

# The Bernwode Community Bus

2023 update



# Highlights

- Launched in 2018 in Waddesdon
- Originally a 16 seater Mercedes sprinter with a tail lift and the ability to take two wheelchairs
- With the primary objective to serve the old peoples groups in Waddesdon and Quainton
- Has gone from strength to strength
- Charitable status
- More usage and more variety in booked runs
- More Vehicles



## Merging with Bart

- In 2020, we merged with BART, Buckingham area rural transport to offer two buses and a wider coverage area
- So we now cover from buckingham in the north to Haddenham and Princes Risborough in the south
- The new bernie is a 16 seater peugeot boxer minibus with a side door and loads of room inside for a variety of uses
- Bart has a 13 seater peugeot boxer minibus which is kitted to a high standard with a low user step, tail lift and a multitude of handrails making it ideal for the elderly



## The Fleet - “ Bernie the Bus “

- A 16 Seater Peugeot Minibus
- Easy Access for the side door
- Can be driven on a standard car licence
- Plenty of space for luggage
- Based in Waddesdon
- Available with or without a driver



## The Fleet - “ Bart “

- 13 Seater peugeot minibus
- With a Taillift
- Ability to take a wheelchair
- Low level side step
- Ideal for elderly groups
- Space for luggage
- Based in Buckingham
- Available with or without a driver



## The Fleet - “ Bella “

- The newest member of the fleet
- A 16 seater Citroen minibus
- With overhead lockers
- Ideal for kids trips
- Based in Waddesdon
- Available with or without a driver



## The Fleet - “ Bernadette “

- Wheelchair friendly car
- Can be hired with or without a driver
- Can take 3 passengers plus a driver plus a wheelchair
- Available with or without a driver
- Based In Buckingham



# Bookings - What we do?

We cater to the following local groups

- Elderly day centres
- Sport clubs
- Wi
- Friendship groups
- Brownies
- Weddings
- Parties and celebrations
- And loads of other opportunities.....





# Bernie's Food Appeal



## During Covid

- During covid, Bernie and his team were key in supporting the work of the food banks by collecting across the Aylesbury Vale
- This process ran for close to 10 months and we collected over 2000 crates of food via a regular schedule
- We played music and collected in fancy dress to raise the mood at this difficult time
- We were also helping with the redistribution of government food boxes
- Bernie has become key in helping people gain access to food



## Post Covid and the cost of living crisis

- Following covid, food sustainability has become a key issue as the country is locked in a cost of living crisis
- Bernie continues to collect on a monthly basis from 26 drop off points across the area.
- We regularly collect half a tonne of food each month which has become invaluable to the work of the food banks in Aylesbury and the surrounding area.



***Souper January!***  
Help us fill the foodbank's shelves with soup this month.  
Every month the foodbank uses approximately 840 tins of soup!

at  
STOREHOUSE

# The 5000 Can Challenge

- As a result of a grant from the Haddenham & Waddesdon Community board we were able to launch the 5000 Can Challenge in October to December 2022.
- Simply put, We set a target of collecting 5000 cans of food before christmas through our existing network as well as new opportunities.
- 9 Schools, 3 pubs, 2 gyms and several one of events all contributed to smashing the target and achieving an end of year total of 8293 cans collected

**THE BERNWODE COMMUNITY BUS PRESENTS**

## The 5000 Can Challenge

**DONATE**

For more info call Ashley on 07977 401548 or check [facebook](#)

**THE NEXT EVENT IS**

**GIVE A LITTLE TO HELP SO MANY TO HELP THE FOODBANKS WITH THE COST OF LIVING CRISIS**

**WE NEED YOUR HELP**

BERNIE THE BUS IS HOPING TO COLLECT 5000 CANS OF FOOD BETWEEN NOW AND THE END OF THE YEAR AND WE ARE ASKING SCHOOLS TO HELP. THE CANS WILL BE DONATED TO HELP FOODBANKS WITH THE COST OF LIVING CRISIS.

AT OUR NEXT SCHOOL EVENT WE WILL BE ASKING YOU TO DONATE A CAN AS YOU ARRIVE TO ENJOY THE OCCASION. YOU CAN, OF COURSE, DONATE AT ANY POINT AS WELL.

ANY ORGANISATION TAKING PART WILL RECIEVE A UNIQUE BERNIE CERIFICATE AND PHOTO. WE ARE VERY KEEN TO TALK TO ANY SCHOOL OR EVENT ORGANISER WHO WISHES TO GET INVOLVED.

# Bernie's Eco Warriors





# Bernie's Eco Warriors

- Bernie has constantly been working with a number of local schools and litter picking groups in order to keep our local area clean and tidy
- We provide transport services to ensure that volunteers can be transported safely to an area in order to litter pick
- We have also helped to get rid of the bags afterwards



# Bernie's Buddies



## What is bernies buddies

A social group of residents who use Bernie for trips to garden centres and local markets

Bernie has become vital in reducing social isolation

With some grant funding we were also able to offer trips with a meal including our famous oxford mystery tour



Bernie at Christmas



## Bernie at Christmas

- Again with help from the Community board we were able to take the Bernie Santa Float to four villages in the Waddesdon Area.
- We collected food to help with the 5000 Can Challenge and
- Cash donations totalled in excess of £1200 which will be used to fund some Bernie's Buddies trips to help with social isolation at this difficult time



## Our fleet in action



## Volunteer Drivers - Needed

- We need local people with local knowledge
- Happy to drive a big vehicle
- Physically fit
- Good Customer service skills
- Full Training available
- Drive as much or as little as you like
- Range of Shifts available

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!**

Drivers needed for our wonderful fleet of vehicles based at our transport hubs in Waddesdon and Buckingham!

Choice of driving short or longer trips

Daytime, evening & weekend shifts available

Full training and driver induction available

Driver expenses paid (subject to trip)

Just a car license needed

Drive as much or as little as you like

Meet new people, see new places!

Help communities stay connected!

Contact Ashley for more information

 07977401548  @bernwodebus



# The Future - What do we need? - Buckingham

- Help to publicise the service and what is available
  - Groups, organisations and businesses
  - Individuals
  - Stakeholders
- Social Media help
- Newsletters
- Driver and volunteer recruitment
- Launch of Buckingham Bernie's Buddies
- Official LAUNCH DATE for BUCKINGHAM will be the Pancake day race on Friday 17th
  - Bart and Bernadette will be in attendance
  - Discuss your needs and requirements



# The Future - What do we need? - Haddenham & Waddesdon Community Board

- Help to publicise the service and what is available
  - Individuals
  - Groups
- Food Bank Appeal
  - Increase the network with more boxes in more areas
  - Help with comms to increase the donations
- Driver and volunteer recruitment
  - To cover the increase in vehicles and trips
- Launch of Additional Bernie's Buddies Group
  - Capacity for additional groups as required

