

BUCKFASTLEIGH – ASHBURTON RAILWAY REPLACEMENT BUS

The bus generally operates on most (but not all) occasions when there is a Special Event on the South Devon Railway. In 2013, it runs on the following dates :-

Saturday 16th March Monday 6th May Sunday 14th July Saturday 14th September
 Sunday 17th March Sunday 19th May Friday 23rd August Sunday 15th September
 Sunday 31st March Sunday 26th May Saturday 24th August Saturday 2nd November
 Monday 1st April Monday 27th May Sunday 25th August Sunday 3rd November
 Saturday 4th May Saturday 6th July Monday 26th August
 Sunday 5th May Sunday 7th July

| | | a.m | p.m | p.m. | p.m |
|---------------------------------|----------------------------|-------|------|------|------|
| Buckfastleigh Station | <i>leaves at ...</i> | 11 35 | 1 10 | 2 10 | 3 10 |
| Buckfast Abbey | <i>calls at ...</i> | 11 40 | 1 15 | 2 15 | 3 15 |
| Ashburton (Bull Ring) | <i>calls at ...</i> | 11 50 | 1 25 | 2 25 | 3 25 |
| Buckfastleigh (Valiant Soldier) | <i>calls at ...</i> | 12 0 | 1 35 | 2 35 | 3 35 |
| Buckfastleigh Station | <i>arrives back at ...</i> | 12 5 | 1 40 | 2 40 | 3 40 |

No fares are charged, but a donation towards the cost of the fuel would be appreciated

The outward route after Buckfast Abbey is along the Devon Expressway to the top end of Ashburton, then down to the Bull Ring bus stop in the centre of town and back to Buckfastleigh on the old A38.

For travel from **Buckfast Abbey** to Buckfastleigh, please board the bus on the outward journey and ride via Ashburton.

Ashburton (Bull Ring) is near the T-junction in the town centre. The bus uses the same stop as Stagecoach routes X38 to Plymouth, and 88 to Totnes & Paignton.

Every effort is made to run punctually, but this may be affected by conditions beyond the operator's control. If the bus becomes full on route, an extra journey will collect any intending passengers who are left behind. **It should not therefore be relied on to connect with specific train departures from Buckfastleigh.**

However, if the last train is missed as a consequence, the bus will run through to Totnes.

The bus is 1964 vintage former London Transport Routemaster double-decker RM1872 (ALD 872 B). Coincidentally, 1872 is the year the Totnes – Buckfastleigh – Ashburton railway opened.

ALD marks were reserved for London Transport buses as the overhaul works at **Aldenham**. This was already built as a train depot on the Bushey Heath extension of the **Northern Line** abandoned before completion.

The **RAILWAY REPLACEMENT BUS** operated on fair days in the early 1950's when Ashburton station was congested with railway cattle trucks. It connected with passenger trains curtailed at Buckfastleigh.

After signals were removed in 1956 only one train could occupy the railway. On subsequent fair days, the passenger

service was suspended to allow the cattle trains to operate and the bus worked through to Totnes.

With the end of passenger services in 1958 Western National (now First Devon & Cornwall) operated a railway replacement bus. This ran infrequently, weekdays only, between Totnes and Ashburton until 1975.

The present day Stagecoach route **88** providing a weekdays-only bus every hour is a recent unconnected initiative.

