



Kent Showground, near Maidstone, Kent ▪ Saturday 2nd April 2022
**Bringing together buses and coaches, old and new,
from across the South East and beyond**

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

16th March 2022

SOUTH EAST BUS FESTIVAL GUEST SPEAKERS ANNOUNCED

The organisers of this year's South East Bus Festival, which will be held at Kent Showground near Maidstone on Saturday 2nd April, have announced the line-up of three guest speakers who will be giving talks during the event.

These are:

- **Stephen Morris**, well-known as the editor of 'Buses' magazine from 1979 to 1999 will talk about his time in that post, what it was like to work for the Ian Allan company and the changes both in production techniques and within the bus industry that he witnessed in that time.
- **Neil Barker** has been involved in the bus industry, both at home and abroad, for over 40 years and will be talking about The Bus Archive, the exciting project that is saving for posterity an ever-growing number of documents, photos and other bus industry artefacts.
- **Austin Blackburn**, Managing Director of Go-Coach Hire of Sevenoaks and The Bus Doctor will reflect on the significant changes to bus design over the seventy years of Her Majesty The Queen's reign.

Each talk is scheduled to last for thirty minutes and will take place inside the Clive Emson Conference Centre on the showground.

There will also be a joint presentation by Richard Bourne of the Friends of Chatham Traction and Chris Bichard of South East Coachworks about the significant restoration of former Chatham Traction Bristol K5G GKE68 which was built in 1939 and which is well on its way to completion following major work carried out by South East Coachworks.

In addition to these activities, there will be a live slide show with commentary and a continuous slide show that will play throughout the day, both featuring the main theme of this year's event - the fiftieth anniversary of the Leyland National - among their contents.

Bus festival co-organiser Richard Lewis said “We are delighted to once again welcome some bus industry professionals to give interesting and entertaining talks to our visitors and these are always a popular feature of the event. We are very grateful to our guests for giving up their valuable time to come and join us.

“It’s great to be back to normal after the disruption of the past two years and we’re looking forward to another good turnout.

“Bus and coach entries have already exceeded 100 and we expect many more by the date of the event. As always, we are part of the showground’s Heritage Transport Show which already has more than 700 cars, commercials, tractors, military vehicles and motorbikes entered. It’s clearly going to be another big event with plenty to entertain people with an interest in all types of road vehicle.”

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

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 see notifications of future 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 rolyg@supanet.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/>.