



**Taunton Historic Bus Group
Rose Cottage
Bushy Cross Lane
Ruishton
TAUNTON TA3 5JY**

petersnowden853@btinternet.com

01823 – 442589

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2017 Taunton Bus Running Day – Sunday 14th May 2017

This will be our 5th year of organising an event and have been pleased to see it develop into a successful and popular running day attracting a wide range of interesting vehicles. In addition to the help from The Buses of Somerset and Quantock Heritage we are now pleased to also have support from the Thames Valley & Great Western Omnibus Trust and the Bristol Omnibus Collection. We are particularly keen to have entries from those who would be willing to run in service but static exhibits will also be welcome.

We are again very fortunate to have the use of Castle Green, in the centre of Taunton, along with the adjacent bus station, and hope to follow a similar format to last year as detailed below.

In 2016, we ran free bus services to the nearby towns of Wellington and Bishops Lydeard (for the West Somerset Railway) using a variety of double and single-deckers, whilst coaches and older single-deckers operated a series of 'country bus' routes. Many of the vehicles, along with open top double-deckers, also operated a shorter, circular town service that called at the Buses of Somerset garage which was also open for the day. The Bishops Lydeard service is not suitable for 'high bridge' double-deckers due to the 13 ft 9 bridge at Taunton Station.

How to enter

All entrants must complete the enclosed form – e-mail or hard copy by post to address above. Please return as soon as possible so that scheduling and timetable can be finalised, and the programme prepared for print in good time.

The event organisers cannot accept any liability for the actions or otherwise of visiting individuals or organisations.

If for any reason you are unable to attend, or decide close to the event that you would like to attend, please get in touch.

Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any queries. We look forward to seeing you and your vehicle(s) in May.

For 'static' buses, sections of the entry form on a grey background are not relevant. If you would like to run 'in service' on the day, please see page 2 of this letter, and complete and return all sections of the entry form.

Yours sincerely

Peter Snowden
for Taunton Historic Bus Group

Further information for vehicles intending to run 'in service'

Vehicles operating free services must follow NARTM's guidelines* for operating free bus services.

Vehicles will be provided with A4 sized destination cards for display (ideally next to the platform / entrance.) If correct destinations / route numbers can be displayed on the vehicle's destination blinds, this is welcomed, alternatively, vehicles should show something appropriate to the vehicle, so long as this is not misleading.

Vehicles operating free services should be in a clean and complete condition, and be able and insured to carry a full complement of passengers.

Any vehicle with an enclosed cab and / or rear entrance must have a competent person acting as conductor, both to ensure safe departure from stops, and to assist with reversing while parking. We will have people on hand to assist with parking. We may be able to provide a conductor where necessary, but advance notification will be required.

Wearing of appropriate uniforms by drivers and conductors, and issuing of (free) tickets by conductors are encouraged but optional. Conductors will be offered a supply of event programmes to sell to visitors – it should be noted that as a free service, there is no obligation on bus passengers to purchase a programme, and that possession of a programme is not a requirement to travel, nor does it give any priority in boarding.

First departures from Taunton will be around 1000, and last arrivals around 1700. We would anticipate guest vehicles operating between 2 and 4 hours in service, so there should be ample time for guest crews to have adequate breaks and maybe have a ride or two on other vehicles. Please indicate your preferences for duty times – we will do our best to accommodate any preferences in this respect so long as we are told in advance. The schedule (showing which journeys each vehicle is allocated to) will be included with the programme on sale to visitors, and this will also include a few lines of text about each vehicle.

We hope to provide maps and route descriptions in advance of the event. Our organisers will be on hand at the start of day to provide any necessary advice, but we are unlikely to be able to provide route guides on the day.

If you are in a position to bring a substitute vehicle in the event of problems on the day, this is preferable to not arriving at all – although please get in touch as soon as possible if you will be bringing a highbridge bus in place of a scheduled lowbridge bus, for example.

* - NARTM's Guidelines for Free Bus Services

These are available for a small fee from NARTM, PO BOX 5141, Burton upon Trent, Staffordshire DE15 0ZF. Email enquiries: email@nartm.org.uk