

MOORSBUZZ



Keeping you up-to-date with the Moorsbus Network : www.moorsbus.org

July 2023

WELCOME to another year of Moorsbus

It's great to be back, although we're sorry that we are only running services in July and August this year. That's simply because we couldn't raise the money to operate longer.

The 2023 network is operating on just 19 days, a third of the days it ran in 2019 and far fewer than in its heyday.

In keeping with most bus services in deep rural areas, fare revenue alone cannot pay for Moorsbus. So funding comes through a combination of fares, pass reimbursement, donations and grants, including from the North Yorkshire Moors Association and small but regular grants from individual parish councils.

Moorsbus gets no financial support from either the National Park Authority or North Yorkshire Council.

Fundraising is proving more difficult than ever before due to reducing sources of support, a greater call on these resources from the third sector and increasing costs. All our fundraising is done by volunteers.

Aiming high

Our aspirations are high, wishing to see all-year-round access to and through the area. But being pragmatic, in the short term we need to raise £50,000 in advance.

It's great that so many passengers support us, and in so many ways. Some make regular donations through our *Local Giving* page, others send us a cheque: see the website for 5 ways to donate. Lots of you buy our innovative *Donate Ticket* whereby you can make a voluntary contribution on the bus through buying a special ticket (£1, £2, £5 and £10), not valid for travel, but where every pound goes directly towards improving Moorsbus for the future.

As a not-for-profit Community Interest Company all our accounts are submitted to Companies House and are on our website. In 2022-23 we spent £32k on bus operations, £2.7k on timetable printing and £714 on banking and accountancy fees. All other admin was undertaken *pro bono* so making Moorsbus super efficient. We also raised a separate £8000 to pay for the bus boarders at Danby (see overleaf) which didn't affect our overall operational funds.

We really need to raise our game to provide the service **you want** and we want.

We've now got some really good help from individuals with a huge amount of bus operational experience. We're trying to get about £50,000 in the bank (or promised) so we can plan for 2024, and get the publicity out in plenty of time.

Donations, time, ideas—every little helps.



New £2 fare deal

In keeping with most local bus operators, we've fixed a maximum of £2 for a single fare. This is for one journey, on one route, on one bus. If the bus route number changes (say from M3 to M4, or M6 to M7) a new fare is payable.



HELPING OUT: as easy as 1... 2... 3...

1. Keep on travelling with us and enjoy your journeys
2. Bring someone else next time to double our passengers
3. Pick up (at least) **three** timetables *today* to give out (and if you'd like more, just help yourself to a handful and put them (with permission) in your local café, library, shop or pub).

If you'd like to find out the other 97 ways of helping **your** Moorsbus, see our website for details including our A to Z of volunteering with us.

GREAT AYTON DIVERSION

An emergency road closure means that Moorsbuses will not be able to use High Street in Great Ayton due to major work to the retaining wall along the river. Pedestrian access will remain, but our buses will have to use Guisborough Road. Just let the driver know which end of Great Ayton you want.

This is in addition to our other great fares, and sometimes a **Moors Rover** ticket will be cheaper than buying a series of £2 singles if your trip involves several different journeys. And, there's always the **Donate Ticket** as well. We'll try and keep your fares simple if we can. We won't take you for a ride!

Thanks for ticking us off

Last year's Moorsbus survey results are now on the website and you gave us lots of ticks in the right boxes.

Once again, you rated Moorsbus drivers with an amazing 99.4% satisfaction score. Overall there was 93.8% satisfaction with our services. Improvements over the previous year included *clarity of information*, one thing you asked us to get sorted. *Reliability* was also improved, although *frequency* let us down.

Every comment is read by all the directors and we try our utmost to see how we can meet your requests. But as we've said before, sometimes to change one thing would have a knock on effect on lots of other timings at other places, and lose the connections which enable you to switch

What's new on Moorsbus

We've worked hard to improve our timetables, especially for those travelling from the west, as well as working closely with existing services to avoid waste, cut costs and help the wider network of local bus services to keep running.

You'll notice more services on a Saturday, including connections with the Reliance 31X from York to Helmsley and Kirkbymoorside.

We've added a mid-day service between Helmsley, Thirsk and Northallerton on Sundays, and there are many other tweaks which we hope will improve your enjoyment and the usefulness of our services.

Joint **Moors Rover** ticketing with a number of other services operated by Arriva North East, East Yorkshire, as well as Reliance, means that you can now get further than ever.

Please join us to share your views on Moorsbus at the Friends of Moorsbus Annual General Meeting on Sunday 20 August from 1300 to 1500 at The King's Head hotel in Kirkbymoorside. **Everyone is welcome!**

DANBY BUS STOPS

Back in 2021 we were asked how someone with a mobility problem could get to Danby Lodge National Park Centre by bus.

There was no way someone less-able or in a wheelchair could get off the bus safely and comfortably.

from one route to another. Some roads just aren't possible for our vehicles, and using a minibus just isn't viable as they cost almost the same to run, but can't cope with larger numbers such as a walking group.

But the biggest stumbling block is finding enough money to increase operational days and services. Some of the improvements you asked for are listed below in 'What's New'.

Filling in a survey form helps us find out what's wrong and what you would like. It also helps in our fundraising as many funders want to know how we listen to users and, most importantly, what action we take. So please pick up a Moorsbus Survey Form every time you get the bus this year, and give us a ticking off.

WILDLIFE through the bus window

Spaunton Moor is the place to look out for birds of prey as the M3 or M6 head over the moorland roads. According to the estate's 5 year research programme bird of prey sightings have tripled from 711 in 2018 to 2,177 last year and 2022 was the fifth consecutive year of growth.

Buzzard, Kestrel and Red Kite are the most numerous species, all established and breeding in this area, but there has also been a significant rise in Merlin, Goshawk, Peregrine and Sparrowhawk.

So keep watching through our windows on wildlife.

EVENTS from the bus

Stokesley Farmers Market:

1 July & 5 August

Stokesley Makers' Market:

15 July & 19 August

Thirsk Farmers Market:

2 July & 6 August

Sutton Bank Day of medieval activities:
6 August

Danby Lodge Inspired by... gallery:

The Lost Spells: Listening to a Landscape of Voices
15 July to 10 September

Moorsbus to the rescue! With no-one else taking the initiative or offering help, Moorsbus sought funds to build raised 'bus boarders' and thanks to the Sirius Foundation, Bruce Wake Trust and the North Yorkshire Moors Association, passengers can now get off and on the bus with ease and safety.

One of the Danby Lodge bus boarders >

ANORAK'S CORNER



A Tees Moorsbus service picks up two young walkers at Ralph Cross in the early 1980s. (Yes, we know, there's a Moorsbus anorak out there who will tell us exactly when - and who the driver was.) Moorsbus routes ran from Teesside to the moors and linked with West Yorkshire's Moorsbus services from York.

▲ DAYS OUT LEAFLETS

Our first 12 **Days Out** leaflets for 2023 are now available. They feature 147 individual ideas for days out, some really simple, some slightly less so. But they take you by the hand, giving you bus departure and arrival times, things to see and do. The first 12 leaflets are for trips from:

Ampleforth	Coxwold
Easingwold	Guisborough
Kirkbymoorside	Malton & Norton
Northallerton	Pickering
Saltburn	Thirsk
Wass	York

They're on the Moorsbus website, in shops and libraries, or you can ask us to post one to you (a stamped addressed envelope would be a help).

Shandy Hall, Coxwold:

Gardens open Sundays 11 to 1630;
Hall tours Saturdays and Sundays
1130 to 1430

Rosedale Show: 19 August

Bilsdale Show: 26 August

Guided walks you can get to by Moorsbus:
Cropton (9 July) 1045 to 1200,
Rosedale (23 July) 1030 to 1530,
Battle of Byland / Sutton Bank
(6 August) 1100 & 1400

book these guided walks via the National Park website or for further information 01439 772738.

