



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.

9th March 2023

SOUTH EAST BUS FESTIVAL FEEDER BUSES TO HELP COUNTER EFFECTS OF RAIL STRIKES ON EVENT DAY

With strikes on the railway network scheduled for Saturday 1st April, a number of bus operators will be running feeder services direct to the South East Bus Festival from parts of Essex, London and Kent.

Co-organiser Richard Lewis said "With the planned strike action potentially making it very difficult for people travelling to Kent Showground by public transport, we are delighted that four bus companies have arranged to run services direct to the event.

"These will deliver our visitors to the showground with no need to change along the route as would have been the case if travelling by train and then onward by local bus services."

- Ensignbus will run two feeders, one from Upminster, Lakeside and Bluewater, the other from Lewisham and Woolwich, which offer connections with London Underground, Docklands Light Railway and Elizabeth Line services for those travelling from beyond or within the London area.
- Go-Ahead London will use its Routemaster RML2305 on Route 36X from Victoria Station with picking-up points at various places through south east London.
- Go-Coach Hire's feeder service will start at Swanley before running via Sevenoaks, West Malling and Maidstone, as well as picking up at various other places along the line of route. There will be no charge to travel on this bus.
- Nu-Venture Buses will run Service X21 to provide a link from Rochester Station via Chatham and Maidstone to the event.

Full details including times, pick-up points and fares are shown on the bus festival website at <https://southeastbusfestival.wixsite.com/sebf/how-to-get-there>.

Richard Lewis said “Another change this year is the withdrawal of the bus stop outside Kent Showground on safety grounds by Kent County Council, and the reduction in frequency to hourly of the Arriva service that passes by.

“This means difficulties for us in providing our usual connectional facilities with that service as the alternative bus stop at which we could meet buses from Maidstone to transport our visitors to the showground is far from ideal and runs the risk of people being taken well beyond the showground if they fail to make the connection.

“With Go-Coach Hire and Nu-Venture’s feeder services running via Maidstone town centre, we will no longer be providing the connection with Arriva’s Service 334 from Maidstone and potential passengers are requested to use the feeders instead.”

“At present we still intend to provide connections with Service 334 buses coming from Sheerness and Sittingbourne towards Maidstone but that is subject to the possibility that another bus company or preserved vehicle might provide a direct service to the event from Sittingbourne.”

The times of the guest speaker talks have also been confirmed, with Roger French, former managing director of Brighton & Hove Bus and Coach Company talking at 11.30am about some of his experiences while travelling on Britain’s bus and rail networks for his twice-weekly blog.

Peter Larking, one of the co-founders of the Metrobus of Orpington company forty years ago, will talk at 1.30pm about the early years of the company, prior to its eventual sale to the Go-Ahead Group.

In addition to the talks there will also be a live show given by Terry and Roy Blackman at 12.30pm and a continuous slide show will run throughout the event.

Full information about the bus festival, including how to get there, admission prices, how to enter a bus or coach, and details of the various activities that will be taking place on the day, can be found on the event’s website by visiting <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 receive notifications of new postings.

- 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/>.