



Children wait for Rolf to clear his throat before joining in rehearsals at the Community Centre.



Hello sport

Rolf chats with Frank Smith.



A bike ride with Rolf for Sarah Toner (8).

SOUTH Killingholme pensioner Mrs. Lucy Salt didn't believe her eyes when she saw Rolf Harris walking in the village. The 60-year-old woman from Mayflower Close was wheeling her bicycle along the road when she came across the active Australian on walkabout.

He was recording a show for a forthcoming BBC Radio 2 series and was getting a taste of village life on the Humber.

"I nearly ran over him before I realised who it was," said an amazed Mrs. Salt. "I have seen him on stage, but when they came up I wondered what on earth all these kids were doing on the side of the road."

Hairdresser Mrs. Joyce Pusey found her shop swamped with people as Rolf settled into a chair to talk to one of the ladies having her hair dried.

"I just got this invasion coming in," she said. "Great! I thought, 'and they have all got long hair!'"

After a quiet gossip with the customers Rolf was off again down the street. Villagers were delighted as he stopped and chatted — followed by a tight convoy of young BMX riders.

"I offered him a sweet but he said his teeth might drop out," said 13-year-old Adrian Barber, of Pilgrims Close.

Thirteen-year-old Billy Smiley, of Mayflower Close, felt that Rolf Harris was shorter than he looked on television.

"And he has got more grey hairs," mused 10-year-old Christian Williams.

Community constable Pc Jim McDonald (36) said he enjoyed the work on the sunny Saturday.

"It gets me out of the normal route and it is nice to see the kids enjoying themselves," he said.

Mrs. Florence Border (74) found her front garden in Mayflower Close filled to saturation with curious people as Rolf walked over to say hello.

Her grandson had rang the alert to say the celebrity was on his way up the road so she had opened her front door to look.

"I didn't expect him to come across. It was very nice of him. I just love to watch him on the telly when he is doing his drawing," she said.

The entourage stopped off in the living room of Mr. Frank Smith at Greengate Lane — the oldest man in the village. The room was packed with BBC men and others as Rolf sat on the sofa discussing old times with Mr. Smith (84).

"It is something you never think about," said Mrs. Elsie Smith (80). "When we have seen him in the television we would never have thought he was going to be in our house."

Daughters and granddaughters had come from Immingham for the visit, she said. As the group left the house, Mrs. Smith added: "They could all have had a cup of tea if they had time, I like the company."

And Rolf Harris proved to be the complete showman. A kiss and cuddle with the ladies and a ride on the bike with the youngsters. Everybody had a good time.

"I just like people. I get on well with them," he said. "Sometimes I talk too much when I should just ask questions and let everybody else talk."

He was recording the show in South Killingholme as part of a series made in various communities. He found the village much bigger than some of the others visited on his travels through the country. He also noted how people lived in the country so near to industry.

"I get the feeling it is a much bigger community than the one I visited yesterday," he said. "But it has been a marvellous day. It has been a wonderful visit."

Producer of the show — which will be part of a series called Rolf's Walkabout — is Mr. John Fawcett Wilson. He said the pleasure he saw in the villagers' faces was a feeling all the visitors shared. Although the BBC crew had visited several communities, it was a mutual feeling of joy they felt.

"We could have had four times the amount of time today. It all went very happily and Rolf obviously met some very interesting people," he said. The village had been chosen after researchers had visited to see whether it would be right for the series, he said.

Much of the responsibility for the trip went to parish clerk, Mrs. Sybil Raby (40), who had known about the visit since last September.

All the villagers had been invited to attend a special show held at the Community Centre. News of the visit had been kept quiet to make sure there were not floods of visitors.

Touring the village with Rolf Harris had been quite a relaxed affair, she said. Although she would be working virtually all day she said she enjoyed the visit. "We have had some fun," she said.

Over the moon about the man from down under



Left: Mrs. Border comes out for a doorstep chat with Rolf. Right: A kiss in the front room with Rolf for Mrs. Elsie Smith (80).



A chat under the hairdriers with Rolf for local pensioner Mrs. Tina Williams.