



**Proudly supporting bus users in
Brighton, Hove and the
surrounding areas**

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September 2025

3X launched:

New route 3X was launched on Sunday 28th September. Running limited stop between Hardwick Road, Hangleton and Sussex/Brighton Universities, Falmer. The route opens up faster and very different connections across the city and will be the first route to cross the city, without serving North Street. The route also takes advantage of Trafalgar Street and Clarendon Road. Introduced in partnership with Brighton & Hove City Council, as part of their BSIP (Bus Service Improvement Plan), the service operates every 15 minutes during the day and every 30 minutes on Sundays. Buswatch has observed some great feedback on the route, but some operational difficulties due to the larger buses, on narrow roads. Buswatch will observe the service with great interest.



Photo courtesy of Nash Travelman

University routes changed:

Service 23: Route 23 has been extended from Sussex University to Cowley Drive Shops, providing a much requested link between the University and Woodingdean. The route now runs on a standard 30 minutes frequency- Monday to Saturdays (every 60 minutes on Sundays). A pair of journeys are diverted via Whitehawk, to provide a useful link for school pupils.

It is all change at the Universities: The service 25 has been extended to serve Northfield Crescent, but removes the Brighton University section, at Falmer. Instead, some service 5B's, the new 25X and 3X serve Brighton University's Falmer campus. This reintroduced route 25X, runs on Mondays to Fridays- every 30 minutes, serving Sussex House (at Sussex Uni), and calling at selected stops including Melbourne Street; but misses the main Brighton University Moulsecoomb campus, leaving the new 3X alone, to link the two sites.

Strike action averted!

Brighton & Hove Buses and Metrobus bus drivers were set to strike, having voted against a 3.5 per cent pay rise. The ballot taken in September of more than 1,200 members of the Unite union heralded a 90% yes vote (around 80-85% of the workforce). **Stop press: On the 1st October, union members have agreed to a pay deal, as a positive step forward, so has called off strike action planned for the 6th October and 15th October.**

Catch The Bus Month!

September was Catch the bus Month. Launched by Bus Users UK. The idea this year was to simply catch the bus. Nash gave himself the simple task of catching at least one bus every day, for 30 days. Highlights included trying out London's new 'Bakerloop' route BL1, a trip to Crawley Bus Depot and a trip through Norfolk.

54 takeover: On Sunday 21st September, alongside changes to Stagecoach Eastbourne services, route 54 (Eastbourne – Uckfield) was taken over by Brighton & Hove Buses. Three former ‘Regency’ buses are used for the route.

Compass buses delivered: All eleven of the new Compass CityBuzz buses have been brought into use for routes 16, 37/37B, 47 & 52. All buses feature CityBuzz branding included honeycomb seat moquette and updated information systems for passengers (this includes one for a wheelchair space user). Following news of a new development at the Marine Gate Gasworks site, it is expected that Compass Travel will need to relocate.

Clock Tower reopens: The Clock Tower southbound bus stop in Queens Road, has been brought back into service, following the removal of the scaffolding, at the Boots store. Information displays were provided at the Portland Street bus stop, to redirect intending passengers for the Coaster, 7, 47, 52 and Sightseeing services, back to Clock Tower bus stop.

Old Steine progresses: As part of the next phase of Valley Gardens 3, emphasis will move to the west of the Steine; with new pedestrian crossings provided at Edward St and St James’s Street underway. From the Sunday 28th, all westbound buses will continue around the Old Steine and stop on the south-west side (at stops T and U), instead of stop X. A new bus stop, on the site of the former Old Steine southbound stop ‘H’ is being used as a set-down only point, for route 25, 25X and Breeze routes 78 & 79. However, some confusion remains, as some intending passengers think former bus stop ‘H’ has reopened.

London to Brighton ‘mayhem’: The London to Brighton bike ride once again brought about changes along the Lewes Road corridor and around Old Steine. Due to the delays incurred on the seafront, buses on Coastal routes were terminating at the Law Courts. Due to lack of real time information screens at Brighton Station and North Street, many passengers were left stranded, requiring intervention from the public to find their services. Other observations were made at the Hollingbury end. These issues will be picked up at our October meeting.

Website: A number of Real Time Information signs were out of action, so our website has helpfully provided a link to Real time information screens on the bus company’s website, under the heading of ‘Real Time Information’. These can be bookmarked on desktop and mobile browser for easy access.

Lewes Road closure: Due to long term roadworks at the Lewes Road bus garage bus stop (southbound), this bus stop has been closed. All routes (including the 3X and Regency routes) will instead serve Melbourne Street. Buses which require a change of driver at the Lewes Road Garage, will be able to set down passengers, but are unable to pick up.

Buswatch meeting: The next Brighton Buswatch meeting takes place on 15th October at 16.00 ground floor, Brighton Town Hall, Bartholomew Rd, Brighton BN1 1JW. Space is normally limited, so please e-mail Buswatch or message via Brighton Buswatch Facebook group, if you would like to attend as a member, guest or raise an issue.

Buswatch Newsletter is produced and edited by Brighton Area Buswatch. Contributions and suggestions are always welcome.

Brighton Area Buswatch 2025