



Kent Showground, near Maidstone, Kent ▪ Saturday 1st April 2023
**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.

7th November 2022

SOUTH EAST BUS FESTIVAL 2023 TO TAKE PLACE ON 1st APRIL

Arrangements for the 2023 South East Bus Festival are well underway and the organisers are looking forward to hosting another popular event that will be held on Saturday 1st April at Kent Showground, alongside the A249 near Maidstone.

The well-established event - the twelfth since 2011 - will, as usual, be part of Kent County Agricultural Society's Heritage Transport Show and will take advantage of the vast amount of space that is available for the display of buses and coaches, together with the internal road layout that allows a frequent free bus service to run between different parts of the showground while giving the opportunity for people to ride on buses that they might not otherwise get a chance to sample.

Co-organiser Richard Lewis said "Once again, me and my two co-organisers are excited to be planning next year's bus festival and we're looking forward to receiving lots of entries from preserved vehicle owners as well as from present-day bus and coach operators.

"Each year we attract a great mix of buses and coaches, old and new, that represent a wide variety of different chassis types and body styles, ages and operators. Of the 136 vehicles that joined us at the 2022 event, no fewer than 74 had not been to our previous ten events, so we are confident that we can always offer plenty of different vehicles each time, alongside those that are regular or occasional attendees.

"The Heritage Transport Show, of which our event is a part, usually attracts more than 700 cars, commercials, military vehicles, tractors and motorbikes, so there is an extremely large number of vehicles on display to appeal to those with interests in a wide range of road transport."

The bus festival will continue 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, guest speakers, slide shows and the popular Reunion Tea Room that is run by the Maidstone & District Staff Reunion Club.

The main theme for 2023 will be the fortieth anniversary of the Metrobus company which started in a small way in the Orpington area of Kent but which expanded over the years to become a large subsidiary of the Go-Ahead Group, now running commercial services in Kent, Surrey and West Sussex, as well as a network of contracted Transport for London services.

A good selection of former Metrobus vehicles are preserved and the organisers hope to have a display representing the fleet over the past forty years.

The Metrobus theme will also feature in other activities taking place on the day, and there will be a secondary theme marking the twenty-fifth anniversary of the formation of Arriva.

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

Admission prices covering entry to both the South East Bus Festival and the Heritage Transport Show will remain at 2021 rates, those being £10 if booked in advance via the Kent County Agricultural Society website (available nearer the time of the event) or £12 at the gate on the day.

Anyone under the age of 14 will be admitted free of charge and 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/>.