

**Title: Twenty-Three Years of Moorsbus Walking**

**Author: Alethea**

**Date: 2023**

I have been using the Moorsbuses since 2000 when the Moorsbuses extended their route from Thirsk to Northallerton. I lived in Northallerton from June 1998 to September 2023 and my friend Beryl (sadly now passed away), was the person who persuaded the North Yorkshire Moors National Park Authority to extend the route from Thirsk to Northallerton because the people who lived in Northallerton, who did not have their own transport, could not get to Thirsk in time to catch the Moorsbus. Prior to 2005 the first train to stop at Northallerton and Thirsk Stations on a Sunday was after 10am and there is also a walk of over a mile from Thirsk Station to Thirsk Market Square where the Moorsbus used to start.

I used Moorsbuses regularly from 2000 to 2022 when I sold my flat in Northallerton and moved to a Retirement Flat in Scarborough. I lost my sight in January 2007 due to Retinal Detachments in both eyes at the same time, and without the Moorsbuses, I would not been able to continue walking in the countryside. Before I had the Retinal Detachments, I used to lead walks for different walking groups. I have suffered with depression since the age of 5, and walking, especially in the countryside, was the only thing that has helped me to cope with the depression.

Even before I lost my sight, I used to use public transport and walk as much as possible simply because there are too many cars on the road and too much pollution. As a passenger on a bus or train, one can enjoy the scenery because you do not have to concentrate on driving and worry about other road users. Also using public transport one can do lineal walks, not have to worry about where to park the car and can meet other people.