

Northumbria Blood Bikes



Warm greetings to all our valued volunteers and supporters.

With Winter behind us, Spring arrived with plenty of sunshine and new energy. While operationally the service is generally busy all year around, Spring and Summer bring a really busy time for our fundraising and publicity team who are working very hard attending events, manning collections and giving talks.

Let's dive in and find out what they've been up to.

Easter 2026

Riding bikes, camaraderie, chocolate eggs, entertainment and fundraising - what a great combination for the long Easter weekend.

Easter at the Bebbby 2026

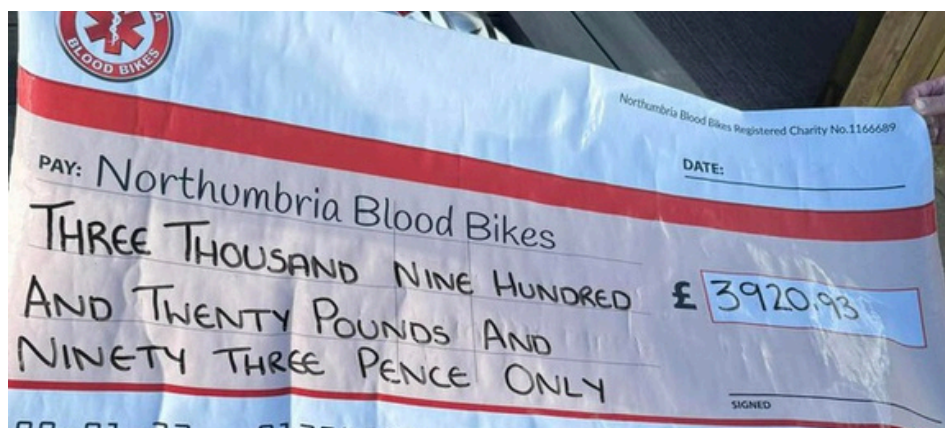


A firm favourite at Easter, hosted by the Bebside Inn in Blyth, and with all funds raised given to the blood bikes.

Over three days there was a trio of fantastic bands, along with Koast Radio and a bar full of generous, caring people, some who had not only donated items and cash, but along with many others, also played 'games of chance' to try and win the donated items!

Another huge success this year, despite the best efforts of the weather, with lots of fun had, raising an incredible **£3,920.93** which is a huge contribution to running the service.

Our thanks to the Bebside Inn and all who contributed or supported.



2026 - Spring/Summer

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Northumbria Blood Bikes



Northumbria Easter Egg Run 2026

Our sincere thanks to the **Infidels MCC**, organisers of this year's Northumbria Easter Egg Run event.

680 bikes took part on the day touring the region and **1756** Easter eggs were donated.

£2760.52 was donated to the Infidels MCC, who are donating it all to the blood bikes.

£532.12 was donated on the day,

An amazing total of **£3,292.64**.

A huge thank you to all organisers, riders and supporters.



Durham Easter Egg Run 2026

Another successful annual Durham Easter Egg run this year, with **3809** eggs donated of which **3726** were distributed across more than **40** locations across the North East region, plus a further 800 eggs on Easter Sunday. The total raised, after platform fees, was **£5648** which is divided between eight charities, including Northumbria Blood Bikes, who receive **£706** each.

A massive thank you to all the organisers, riders, donaters and supporters.



Northumbria Blood Bikes



Marks and Spencer Collections

Marks and Spencer and customers at the Arnison Centre in Durham are steadfast supporters of the charity. Collections so far this year have raised in excess of **£6000**. A massive thanks to the fundraisers for the giving of their time and energy - **Alan, Gail, Eamon, Carol, Grant, Rob, Judith, Frank, Steven and Neil**.

31 January 835.01

14 February £1217.66

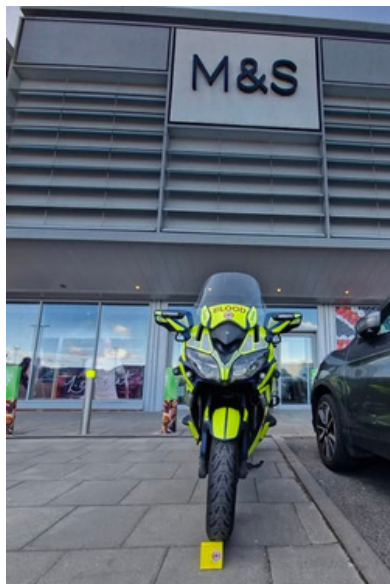
28 February £861.65

14 March £1150.54

28 March £960.14

11 April £796.09

28 April £622.32



Talks

Our team of dedicated volunteer speakers have been extremely busy talking to different groups about our history, what we do and why, who we help, and how we operate.

Here are some highlights from the Spring and early Summer talks delivered.

Many thanks to **Peter, Carol, Ian, Adrian, Tony, Gary and Michael** for their work helping deliver the talk events.

If you would like a talk delivered, we are always pleased to provide speakers for your club / group / event. Please send us a message, [using this form](#), and we'll be in touch soon or simply email talks@northumbriabloodbikes.org.uk.

Northumbria Blood Bikes



Talks (continued)

Age UK Cramlington

Our thanks to the attentive and engaging audience at **Age UK in Cramlington**, and their collective donation of **£115.62**.

Marsden Rockettes WI

A very big thank you to ladies of the **Marsden Rockettes WI** for their generous donation of **£133.17** following a talk give by our speaker team.

A very enthusiastic and welcoming audience, and we may also have some future volunteers from the group.



Bede Campus Sunderland College

We were invited to attend a **Sunderland College awareness day** event at the **Bede Campus** site.

The day consisted of an awareness event for road safety, awareness of careers in the motorcycle industry and motorcycle charity opportunities and included a collection for the Easter Egg run. Hundreds of students had the opportunity to see our work, and sit on our bike!



Darlington Salvation Army



Northumbria Blood Bikes



Talks (continued)

Berwick WI



Our thanks to an enthusiastic audience who enjoyed the presentation, asked lots of questions, and were very keen to have a sit on the bike. Great hospitality with unsurpassed tea and cakes!

A kind **donation of £171.20** gratefully received.

Jiahua Chemicals

A presentation was delivered to the lovely staff at **Jiahua Chemicals** in Newcastle who have nominated us to be their quarterly charity.

They subsequently raised and **donated £260** to us. Thank you all so much; you help enable us to carry on doing our work throughout the Northumbria region.



Hebburn Family History Group



The lovely people at **Hebburn Family History Group** welcomed Northumbria Blood Bikes for a talk.

The group **raised £61** for our charity including donations from the evenings subscriptions.

Thanks to Steven and Diane for the invitation.

Northumbria Blood Bikes



Talks (continued)

2510 West Denton Squadron RAF Air Cadets

Northumbria Blood Bikes presented to an air cadets meeting last night.

An impressive group of young people; attentive and interested in what we do and asked some well thought out questions.



Morpeth Lions Club

A well received talk was delivered to **Morpeth Lions Club**.

Our warm thanks for the cheque for **£500** which was presented, along with another for **£100** from the lovely **Joan** and the proceeds from a collection at her husband's funeral.

Joan's husband was a very long time member and she was active in supporting him the second photo shows her being presented with life time honorary club membership.



Northumbria Blood Bikes



Events

Raising our profile and creating awareness is a never ending and important part of the mission - speaking to the public at large and potential future volunteers about what we do, how and why. A big thank you to all our volunteers in the events team for their time and energy. You're all amazing!

Custom Lids Big Bike Meetup



Another fun filled day at the annual custom lids seasonal kick off event.

This was the 3rd time they've run this popular and well supported meetup outside their premises in Gateshead.

Raised **£106.70**

Darlington Fire Station Open Day - £90.26

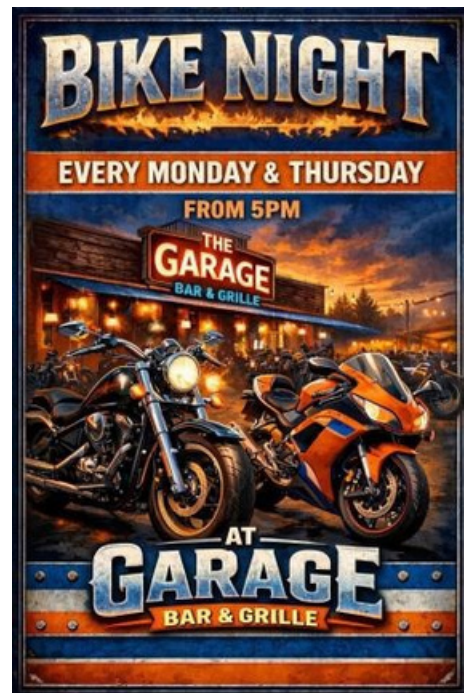


Northumbria Blood Bikes



Events (continued)

The Garage Bar and Grille Bike Night



Always a good night at the Garage Bar and Grille. They raised funds for Northumbria Blood Bikes at their New Year's celebrations and our thanks for the cheque presented for **£125.50**

Northumbria Advanced Motorcyclists - Be a Better Rider Day

All our riders and drivers are required to be trained to an advanced standard for active duty. This is primarily through Institute of Advanced Motorists (IAM) or Royal Society for Prevention of Accidents (RoSPA).

Northumbria Advanced Motorcyclists is a local chapter of IAM who organise training, assessments, social events and ride outs.

We were delighted to provide a stand at their recent and well attended event on “**How to become a better and safer rider**” at Quorum Business Park.



Northumbria Blood Bikes



Events (continued)

Northumbria Blood Bikes - 360 Challenge



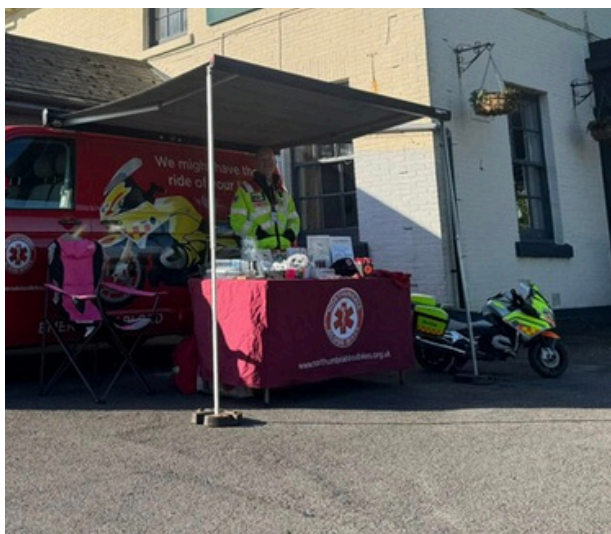
An annual favourite, and now celebrating its tenth year, the 360 challenge is a treasure hunt to the far edges of our charity's operational area collecting answers to clues at each location.

Participants are required to ride to each of the following locations:

- Foxhunters, North Shields
- Great North Air Ambulance Service, Eaglescliffe
- The Garage Bar and Grille, Burnhope
- Tesco, Hexham
- Travelodge, Berwick-upon-tweed

Thank you to everyone taking part, all the volunteers manning checkpoints and to the venues who kindly accommodated us.

At the time of writing this has raised £1200 plus an estimated £170 in gift aid. The final totals and associated awards to be announced in due course.



Northumbria Blood Bikes



Events (continued)

General Havelock Quiz Night



A solid turnout for the **The General Havelock pub quiz** in Haydon Bridge, held to raise money for our charity.

What Team Blood Bikes lacked in general knowledge was made up with enthusiasm!

A great night was had by all and **£380.50** was raised for NBB.

Nicely done.

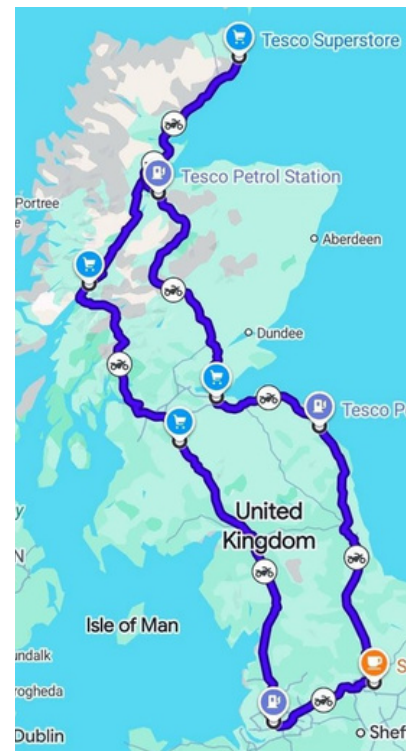
Iron Butt 1000 Challenge

Congratulations to **Peter Baron** on completing the **Iron Butt 1000 Challenge** raising funds for three charities, including Northumbria Blood Bikes.

The challenge is to complete a set 1000 mile course in 24 hours - from Castleford up the East coast to Wick in Scotland, then West to Fort William, then South to Manchester, then East back to the start point.

The ride is organised by the **Iron Butt Association** and the **Royal British Legion Riders** to raise funds for the poppy appeal, a great cause, but they kindly allowed him to also raise funds for **Northumbria Blood Bikes** as well as his old Regimental Charity.

Peter reports "exactly 21 hours in the saddle, 1061.6 miles on the clock, 4 sausage rolls, 2 snickers, 2 boosts, 2 coffees and a lot of water. And on top of that **£1865 raised**, split between three great charities means NBB gets **£621.66** (not including gift aid) and a really great experience under my belt. Thank you for all your good wishes."



Northumbria Blood Bikes



Events (continued)

Durham Brewery Bike Night

Despite the inclement weather NBB hardy volunteers attended the Durham Brewery Bike Night and met some lovely people - a fun night.

The brewery have been selling old pump discs to raise money for us. A great idea that's also reducing their carbon footprint.



Ushaw Classic Car Show



Northumbria Blood Bikes



Events (continued)

Whirlybird Woof Fest - Great North Air Ambulance Service



Hurworth Grange Community Centre in Darlington was the destination for the team attending this years Whirlybird Woof Fest. organised by the Great North Air Ambulance Service.

£76.60 raised

Darlington Emergency Services Day



Other Donations and Collections

A number of other donations and collections have taken place.
Our thanks to the givers and those organising



Thank you for recycling your printer cartridges with **Recycle4Charity**.

Our supporters have raised **£104.30** during the period of 1st March 2026 - 31st March 2026.

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

Please see the link for full details:

<http://www.recycle4charity.co.uk/Register/C96154>

Nutty natter ladies donation **£100**

Whickham and district motor club donation **£161**

A **personal donation** received of **£100**

Lakeland Metro Centre collection tin **£94.15**

Knitsley Mill Farm Shop collection tin **£49.15**

Cross Keys in Esh collection tin **£23.99**

Blue Bell Pub Donwell collection **£19.42**

Red Sky Foundation Wear Red Day at Sunderland Bridges **£62.96**

Green Dragon Darlington collection tin **£24.74**

Bespoke Cafe collection tin **£22.45**

Harrison and Harrison Meadowfield charity of the year presentation **£364.67**

Personal donation from **George** **£280.42**

The Commercial Pub Willington collection tin **£16.42** plus **£250 from a charity night** they held in aid of our charity

Volunteer Updates

Welcome to all new Volunteers

Welcome to the team! We're thrilled to have you join our blood bike family; an extraordinary group of people who give their time, skills, and heart to a truly life saving mission. The service is widely respected for its professionalism, commitment, and impact, and by becoming a part of it you are directly adding your own value to it.

Face to Face Inductions

All new volunteers are encouraged to attend one of the face to face induction sessions which gives a grounding in the history and operation of the charity. Anyone who has not yet joined the charity and would like to find out more is also very welcome.

Inductions took place during **February, April and May**. Another excellent cohort. We look forward to working with you in your respective roles. Thanks to all those organising.

For the **next induction** keep an eye on the events calendar. Please let us know you would like to attend one by sending us a message [using our contact form](#) with the category "Membership"

Milestone Awards

We sincerely appreciate the time and dedication all our volunteers contribute to our charity.

Every quarter, we have the privilege of recognising their commitment by presenting awards for reaching key shift milestones.

At our Quarterly Meeting in May, we celebrated

Jeff and Kevan their '**Bronze Award**' for completing 25 shifts,

Peter and Alan their '**Silver Award**' for completing 50 shifts,

John and Tony their '**Gold Award**' for completing 100 shifts

A particularly special '**Crystal Award**' went to **Paul** for completing 500 shifts.

A big thank you and congratulations to you all.



For up to date events information, check the calendar on the web site

<https://www.northumbriabloodbikes.org.uk/calendar>

Upcoming Events - June and July

Date/time	Location	Event
Saturday 20 Jun 2026 10:00 to 16:00	Swalwell Fire Station	Swalwell Fire Station Open Day
Sunday 21 Jun 2026 09:30 to 17:15	Bents Park	Armed Forces Day, South Shields
Sunday 21 June 2026 13:00 to 16:00	Snods Edge Village Hall DH8 9TJ	Charity Afternoon Tea
Sunday 28 Jun 2026 09:00 to 17:00	Tynemouth RNLI Lifeboat Station, Clifford St, Tynemouth, North Shields, NE30 1JA	Tynemouth RNLI Lifeboat Day
Saturday 4 Jul 2026 14:00 to 18:00	Netherton Social Club 1a Netherton Lane Bedlington NE22 6DP	Bellators MCC Charity BBQ and Rock Night
Sunday 5 Jul 2026 09:30 to 16:00	Newcastle Quayside	Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Service Multi Agency Water Safety Event
Saturday 11 Jul 2026 09:00 to 16:00	Consett Fire Station	Consett Fire Station Open Day
Sunday 12 Jul 2026 10:15 to 12:15	The Garage Bar and Grille, Burnhope	Members Informal Coffee Morning Please book on the NBB events page

Fascinating Facts

2025 Facts and Figures

Some annual facts and figures about the service (2025 year)

Nearly 14,000 Jobs - every one free to the NHS and Air Ambulance Service.

Every job requires coordination taking account of priority, availability, distance and type of delivery. Our shift controllers work tirelessly liaising between the drivers and riders and the various services we operate with, ensuring the service runs smoothly.

80 Locations

The area covered by the Northumbria service is significant. North to Berwick, South to Darlington and West to Hexham.

Over the year we operated between 80 different locations across the North East of England. This includes hospitals, care homes, blood service, GPs and others.

272,000+ miles - our volunteers travelled in excess of quarter of a million miles in 2025.

That's the equivalent of travelling around the Earth almost 11 times! Funding the fuel and vehicle maintenance for this type of distance is a significant part of the annual spend on the service.

Nearly 1400 Air Ambulance deliveries

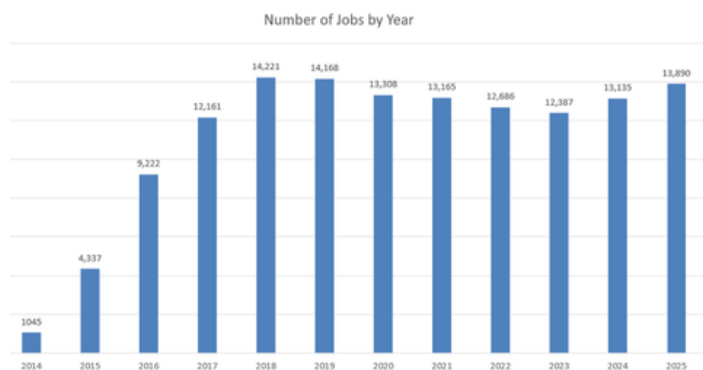
The service made 1399 deliveries of life saving blood or plasma to the Great North Air Ambulance Service who we work closely with.

Over 1500 Relays

Collaborating with other groups to deliver urgent medical items throughout the UK

Historical Demand

Looking at the total number of jobs delivered by the service per year shows an ongoing and sustained demand for the service.



Our membership stands at **238 volunteers**

45 are trained/registered as **controllers**,
123 as **drivers**,
112 as **riders**,
31 and **fundraisers**.

Increasingly, members are choosing to become cross skilled and training in multiple roles, giving them more flexibility and agency in how and when to contribute.

The Gift of Giving - be a part of the mission

The gift of giving isn't only about generosity; it's about being a part of a mission that saves lives every day.

Giving comes in many forms; time (volunteering), support (cheering on), skills (organisation) and finance (fuel, vehicles/maintenance). We welcome them all and each is an important part of the whole.

If you are interested in giving your time as a volunteer, there are a number of roles available. Have a look at our web site for further information. We would welcome a conversation with you.

Volunteering roles

Financial support is one of the most powerful ways to help keep Blood Bikes running. Your donations help keep our bikes on the road, our fuel tanks full, and our volunteers equipped to respond whenever they're needed. Every pound given directly supports the vital service we provide to the NHS, ensuring that blood, samples, and urgent medical supplies reach their destinations swiftly and safely. And while your contribution makes a tangible difference to patients and hospitals, it also brings a unique reward to the giver; the satisfaction of knowing you've played a part in saving lives and sustaining a community built on compassion, commitment, and care.

Donations



If you would prefer to make an offline donation to Northumbria Blood Bikes, please contact our Fundraising Officer or you can write to us at: Northumbria Blood Bikes, Northumbria House, Abbey Road, Pity Me, Durham, DH1 5FJ (Note: This is a postal address only not our operational base)

If you are sending us an offline donation to our postal address please see the Gift Aid Form which is downloadable here [Gift Aid form for website.pdf](#)

All donations will be acknowledged on this site, unless you wish to remain anonymous.

For companies making donations, please [see Sponsorship page for more details.](#)

If you would like to make one off, or monthly repeat donations and/or to set up fundraising pages to collect sponsorship donations from friends and family please use the link below:

[Fundraising Partner](#)

Northumbria Blood Bikes



The Gift of Giving - other ways to give

There are many other ways to support the charity financially. Here are a few.

If any of these are of interest, see the [donations page of our web site](#) to check for latest details and instructions



Recycling - Used Stamps, unwanted bank notes, broken/unwanted jewellery - we are registered with [Recycling For Good Causes](#)



Ink Cartridges - we are also registered with **Recycle4Charity** for donations of used ink cartridges.



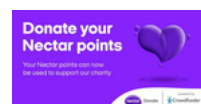
Online shopping - at no extra cost to yours you could donate to Northumbria Blood Bikes every time you shop online at over 4000 shops and sites with [EasyFundraising](#).

DontSendMeACard.com

eCards - send ecards with [DontSendMeACard.com](#)



Northumberland Lottery - Support our charity and be in with a chance to win prizes up £25,000 for £1.00 a week. [Sign up here.](#)



Donate your Nectar Points - create a Crowdfunder account and link it to your nectar card. Then visit our dedicated [Crowdfunder page](#) and when you get to the "Payment method" screen, select "Donate with Nectar"



Paypal - PayPal makes it easy to find your cause and make donations. [Our charity page is here](#)

Northumbria Blood Bikes



Stay Connected

There are many ways to stay connected with the service, whether you would like to cheer us on from afar, have any feedback or ideas, raise/donate some money, or get active on the front line, we welcome you to get involved in whatever way suits you.

Social Media



[Northumbria Blood Bikes](#)



[Northumbriabb](#)



[@NorthumbriaBB](#)



[@northumbriabb.bsky.social](#)

Current Committee

View the current committee members

<https://www.northumbriabloodbikes.org.uk/committee>

If you have a question for any member of our committee you can use our [contact page](#)

Request a Speaker from NBB

If you would like somebody to come and explain more about Northumbria Blood Bikes and what we do, and how and why we do it, we are always pleased to provide speakers for your club / group / event. Please send us a message, [using this form](#), and we'll be in touch soon or simply email talks@northumbriabloodbikes.org.uk.

Request a Visit to a Young Persons Group

If you would like somebody to come and explain more about Northumbria Blood Bikes and what we do, and how and why we do it, to a young persons group, we are always happy to discuss this. We will endeavour to provide a tailored experience specifically for your group. Please send us a message, [using this form](#), and we'll be in touch soon.

Charity Commission Registration

Charity number: 1166689

<https://register-of-charities.charitycommission.gov.uk/en/charity-search/-/charity-details/5078006/contact-information>

Thank you for reading! We hope you find this information valuable. Feel free to reach out with any questions or suggestions.

See you in the next edition!

