

The York Story – Day Three – 2nd March

Well! We continue to have new experiences! It was at 01:40 this morning that a number of children came to the conclusion that Sir had gone a step too far in his attempts at creating a dramatic wake-up call. Yes, the fire alarm was ringing and a full building evacuation ensued. Thankfully it wasn't raining and we were impressed both at the efficiency of staff who all appeared from nowhere complete with high visibility tabards as well as the fire engines that appeared almost as quickly as we reached the car park. One of the children's entertainers, who had been blowing up balloons the evening before, is in the Lowland Rescue Service and as an automatic reaction to the alarm just grabbed several duvets to ensure the children kept warm. To get an entire building evacuated in less than 10 minutes at that time in the morning is impressive and the children were magnificent in their calmness as well as the controlled way in which they simply did everything that was asked of them. Then, as quickly as the incident had started, everyone went back into bed, lights went out and the sound of heavy breathing could be heard all along the corridor.

We felt a little jaded this morning!

Still, the emotional excitement of the National Railway Museum soon stirred our hearts and once we'd had a hearty breakfast we set off to ensure we arrived at least 20 minutes before opening!



Real enthusiasm...from the back row three!!



Mrs Thomas struggles to contain her excitement on the mini-train ride

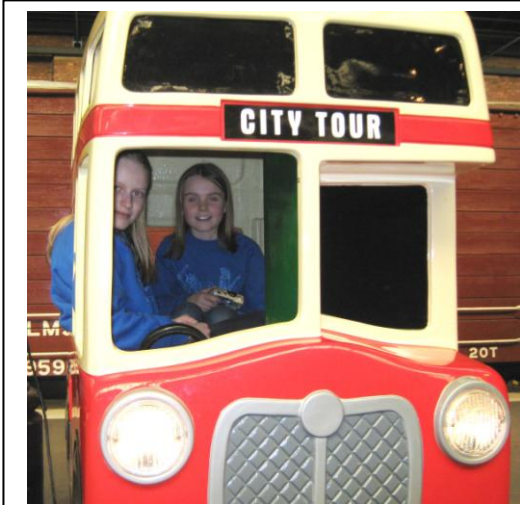
A new exhibit this year is the Duchess of Hamilton, a streamlined beauty not dissimilar to Mallard... oh, hang on, you've just lost interest, haven't you.

It was great to hear comments like, "I thought it was going to be



quite boring, but it's really interesting". Regrettably that wasn't from Mrs Hacker! Equally shocking was the sight of Mr Brown stopping for a break and nodding off in the cafe. This was supplemented

by a further 40 winks in the lunch carriage! Following time spent in both halls and the essential ride on the miniature railway, we dived into the schools' carriage for lunch and then immediately headed off for the Jorvik



Centre.

They've changed quite a few parts of the centre and added some new models that talk and move in an unnervingly realistic form. It certainly had the wow factor for the children and the need to move swiftly on to The Dig avoided tainting the

experience with stopping in the gift shop!

At The Dig, the children became immersed in the world of archaeology; we've always enjoyed their enthusiastic response and their questions just kept on coming. Finishing in there at 5 p.m. ensured



The famous York pool!



Young archaeologists

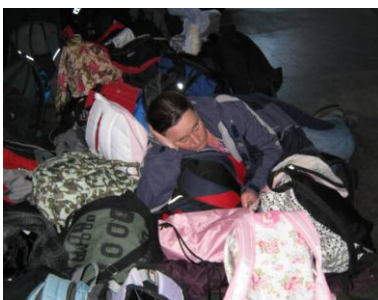
another untainted experience as the gift shop also closed at 5. The stroll through The Shambles was a pleasant departure from materialism as all the shops were also closed. Mr Brown, Mr Hayes and Mr Leslie all enjoyed the shops today. Mrs Hacker, Mrs Bennett, Mrs Thomas and the girls didn't say much.

Meal time was quiet. The interruption of the night has clearly had an effect on the children, but they've all accepted that they're likely to be more emotional and less reasonable and have managed to avoid the falling out sessions so far. We've been deeply impressed at how well they've been getting on, supported each other and cooperated without fuss on all the activities.



Utterly engrossed

After tea they had some time to practice their performance night acts. The lack of WiFi this evening means that we won't be able to have Joseph time, so we'll be having an earlier night tonight; I think we're all ready for that after last night's events and a day in which we haven't slowed down for a moment.



Too many jokes, Mrs Hacker!

Mr Brown's sleep zone!

