

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.

It runs on the following dates in **2020** :-

Saturday 15 th February	Saturday 23 rd May	Sunday 9 th August	Friday 25 th September
Sunday 16 th February	Sunday 24 th May	Saturday 29 th August	Saturday 26 th September
Saturday 22 nd February	Monday 25 th May	Sunday 30 th August	Sunday 27 th September
Sunday 23 rd February	Saturday 4 th July	Monday 31 st August	
Saturday 14 th March	Sunday 5 th July	Saturday 12 th September	Saturday 10 th October
Sunday 15 th March	Saturday 8 th August	Sunday 13 th September	Sunday 11 th October
<i>Note: On these days the 'bus is part of "Day Out With Thomas" so does not serve Ashburton & runs to a special timetable</i>			

	a.m	p.m	p.m.	p.m	§	During British Summer Time an additional round trip may run at 5.0p.m. if required. Please check with the driver or conductor earlier in the day.
Buckfastleigh Station	leaves at ...	12 0	2 0	3 0	4 0	
Buckfast Abbey	calls at ...	12 5	2 5	3 5	4 5	
Ashburton (Bull Ring)	calls at ...	12 15	2 15	3 15	4 15	
Buckfastleigh (Valiant Soldier)	calls at ...	12 25	2 25	3 25	4 25	
Buckfastleigh Station	arrives back at ...	12 30	2 30	3 30	4 30	

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

Note §: In February this service is on request and the 5.0p.m. is not available.

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 station.

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 Aidenham. 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.

