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King Alfred Buses Running Day, Tuesday 1 January 2008

Invitation for Vehicles

Over the years, our event has achieved a very good reputation for its authenticity and efficiency. This year we have expanded our letter of invitation to include some guidelines on what you can do to help us maintain this reputation.

About the event

The King Alfred Buses Running Day attempts to re-create the historic transport scene in Winchester and Mid-Hampshire, and provide free bus services for the residents of Winchester, as well as our many bus enthusiast visitors. As usual, we will operate King Alfred Motor Services routes as well as the Winchester routes of the other local bus companies, plus local coach routes and some special services; services depart from the Broadway and the Bus Station (courtesy of Stagecoach in Hampshire). There is also a static display to which a frequent shuttle service will operate.

Free services

We try as far as possible to recreate the 1960s and 1970s, so for services of the local bus companies, only vehicles of an appropriate age and in an appropriate livery will be used; if you have such a vehicle we will want you to use it for those services. For the shuttle services and tours and special services, our aim is to provide an interesting selection of other buses and coaches, both old and new.

You need to follow NARTM's guidelines for operating free bus services, and all crew must adhere to FoKAB's "Caring for Young People and the Vulnerable" policy. Vehicles must display correct route numbers (which FoKAB will provide if you can't), run to the published times, and follow the correct route. Last year, we had several complaints from passengers about missed buses and wrong routes; we want to avoid disappointing (or worse, stranding) our passengers. See overleaf for more details.

Static display

The static display has been moved to a larger location at St Catherine's Park & Ride, courtesy of Winchester City Council. Space for static display vehicles is limited, and the Council requires to see an insurance and liability declaration. Therefore, only vehicles that have booked in advance will be allowed on the static display site; vehicles that just turn up will be sent away.

How to enter

All entrants must complete the enclosed form fully, including the insurance declaration, as it is a requirement of our public liability insurance that the event is being run to NARTM guidelines. Please **return it to the address above** (different from last year!), if possible, by **31 October 2007**; notes overleaf tell you why this date is so important. Details of all vehicles entered (for free services or static display) will be included in the souvenir programme; each entrant will receive a free copy. Those who operate the free services will receive our customary recognition after the event.

We look forward to seeing you and your vehicle(s) on Tuesday 1 January 2008.

Yours sincerely

John Newton, Keith & Ruth Andrews, Geoff Norris
Running Day Organisers

Why such an early date?

Our programme and timetable is available to be sold in advance, so we have to get it to the printers by mid-November. This in turn means that we need to have vehicle entries in by 31 October so we know what vehicles are available and therefore what services we can operate. In providing a detailed programme and timetable, we are promising to provide the advertised services with the advertised vehicles; people plan their day based on this, and they get upset if there is no service or the wrong vehicle is used. By entering, you are committing to provide the stated vehicle with an appropriate crew at the times mentioned. Problems can arise, obviously, which prevent a vehicle being able to attend: if your vehicle can't come, contact us ASAP to discuss it; don't just bring another vehicle or fail to turn up at all.

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.

Caring for Young People and the Vulnerable – FoKAB's Policy

1. Unaccompanied children under 16 years of age will not be allowed to be carried as passengers on vehicles at FoKAB events.
2. Bus crews and assisting members will seek the permission of parents, guardians, or carers before assisting children or the vulnerable on or off our buses.
3. There will always be at least two of you present when accompanied children under 16 years old ride as passengers on the buses. (On buses, the normal two-person crew is sufficient.)
4. Before you take photographs that feature children under 16 years old at a FoKAB event, you will first obtain the permission of the child's parents or guardian.

Routes, destinations, time-keeping

All vehicles must at least display a route number for their service, to avoid confusion, especially in the bus station. It is preferable if this can be done with normal blinds, but if not we will provide number posters. If you can also display the correct destination, that is wonderful. But please do not display wrong destinations, whether of local places or from other parts of the country: display blank or 'SPECIAL' or 'SERVICE'.

It is also most important that the service runs to the times given in the timetable, and follows the correct route. You will be sent maps and notes about the routes you are operating; please ensure that you (or your driver, if that is not you) study them beforehand, try to practice the route, and bring the maps with you on the day.

Crew

As noted on the entry form, vehicles with enclosed cabs or rear entrances **must** have a conductor. Ideally, for added safety and authenticity, all vehicles should have a conductor, and both driver and conductor should wear 'uniform'. FoKAB is unable to supply conductors or drivers for non-FoKAB vehicles, other than in a few exceptional cases, and where it is agreed at the time that the vehicle is entered.