



### Youth Headlines (from Children & Young People Now Magazine):

- Connexions to be replaced by all-age generic careers advice service
- Rural young people could be left out in the cold—Young people in rural communities often lack the access to youth services many others across the country enjoy.
- Smaller voluntary organisations face a number of challenges as local authorities rein in their spending and charitable trusts tighten their belts.

## Since March

### A period of change and challenge.

Since the last newsletter in March 2010 we have experienced a rollercoaster of a time, both in activities and funding.

The new bus started work in 3 new villages with record numbers of young people attending and a good 18 months of funding ahead to allow a sustained reliable provision. In July we received a warning that there was a proposal by central government to cut the Local Partnership Service Agreement Award funding that supported this bus.

Having time to react we in place changes that enabled us to deal with this possibility, so when the final decision was reached to cut our funding young people and their communities were fully aware of the situation. At this point SCDC stepped in and kindly offered to cover the overheads of the new bus through to the end of December 2010, allowing the new villages the chance to continue provision albeit with a higher fee.

In the meantime we worked hard on preparing alternative budgets and were able to offer to continue these sessions through to April 2011.

And the future? We are pleased to be in a position to be able to continue to run both buses into the next financial year albeit with a shortfall of approx. £20,000, most of which it is hoped we will be able to raise during the year. Any support you may be able to give would be much appreciated.

### Youth Forum

The youth forum held it's training residential where 8 young people learnt the skills needed to work as a group and had their first official meeting. Since then they have had a further 3 meetings and have working on a number of matters, including: rewriting the bus rules, future activities, and volunteering.

### Summer Programme

During the summer holidays, the buses operated in 10 different villages and had external bookings from Pathway Care, County Council's St Neot's Locality and City North Locality (Orchard Park) and Chesterton Children's Centre. The regular village programme received a higher average attendance than in previous years. The young people not only enjoyed the opportunity to socialise and take part in activities but also felt confident enough to discuss important issues with youth workers.

## Young People's Creative Ability on show



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## Bus Visits and Visitors

### Girl Guides Celebrate 100 years

On 3rd July we joined over 1500 Girl Guides and Brownies in celebrating their centenary. One of the buses attended the celebration event at Newmarket race course. The youth workers on duty were soon sick of the same songs on SingStar and Guitar Hero!



### Park Life

The Park Life event put on by SCDC on 25 July at Milton Park was inundated with the local public coming to experience the wide range of activities provided. One of our buses proved to be very popular with the young people. The strangest sight yet has got to be a 12 foot human robot walking past the bus.

### Japanese Youth Workers

We were delighted to be welcome a group of nine

youth workers from Japan to the project in October. They spent a couple of hours with us listening to a presentation about the project and then asking some pertinent questions. It was very interesting to learn a little about the development of youth work in Japan and in particular the involvement of the voluntary sector. They then went on to visit other projects in the area before returning to London. Being pre-warned of the tradition of exchanging gifts we were able to give them each a toy bus with our logo on the side!



### Cambridge University Press

The Press continue to support us this year as one of their 3 charities and we were delighted to be able to take both buses to a lunch time event at their offices in Cambridge to allow staff the opportunity to look round, buy raffle tickets and purchase donated cakes.



## Support Us

### Online Donation

charitychoice.co.uk or via our website, credit card donations can be made with a facility for us to claim Gift Aid.

### Cheque

Sent to the address at the bottom of this page. Gift Aid can be claimed, please indicate if you wish us to do this.

### Standing Order

This can be done via your bank either online, at your branch or by using the standing order form on

our website in the "support us" section.

### Online Shopping

Next time you make a purchase online, go through our commission site [www.buy.at/connectionsbusproject](http://www.buy.at/connectionsbusproject). It will cost you no more and we will receive commission for the project (anything from 3% to 10%).

### eBay for Charity

Donate a percentage or all of the selling price when you sell via eBay to us. Follow the instructions on [eBay.co.uk](http://eBay.co.uk) and look for our project.

## AGM Report 2010

The AGM was well attended and the Chair's report included the following overview of the year:

- Successful completion of the second youth facility conversion and launch.
- Use of new facility to expand our services to more young people in more communities
- Success in obtaining a Voluntary and Community Sector grant from South Cambs District Council for 2010/11
- Adoption by Cambridge University Press as one of three charities chosen for support in 2010
- Production of a new business plan

Paul Taylor of Wellingborough Youth Project provided an excellent insight into their project and the involvement of young people in leadership and running of the project.

Full minutes and reports from Chair, Treasurer and Project Manager are available on our website.



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Winner of Cambridge News  
Community Support Award  
2009

Winner of contract for Rural  
Youth Work Support, South  
Cambridgeshire (2009-2012)