



Newsletter 38

**Late Winter 2018/2019 /
Christmas**

**Merry Christmas and
a Happy New Year to
all our Members and
friends.**

**From all members of
the BABUS Committee**

**The newsletter of the Bedford Area Bus Users Society, or
BABUS, is now brought to you by SuzyScott.com**

Welcome to BABUS Newsletter 38

BABUS - serving Bedfordshire Bus Users Since 2005

	<p>This BABUS Newsletter is brought to you by Ms Suzy Scott, who can be contacted by post at 2 Wolseley Street, DUNDEE, DD3 7QD. NEW ADDRESS</p> <p>E-mail suzy.scott@babus.org.uk. She is our Communications Officer [on a part-time basis]. We welcome contributions and corrections from everyone, and please note that the next Newsletter deadline shall be Friday 15th March 2019</p> <p>Disclaimer; The views and opinions in this Newsletter are those of the individual writing them, not necessarily BABUS unless stated otherwise. The writer's thoughts are those of the person, and not any other company or group they represent.</p>
	<p>The BABUS Website is also the responsibility of Suzy Scott (see previous row), and you can find us at www.babus.org.uk.</p> <p>To sign up for the Bulletin Board, which is also there, send Suzy an email with your preferred user name, own name, email, and membership status (i.e. committee, regular member or non-member) so we can set you up accordingly.</p>
	<p>We are also on Social Media! Find us on Twitter @BABUSbeds or online at www.twitter.com/BABUSbeds</p> <p>You can also join our Facebook group www.facebook.com/groups/BABUSbeds/</p>
	<p>Our Treasurer and Membership Secretary is Mr Simon Norton who you can contact by post at 6 Hertford Street, CAMBRIDGE, CB4 3AG or by email to simon.norton@babus.org.uk. Simon can deal with Changes of Address, Change from Paper to Digital newsletter (or vice-versa,) Membership Renewals and queries on Payments, and Accounts Payable.</p>
	<p>For everything else, contact our lovely Secretary, Miss Frances Horwood, BABUS Secretary, 34 Rectory Orchard, Lavendon, OLNEY, MK46 4HB, or by e-mail to frances.horwood@babus.org.uk. To contact us by telephone, call 0871 218 2287 (BBUS). Leave a message, and we will return your call. We legally need to tell you this costs 12p per minute, plus your Network Operator's Access Charges.</p> <p>Fax us on the same cost basis – 0871 218 3293.</p>

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Who Are We?

BABUS – or Bedford Area Bus Users Society in full – are a voluntary Bus User Group. Our aims are threefold;

- to represent the interests of bus users who either live, work or travel through the Bedford area
- to encourage people to use buses
- to act as a focal point between bus users, bus companies and local authorities

BABUS has an interest in all bus services operating in Bedford Borough, and most of Central Bedfordshire. BABUS is affiliated to Bus Users UK, the national watchdog for bus passengers, and liaises with several other groups which have areas bordering our own.

Members receive a Newsletter, usually every quarter, to keep you informed of our activities. If you have access to the Internet, either at home or at a library, café etc. you will be able to access our website, **www.babus.org.uk** This includes Members Area access to our Bulletin Board, which keeps you updated between Newsletters.

If you are not already a member, why not join us? Send a Cheque/Postal Order (payable to BABUS) for £5 (Individual/Family) or £12 (Group/Corporate) to Simon Norton, **6 Hertford Street, CAMBRIDGE, CB4 3AG**, or join online at **www.babus.org.uk**

Summary Report of Joint Liaison Meeting held on November 19th 2018

By Frances Horwood

This meeting was attended by representatives of Bedford Borough and Central Bedfordshire Councils and Stagecoach. Unfortunately, nobody from Uno was able to attend.

There were to be a number of changes to timetables in the Bedford area from December 30th. These would affect Stagecoach Services 2, 42, 9, 71, 72, 73, 51, 53, 91 and X5. (The new timetables were printed in the previous newsletter.) Service 50 would have minor timing changes from January 6th.

In Central Bedfordshire, there were slight changes to Services 85 and 85A. Some more changes would be made to fit in with trains, when new train timetables began. Central Bedfordshire were to install more Real-Time Information screens in Biggleswade and upgrade kerbs at bus stops in various locations.

The closure of Bromham Road bridge in Bedford was on the agenda but no update was available. Our Chairman suggested that it might be a good idea to remodel the junction of Bromham Road with Ashburnham Road and Shakespeare Road before the bridge closure took place, to make it easier for large vehicles to get round. (Since the meeting, notices have been placed in Bedford Bus Station, stating that a diversion will be in force from January 2019).

BABUS has been kept informed of the progress of plans for an Interchange at Flitwick Railway Station. We were told that the plans had been redesigned and

were not yet ready to be shown to stakeholders. There would be a meeting with bus operators when the plans were ready and representatives of BABUS would be able to attend this meeting.

We raised the availability of printed timetables again as we realise that many people rely on these, rather than finding bus information online. We were pleased to learn that Stagecoach are getting timetables printed. It still is not very easy to obtain timetables in Bedford Town Centre; If Stagecoach timetables could be available somewhere in the Bus Station, this would be ideal. The opening of a Visitor Information Centre in St. Paul's Church was welcomed; although the opening times are limited, it is a convenient location, being close to bus stops, shops and the market. It was hoped that timetables could be stocked there.

We had heard that coaches on the X5 were frequently replaced by double-decker buses. The Stagecoach representative explained that the reason was not that coaches had broken down but that each coach in turn was going back to Volvo for warranty work: the company was short of a vehicle for a week each time.

A date for the next Joint Liaison Meeting has not yet been set.

Summary report of Grant Palmer
Liaison Meeting of November 21st
2018

By Frances Horwood

There had not been many timetable changes since our last meeting. Services 11 and 24 had been altered to fit in with a new Thameslink timetable and there were other changes to the No.24, to fit in with the No.74. Service CX on the Busway was operating a Sunday service to the White Lion until Christmas, for the benefit of Amazon employees.

It is a pity that there is no longer a connection at Toddington for people wishing to travel between Bedford and Dunstable; the two routes having different operators, their timetables do not permit a reliable connection, since the buses do not wait for each other and tend to just miss one another. There are two Grant Palmer through services daily, enabling students to travel to Bedford College.

A matter which BABUS often raises at liaison meetings is the availability of printed timetables. Bus users who do not have access to a computer or are unable to use one, rely on timetable leaflets for bus information. Grant Palmer is very good in this respect, with attractively-produced timetables available both in various outlets locally and on buses. It is very pleasing that the company has been able to place timetables in the Mobility Hub at Bedford Bus Station, the most convenient location for people to obtain them. If anyone has difficulty in obtaining a particular timetable, this can be posted to you, if you telephone the company, and large-print versions are available on request. It is hoped that the company's leaflets will be a means of

publicising new routes, such as between Ampthill and Kempston on the No.68, and inspire more people to use the buses.

The company regularly replaces older vehicles with brand-new ones. Buses are gradually being resprayed in the (very attractive) new livery. It was announced that there would be opportunities to travel on the company's Routemaster bus in the near future and there were plans to use it for trips next summer.

The next Grant Palmer Liaison Meeting will be held in March.

BABUS 2019 Calendar

Calendar for Year 2019 (United Kingdom)

January

	M	T	W	T	F	S	S
01		1	2	3	4	5	6
02	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
03	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
04	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
05	28	29	30	31			

●: 6 ○: 14 ○: 21 ●: 27

February

	M	T	W	T	F	S	S
05					1	2	3
06	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
07	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
08	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
09	25	26	27	28			

●: 4 ○: 12 ○: 19 ●: 26

May

	M	T	W	T	F	S	S
18			1	2	3	4	5
19	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
20	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
21	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
22	27	28	29	30	31		

●: 4 ○: 12 ○: 18 ●: 26

June

	M	T	W	T	F	S	S
22						1	2
23	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
24	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
25	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
26	24	25	26	27	28	29	30

●: 3 ○: 10 ○: 17 ●: 25

September

	M	T	W	T	F	S	S
35							1
36	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
37	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
38	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
39	23	24	25	26	27	28	29
40	30						

●: 6 ○: 14 ●: 22 ●: 28

October

	M	T	W	T	F	S	S
40		1	2	3	4	5	6
41	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
42	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
43	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
44	28	29	30	31			

●: 5 ○: 13 ●: 21 ●: 28

1 Jan **New Year's Day**
2 Jan **2nd January (Scotland)**
17 Mar St Patrick's Day (Northern Ireland)
18 Mar 'St Patrick's Day' day off (Northern Ireland)

19 Apr **Good Friday**
22 Apr **Easter Monday (ENG, NIR, WAL)**
6 May **Early May Bank Holiday**
27 May **Spring Bank Holiday**
12 Jul **Battle of the Boyne (Northern Ireland)**

March

	M	T	W	T	F	S	S
09					1	2	3
10	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
12	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
13	25	26	27	28	29	30	31

●: 6 ○: 14 ○: 21 ○: 28

April

	M	T	W	T	F	S	S
14	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
15	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
16	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
17	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
18	29	30					

●: 5 ○: 12 ○: 19 ○: 26

July

	M	T	W	T	F	S	S
27	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
28	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
29	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
30	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
31	29	30	31				

●: 2 ○: 9 ○: 16 ○: 25

August

	M	T	W	T	F	S	S
31				1	2	3	4
32	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
33	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
34	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
35	26	27	28	29	30	31	

●: 1 ○: 7 ○: 15 ○: 23 ●: 30

November

	M	T	W	T	F	S	S
44					1	2	3
45	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
46	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
47	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
48	25	26	27	28	29	30	

○: 4 ○: 12 ○: 19 ●: 26

December

	M	T	W	T	F	S	S
48							1
49	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
50	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
51	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
52	23	24	25	26	27	28	29
01	30	31					

○: 4 ○: 12 ○: 19 ●: 26

5 Aug Summer Bank Holiday (Scotland)
 26 Aug Summer Bank Holiday (ENG, NIR, WAL)
 30 Nov St Andrew's Day (Scotland)
 2 Dec 'St Andrew's Day' observed (Scotland)

25 Dec Christmas Day
 26 Dec Boxing Day



Bedford Borough Christmas & New Year Bus Service Variations 2018/19

Sunday 23rd December 2018

Normal Sunday service.

Monday 24th December 2018 (Christmas Eve)

Normal Monday service from Grant Palmer and Uno with an early finish. Stagecoach will operate a Saturday service with an early finish. Villager VL13 will not operate. Last buses operate as follows:

Stagecoach 1: 2000 Bedford to Kempston; 2015 Kempston to Bedford
Stagecoach 2: 1944 Bedford to Elstow Park & Ride; 1959 Elstow P&R to Bedford
Stagecoach 4: 2000 Bedford to Goldington Tesco; 2015 Goldington Tesco to Bedford
Stagecoach 5: 2001 Bedford to Elms Farm; 2030 Elms Farm to Bedford
Stagecoach 6: 1941 Bedford to Brickhill; 2011 Brickhill to Bedford
Stagecoach 7: 2030 Bedford to Woodside; 2050 Woodside to Bedford
Stagecoach 8: 2017 Bedford to Great Denham; 2034 Great Denham to Bedford
Stagecoach 9: 2015 Bedford to Shortstown; 2035 Shortstown to Bedford
Stagecoach 81: 1930 Bedford to Luton; 2035 Luton to Bedford
Stagecoach X5: 1800 Bedford to Oxford; 2000 Bedford to MK; 2030 Oxford to Bedford
1856 Bedford to Cambridge; 2030 Cambridge to Bedford
Uno C1: 1750 Bedford to Milton Keynes; 1900 Bedford to Cranfield
Uno C10: 1815 Bedford to Cranfield; 1830 Milton Keynes to Bedford.

Tuesday 25th December 2018 (Christmas Day)

No service.

Wednesday 26th December 2018 (Boxing Day)

No service.

Thursday 27th December 2018

Saturday service. Villager VL5, Ivel Sprinter 112 and 193 will not operate. Road Runner E and F will operate normally.

Friday 28th December 2018

Saturday service.



Bedford Borough Christmas & New Year Bus Service Variations 2018/19

Saturday 29th December 2018

Normal Saturday service.

Sunday 30th December 2018

Normal Sunday service. Please note that many services commence new timetables - please check the Bedford Borough Council website for further details.

Monday 31st December 2018 (New Year's Eve)

Saturday service with an early finish. Last buses operate as follows:

Stagecoach 1: 2000 Bedford to Kempston; 2015 Kempston to Bedford
Stagecoach 2: 1944 Bedford to Elstow Park & Ride; 1920 Flitwick to Bedford (via P&R)
Stagecoach 4: 2000 Bedford to Goldington Tesco; 2015 Goldington Tesco to Bedford
Stagecoach 5: 2001 Bedford to Elms Farm; 2030 Elms Farm to Bedford
Stagecoach 6: 1941 Bedford to Brickhill; 2011 Brickhill to Bedford
Stagecoach 7: 2030 Bedford to Woodside; 2050 Woodside to Bedford
Stagecoach 8: 2017 Bedford to Great Denham; 2034 Great Denham to Bedford
Stagecoach 9/A/B: 1840 Bedford to Hitchin; 1951 Hitchin to Bedford; 2015 Bedford to Shortstown
Stagecoach 81: 1930 Bedford to Luton; 2040 Luton to Bedford
Stagecoach X5: 1800 Bedford to Oxford; 2010 Bedford to MK; 2040 Oxford to Bedford
 1856 Bedford to Cambridge; 2045 Cambridge to Bedford
Uno C1: 1900 Bedford to Cranfield
Uno C11: 1802 Bedford to Milton Keynes; 1835 Milton Keynes to Bedford.

Tuesday 1st January 2019 (New Year's Day)

Uno will operate a Sunday timetable on services C1/C11. No service from other operators.

Wednesday 2nd January 2019

Normal service resumes.

Central Bedfordshire Council area					
Christmas and new year bus timetable					
	Arriva	Arriva exceptions	Centrebuses	Centrebuses exceptions	
Christmas Eve 24 December	Saturday service 7pm finish	31 and Busway services until 11pm	Saturday service 7pm finish	40/40a 85/85a 96/96a 188/190 operating normal timetable	
Christmas Day 25 December	No service		No service		
Boxing Day 26 December	Sunday service (start 8am)	31, A and Z only	No Service		
27th December	Saturday service		Saturday Service	40/40a 85/85a 96/96a 188/190 operating normal timetable	
		Saturday service	40/40a 85/85a 96/96a 188/190 operating normal timetable	Saturday service	
28th December	Saturday service		Saturday service	40/40a 85/85a 96/96a 188/190 operating normal timetable	
29th December	Saturday service		Saturday service		
30th December	Sunday service		Sunday service		
New Year's Eve 31 December	Saturday service 7pm finish	31 and Busway services until 11pm	Saturday service	40/40a 85/85a 96/96a 188/190 operating normal timetable	
New Year's Day	Sunday service (start 8am)	31, A and Z only	No service		

Grant Palmer	Grant Palmer exceptions	South Beds DAR	South Beds DAR exceptions	UNO	UNO exceptions
Saturday service	36/36a 42 44 78 200 operating normal timetable	43 47 74 232 special Christmas timetable		Normal service, 7:30pm finish	C1 Bedford 5:50pm to Milton Keynes
					C1 Bedford 7pm to Cranfield University
					C10 Bedford 6:50pm to Cranfield University
					C1 Milton Keynes 7:01pm to Cranfield University
No service		No service		No service	
No service		No service		No service	
Saturday service		43 47 74 232 special Christmas timetable		Saturday service 7:30pm finish	C11 Bedford 6:11pm to Milton Keynes
					C1 Bedford 7pm to Cranfield
					C11 Milton Keynes 6:35pm to Bedford
	43 47 74 232 special Christmas timetable		Saturday service		
Saturday service		43 47 74 232 special Christmas timetable		Saturday service	
Saturday service		Saturday service		Saturday service	
No service		No service		Sunday service	
Saturday service		43 47 74 232 special Christmas timetable		Saturday service 7:30pm finish	C11 Bedford 6:11pm to Milton Keynes
					C1 Bedford 7pm to Cranfield
					C11 Milton Keynes 6:35pm to Bedford
No service		No service		Sunday service	

The group for anyone who uses the bus... whichever bus you use...



If you'd like to become part of a group with a proven track record in helping as well as lobbying, across Bedford Borough and parts of Central Beds, then we'd love to hear from you! You can find our brochures in many libraries and information points around Bedfordshire. Alternatively, please call 0871 228 2287 anytime, 24 hours a day. Leave a message with your name and address, and tell us where you saw this advert, and we'll send you a brochure, and copy of our most recent Newsletter. Or, email **2018advert@babus.org.uk** or visit our website at **www.babus.org.uk**



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