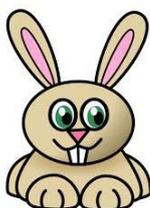




Youth Bus update April 2016

With the Easter holidays earlier this year we've been making extra stops on the bus and enjoying the lighter evenings. At times it's even felt like summer...until the occasional bit of snowfall clouds our view!

As promised in the last edition, in this newsletter we are telling you about the latest funding for the bus and how this will affect the service we provide – and most importantly how you can help keep the bus going. You can also get the latest schedule of stops and hear about future bookings coming up later in the year.



Positive Activities funding for the youth bus

It's good news for the Youth Bus as we have just been granted **new Positive Activities funding from Worcestershire County Council**. The previous three year contract ended in March, which meant that we had to bid to get more funding to continue to deliver the service. There was lots of competition this time around as applicants were seeking funding from a reduced pot of up to 60% less than previous years. We put in a strong application though and as a result we have been awarded a three year contract.

We are now the only rural Positive Activities provider in the district and our track record of success stood out in our application.

There are still some greater challenges in light of the overall reduction in funding and the focus now is on developing longer term sustainability – basically we need to get more income to keep us on the road and plan ahead for the future. A key aspect of this now is to encourage parishes to contribute some funding to the bus visits in their area so we can work in partnership with them and deliver more sessions for young people.

Rob Mace, Youth Bus and Outreach Officer points out: "Our sustainability plan is to match the positive activities funding with other sources over the next few years, so working with others will be key to making this happen. Providing young people with places to go clearly needs to be a shared priority for local communities so we can work with them to create more opportunities for young people in rural areas. The new funding highlights that the County Council supports our vision and values the service we provide. It's a challenging road ahead for the bus and getting parishes, residents and volunteers involved is vital."

Rob added: "We are also keen to give parish councils an opportunity to take responsibility for youth provision in their area. By working with us and contributing to the service we can prioritise stops and offer an annual schedule for their village."

Stoulton Parish Council has already got on board with this opportunity and has provided a donation to secure bus visits through the school holidays for 2016-17. **Councillor Sue Nixon** has championed the bus in her village, gained local support and enabled the parish to find funding to get us there on a regular basis. Sue said: "Funding the Youth Bus is a fantastic opportunity for us to do something for young people in the village. The taster sessions went so well all the parish councillors and parents were keen it becomes a regular part of village life."



Follow us  Wychavon Youth Bus | Like us  The Youth Bus
For more information contact Rob Mace or Charlie Rainey on 07773 031205 or email youthbus@wychavon.gov.uk.



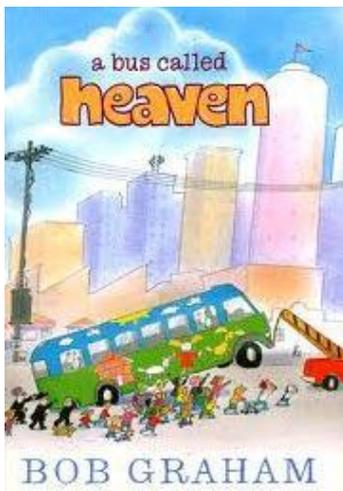
It's fantastic that parish councillors like Sue have been working with us in their village; it just shows how the bus will always have the best impact when we work with residents who know their local community and we can provide a service to suit their needs. We are **looking forward to our regular stops in Stoulton throughout the year.**



Sue Nixon alongside some of the younger members of Stoulton village.

If you'd like to find out about booking bus sessions in your village then get in touch with us – and do raise it at your local parish council meetings too, and let them know about the importance of activities for children and young people – **we need your support!**

A Bus Called Heaven



Our recommended read on the Youth Bus was written for **Amnesty International** and recommended to us by **Ashleigh McLellan**.

Check out 'A Bus Called Heaven' on the Youth Bus and get inspired about how a local community takes ownership of a bus...sound familiar?! ☺



Latest bookings and dates

Our latest dates for **April and May** are listed below. Remember, if you're a member then these will be sent directly to you. We can also send flyers out to any residents that would like to help promote sessions in your area. [Do get in touch if you are interested in getting the Youth Bus to any summer events you're organising too.](#)



Chill out with your friends, music, tv, games, computers, refreshments & more

April	May	
Wed 27 April Inkberrow Village Hall 5.30-7pm	Wed 11 May Badsey 4-5.30pm	Tue 17 May South Meadows 5.45-7pm
Fri 29 April Great Comberton 4-5.15pm	Wed 13 May Bretforton 5.45-7pm	Wed 25 May Great Comberton 4-5.15pm
Crophorne 5.30-7pm	Fri 13 May Inkberrow Village Hall 5.30-7pm	Crophorne 5.30-7pm
	Tue 17 May Middle Littleton 4-5.30pm	Fri 27 May Defford 4.30-6pm
		Offenham 6.30-8.30pm

It was great to see lots of young people on the youth bus when we visited **Defford Youth Club** and **Offenham Youth Club** last week. A big thank you goes out to the volunteers who enable these club nights to take place and we will be back again soon!

Thought for the month

Unity is strength... when there is teamwork and collaboration, wonderful things can be achieved.

Mattie Stepanek