

## Derek Treks Britain

### Episode 18, Leg 3, Day 20 – Toby Adams

On his 'back stitch' travels today, dad stopped to visit Scotland's smallest cathedral – St Gregory's - in Durnoch. Built in the 13th century, the cathedral stood for nearly 350 years before it was practically destroyed during a clan feud between the Murrays of Dornoch and the Mackays of Strathnaver. Almost totally destroyed, except for the chancel and transept walls, the Cathedral was partially restored in the early 1600's and then fully restored by the Countess of Sutherland in 1837 (now incorporating the Sutherland burial vault).



*Scotland's smallest cathedral – St Gregory's, Durnoch*

The Helmsdale Hostel has proved to be a lovely resting place for our intrepid wanderer, especially last night where he was joined by the Hostel Manager Marie and her former local care worker colleagues Gina, Jacqui, Eileen and Susan. Food, drink and good company, always a great combination and I'm sure they had lots of philanthropic stories to relate. (see other pictures).

His walking at the moment allows him to look South and see some of the coastline he has already covered on this leg. The sea was quite calm today and he could see some movement in the waters but too far out to be able to tell if it was orcas or not, there's still time though.

The landscapes are lovely, lots of yellow gorse to be seen. It's got him thinking about the gardens out front back home and whether he could get it to grow there!

I'm starting to think there might be a 'Guide to the UK's coastal fish and chip shops' to come out of this; this evening, Marie took him into the town to their best chip shop. The patrons turned out to be Turkish and familiar with the areas where dad worked in the 60s, so more stories were exchanged! (The fish was amazing too!)

He's in good spirits and looking forward to another good day tomorrow.



*Derek, aka the Old Fella (OF) with some of his new Scottish friends*

