



www.roadhogbus.co.uk

kevin.smithbone@btinternet.com

01205366379



Busy busy

Where have all the youngsters come from this year?

In all my years with the roadHoG Project, we have always returned from our Summer break to a low turnout of youngsters due to them forgetting the re-start dates for their Stop(s). However, this year all Stops are reporting good numbers of youngsters on their very first opening. Praise God!

The New Bus is undergoing its transformation from a boring Transport for London hack into a beautifully appointed, technologically advanced, "Green", roadHoG Bus. All external hoardings have been removed, all the holes they left behind have been filled and some of the windows of the top deck have been paneled over. Currently, the lower deck windows are being attended to in a similar fashion and the front doors are being removed so that the generator can be installed.

The middle doors are being replaced with a pair of sturdy, manually operated ones – young people and automatic doors are a potential recipe for finger removal (or worse!).

Tony has begun to populate the website with pictures of the Bus, and as and when Blackpool Design Coachbuilders achieve each milestone in the transformation, they will send more photos and Tony will make them available at: www.roadhogbus.org.uk

Our old Bus keeps going – thanks to the efforts of John and Ben and the prayers of our many supporters – thank you all.

We managed to attend Boston Baptist Church's Celebration day on Saturday the 9th September and were able to welcome a good number of the youngsters who normally attend the Bus there as well as quite a few for whom it was a new experience – we hope and pray that we will see them again during our regular Stop there.



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The Team working on the Bus that day had to endure some extremely high temperatures, to the extent that someone suggested that when the new Bus comes, we should keep this Bus and hire it out as a sauna during next Summer!

Temperatures were slightly lower the next day at the Celebrate Surfleet event. Unfortunately, we were parked in the main carpark away from all that was happening in the field, so we saw less people and youngsters that we would have liked, but we did welcome both adults and youngsters on board and we were at least able to get the Bus away easily when the rains came and turned the grass into a slippery mire.

We have recently had to replace the external floodlights over the main door of the Bus, as two of them "died" on us - and with the evenings becoming darker, earlier, we had to take action. I won't go into detail of how we did it, but it entailed a lorry tail-lift, as stepladder and a lot of wobbling, causing passers-by to query, "how many Christians does it take to change a lightbulb?". The answer was three, one of whom needed large amounts of coffee afterwards to steady his nerves!

We got the lights replaced and working just in time for our visit to Fulney Skate Park in Spalding on the evening of Friday 15th having been invited there by the indefatigable PSCO Sylwia Davy. We had youngsters waiting for us in the carpark when we arrived, all desperate to get back on the Bus, as our last visit there had been on the 22nd of July the previous year. A surprising number of them remembered the names of the Team Members and there were soon many conversations between Team Members and youngsters to be heard above the laughter - and the inevitable requests for Hot Chocolate!

We had nine Team Members in attendance and we needed every one of them if we were to staff the Prayer Room, keep control (well - we tried!) and be able to take every opportunity to share the Gospel with both youngsters and parents alike.

We gave up trying to count how many youngsters there were there - we abandoned the idea of getting them to "sign in" very early in the evening - but we estimated that there were somewhere between 45 and 50 there at any one time. How Martin Wells managed to make so many drinks and keep going for so long (we were there for almost two hours), I just do not know. He puts it down to keeping fit by swimming half a mile each morning - whatever his secret we were jolly glad to have him along that evening.

With the youngsters gone (which in itself took some considerable effort), we settled down to discussing what a great time we had all had - over the inevitable portions of fish and chips - before praying and heading off home for a well-earned sit down and a rest!

Many thanks to Sylwia and all the Team Members who attended and who all worked so hard throughout the evening. If the Spalding Churches have still not got a plan to operate a Stop there by next year (although we hope and pray that they will) we have promised both Sylwia and the youngsters that we will be back for at least a couple of evenings sometime during 2024 - please do pray that that will happen, as the need there at Fulney is HUGE!

I am grateful to Radio Lincolnshire and in particular to DJ Ross Carrick, for inviting me onto his Sunday morning show on two consecutive weeks recently to talk about roadHoG and our passion for working with young people and in particular some of the most disenfranchised youngsters within our area. Ross also graciously allowed me to speak about our desire (calling?) to set up a roadHoG Project in Lincoln. To date we have had a huge amount of interest from Churches and other groups within the City and most of the people we have spoken to have agreed that there is a huge need for roadHoG there, but sadly volunteers have been few and far between. Please pray that if this is of God's will, that He would touch the hearts of His people in Lincoln and that the Bus that we have already purchased to use there would soon be put to good use.

My thanks once again to all of you who continue to pray for roadHoG - without you we wouldn't be able to do anything - thank you!

Blessings,

roadHOG

the House of God on the road



	<u>STOP</u>	<u>Arrive</u>	<u>START</u>	<u>Depart</u>	<u>STOP</u>	<u>Arrive</u>	<u>START</u>	<u>Depart</u>
Sun 1st Oct	Sibsey	1:30p m	2:00p m	3:30p m	Kirton	3:40p m	4:00p m	5:30p m
Mon 2nd Oct	Woad Farm	7:00p m	7:30p m	9:00p m				
Tue 3rd Oct	High Street	6:30p m	7:00p m	8:30p m				
Wed 4th Oct	Fishtoft	7:00p m	7:30p m	9:00p m				
Thur 5th Oct	Swineshead	7:00p m	7:30p m	9:00p m				
Fri 6th Oct		No Stop						
Sat 7th Oct		No Stop						
Sun 8th Oct		No Stop						
Mon 9th Oct	Tunnard St	7:00p m	7:30p m	9:00p m				
Tue 10th Oct		<u>New Team Members Training Session from 7:30pm at Boston Baptist Church</u>						
Wed 11th Oct	Fenside	7:00p m	7:30p m	9:00p m				
Thur 12th Oct	Butterwick	7:00p m	7:30p m	9:00p m				
Fri 13th Oct		No Stop						
Sat 14th Oct		No Stop						
Sun 15th Oct	Sibsey	1:30p m	2:00p m	3:30p m	Kirton	3:40p m	4:00p m	5:30p m
Mon 16th Oct	Woad Farm	7:00p m	7:30p m	9:00p m				
Tue 17th Oct	High Street	6:30p m	7:00p m	8:30p m				
Wed 18th Oct	Fishtoft	7:00p m	7:30p m	9:00p m				
Thur 19th Oct	Swineshead	7:00p m	7:30p m	9:00p m				
Fri 20th Oct		No Stop						
Sat 21st Oct		No Stop						
Sun 22nd Oct		No Stop						
Mon 23rd Oct	Tunnard St	7:00p m	7:30p m	9:00p m				

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<u>New Team Members Training Session from 7:30pm at Boston Baptist Church</u>							
Tue 24th Oct							
Wed 25th Oct	Fenside	7:00p m	7:30p m	9:00p m			
Thur 26th Oct	Butterwick	7:00p m	7:30p m	9:00p m			
Fri 27th Oct		No Stop					
Sat 28th Oct		No Stop					
Sun 29th Oct	Sibsey	1:30p m	2:00p m	3:30p m	Kirton	3:40p m	4:00p m
Mon 30th Oct	Woad Farm	7:00p m	7:30p m	9:00p m			
Tue 3rd Oct	High Street	6:30p m	7:00p m	8:30p m			

RoadHoG October Diary:

You'll note that during October, we have Training Sessions planned for those who wish to join the Project as a Team Member - or who just want to learn more about what we do. Please feel free to join us for both of those sessions - Tuesday 10th and Tuesday 24th October at Boston Baptist Church from 7:30pm.