

## **VINTAGE BUSES TO CELEBRATE**

### **CENTENARY OF THE KINGSBRIDGE–DARTMOUTH MOTOR-BUS SERVICE**

The last horse-drawn public coach service in the Kingsbridge area - to Dartmouth via Torcross, Strete and Stoke Flemming – was suspended after Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> June 1917 due to the exigencies of the Great War when both horses and experienced coachmen were required for the fighting effort. It was not until almost two years' later and eight months after cessation of hostilities that the service was reinstated with motor buses by the Great Western Railway on 30<sup>th</sup> June 1919.

To celebrate the centenary of this service, which has run continuously ever since, the organisers of the annual Kingsbridge Vintage Bus Running Day in September, the Thames Valley & Great Western Omnibus Trust, are organising a free vintage bus service from Kingsbridge to Dartmouth on the centenary day, Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> June 2019. Buses will leave Kingsbridge Bus Station at 10.00, 12.00, 13.30 and 15.00, returning to Kingsbridge by approximately 12.35, 14.35, 16.05 and 17.35 with a 25 minute stop at Dartmouth.

The vehicles which will be used on this service will be double deck buses which will provide spectacular views over the coast and countryside along the route which has been judged to be among the top 10 bus routes in the UK. The buses will be in traditional green livery of Western National which was the operator of the service from 1929, when GWR merged its road motor services in the West Country with those of the National Omnibus & Transport Company, and the route was numbered 93. This route retained No. 93 until the service was taken over by Stagecoach in 2015 and renumbered 3.

If you would like to take advantage of this opportunity to travel back in time, it is suggested you should register your interest by email to [enquiries@tvagwot.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@tvagwot.org.uk) or by telephone to 07990 505373. Seats will be allocated on a first come, first served basis and limited to around 65 passengers per departure but pre-registration will assist the organisers in matching demand to seat availability.

This special event has the backing of Stagecoach and will be operated by volunteer bus crews including a conductor who will issue traditional souvenir tickets for the journey.