



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.**

18th November 2023

SOUTH EAST BUS FESTIVAL TO RETURN IN APRIL 2024

The popular South East Bus Festival will be back at Kent Showground, alongside the A249 near Maidstone, on Saturday 6th April 2024 and the organisers are looking forward to welcoming well over 100 buses and coaches as well as several thousand visitors.

The well-established event - the twelfth since 2011 - will, once again, be part of Kent County Agricultural Society's Heritage Transport Show which normally attracts 700 or more cars, commercials, military vehicles, motorbikes and tractors.

The showground offers a vast amount of space on which to display a large number of buses and coaches, and the internal road layout allows a frequent free bus service to run between different parts of the site 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 "After the disappointment of having to cancel the 2023 South East Bus Festival due to the showground being waterlogged, me and my two co-organisers are excited to be planning next year's event and we're looking forward to receiving lots of entries both from preserved vehicle owners and present-day bus and coach operators.

"Each year we attract a great mix of buses and coaches, old and new, representing a wide geographical area and a very varied mix of different chassis types and body styles, ages and operators.

"Of the 136 vehicles that joined us at our last event, no fewer than 74 had not been to our previous ten events, so we are confident that we can always offer plenty of variety each time, as well as welcoming back some that are regular attendees.

"With the Heritage Transport Show, of which our event is a part, there will be getting on for 1,000 vehicles on the site, so there should be something that everyone with an interest in road transport can enjoy."

The bus festival will maintain 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 and other attractions inside the conference centre building, including slide shows and the popular Reunion Tea Room hosted by the the Maidstone & District Staff Reunion Club.

Held over from the intended 2023 festival will be a celebration of the fortieth anniversary of the Metrobus company which started in a small way in the Orpington area of Kent but which is now part of the Go-Ahead Group, and we hope to have a good selection of former and current Metrobus buses on display to represent the fleet of the past forty years. The anniversary will also feature in some other activities taking place on the day.

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 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 (available nearer the time of the event) 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 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/>.