

Great North Air Ambulance

Event photos and posters
HASSRA Sunderland May 2025



John Pease's epic Holland bike ride!

At the end of May this year John Pease who works in Wearview House, Sunderland spent four days cycling through the beautiful Holland countryside with his mates in order to raise money for charity. It's not the first time they've done it - in fact it's been ten years since the first time he did it. It started out as a lads holiday, with ten of them (now down to six) going to Holland to take in the sights and visit some beautiful pubs at the end of the day for a well earned pint or two. In John's words, they chose Holland "because it's flat and we have nothing to prove to anyone!". They kept it up every year as a tradition, with the exception of the Covid years!

Now a lad's holiday has become a lad's holiday with a purpose - to do some good for the community and to raise money for deserving charities. In 2024 they supported the Red Sky Foundation to help fund defibrillators being installed in public areas, and this year they chose the Great North Air Ambulance to support emergency response teams that are the difference between life and death in many cases.

On the first day they landed at Ijmuiden after taking the ferry from North Shields and biked 45km to Leiden. There are miles and miles of bike tracks and paths in Holland and biking is exceptionally popular and very easy to get around on two wheels – so much so that after a few years of doing this trip they've now been able to follow the route to each stop without using any maps and just following signs! In Leiden they visited a jazz club, and John ran into a man who had been living in Holland for twenty years but grew up just down the street who he used to babysit – it's definitely a small world!

John Pease's epic Holland bike ride!

On the way to Utrecht the next day they had to ride through the rain but were rewarded by watching Sunderland be promoted while taking a break in a pub. In Woden they arrived in the middle of a cheese festival, and from there they went to Weesp where there was a beer festival in full swing – lucky timing! Here they also visited an LGBT pub which, though all are straight happily married men, they are always welcomed warmly by the owner who makes sure to look after them every year they visit. The final day saw them in Haarlem where they visited a church that had been converted into a pub before the final cycle back to the ferry port.

The journey was 185km in total, and this year there were thankfully no mishaps as in other years. Not following maps hasn't always been so kind to them in the past!

Back in the office while he was away the Wearview House charity team were hard at work raising money with a raffle to support John and his friends. They were able to raise a fabulous **£1,280.23** to donate to the Great North Air Ambulance.

We'd like to congratulate John and say thanks for him for doing such a wonderful thing for a good cause, and we're glad he had a great time. We look forward to next year where we can help him support another charity!









The Great North Air Ambulance Raffle winners!




Thank you for helping us sponsor John Pease in his amazing efforts to support the Great North Air Ambulance!

Our lucky winners are:

 **£200** - Diane Ellwood

 **£100** - Louise Smith

 **£50** - Lisa Oz

We were able to raise a huge
£1,280.23 to donate to a fabulous
cause - thank you to everyone!





**Lesley,
we want to say a big thank you!**

**Lesley, we would like to thank you for the recent generous donation of
£1,280.23.**