



# NORTHUMBRIA BLOOD BIKES



The Queen's Award  
for Voluntary Service

The MBE for volunteer groups

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## Contact Us

[www.northumbriabloodbikes.org.uk](http://www.northumbriabloodbikes.org.uk)



Northumbria Blood Bikes



Northumbriabb



@NorthumbriaBB

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Abbey Road  
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Durham  
DH1 5FJ

## Donate



[donate.giveasyoulive.com/charity/northumbriabloodbikes](https://donate.giveasyoulive.com/charity/northumbriabloodbikes)

*Hello, welcome to the Spring issue of NBB's Newsletter!*

*What a brilliant start we've had to the year so far! As we celebrate the 9<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of NBB - we've got lots to catch-up on after the festive season; and plenty more to come this year. Let's make 2023 a corker!*

*So, get those hot-crossed buns out the oven, watch out for the daffodils blooming, pop the kettle on, come on in and have a cheerful and bright Springtime!*

*The NBB Team*





# NEWS



## Blood Bikes Santa Toy Run 2022

Blood Bikes Santa Run 2022 jingled all the way around 8 of the North East Children's wards. Our final stops were to The Newcastle upon Tyne Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust including The Great North Children's Hospital and The Freeman Hospital.

We would like to say thanks to all of our volunteers, plus their friends and family for their donations. With special thanks to Reece Foundation for donating £2,000 towards purchasing gifts, Toy Town Washington's donation of toys, DFS Furniture for collecting gifts and the Production Control, Engineering and Quality Assurance Office at Nissan for collecting gifts.



**To find out more information about becoming a volunteer with NBB, please visit our website and complete an online Membership Application Form:**  
[www.northumbria.org.uk/membership\\_form](http://www.northumbria.org.uk/membership_form)



# NEWS



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## Our 2022 in Review

It is with the greatest pleasure we can announce that Northumbria Blood Bikes (NBB) achieved the milestone of completing 95 thousand jobs in 2022!

All undertaken by our unpaid volunteers, at no cost to the NHS or Great North Air Ambulance.

This year we completed 12,686 jobs for the NHS and Great North Air Ambulance. In 2022 7,908 (62%) of the requests were to transport boxes of COVID tests or Blood samples for the NHS.

## Volunteer Drive

At the end of 2022, Kirsty spoke with The Chronicle about the importance of what NBB do and advocated for more volunteers to sign up. We are thrilled to have some focus on recruiting by our regional newspaper as we're always in need of volunteers!

Here's a snip of the article...

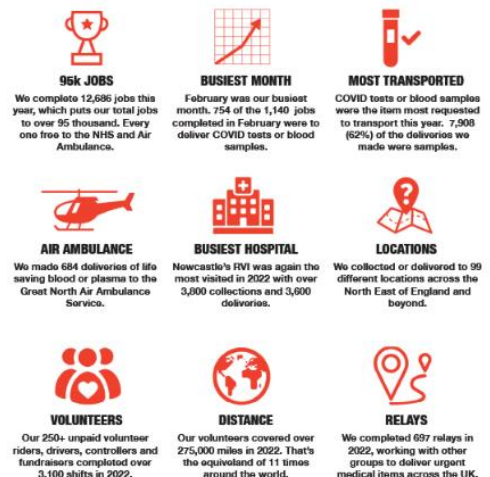
Trustee Kirsty Lawrence told ChronicleLive: "During Covid, our workload actually increased quite a lot. We started transporting Covid samples which made us even busier - but we also experienced the difficulty of not being able to get volunteers

"We are still trying to catch up on that with new volunteers - that's been the real difficulty for us."

Now, looking forward to 2023, Kirsty said the more people able to volunteer their time - if not as riders, as fundraisers or just people generally able to help support the charity - the better. She said: "We've grown so much - it's unbelievable. This year is our tenth anniversary and in 18 months it will be ten years since our first operational job."

The full article can be found here:

[www.chroniclelive.co.uk/news/health/northumbria-blood-bikes-nhs-charity-25803038](http://www.chroniclelive.co.uk/news/health/northumbria-blood-bikes-nhs-charity-25803038)







# NEWS



## Komatsu names NBB as their charity of the year

We are thrilled to announce that Komatsu UK Ltd have chosen Northumbria Blood Bikes as their charity of the year for 2023!

Our team of volunteers have already been warmly welcomed by Komatsu and we are excited about the events planned for the year ahead. Our NBB volunteers Rianne and Eamonn went along to the Komatsu Gala Dinner to celebrate too. We have already seen some employees sign up to take part in this year's Great North Run as part of #TeamBloodBikes and also in our #360Challenge.

A spokesperson from Komatsu UK Ltd said: "Komatsu UK Ltd are delighted to support Northumbria Blood Bikes as our charity of the year 2023. The charity was nominated by Komatsu Employee Richard Clement, who is also a volunteer for the charity. The funds we raise will help Northumbria Blood Bikes to deliver essential blood and urgent medical supplies, out of hours, between hospitals and other healthcare sites in North East England."

Thank you to all the team at Komatsu UK Ltd for choosing to support our charity!



## SUPER-markets!

Our volunteer fundraisers love meeting friendly faces at your local supermarket. We want to celebrate these ones in particular and thank all those stopping by to make donations!



£901.40



£616.90



£565.30

To donate to Northumbria Blood Bikes, visit:  
[donate.giveasyoulive.com/charity/northumbriabloodbikes](https://donate.giveasyoulive.com/charity/northumbriabloodbikes)



# NEWS



## TT2 Fuel Donation

TT2 has made a £5,000 donation to Northumbria Blood Bikes to pay for the cost of their fuel for a whole month, after reading the charity's appeal for more donations and volunteer bikers. TT2's gift will fund 1,000 healthcare journeys which will help at least 1,000 local people - potentially saving many lives.

TT2 customer operations manager, Shaun Simmons, said: "With the cost of fuel being so high and this transport service being so important to the people of our region, we are happy to be able to support them."

A HUGE THANK YOU TT2!



## Brockbushes Charity of the Year 2023

We're thrilled to announce that Brockbushes would like to continue to have NBB as their charity of the year for another year! Our wonderful volunteers will continue to hold tombolas, raffles and join events with our NBB stand throughout the year, raising £150 from January and February already!

We're also excited to announce that in 2022, Brockbushes' customers raised a total of **£3,377.77!**

Brockbushes have also donated a huge **£1,000** on top of this! We're blown away by the support from Brockbushes and all those donating whilst at their fabulous farm shop. THANK YOU!

If you would like to host a collection box or event, please contact:  
**Funds@northumbriabloodbikes.org.uk**



# FUNDRAISING



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## Community Engagement

We've had so many amazing community events and visits over the past few months; we couldn't miss an opportunity to thank you all for donating – let's see some of the highlights...



### Acklington Festive Window Trail

Throughout December, windows of Acklington and Guyzance are lit up for Christmas, with donations made to NBB, they raised... **£163**

### Snod's Edge Coffee Morning

Spike, Eamonn, Carolyn and Frank were in were down at St John's Hall in January holding a coffee morning and making some delicious butties! Raising a total of...

**£367.20**

### Hexham Mart Car Boot Sale

A huge thank you to our volunteer Carol for braving the cold and representing NBB, collecting a brilliant... **£94.97**

### Adient Donation

We visited the team at Adient to collect a brilliant donation from their Christmas Bingo event. We hope you all had fun and thank you for your donation of... **£335**



### The Royal Army Service Corps & Royal Corps of Transport

A huge thank you to the Corps guys for raising a fabulous...

**£587**

### B&M Bag Pack

Our brilliant volunteers Tiger, Derek, Andrea, Angie, Carolyn and Kirsty helped shoppers at B&M Consett pack their bags along with B&M staff, collecting a whopping...

**£622.80**





# FUNDRAISING



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A huge 'THANK YOU!' to all our volunteers too, who always enjoy meeting you all, here are some more brilliant highlights...



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**[Funds@northumbriabloodbikes.org.uk](mailto:Funds@northumbriabloodbikes.org.uk)**



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Thank you to all the following businesses and their brilliant customers for all your donations received into our collection tins and buckets! We've started the year off with so many generous donations, we really do appreciate it in these financially tough times!



**Green Dragon Pub**



**NORTHVIEW  
SERVICE  
STATION**



**The George & Dragon**



**THE  
WHITE LION**

A special mention also to the following, for their thoughtful donations...

**Ann Holamby**  
£25

**Joanna & Paul Fitchett**  
£30

**Liz Heppell**  
£50

**Susan Laws and the UHND Pathology Lab's Tinsel & Tea collection**  
£91.53

**Sandra Yapp and the Greencroft CHDU**  
£49.40

As always, a massive **THANK YOU** to everyone continuing to donate to NBB and to our wonderful volunteers who distribute and collect our tins and buckets!





# FUNDRAISING



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## Northumberland Lottery Update

NBB are proud to be part of the Northumberland Lottery, set up on the principle of raising money *within* the community *for* the community. Empowering local good causes like us to raise money in a fun and effective way, whilst connecting with our supporters.



A ticket costs just £1 a week. Half of this goes to your chosen good cause (obviously NBB!) and you could win up to £25,000! We have 35 supporters for NBB, and just look how many times they've won over the past few months!

To find out how to play, check out the website: [www.northumberlandlottery.co.uk](http://www.northumberlandlottery.co.uk)

Draw Date	Winners supporting Northumbria Blood Bikes
24 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Mr B (Blyth) matched 2 numbers and won 3 extra tickets!
31 <sup>st</sup> Dec	Mr C (Newcastle) and Mr F (Sunderland) matched 2 numbers and won 3 extra tickets!
7 <sup>th</sup> Jan	Mr W (Ryton) matched 2 numbers and won 3 extra tickets!
28 <sup>th</sup> Jan	Miss L (Stanley) matched 2 numbers and won 3 extra tickets!
11 <sup>th</sup> Feb	Mr b (South Shields) and Mr Y (Alnwick) matched 2 numbers and won 3 extra tickets!
25 <sup>th</sup> Feb	Mrs G (Hexham) matched 2 numbers and won 3 extra tickets!
11 <sup>th</sup> Mar	Ms G (Consett) matched 2 numbers and won 3 extra tickets!

## Give as you Live

Through Give as you Live, we've already raised an incredible **£21,666**

A special mention to Spencer Cook for nominating us and being selected to win a donation from Give as you Live, as part of their Random Acts of Kindness event!

A massive **THANK YOU** to those contributing via this platform and sending donations to NBB!



Give as you Live®  
Donate



# EVENTS



## Informative Talks - Roundup

We've had another busy couple of months of informative talks, THANK YOU SO MUCH to all our volunteer fundraisers Carol, John, Ian, Alan and Nigel for representing NBB and for all the donations received. Let's take a look at some donation highlights...

<b>National Trust Tyneside</b> <b>£147.20</b>	<b>Darlington Probus Club</b> <b>£111.10</b>	<b>Teesdale Ladies Group</b> <b>£232.50</b>	<b>Kingston Sparks WI</b> <b>£76.20</b>
<b>Billy Row Working Men's Club</b> <b>£43</b>	<b>Westerhope Methodist Church</b> <b>£652.32</b>	<b>Pegswood Parish Council</b> <b>£335</b>	<b>St Bartholomew's Monday Club</b> <b>£54.20</b>

## Still to come...

Let's have a look at our events coming up in the next few months...

<b>28th March Talk</b> <b>Soroptimist International Darlington District</b>	<b>3rd &amp; 5th April Fundraising</b> <b>Brockbushes (Meet the Alpacas)</b>	<b>4th April Talk</b> <b>Durham County Association of Women</b>
5th April Talk Elddis Caravan Club	8th & 9th April Fundraising Bebside Inn Weekend	8th April Northumbria Egg Run 9th April Durham Egg Run
10th April Fundraising Brockbushes Tombola	13th April Talk Ashington U3A	15th April Fundraising Trinity Square Gateshead
17th April Talk Gateshead U3A	22nd April Fundraising Darlington FC Final	23rd April Gift of Life ride Wetlands to Freeman Hospital
3rd May Talk Westerhope Methodist Group	7th May King's Coronation Celebration Picnic Morpeth	14th May 360 Challenge
19th May Talk Yorvik Vikings Triumph owner's Club	27th May Ushaw Classic Car Show	4th June Prudhoe Town Fair
11th June Morpeth Fair	13th June Talk Newton Aycliffe WI	21st June Talk St Mary's Belles WI
2nd July Ushaw American Car & Bike Show	10th July Talk Amble WI	18th July Talk Eighton Banks Townswoman's Guild
21st July Talk Consett & District U3A	22nd July Hebburn Carr Ellison Carnival	23rd July Fun Day Annfield Plain Cricket Club

If your group or organisation would like us to join you for a 'virtual talk' or host a speaker in person, please contact our talks coordinator to request a speaker via:

**[www.northumbriabloodbikes.org.uk/contact/Request\\_A\\_Speaker](http://www.northumbriabloodbikes.org.uk/contact/Request_A_Speaker)**





# RECYCLING



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## Ink Cartridge Recycling

Did you know that you can help us raise funds simply by recycling your ink cartridges via our Recycle4Charity programme?

For each ink cartridge recycled via the programme we will receive up to £2 donation.

To send your cartridges or start collecting for us, please visit:

[www.recycle4charity.co.uk](http://www.recycle4charity.co.uk)



## Recycling for Good Causes



You can now donate your used stamps to raise funds for NBB! All kinds of stamps are welcome, on or off paper. Simply cut or carefully tear your postage stamps from the used envelope. Once you have a few to send to us, pop them in an envelope and send them to:

Northumbria Blood Bikes, PO Box 16992, Sutton Coldfield, B73 9YA  
(\*postage needs to be applied\*)

If you need any further information, you can visit: [info@recyclingforgoodcauses.org](mailto:info@recyclingforgoodcauses.org)



# OUR MEMBERS



## Recognition Awards

We are extremely proud and thankful to each of our volunteers for the time they give to our charity. Every three months we have the honour to present our volunteers with recognition awards for achieving milestone shift totals.

We had the pleasure to present our second 'Crystal Award' to Alan who has completed 500 shifts. Alan has volunteered as a driver for our charity for just over 8 years and not only regularly completes operational shifts but is also one of our advanced driver assessors. Many congratulations Alan for reaching this milestone and thank you for all the time you volunteer.

We also awarded Steven his 'Gold Award' for completing 100 shifts, Eamonn his 'Silver Award' for completing 50 shifts and Tony, John, Paul and Billy their 'Bronze Awards' for completing 25 shifts.

Thank you to every one of our volunteers and congratulations again to Alan, Steven, Eamonn, Tony, John, Paul and Billy!



## We Need You!

Northumbria Blood Bikes rely on the voluntary contributions of its members to run and deliver our service. We have various roles you can get involved in, including Volunteer Riders, Volunteer Drivers, Shift Controllers, Fundraisers and Support Roles.

If you would like to become a member, please complete our online Membership Application:

[www.northumbriabloodbikes.org.uk/membership\\_form](http://www.northumbriabloodbikes.org.uk/membership_form)

We currently have a total of **267** incredible volunteers at NBB who carry out the following roles...



**112 Riders**



**103 Drivers**



**49 Controllers**



**28 Fundraisers**

*All new members are allocated one of our NBB mentors to guide them through the early stages*





# OUR SPONSORS



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Northumbria Blood Bikes exists entirely on charitable donations. However, demand for the service we provide doesn't stop. We need £5,500 a month to continue to operate. Northumbria Blood Bikes welcomes sponsorship from companies and can include:

- An acknowledgement and Thank You for your contribution on our website, incorporating your logo and a link to your website.
- Photo opportunities with vehicles, handing over the cheque for your corporate publicity and press.
- Incorporating your company name/logo on a bike as appropriate if a bike is funded.

**Your donations are so important to us, they help us with...**

<p><b>Blood Bikes</b></p>  <p>Without our bikes we can't deliver urgently needed blood and medical supplies</p>	<p><b>Hi-Vis Jackets</b></p>  <p>Each of our riders needs a Hi-Vis jacket to ensure they are safe and seen on the roads</p>	<p><b>Defibrillators</b></p>  <p>Our cars are fitted with semi-automatic defibrillators in case they are ever required</p>	<p><b>Vehicle Tyres</b></p>  <p>Due to the miles covered by our vehicles on shift, tyres need replacing more often than tyres on personal vehicles do.</p>
<p><b>Blood Cars</b></p>  <p>Our cars are required for larger item transfers and also when it becomes unsafe to use our bikes due to adverse weather conditions.</p>	<p><b>First Aid Kits</b></p>  <p>A First Aid kit &amp; fire extinguisher are needed for each vehicle in case of emergency</p>	<p><b>Insurance</b></p>  <p>Our bikes cost £800 each year to insure. It's an essential cost to keep us on the road.</p>	<p><b>Fuel</b></p>  <p>It requires £3000 of fuel per month to keep our vehicles on the road, without fuel, we cannot survive.</p>

**Please contact our Fundraising Officer for more information about becoming a NBB sponsor via our website, alternatively you can write to us or call 0191 364 3113**

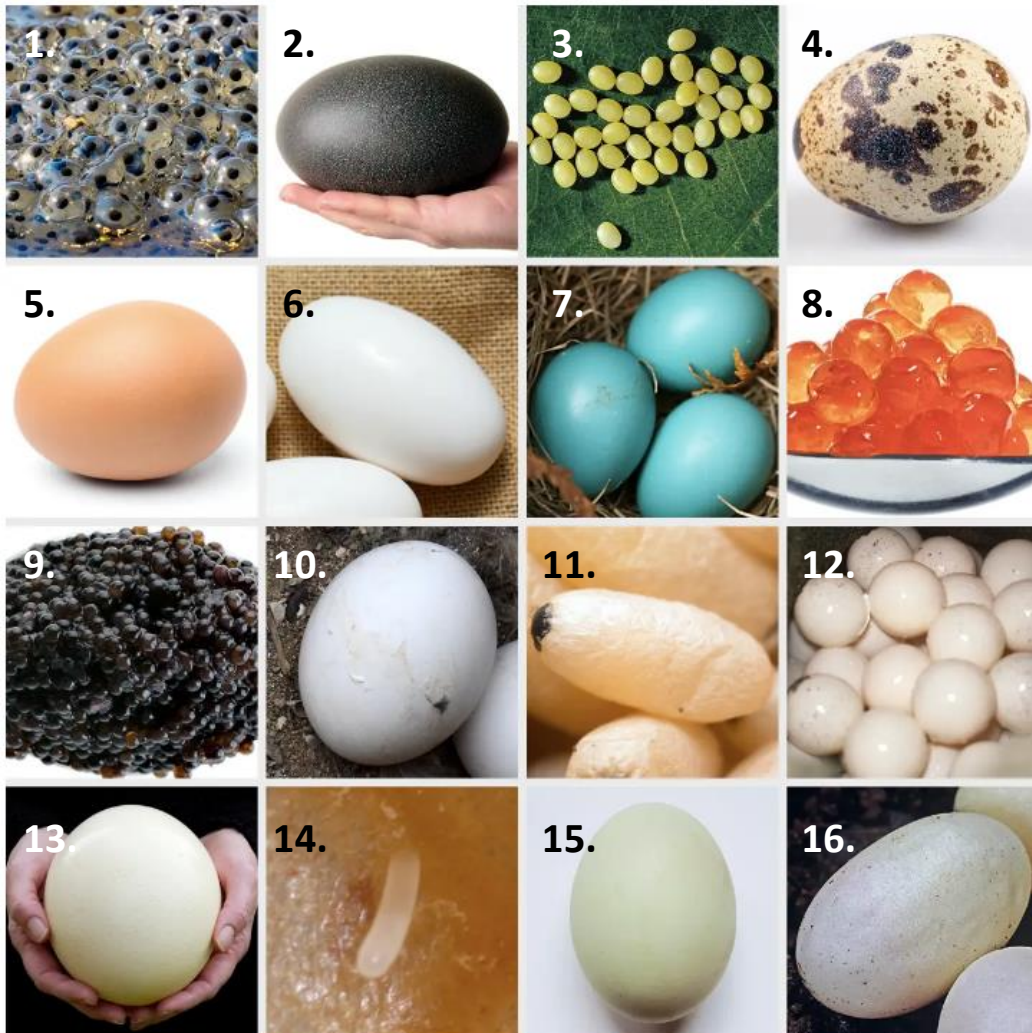


# JUST FOR FUN



## Whose egg is it anyway?

As it's Easter and chocolate eggs are everywhere, let's see if you know which animal has produced which egg!







# JUST FOR FUN



## Surprising Easter Facts!

1. The name 'Easter' comes from the goddess named 'Eostre', who was the Anglo-Saxon goddess of spring.
2. Today, over Easter each child in the UK gobbles up on average 8.8 chocolate Easter eggs – that's twice the recommended calorie intake for a whole week!
3. The painting and dying of eggs is to represent the blood of Jesus.
4. The largest egg rolling competition in the world takes place at The White House!
5. Cadbury were actually beaten by little-known Bristol-based JS Fry in making the first chocolate egg in the UK in 1873.
6. Prior to chocolate eggs, hen or duck eggs decorated with vegetable and charcoal dye were given to children as gifts. Victorian children received cardboard eggs, covered in satin, with the chocolate or little gifts inside.
7. The Cadbury Creme Egg was first introduced in 1963 and in 2014 Miki Sudo broke the world record, consuming the equivalent to 4 days of calories in 6 minutes 15 seconds devouring 50 cream eggs.
8. The Easter bonnet tradition represents the end of Easter and the 19th-century tradition of wealthy people wearing something new for spring after the day's church services.
9. The hand-crafted, Belgium chocolate 'Godiva Atelier Easter Egg' is the world's most expensive chocolate egg, with a cracking price tag of £10,000! It is 1.5m tall and weighs 65kgs and the masterpiece took 200 hours to craft.
10. There were 501,000 eggs hidden over the Cypress Gardens Adventure Park in Florida on 1 April 2007, making it the world's largest egg hunt. Muncaster Castle lays claim to the Lake District's largest egg hunt.
11. Hot cross buns were hung in the kitchen to warn off evil spirits and the most expensive one was bought for £155 in London in 1829!
12. Darius is the name of the world's biggest bunny rabbit, who measures over 4ft long and weighs 3.5 stone?

## Whose egg is it anyway? – ANSWERS!

1. Moor Frog
2. Emu
3. Moth
4. Quail
5. Chicken
6. Crocodile
7. Robin
8. Salmon
9. Sturgeon
10. Great Horned Owl
11. Ant
12. Sea Turtle
13. Ostrich
14. Bee
15. Duck
16. Western Green Lizard

**Join us in the Summer to catch up on our Easter goings-on in another issue of the NBB Newsletter!**