

THE CONNECTIONS BUS PROJECT

NEWSLETTER AUTUMN 2024



Goodbye to Dennis and Ollie

The 'before' pics of our new buses which are now undergoing complete refurbishment!



Our refurbishments are being undertaken by two apprentices - continuing our quest to support young people!

ADDITIONAL FEATURES OF OUR NEW BUSES:
Generator free
Solar panels to run indoor equipment
Additional seating
Reliable, safe and cleaner for the environment

Sadly Dennis and Ollie exceeded their life span and retired from working for us in September! The buses gave us 15 and 20 years service - so they did us proud!

In the meantime, we have been able to keep our youth clubs running by using our van of equipment in local village halls and spaces! This is not a long term solution (due to spaces often being used by other members of the community) but is a great interim measure whilst we secured funding and allowing time for new buses to come into fruition.



STOP PRESS

Thanks to a generous grant from the National Lottery Community Fund, The Connections Bus Project has secured two replacement buses to continue providing vital youth services across Cambridgeshire.

Through consultations with the young people who attend our projects, we have finalised the specifications for our new buses, which will include:

- Comfortable seating areas
- Dedicated spaces for crafts
- Up-to-date games consoles
- PCs with internet access
- Facilities for playing their own music
- A tuck shop
- A variety of board games
- Outdoor sports equipment
- Phone charging points
- An undercover outdoor area
- Eye-catching external branding

These features will ensure that our buses are not only functional but also welcoming and engaging spaces for youth.

KEEP AN EYE ON OUR WEBSITE FOR UPDATES AND DETAILS OF OUR GRAND OPENINGS!

WWW.CONNECTIONSBUSPROJECT.ORG.UK

DID YOU KNOW ...

In the past 12 months we have:

- supplied youth work to 16 different communities
- run 500 youth club sessions and 4 babysitting courses
- recorded 7,500 interactions with young people!!!

In July, Trustees and Staff met to celebrate the 20th Anniversary of Alan Webb being The Manager of The Connections Bus Project. We had a great afternoon of games, reminiscing, meeting each others families, and eating lots of scrumptious cake (supplied by The Phoenix Trust at Milton Country Park).



Our Trustees Jill Slater, Mark Stanger, Ed Cameron and Anna Jolly - alongside some of our youth workers!

Our young people's user survey (May 2024) revealed:

- 100% enjoy coming to our youth clubs and buses
- 99% feel safe attending our sessions
- 77% attendance has helped to improve their mental health and wellbeing
- 94% found youth workers approachable and easy to talk to

Biggest issues young people told us they face included:

- bullying
- mental health
- vaping
- ageism
- social anxiety
- social media

Gathering this information aids us in providing the right resources and reassures us that the projects we provide are meeting needs.

WEEKLY SESSIONS

- Histon Junior Youth Zone - Mondays 3:30-5pm
- Teen Yoga & Mindfulness Mondays 5.30-6.30pm
- Oakington Youth Van - Mondays 7-9pm
- Histon Babysitting Course - Tuesdays 4-5.30pm
- Girton Youth Zone - Tuesdays 7-8:30pm
- Sawtry Youth Zone - Tuesdays 7-9pm
- Haslingfield Youth Van - Wednesdays 4-6pm
- Willingham Youth Zone - Wednesdays 7-8:30pm
- Haddenham Youth Van - Wednesdays 7.30-9pm
- Milton Youth Zone - Thursdays 6:30-8pm
- Cottenham Youth Van - Thursdays 7-9pm

ADDITIONAL VILLAGES WE WILL VISIT WHEN OUR NEW BUSES ARE ON THE ROAD:

- Somersham
- Eversden
- Melbourn
- Warboys
- Fenstanton
- Burwell



We have a new craft each week at all of our projects. This offers variety, new skills, fun and most of all a great opportunity for our youth workers to engage in conversation with young people!



RECRUITMENT
 We are seeking more sessional youth workers! You'll be on a zero hour contract and ready to take up the many opportunities we will have once we've got our new buses refurbished and back on the road. We'll be running over 15 youth work sessions a week and need 3-4 members of staff for each project. Please visit our website and put your application in so we can get our teams sorted ahead of their start date.
www.connectionsbusproject.org.uk/vacancies

THANK YOU ...

Our heartfelt thanks goes to Penny, Sophie, Nathan and Callum for completing the Vitality London 10K to help raise over £1,000 for The Connections Bus Project.

You guys are awesome!

We are continuously looking for ways to raise money to support our work with young people - find us on Just Giving to pledge a donation or get in touch if you'd like to take part in a sponsored event for our cause.



<https://www.justgiving.com/connections-busproject>

The Babysitting Course

DUKE OF EDINBURGH

Many of the students completing our Babysitting Course use it to complete their Bronze Arts Awards Skills Section.

Youth Workers complete their Assessors Report online to help them achieve this award.



Our 10-week Babysitting Course in Histon & Impington continues to attract a full class of 15 young people. Covering everything from the law, changing nappies and how to entertain a toddler to Basic First Aid Training.



Histon Youth Zone have been working with Jack Johnson, Inclusion Development Worker from Cambridgeshire Music. Young people have taken part in 'making music' with a view to taking part in an Arts Award Project that will be running in the next few months.

Our work is largely funded by local Parish Councils. However, with the popularity and need for our projects to expand, to reach more young people, we rely on donations and fundraising efforts from you too.

To donate visit our website:

WWW.CONNECTIONSBUSPROJECT.ORG.UK