

BERE REGIS BOOK LAUNCHES DORCHESTER BUS RALLY

A new book on the history of Bere Regis & District Motor Services is to be launched in Dorchester on Sunday 16th August. It is compiled by Stuart Shelton, a member of the West Country Historic Omnibus & Transport Trust (WHOTT) which is organising a bus rally at Top O' Town car park from 10 am to 5 pm. An original Bere Regis coach will be present, as well as representatives from the former company and its successor Damory.

Chairman of WHOTT, Robert Crawley, said "We're pleased to have the support of local bus operator Go-Ahead who will be displaying some of their most modern vehicles. In addition, we shall be running vintage and classic buses on some historic local bus routes to delightful double-barrelled Dorset destinations. All services will be completely free, so we expect heavy demand – please come early!"

WHOTT will have its mobile museum bus on site showing an exhibition of local memorabilia, and a stand selling books, photographs and transport ephemera. The author will be on hand to sign copies of his book. A souvenir programme describing the routes operated will be on sale on the day.

NOTES TO EDITORS

WHOTT was formed in 1998 to establish a museum devoted to the history and development of public and commercial road transport in the West Country. It became a charitable trust in 2000 and now has sixteen vehicles in its care, covering the period from 1929 to 1998, including traditional half-cab single and double-deck buses, luxury coaches, minibuses and commercial vehicles. It also has a growing archive facility that can be visited by appointment.

From 2003 to 2014 the Trust organised an annual transport rally in Exeter but this is the first time it has hosted a major event outside Devon.

Anyone who shares the aims of WHOTT is invited to become a member. Further details can be found at www.busmuseum.org.uk or from the sales stand on the day.