

Keeping you up-to-date with the Moorsbus Network

# MOORSBUZZ



JULY 2024

## HERE WE GO AGAIN

It's great to be back — and for a longer season than in recent years.

Most of the routes are as in previous years, although we've had to drop access to Dalby Forest due to a lack of funding and the road between Rosedale Abbey and Ralph Cross is closed to buses resulting in a reduced service for Rosedale.

Thanks to the continued support of many parish and town councils and other small organisations, we have achieved a great network to connect you with some wonderful places. And passenger contributions have also been a great help.

But the main funding this year is from North Yorkshire Council, and that means we're able to operate over a much longer season until the end of October.

Please go and tell everyone about Moorsbus!



A Moorsbus M4 in Helmsley about to depart for Rievaulx Abbey and Guisborough in July 2023

## WELCOME to our new operators

This year five operators are providing our network, including two new ones.

Our long-standing partners at Arriva, Reliance and York Pullman are joined in 2024 by Coatham Coaches and Hodgsons.

**Coatham Coaches** started in 1980 and are based just outside Guisborough. You'll find them on the Saturday M4 running between Redcar and Sutton Bank (as well as one short return journey between Guisborough and Danby Lodge).

Based in Barnard Castle, **Hodgsons Buses** operate over a wide area of County Durham and North Yorkshire. They were established in 1985. You'll see Hodgsons buses on the Sunday M3 between Darlington and Pickering, and also one of the M7 services between Pickering and Thornton le Dale.

Team Moorsbus has seven buses running during the 2024 season and passengers always give a warm welcome to every driver - new and old(ish).

## JUST THE TICKET

Moorsbus has a **maximum fare of £2** for any single journey, but remember that if the bus changes route number (such as from M4 to M3 in Guisborough) a new £2 ticket is needed.

If you're aged between 5 and 18, the single journey ticket is just £1. All the details are in the timetable and on the website.



*On Sundays the M31 and M5 take you to Byland Abbey.*

*The abbey was founded in about 1150 after the monks had spent 40 years in and around the area trying to find the ideal location.*

*Today Moorsbus stops right outside the door!*

*English Heritage.*

*Open every day; free admission.*

## WHAT'S ON

Until 14 July: 'This Diverse Landscape' exhibition by 11 artists at Inspired by... Gallery, Danby Lodge

29 - 30 June: Raptor Fair, National Centre for Birds of Prey, Helmsley

6 July: Stokesley Farmers Market

6 - 7 July: Steam and vintage rally, Duncombe Park, Helmsley

7 July: Thirsk Farmers Market

14 July: 10 years of Moorsbus CIC

20 July : Artisan Makers Market, Stokesley

20 July- 8 September: 'Birds on the Edge' exhibition at Inspired by... Gallery, Danby Lodge

21 July: Roman Festival, [maltonmuseum.co.uk/roman-festival-2024](http://maltonmuseum.co.uk/roman-festival-2024)



## GETTING OVER IT

It's always quite a struggle to get Moorsbus on the road. Usually this is the long-term headache of raising enough money to operate the services.

But this year we've had a number of other problems which have meant delays in starting the service and dropping some routes entirely.

**M6:** Last year passengers had to put up with road works on the road between Rosedale Abbey and Ralph Cross. Well, it's gone from bad to worse with the landslip problem continuing.

North Yorkshire Council have imposed a weight restriction, scheduled until May 2025. We are thus not allowed to operate our buses over the road north of Rosedale Abbey.

The M6 route from Rosedale Abbey to Ralph Cross is normally just over 5 miles, but the only diversion our bus can take is 22 miles long!

This means only two return journeys a day between Rosedale and Pickering, and two between Pickering and Danby.

**M5** passengers face a double disappointment. The lack of bus operators able to provide buses and drivers on a Saturday has resulted in no Saturday M5, plus intransigence by North Yorkshire Council over stopping for longer than 10 minutes at the (otherwise empty) Northallerton bus stop means that the mid-day Thirsk to Northallerton service has also had to be abandoned.

**31X:** Last year, Saturday connections in Helmsley with Reliance meant York and Easingwold 31X users could easily connect with the Moorsbus Network. We created this link last year thanks to Reliance's help, but it was broken at a stroke by the council making a new contract with a different operator and different times. We're really sorry that our attempts at joined-up thinking can be so easily destroyed.

Of course, on Sundays, Reliance runs our joined-up M31 service from York to Helmsley - but that's little compensation for the loss of Saturday connectivity.

We've tried our hardest to provide the best service we can and, despite these frustrations, can only hope for a (slightly) easier road next year.

## YOUR VIEWS COUNT

Last year you completed hundreds of Survey Forms telling us what was right, and what was wrong with Moorsbus. Thank you to everyone who responded.

You gave us an overall satisfaction score of 94%, with the lowest rating (84%) for frequency of buses, and the highest for our drivers at 99%. Two thirds of passengers said they found their day out with Moorsbus improved their health and almost half said it reduced their isolation. An average of £12.39 was spent in local shops, cafes and attractions by each passenger. 45% of passengers were from a household with a car, whilst for 54%, Moorsbus was the only way they could get to the area. All the 2023 Survey Results are on the Moorsbus website.

Please complete a Survey Form for each journey you make with Moorsbus this year. It not only helps us improve the service, but it helps us show to potential funders how Moorsbus responds to every comment.

## VISIT OUR ONLINE SHOP

Remember to look up the shop at [moorsbus.org](http://moorsbus.org) for a range of items including our very own children's book 'Morris the Moorsbus' written by local author Jean Illingworth.

There are also fascinating books on local history and a North York Moors wildlife guide, as well as art by Vienna Forester, and our useful backpacks. You can even get a model bus to make out of cardboard!

*Next month we'll explain our hopes for a connected public transport network for the whole of York and North Yorkshire and our work with others to create a 'Swiss-style' timetable serving every community with regular, frequent and reliable buses. It's high on the agenda of the new York and North Yorkshire Mayor and we need to help him make it a reality.*

*In the meantime, enjoy your journeys and help us by giving timetables to friends, to local shops or cafes. Just grab a handful from the MoorInfo box on the bus and spread the word. Thanks!*