



Kent Showground, near Maidstone, Kent ▪ Saturday 6th April 2024
**Bringing together buses and coaches, old and new,
from across the South East and beyond**

**The twelfth in a series of popular annual bus events at Kent Showground
brought to you by the same organising team since 2011.**

18th January 2024

**SOUTH EAST BUS FESTIVAL CONNECTING BUS TO BE PROVIDED FROM
THE MEDWAY TOWNS AND MAIDSTONE**

With this year's South East Bus Festival at Kent Showground on Saturday 6th April fast approaching, the organisers are delighted that Nu-Venture Coaches will be running a feeder service to the event from the Medway Towns and Maidstone.

Service X21 will start from Rochester Station at 09.30am and will call at Chatham Waterfront Bus Station, Davis Estate, Maidstone East Station and Maidstone Town Centre on the way, arriving at the showground at 10.30am.

A second journey will run from Maidstone East Station at 12.05pm, running via the town centre to reach the showground at 12.30pm and buses back from the event will leave the showground at 2.15pm to Maidstone town centre and East Station, and at 4.15pm to Maidstone, Davis Estate, Chatham and Rochester.

The service is being provided commercially by Nu-Venture and there will be a £5 adult single fare in each direction or one-day Discovery Tickets can be purchased for £10. Anyone under the age of 16 can travel free of charge but English National Concessionary passes, Kent Travel Savers and Plusbus tickets will not be accepted.

Co-organiser Richard Lewis said "We are very grateful to Nu-Venture for registering this service to enable people living in the Medway Towns and Maidstone areas to get to Kent Showground which is no longer served by a regular bus service.

"People travelling by train on the North Kent Line can alight at Rochester and catch the bus outside the station, those using the Maidstone East Line can connect with the bus at Maidstone East and anyone using the Medway Valley Line should alight at Maidstone West and walk across Maidstone Bridge to catch the bus at the bus stop in the lower High Street.

"We are in the process of contacting other bus companies who might wish to provide services from other parts of Kent or beyond and any services that are offered will be advertised on our Facebook page and our website."

Full details of the times and picking-up points of the X21 can be found on the event website by visiting <https://southeastbusfestival.wixsite.com/sebf/how-to-get-there>.

Vehicles so far entered cover a wide variety of types and ages, the oldest dating from the early 1950s and around fifty per cent of entries so far have not been to previous South East Bus Festivals. It is hoped that well over 100 buses and coaches will be in attendance and the event is part of Kent County Agricultural Society's Heritage Transport Show which usually attracts more than 700 vintage cars, commercials, military vehicles, tractors and motorbikes.

The bus festival will follow its established format, with a large display of buses and coaches, many of which will provide the free and frequent service around the showground, and there will be lots of stands selling bus-related books, photos and memorabilia. There will also be model bus displays and other attractions inside the conference centre building, including slide shows and the popular Reunion Tea Room hosted by the the Maidstone & District Staff Reunion Club.

Full information about the bus festival, including how to enter a bus or coach and details of the other activities that will be taking place on the day, can be found by visiting <https://southeastbusfestival.wixsite.com/sebf>.

Admission prices covering entry to both the South East Bus Festival and the Heritage Transport Show will be £12 if purchased in advance via the Kent County Agricultural Society website (<https://heritagetransport.ticketsrv.co.uk/tickets/>) or £15 at the gate on the day.

Children under the age of five will be admitted free of charge and those aged five to thirteen inclusive will be charged £2. Four free admissions will be given to all buses and coaches entering the site.

To keep up to date with the latest vehicle entries and other news, or to ask questions about the event, people can visit the South East Bus Festival Facebook page at www.facebook.com/southeastbusfestival and click the 'Like' button to receive notifications of new postings.

Information about the Heritage Transport Show can be found at <https://kcas.org.uk/heritage-transport-show/>.

- Ends -

Note to Editors:

For media enquiries about the South East Bus Festival please contact Richard Lewis on 07521 772727 (Monday to Friday working hours) or email rolyg17@outlook.com.

Find us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/southeastbusfestival

Festival information is available at <https://southeastbusfestival.wixsite.com/sebf>

Heritage Transport Show information: <https://kcas.org.uk/heritage-transport-show/>.