



**Kent Showground, near Maidstone, Kent ■ Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> April 2026**

**Bringing together buses and coaches, old and new,  
from across the South East and beyond**

**The fourteenth in a series of popular annual bus events at Kent Showground  
brought to you since 2011.**

November 2025

Dear Vehicle Owner,

## **WE'D LOVE TO SEE YOU AT THE 2026 SOUTH EAST BUS FESTIVAL!**

Arrangements are well in hand to bring you the 2026 South East Bus Festival on **Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> April** as part of Kent County Agricultural Society's annual Heritage Transport Show.

As always, the mainstay of the festival will be the large display of buses and coaches and there will again be lots of sales-stands and model bus displays in the huge exhibition hall, as well as other activities, including frequent free rides around the showground on a wide variety of buses, slide shows and the popular Reunion Tea Room.

Standard admission prices are £13 if bought online, or £16 at the gate, but if you bring a bus or coach to the event you will be allowed **four free admissions** upon arrival. Any passengers above that number will need to pay the normal admission prices, either by advance purchase via the showground's website or by payment at the gate on arrival.

Children aged between 5 and 13 years inclusive will be charged £4. Under-fives will be free. Anyone under 14 years of age must be accompanied by someone with a standard rate ticket.

New for 2026 is a family ticket allowing entry for two adults and up to three children aged between five and thirteen years inclusive. This will cost £34 when purchased online or £40 at the gate.

The admission tickets cover both the South East Bus Festival and the Heritage Transport Show.

In addition to the buses and coaches, the Heritage Transport Show brings together large numbers of cars, commercials, military vehicles, tractors and motorbikes, so there will be a huge collection of vehicles to see on the day, catering for people's interests in many types of road transport.

These usually number around 700 to 800 in total, that being in addition to the 100-plus buses that attend!

We can always ensure variety and, in recent years, around half of the bus and coach entries that attended had not joined us previously.

To give a good mix, we welcome entries from current operators so that the buses and coaches on display will appeal to those with interests in all ages of vehicle while showing the general public how bus and coach travel has changed over the years.

The bus festival is an ideal venue to launch recently-restored or freshly-painted buses and coaches, but if you still have some way to go before yours is fully restored then bring it along so that visitors can appreciate the work that is involved in bus and coach preservation.

Entries are welcomed from all vehicles, not just those from the south east of England.

The showground covers a huge area and the internal road network has proved ideal for the frequent free bus rides that are extremely popular with enthusiasts and the general public and which usually deploy around thirty of the attending buses and coaches across the day.

A PDF of the vehicle entry form is attached. To enter your vehicle or vehicles, please download, print and complete a form for each bus or coach you will be bringing and then scan/photograph it and return it via email to [entries.sebf@outlook.com](mailto:entries.sebf@outlook.com) or attached to a private message to the South East Bus Festival Facebook page.

If you require paper copies please write to us at the above email address or send a message via Facebook.

We generally announce entries on our Facebook page as they are received, so if you have an image (in jpg format) of your bus or coach that we could post on the page please send it to us with your entry form.

If offering to run your vehicle on the free service around the showground you **must have adequate insurance to cover the carriage of passengers**. You will need to declare this on the entry form and that **the vehicle will only be driven by persons with PCV entitlement to drive such vehicles**.

Should the weather in the run-up to the event be wet, resulting in poor ground conditions, as it was in 2023 and 2024, we have a Wet Weather Plan which will allow the event to go ahead in future years, even if the conditions are adverse.

Kent County Agricultural Society have kindly agreed that vehicles can arrive on the showground on the Friday (10<sup>th</sup> April) and will be secure on the site overnight. We hope this will help those travelling long distances, and they can also stay over on the Saturday night for a departure on Sunday morning.

For more details of the event, please visit our website at:  
<https://southeastbusfestival.wixsite.com/sebf>.

You can also find us on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/southeastbusfestival](https://www.facebook.com/southeastbusfestival).

We look forward to seeing you and your bus or coach at the event and please tell your friends about the South East Bus Festival to ensure another great day out.

Yours sincerely

**South East Bus Festival Organising Team**