

## Latest information about the ARRIVA FUN DAY AND BUS DRIVER OF THE YEAR LOCAL FINAL 2008

Arriva Southern Counties is holding its annual Fun Day and Bus Driver of the Year Local Final at the Kent Showground, Detling, near Maidstone on Sunday 11th May between 10am and 4.30pm.

Located on the A249 between the M20 (Junction 7) and the M2 (Junction 5) motorways, there will be a wide range of displays and activities, as well as Arriva's local final of the Bus Driver of the Year competition.

Entry to the show is via the main showground entrance on the A249, and there will be directional road signs along the A249 to show you the way. There is plenty of free car parking available on the site.

Proceeds from the event will go to two local charities, the Kent Air Ambulance Trust and Help a Kent Child. Admission to the event is **just £1** for a programme which includes **FREE** entry into a **Prize Draw**.

We hope that the weather will be considerably better than it was for the 2007 event (it couldn't be much worse!) but, should it be inclement, we can use the huge Kent Pavilion to keep people in the dry. This proved a boon last year and we accommodated most of the entertainment and displays inside.

Drivers from Arriva's depots in Kent, Essex, Surrey and Sussex will be competing against each other in the Bus Driver of the Year contest, at the same time displaying their driving skills to visitors to the show.

The contestants will start the day with a Highway Code and vehicle knowledge test, before driving a course around the showground which will include various obstacles and tests. Members of the public can ride on these buses as they take part.

At the end of the day, the three drivers with least penalty points will go to the national final in Blackpool in September, where they will compete against other drivers from companies around the UK. We are proud of the fact that one of our Gillingham drivers won the prestigious 'Bus Driver of the Year' title at the national event in 2006, so maybe we can achieve that again in 2008.

There will be a range of stalls selling crafts and produce, along with musical entertainment in the form of the Fulston Manor School jazz and samba bands and a display by the combined band of the Boys' Brigade and Girls' Brigade. The Royal Marine Cadets' band and the army cadets band will also perform and there will be the chance to learn Chinese lion dancing, as well as watching displays by the girls from a local dance school.

Look out for some super-heroes roaming around the showground, and also displays by the Sheppey Pirates. A Joe Pasquale look- and sound-alike will be providing entertainment during the day too.

A number of fairground-type rides will keep the children amused and a range of refreshments will be on sale throughout the day, as well as ice cream, candy floss, popcorn, doughnuts and soft drinks. There will also be a hog roast.

Some of Arriva's newest buses will be on show and a half-hourly **free bus service** will link Maidstone town centre with the showground. Buses will run to and from the Maidstone East Station bus stop outside County Hall at the top end of Week Street. One of the latest open-top buses which runs Arriva's Tour of London will also be on display and there will be open-top bus rides if the weather is suitable. A bendy-bus which normally runs in London will be giving rides, courtesy of our sister company, Arriva London.

A classic vehicle gathering is expected to bring together nearly 100 vintage cars, commercial and military vehicles, preserved buses and classic cars from some local car clubs, so there will be plenty to show what it was like to travel around in days gone by!

**We hope to see you at the showground on 11th May - everyone welcome!**