



[cuckmerebuses.org.uk](http://cuckmerebuses.org.uk)

## PRESS RELEASE

### Cuckmere Buses Return

Cuckmere Buses (CCB) plans to resume all services to their pre-COVID timetables from the 12 April, subject to any late change in Government advice or guidance. CCB is a charity and operates a fleet of minibuses from its base in Berwick serving communities not served by the big bus companies. It takes people in the rural areas around the Cuckmere Valley to their nearest towns for shopping, appointments, or for pleasure. It also operates Town Bus services in Hailsham & Seaford. Although CCB did not operate any services during April or May 2020 owing to the initial lockdown, it has been running limited services since June to provide at least one weekly service on all its timetabled routes.

Philip Ayers, Managing Director, says “We’ve missed our passengers and I know they’ve missed us; we’re looking forward to seeing them all again. Along with our fully trained volunteer drivers, we are pleased to be returning to full service to help the local and rural communities. Social distancing will need to continue so unfortunately buses will only be able to accommodate up to 10 passengers.” John Bunce, Operations Director, added “Enhanced cleaning of the buses will continue, this includes regular anti-viral protection spray and sanitising high-risk touch areas between trips. Hand sanitiser is provided for passenger use and face coverings will still be needed, unless exempt.”

Cuckmere Buses operates like an ordinary bus company, but with smaller vehicles. They do not compete with the commercial organisations. As a charity they have relied on and appreciate the ongoing financial support the industry has received from central and local government during the pandemic, and the support from local Town and Parish Councils. Full details of all services are available on the company website [cuckmerebuses.org.uk](http://cuckmerebuses.org.uk). Concessionary passes are accepted on all CCB services.



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Winners of **The Queen’s Award for Voluntary Service**

Cuckmere Community Bus Ltd. is a Charity and a Company registered in England and Wales.

Charity Registration No: 1120494 Company Registration No: 6032000.

Registered Office: The Old Rectory, Litlington, POLEGATE, East Sussex, BN26 5RB. VAT Reg. No. 351.1070.06

**Chairman: Mrs Beryl Smith    Managing Director: Mr Philip Ayers    Secretary: Mrs Susan de Angeli**

## Note for editors:

- Cuckmere Buses, the trading name for Cuckmere Community Bus (CCB), is an independent charity run entirely by trained volunteers. It was launched in 1976 to supplement existing bus services and provide bus links for village residents to their nearest towns throughout the Cuckmere Valley area
- based in Berwick, East Sussex, CCB have around 45 volunteer drivers and 10 additional volunteers who run its fleet of eight low-floor mini buses, providing an important link with shops, doctors' surgeries and social facilities for those who do not live on a main bus route, as well as operating leisure services through the South Downs National Park
- timetabled bus services are operated 7 days a week, 363 days a year, including New Year's Day and Bank Holidays, but not Christmas Day and Boxing Day. They also operate Private Hire and Special Event services (both suspended during the pandemic)
- CCB is a busy voluntary organisation and always needs new volunteers. They attend the Hailsham Farmers Market every second Saturday morning of each month, where potential drivers can try driving a bus and talk to an existing volunteer (suspended during the pandemic)
- in a 'normal' year, the company undertakes around 85,000 passenger journeys and the buses travel some 125,000 miles
- CCB has been awarded the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service, the MBE for volunteer groups, which is awarded for outstanding work undertaken in their local communities
- CCB has also been awarded the Community Transport Association's prestigious Quality Mark confirming that they are operating within the relevant legislation and best practice within the voluntary sector

For further information on this Release, please contact: Stewart Fuller, Finance Director, Cuckmere Buses, telephone 01323 423710 or email [stewart@cuckmerebuses.org.uk](mailto:stewart@cuckmerebuses.org.uk)



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