



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.

12th March 2024

SOUTH EAST BUS FESTIVAL GUEST SPEAKER AND ADDITIONAL CONNECTING BUS SERVICES ANNOUNCED

With this year's South East Bus Festival at Kent Showground on Saturday 6th April less than four weeks away, the organisers are delighted that two extra feeder services to the event will be provided by local bus operators, in addition to that from the Medway Towns and Maidstone already announced.

They have also notified that this year's guest speaker will be Nick Price, a director of East Sussex-based Cuckmere Buses, who will talk about this company's history and its current operations.

Co-organiser Richard Lewis said "We are very pleased that Nick has agreed to give up his time to come and talk to our visitors about this interesting company which runs a network of services using a small fleet of smart, modern Mercedes-Benz Sprinters and which is staffed wholly by volunteers, filling gaps in the major operators' networks by linking villages to local towns such as Eastbourne, Hailsham and Lewes.

"Cuckmere Buses is the trading name of Cuckmere Community Bus Ltd. which started running as long ago as 1976 and is well-respected amongst the communities it serves and which has the appearance of being a larger company than it is. It should be a very interesting talk."

The two additional feeder services to the bus festival will provide links from the Isle of Sheppey and Sittingbourne by Service X20 which will be provided by Chalkwell Coaches, and from Canterbury, Dover, Folkestone and Ashford by YMS Travel's Service X22

These services are being provided commercially by the operators and fill a gap that was created when regular services ceased that had previously stopped at the showground.

Richard Lewis said "We are very grateful to both Chalkwell Coaches and YMS Travel for providing these services which will enable people living in the east of the county to get to Kent Showground which is otherwise not accessible by bus."

Full details of the times, picking-up points and ticket prices of both services, and the Nu-Venture service from Medway and Maidstone announced previously, can be found on the event website by visiting <https://southeastbusfestival.wixsite.com/sebf/how-to-get-there>.

Vehicle entries continue to roll in and it is hoped that well over 100 buses and coaches will be in attendance. 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 so there will be a considerable number of vehicles on display for visitors to enjoy.

The established format will be followed, with a large display of buses and coaches, many of which will provide a 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 Maidstone & District Staff Reunion Club.

Full information, 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 upon arrival at the showground.

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/>.