



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

Brightonbuswatch@outlook.com

website: Brightonbuswatch.org

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November 2025

Christmas is coming!

Christmas services have just been announced by Brighton & Hove and Metrobus for 2025. As per usual, buses will finish early on Christmas Eve (approximately 2200) on a Saturday service.

Christmas Day sees services on routes 1, 5B, 7, 12, 28 and 49 - operating between 07.00 and 20.00, depending on the route.

Boxing Day sees the return of route 13 to Beachy Head and the 28 extended to Eastbourne once again. Routes 77, 78 and 79 are also running for the Boxing Day stroll. Night buses return in the early hours of Sunday 28th.

A Saturday service is operating on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, with no 78 or 79. New Year's Eve night services are increased, with extra buses laid on for party goers on all routes N1, N5, N7, N12 & N25.



Photo courtesy of Nash Travelman

Compass Travel will operate a normal service up to and including Christmas Eve (but on this day only until 21.00). The service returning from Saturday 27th December to Wednesday 31st December. A Sunday service will run on New Year's Day. Then back to normal from Friday.

Stagecoach will operate a Saturday service on Monday 23rd, Tuesday 24th and Christmas Eve. Again with early finish on the latter. Boxing Day services will operate hourly on services 5, 11, and 701; with 700 running half-hourly from 07.00 to 21.00, at the latest. A Saturday or Sunday service will be in operation on other days, with no service on Christmas or New Year's Day.

Service 28 on Christmas Day

As alluded to above, this year sees route 28 run on Christmas Day for the first time ever. Operating every 40 minutes between Lewes and Brighton, it is the only route to go beyond Moulsecoomb. This is another step in the success of Christmas Day routes. It is useful for workers, friends and families, who would otherwise need taxis to get around.

701 New timetable

A new timetable was brought in on Stagecoach South route 701, on 24th November 2025. The first change since the route's introduction in April. Its aim is to provide better reliability, although some journeys have been removed due to low passenger numbers.

Ed Wills moves on

Managing Director of Brighton & Hove buses & Metrobus Ed Wills moves to sister company Go South Coast at the end of 2025, having been in post since 2021.

Starting in the New Year, he will become Managing Director of Go South Coast; which is based at Poole, in Dorset. Ed has been a fantastic supporter of Buswatch, happy to listen and has helped work through many issues. We wish him well in his new venture.

Interim director

With Ed's departure, Rupert Cox becomes Interim Managing Director from 1st January 2026. Having led at Go-Ahead's East Anglia business, Rupert notes Brighton & Hove buses "strong reputation for putting people first, whether that's our customers or our team". He has over 20 years of experience.

Being interim Managing Director, a search is underway for a permanent replacement. Buswatch looks forwards to working with Rupert.

Award winning

On 25 November 2025, hundreds of industry professionals attended the UK Bus Awards at London's iconic Troxy in Limehouse, near Docklands. Brighton & Hove were worthy winners of three awards: Bronze Award for 'Marketing for Growth' with the success of Route 1X, it gained the Silver Award in the 'Top City Operator' category, and won the Gold Award for 'Recruitment and Retention', following its successful 'Level Up' recruitment drive. This attracted the highest ever proportion of female applicants for the company.

Government reorganization consultation

A new consultation is underway on different proposals to change how local government is structured across Sussex- simplifying council systems. Unlike elsewhere in Sussex, Brighton & Hove City Council is currently a unitary authority, so is responsible for all local services in the city. Four options for creating new unitary councils are available to view on the consultation page, found on the Brighton & Hove City Council's website. The consultation is open until Thursday 11th January. Buswatch are considering their response.

Royal Albion Hotel at risk?

As we go to press, it has been reported that recent documents submitted to Brighton and Hove City Council indicate that a structure, towards ground level is at "at imminent risk of collapse". Aware of the traffic issues after the last closure of the area, Buswatch is monitoring with interest. It is noted that work to remove Aquarium roundabout is due to start during Stage 5, which runs from winter 2025/6 to summer 2026.

Lewes Road reopened

The bus stop at Lewes Road garage has been brought back into use following long term roadworks. Originally scheduled to run until mid-December, we are pleased to see the work completed far sooner. All buses have reverted back to Lewes Road garage stop. Except for the route 25X, which will continue to serve Melbourne Street (as per the timetable). This being the only Limited Stop service to stop here.

Electric bus moves on

Bus 61000, the dark blue electric bus, left Brighton on 4th November heading to the Oxford Bus Company. The bus notable for its look, layout and tip seats for feet at the back- had some great feedback. It will be missed. 29 new electric buses are due next year for routes 5 (group), 6 and 7; as part of a Multi-Million pound investment, supported by the governments ZEBRA 2 funding.

Buswatch meeting

The next Brighton Buswatch meeting takes place on **21st January 2026 at 16.00 – on ground** floor, Brighton Town Hall, Bartholomew Square, 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 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