the pandemic.

We have changed our protocols to include face masks and improved cleaning where appropriate.

Newcastle hospitals approached us to increase our service to them, regular, scheduled shuttle runs between hospital laboratories This included throughout the day.

We also provided daytime volunteer drives for other covid related activities such as deliveries of medications to care homes.

As events and meetings were cancelled during lockdown, our fundraising activities were severely hit. We were fortunate to benefit from charitable grants and subsidised fuel from BP during the pandemic which means our financial reserves have not taken too much of a hit.

As we were unable to meet up during lockdown our rider/driver training and assessment activities were severely restricted which had a knock-on effect to our recruitment of volunteers. As restrictions are eased we are slowly getting back to normal, although we have adapted some activities so they can be carried out on-line

BLUE LIGHT NEWS

Home | Coronavirus | Climate | UK | World | Business | Politics | Tech | Science | Health | Family & Education

World | Africa | Asia | Australia | Europe | Latin America | Middle East | US & Canada

## Iceland misses out on Europe's first female-majority parliament after recount

26 September 2021

THE lady Blood first ever an entire 1 Day 2015. In a first f groups acr Blood Bike: lady driver covered all from Darlin including t NHS Trust, the countr; Philippa t first lady ric

GETTY IMAGES


Iceland's Prime Minister Katrin Jakobsdottir casting her vote on Saturday

if the Nationwide said: "For many st "important never our life re 365 days a year men and women . It's with great ur first ever Blood Boxing Day howcase of the olunteers do." n to pages

Highlighting our all-female shift on boxing day 2015 to demonstrate our diversity and that there are roles in our group for everybody.

We can claim that even national airlines, national treasures (Emmerdales) and inter-galactic space travellers (NASA) are copying our ideas and show the publicity / news items.

We could mention our smaller bikes and automatic cars as further evidence of our strive for inclusivity and diversity.



**NORTHUMBRIA BLOODBIKES**

**Blood On Board ("BoB")**

"The daily delivery of blood to each of the two Great North Air Ambulance helicopters, to enable blood transfusions at the scene of an accident instead of waiting until the patient reaches a hospital"

- Idea came from frontline military field hospitals in Afghanistan
- Only group "O negative" blood used - can be given to any patient
- Specially insulated storage boxes maintain temperature for 48 hours
- In-built electronics show if box temperature has breached thresholds
- Blood transfused at scene is heated to body temperature "on the fly"
- Unused blood is returned to hospitals before it deteriorates, so that it can go back into circulation for use in operations: No waste!
- Relay with another blood bike group to reach the furthest base in Penrith



#### Update August 2018– latest figures not yet received from GNAAS

At least 28 lives have been saved as a result of air ambulances carrying blood on board, the charity has said averaging one per month.

The Great North Air Ambulance Service (GNAAS), which covers the North East, Cumbria and North Yorkshire, started the scheme in January 2015. We can generalise to say one “unexpected survivor” per month.

Since then, medics have performed hundreds of transfusions, a third of which were deemed to have been of critical importance to survival. Many others have had their outcomes improved by having the intervention.


GNAAS now run a HEMS (Helicopter Emergency Medical Service) car service in our city centres on Friday and Saturday nights which will soon be extended to operate weekend days too. NBB now replenish the HEMS car or Helicopter (if required) during daytime.

As part of their 15<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebrations GNAAS highlighted 15 memorable patients – including Logan Murdoch a **FOUR-year-old** boy who was ‘internally decapitated’ and not expected to survive the same horrific road crash which killed his mother and great-grandmother

Logan Murdoch, from Carlisle, was left fighting for his life after a serious traffic collision on the A595 at Newby Cross. His mother, and great-grandmother, died in the incident, when their car collided with a van on February 23, 2016. Logan suffered an internal decapitation, which is a separation of the spinal column from the base of the skull, as well as brain injuries, a

punctured lung and a broken collar bone. He was not breathing when the GNAAS crew arrived at the incident. Logan was resuscitated at the roadside before being put into a medically-induced coma by the GNAAS doctor-led trauma team. He was also given blood en route to the Royal Victoria Infirmary in Newcastle.

GNAAS - Dr Duffy said: "Logan was one of our 'unexpected survivors.' That means that statistically, with the injuries he sustained, he was unlikely to survive."



**NORTHUMBRIA BLOODBIKES**

**Blood On Board ("BoB")**

*"The Great North Air Ambulance Service **relies entirely** on the Blood Bikes charity to deliver blood products to our two air bases in the North East and North West of England. **The service they provide is extremely professional, reliable** and without their service we would be unable to provide pre-hospital blood transfusions at the roadside to critically injured patients. **Blood Bikes was the only organisation capable of meeting our needs** and we have been impressed with every aspect of their service, from the training and qualifications of their riders, to the flexibility and "can do" attitude of their team. We are aware that this service is dependent on external charitable funding and would sincerely encourage potential donors to support this life-saving organisation."*

Dr David Bramley, MBChB, FRCS(A&E)Ed, FCEM, FIMC RCSEd  
Medical Director, GREAT NORTH AIR AMBULANCE SERVICE

Highlighted some key phrases



## NORTHUMBRIA BLOODBIKES



### Patrons:



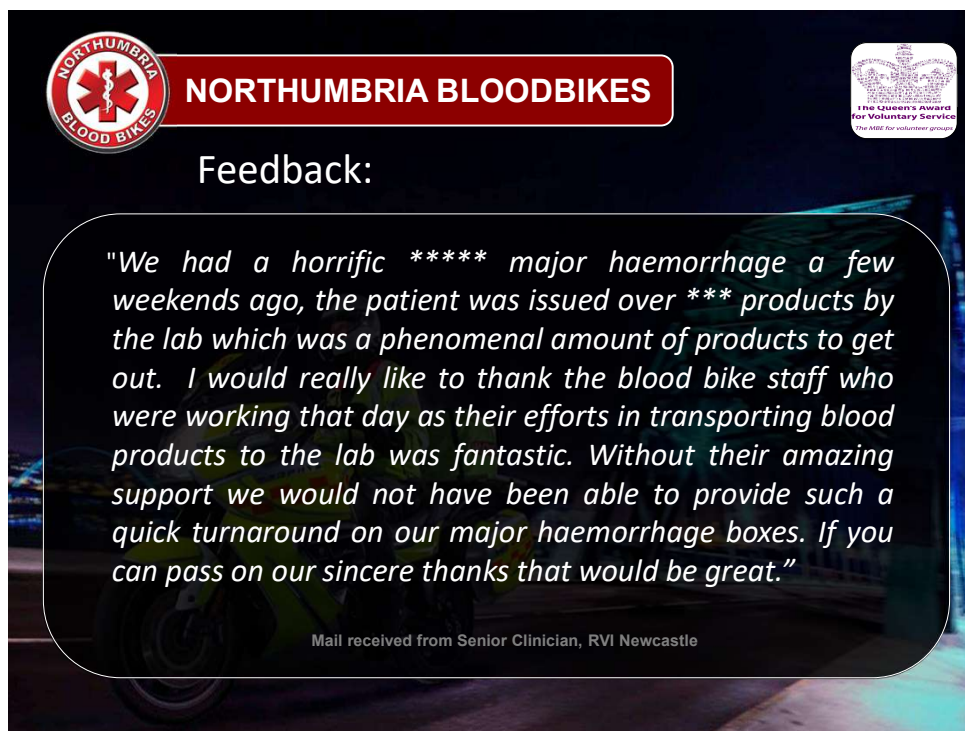
**Carol Malia**  
BBC TV Presenter,  
Deputy Lord Lieutenant  
of Northumberland



**Bob Jarman**  
MBBS MSc FRCS(Ed)  
FCEM FRCP(Ed) CFEU  
Consultant in  
Emergency Medicine





**Heidi Mottram**  
OBE  
CEO, Northumbrian Water



Feedback received from the RVI - some details redacted to aid anonymity for the patient

Perhaps enhances our ability to say that our service saves lives



**NORTHUMBRIA BLOODBIKES**

**Feedback:**

*“Northumbria Blood Bikes are a dedicated team of tightly knit volunteers working so professionally together. Their service has already saved many lives. The bikers and drivers undergo extensive training, all in their own time, and are supported by an efficient network of other volunteers all devoting themselves to supporting emergency health care. I have a personal reason to thank NBB. My friend’s son went into cardiac arrest after undiagnosed internal bleeding. At the age of 14 they found themselves at his bedside praying for his survival. He needed blood, and quickly. It was a Northumbria Blood Bike that delivered the consignment which ultimately meant that Matthew has made a complete recovery.”*

Carol Malia, BBC TV Presenter, Deputy Lieutenant of Northumberland

Feedback received from Carol Malia

