

Title: Our MP is delighted with the Moorsbus!

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Last Sunday saw Kevin Hollinrake and his family ride on the Moors Endeavour from Thirsk to Rievaulx, walking back to Helmsley and picnicking part way, before catching the bus home.

It was standing room only for the Hollinrakes when they climbed aboard at Thirsk. This was a little embarrassing for Helen and Eden who accompanied them, but Kevin was completely unfazed, and obviously very pleased to see that the service was proving so popular. Mike's usual reassuring driving saw us reach Helmsley in time for the connection with the Scarborough and District 128 bus, either for those heading for points east, or for a further connection with our Moors Rambler at Kirkbymoorside. Bill joined us at Helmsley, and we stayed on the Endeavour, turned left (although not, of course, in the political sense....), and rode the twisty road to Rievaulx. Gavin Smithies of English Heritage was at the Abbey gate, chatted with us about Rievaulx's increasing car parking problems and possible bus solutions and let us have a quick peek at his lovely ruin.



Helen and Kevin chat car parking problems and bus solutions with Gavin at Rievaulx Abbey



A quick look at the lovely Rievaulx Abbey.

The walk needed to be walked, though, so we set off along the Cleveland Way to Helmsley, climbing through the woods until we passed the site of Griff village, abandoned after William the Conqueror's Harrying of the North campaign razed it to the ground in 1069. Tough times, and one of those awakeners that help you ponder how far we have come as a civilised nation. However, hunger was gnawing, the bench at Griff Lodge was unclaimed and so we stopped to picnic and admire the view.



Picnic at Griff Farm on the Cleveland Way.

Sheila, a regular bus user from Kirkbymoorside, caught up with us, discussed Moorsbuses, and left us to our banquet. A constant stream of walker's dogs seemed to want to help us out with the food, much to the delight of the smallest Hollinrake, but each offer was firmly declined.

By the time we got to Helmsley the Brymor Ice Cream Parlour was calling, we answered the call, and with half an hour to go before the Moors Endeavour came to whisk us away, we all decided that it would be a good plan for our MP to reacquaint himself with a very successful and relatively recent town business, The Helmsley Brewing Company. Neither Jim's hospitality nor the beer disappointed, and after a quick chat about the massive problems facing bus users in our area, we all headed back to Thirsk.



Kevin Hollinrake MP with the rapidly filling Moors Endeavour in Helmsley, with Mike "King of the Mountains" Bartlett at the wheel.

It's always a pleasure to see new people discover what the Moorsbus can do, and Kevin and his family did just that. The Hollinrakes had a lovely, relaxing day, and the Moorsbus acquired more good friends.

Roll on next year's Moorsbus!

Eden Blyth 21st September 2015