

TRAVEL BACK IN TIME - KINGSBRIDGE VINTAGE BUS RUNNING DAY

20th SEPTEMBER

The West County Historic Omnibus & Transport Trust (WHOTT) is organising a 'Vintage Bus Running Day' based in Kingsbridge on Saturday 20 September.

Some 20 vintage buses ranging from a traditional pre-war single decker to a 1980s minibus will operate services on routes radiating from the Bus Station to coastal villages on both sides of the Kingsbridge Estuary (Bantham, Thurlestone, Hope, South Pool, East Portlemouth and Salcombe) and to Slapton, Beesands, Loddiswell and East Allington. Travel on the old buses will be free.

The vehicles are provided from the WHOTT collection and by individual owners who have lovingly restored them to their former glory and who are making them available for the event at their own cost.

Some of the routes that will be travelled date back to the earliest days of motor buses where services in the South Hams were started by the Great Western Railway both for local travel and as feeders to the branchline from Kingsbridge to the main line at Brent.

The history of the routes and of local bus proprietors who set up, sometimes in competition with the GWR, will be described in an illustrated souvenir programme, which will be on sale in the Bus Station for £4. The programme will also contain detailed timetables for all the services, descriptions of all the buses expected to attend and the duties to be carried out by each vehicle during the day. Sales of the programme will help to defray WHOTT's costs in organising the event and support WHOTT's charitable objectives of bringing bygone transport to the public.

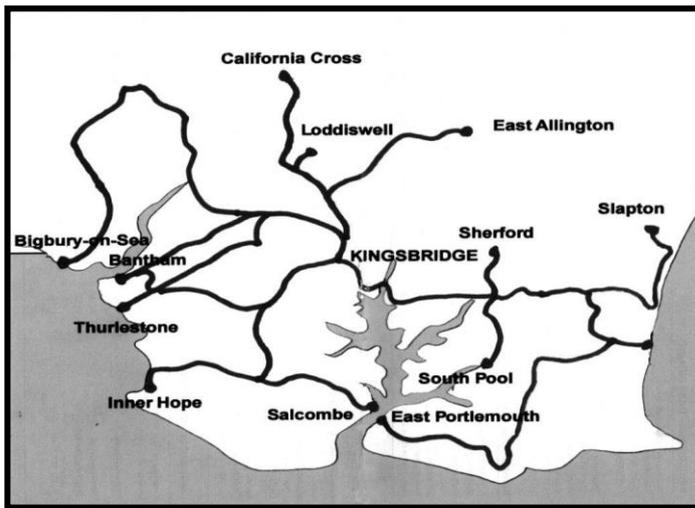
A special feature of this event will be the use of small country buses designed to safely negotiate the narrow lanes of the South Hams. From the comfort of a seat on the bus passengers will be able to enjoy spectacular views of the coast and countryside and travel at the leisurely pace of days past. All passengers will also receive an authentic ticket for their journey.

WHOTT Chairman, Colin Billington, who has a home near Loddiswell where he keeps his collection of vintage buses, commented "We will have been seen out and about recently trying all the routes planned for the running day. WHOTT organises events like this all over the South West but I can truthfully say that these routes around Kingsbridge provide an unmatched combination of coastal and country scenery and spectacular views over the Kingsbridge Estuary. I hope that the event will be well supported by local people, visitors and enthusiasts. We are grateful for the backing and sponsorship of all three principal bus operators in the area, First, Stagecoach and of course Kingsbridge's own Tally Ho".

Further details from: Colin Billington, Chairman of The West Country Historic Omnibus & Transport Trust, Tel: 07990 505373, Email: chairman@busmuseum.org.uk.



Colin Billington's former Western National Bristol SUS at the East Portlemouth terminus of Route 110 high above the Kingsbridge Estuary with Salcombe in the background, taken earlier this year when exploring routes for the running day.



A map showing all the routes to be operated at the Kingsbridge Vintage Bus Running Day.



A Western National Bristol SUL coach exploring routes to Bantham for the running day heads up past the Sloop on its way back to Kingsbridge. The 161 route went via Thurlestone and Buckland in the early '90s.



A Western National Bristol LWT of 1951 leads along the A379 towards Dartmouth with a queue of holiday and local traffic behind – nothing new here! Sister vehicle 1613 is preserved by the Trust and will be on static display in the bus station.

Further information

The Trust

The West Country Historic Omnibus & Transport Trust (WHOTT) is a charitable company (Registered Charity No. 1079795, Company registered in England No. 3780463) established to preserve the history of commercial road transport for the education and enjoyment of future generations. WHOTT's ambitions are to build a permanent display hall with archive and vehicle restoration facilities. WHOTT's extensive archives on West Country road passenger and goods transport have recently been moved to much enhanced premises in Plymouth. Friends of the Trust receive newsletters with historic articles and get involved in restoring and running the vehicles and working with the very extensive archive collection. An annual rally takes place in September at Westpoint, the Devon County Showground on the outskirts of Exeter, and has attracted a large entry of buses, coaches, commercial vehicles and all forms of transport. This year the event will be on 21 September, the day after the Kingsbridge event. For further details see www.busmuseum.org.uk, in general, and the 'events' area, in particular. To become involved in WHOTT activities become a Friend of the Trust for a suggested minimum donation of £19 per year and receive our quarterly newsletter, WHOTT's News! which includes historic articles about West Country transport – see our website or send your donation to WHOTT, c/o 7 Temeraire Road, Manadon Park, Plymouth, PL5 3UA.