

# Brighton Buswatch

Working in partnership with Bus Users, the national charity representing bus passengers.



Photo courtesy of Nash Travelman

## Mar/Apr 2024

### 701

It was announced in early April that new route 701 will start on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> May 2024, operated by Stagecoach East Sussex.

Running hourly Monday to Saturday between Brighton and Eastbourne, the route will serve Brighton and Sussex Universities and running through Newhaven, Seaford and Eastbourne. The route will start and terminate at Brighton Old Steine.

### Electric

A joint ZEBRA bid has been successful and 16 new fully electric buses will join the Brighton & Hove fleet for route 7.

A demonstrator bus (Enviro400EV) was used recently, running out of service on route 7, to test suitability.

## **North Street closed**

On Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> April 2024, North Street was closed due to structural concerns at Boots. Initially overseen by Police and Fire service, Highways and the building owners dealt with the matter until Friday 12<sup>th</sup> April.

More than ten routes were amended to terminate at Old Steine or Sea Life centre instead of Brighton Station, Imperial Arcade or Old Steine. Others were diverted via West Street, Preston Street and North Road. Scaffolding has been erected whilst repairs are carried out.

## **1X**

News has reached Brighton Buswatch of new route 1X, running between Brighton Marina and Mile Oak.

Six new MMC buses, a follow on order from the 38 new coaster buses is understood to be intended for this service.

## **Service increase**

Service increases have taken place on the following routes:

Route 7 – from 7 to 6 minutes (10 to 8 mins. Sunday)

Route 49 – from 10-12 to 10 minutes (& extra buses Sunday)

These took place from Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> April 2024.

Other changes are taking place on route 5/5A/5B, 11X/13X, 23, 25/N25, 55, 77/78/79, CSS (City Sightseeing) & ESS (Eastbourne Sightseeing).

## coasters arrived

All 38 of the new MMC (Major Model Change) buses have started running on the rebranded 'coaster' routes based from Newhaven depot.

Feedback about the buses has been overall positive. These range include seats, accommodation of wheelchairs and overall feel. Some negative points have been lack of grab rails and less headroom upstairs. The on-board information system has been temperamental.

All buses are named as follows:

701 - Douglas Reeve	720 - Ben Perkins
702 - Peggy Ramsey **	721 - Henry Allingham **
703 - Mike Barrett	722 - Sir Arthur Pearson
704 - Jonathan Darby *	723 - Molly Paley
705 - Trizah Garwood *	724 - Muriel Hart
706- Ian Gow *	725 - Eleanor Marx
707 - Richard Jones *	726 - John & Jennifer Nicks **
708 - Edith Nesbit *	727 - Ida Lupino
709 - Don Partridge *	728 - John Langridge
710 - Eric Ravilious *	729 - George Tongue
711 - Ralph Reader *	730 - Ian Steedman
712 - Eric Slater *	731 - Dudley Button
713 - Rev. Alfred Evens *	732 - Maud Bond
714 - Dame Gracie Fields *	733 - Elise & Doris Waters
715 - James Hurdis *	734 - Leonard Goldman
716 - William Friese-Greene **	735 - Stephen Barnwell
717 - Leonard Woolf	736 - Disco Pete
718 - Ned Hoskins	737 - Raymond Briggs
719 - Angela Thirkell **	738 - Laura Bayley

\*- Names carried from previous Coaster Streetdeck buses.

\*\*-. Names formally carried on other buses

Ian Steedman (730) is becoming the show bus having been used at the South East Bus Festival. This bus is named after 'Mr Sussex'.

A further six buses are named as follows:

739 - Ann Norman

740 - Annie Nightingale

741 - Graham Oulton

742 - Bishop James Hannington

743 - George Ginn

744- Sue Addis

## Passenger feedback down

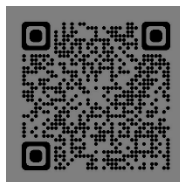
The latest results for the Transport Focus Passengers survey rated Brighton and Hove 19 out of 34 in the table for passenger satisfaction. Not dismissed by all parties concerned, factors such as the Albion hotel fire and route 6 and 48 reliability due to a driver shortage are believed to have contributed to this decline. It does however show a great interest in improvements to buses in the city.

## Brighton Buswatch meeting

The next public meeting with Brighton & Hove City Council and bus company managers will be on: Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> July 2024, at 16.30 in rooms 2 & 3, Brighton Town Hall.

Space is limited so please e-mail Buswatch or message via Brighton Buswatch new Facebook group at the address below if you would like to attend or raise an issue.

### Find us on Facebook



Buswatch Newsletter is produced and edited by Brighton Area Buswatch.

Contributions and suggestions are always welcome.

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