

**2018**

# South East Bus Festival

Part of the



**Kent Showground, Maidstone, Kent ME14 3JF ■ Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> April 2018**

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

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

15<sup>th</sup> November 2017

## **SOUTH EAST BUS FESTIVAL 2018 TO CELEBRATE SIXTY YEARS OF THE LEYLAND ATLANTEAN**

Next April's South East Bus Festival will be taking the sixtieth anniversary of the revolutionary Leyland Atlantean as its main theme.

Over a production run of twenty-eight years well over 15,000 chassis came out of the Leyland factory, the vast majority bodied as double-deckers but with a small number carrying single-deck bodywork and some chassis also sold to places such as Baghdad, Manila, Stockholm, Sydney and even New York.

It is hoped to bring together a large number of preserved Atlanteans at the bus festival to form a special display marking the diamond anniversary of the game-changing chassis with an engine at the back and the entrance alongside the driver, a layout that was to form the basis of most double-deck designs that followed until the present time.

Now well-established as the first major bus event in the south of England each year, the 2017 South East Bus Festival was the best-attended of the seven events so far, with 139 buses and coaches on display and it is hoped that even more will be heading for Kent Showground on Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> April next year.

It will again be part of Kent Showground's Heritage Transport Show that continues to grow in popularity and which this year had a staggering 800 cars, commercials, tractors and motorbikes on display, giving great variety for those with interests in a wide range of road vehicles.

As its name implies, the bus festival is more than just a bus rally and the 2018 event will continue the existing popular format with its mix of activities.

Co-organiser Richard Lewis said "It doesn't seem nearly seven years since we organised our celebration of the centenary of the Maidstone & District bus company, but, from that initial event, the South East Bus Festival has developed and continues to grow in

popularity.

“At the festival held last April 139 buses and coaches joined us, the largest number so far, of which seventy-seven had not been to our previous events, demonstrating that there is always something different for our visitors to see. We normally get a very wide range of chassis and body types, liveries and ages of vehicles to appeal to enthusiasts who have very varied interests within our hobby and we hope to have even more at the 2018 festival.

“We are keen to represent the current transport scene and always welcome entries from current bus and coach operators, with a number of companies now coming along each year to show off their newest vehicles. These give a good comparison with the many lovingly-restored vehicles that date back to the early years of the last century and to show how bus and coach travel has evolved from simple beginnings to the sophisticated vehicles of today.”

Although the vehicles form the core of the bus festival, the event’s other popular features will again give plenty of variety for visitors to enjoy, including the five-minute-frequency free bus service around the showground that normally deploys around forty of the vehicles that are entered, plus lots of sales stands and model displays inside the huge exhibition hall, slide shows and talks by guest speakers, including bus industry professionals.

Full details of the event are shown on Arriva’s website at [www.arrivabus.co.uk/south-east-bus-festival](http://www.arrivabus.co.uk/south-east-bus-festival), including a list of buses and coaches entered that is updated as and when new entries are received, while all the latest news about the event is posted regularly on the event’s Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/southeastbusfestival](http://www.facebook.com/southeastbusfestival).

Information about the Heritage Transport Show can be found online at [www.kentshowground.co.uk/heritage-transport-show](http://www.kentshowground.co.uk/heritage-transport-show).

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**Note to Editors:**

For media enquiries about the event please contact Richard Lewis on 01622 697025 (Monday to Friday working hours) or email [rolyg@supanet.com](mailto:rolyg@supanet.com).

Find us on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/southeastbusfestival](http://www.facebook.com/southeastbusfestival)

Festival information is available at [www.arrivabus.co.uk/south-east-bus-festival](http://www.arrivabus.co.uk/south-east-bus-festival)

Heritage Transport Show information: [www.kentshowground.co.uk/heritage-transport-show](http://www.kentshowground.co.uk/heritage-transport-show).