

June 2012

www.connectionsbusproject.org.uk

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## **National Youth Work Headlines**

Attempts to tackle underage drinking are being given fresh impetus with 10 areas taking a slice of £1m government funding.

Involving young people in decision-making can be beneficial and should lead to better outcomes for individuals.

Youth clubs will remain open and the jobs of youth workers will be saved after a U-turn by Derbyshire County Council on planned cuts.

# **Expansion Possible**

Following negotiations with Cambridgeshire County Council the charity has been successful in securing a new contract to commence four new weekly sessions in the East Cambridgeshire and Fenland area. The new sessions in Littleport, Soham, Ely and Chatteris started in April and have already attracted over 150 young people.

The locations were based on consultation with the County Council Locality Teams and reports of research that has been carried out into deprivation and existing services.

Soham has been the busiest of sessions so far with over 40 young people on one night. The bus parks on the new build area at the north of the town where there are no facilities for young people.

Littleport is known as a very deprived area with many young people not achieving any grade D or above GCSE results. The bus is parking by the Leisure Centre giving great access to a large green area where cricket and football have been very popular. There is also a large group of young people who use the nearby skate park.

A skate park is also a feature at Ely (St John's Rd) where we have a wide range of ages using our facilities. This includes borrowing Allen keys to tighten scooter wheels and fittings!

It's a Friday night when the bus visits Chatteris (parking in a public car park behind the Library). Here we are working in partnership with the Locality Team who provide a youth worker. Attendance started well but has been a bit erratic since, partly due to a couple of disruptive young people. Youth workers are beginning to build good relationships with these young people and it is hoped that we can encourage others to return.

The charity has taken on an additional 9 staff and volunteers to help work in these new venues and fill gaps in some of our existing venues.

The County Council contract only covers part of the cost of running these sessions but the charity has also been successful in gaining Big Lottery funding for a year to help cover the shortfall. The rest is being sort from existing and other funders, and it is planned that in the second year local town and district councils will be in a position to financially support the work.



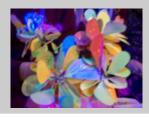


# Scratch Art

Over the last few months we have seen young people enjoying a wide variety of craft activities. The picture above is of the scratch art done by young people in Elsworth one Thursday evening.

Other crafts have included:

- Origami
- Sequins
- Nail Art
- Fantasy Film (see below)
- Balloon modelling
- Shrinkies Key Rings
- Mother's Day and Easter cards
- Face paints



## Over the page:

- Another new venue
- Spend and Raise Website
- Summer Holiday Programme
  - How you can support us



Do your normal online shopping and earn commission for The Connections Bus Project. Our eStore has hundreds of well known retailers with varying amounts of commission generated.

It costs you no more for your shopping and in fact can save you money with the neat search facility listing each store that has the item you want and it's price. Just follow the link on our website or go to:

www.spendandraise.com/ connectionsbusproject

# Papworth is back

After a break of over a year, the charity will be back working in Papworth. Efforts by the Parish Council to start a building based club in conjunction with the County Council only lasted a short time (due to building issues). However plans are to have a youth venue available from sometime in 2013.

In the meantime the Bus Project has been called in to provide youth work on one of our buses.

We will be behind the library on Thursdays every fortnight 7-9pm staring on 21 June 2012.

Then during the summer holidays, every week.

See you there!



P.O. Box 344, Histon, Cambridge CB24 9WZ

01223 232978 admin@connectionsbusproject.org.uk www.connectionsbusproject.org.uk

# Summer Holiday Programme 2012 and Beyond..

This summer we will be continuing our regular term time sessions in a the following venues: Oakington, Comberton, Willingham, Caldecote and Bar Hill.

The bus will also continue to visit Papworth but increase the frequency to weekly for the holiday period.

Three additional villages have booked sessions for the holidays. Little Paxton on Thursday evenings, Coton on three Tuesday afternoons and Grafham on three Thursday afternoons.

Full details of all our sessions both term time and summer holidays are available on our website along with a link to a map to show where we will be parking the buses.

# and Beyond..

All of our current venues have confirmed sessions right

through to April 2013 so from September we will be continuing as currently with:

Eversdens, Oakington, Littleport, Comberton, Soham, Haslingfield, Willingham, Caldecote, Elsworth, Fen Drayton, Papworth, Ely, Bar Hill and Chatteris.

## **Grateful Parent**

Finally, it is unusual for us to hear from parents so when we do we love to share how things are going. As a result we received a thank you card which included the following:

"You're already
doing a fabulous job
for her over in the
Youth Bus—thank you
all for all your time
and effort and
kindness."

# **Support Us**

#### **Online Donation**

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

#### Cheque

Sent to the address at below. Gift Aid can be claimed, please indicate if you wish us to do this and include full name and address.

## **Standing Order**

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.spendandraise.com/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 and look for our project.

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

