

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 **2018** :-

Saturday 17 th February	Monday 2 nd April	Monday 28 th May	Friday 24 th August	Saturday 27 th October
Sunday 18 th February	Saturday 5 th May	Friday 15 th June	Saturday 25 th August	Sunday 28 th October
Saturday 17 th March	Sunday 6 th May	Saturday 16 th June	Sunday 26 th August	--
Sunday 18 th March	Monday 7 th May	Sunday 17 th June	Monday 27 th August	Friday 2 nd November
Friday 30 th March	Friday 25 th May	Friday 6 th July	--	Saturday 3 rd November
Saturday 31 st March	Saturday 26 th May	--	Saturday 8 th September	--
Sunday 1 st April	Sunday 27 th May	Sunday 8 th July	Sunday 9 th September	--
¶ - on 5 th , 6 th and 7 th May (Days out with Thomas [®]), the 'bus will operate out of Buckfastleigh Station, but not necessarily to the timetable shown below. If you wish to travel, please check with the driver or conductor before boarding.				

		a.m	p.m	p.m.	p.m	An additional round trip may run at 4.10p.m. if required. Please check with the driver or conductor earlier in the day.
Buckfastleigh Station	leaves at ...	11 35	1 10	2 10	3 10	
Buckfast Abbey	calls at ...	11 40	1 15	2 15	3 15	
Ashburton (Bull Ring)	calls at ...	11 50	1 25	2 25	3 25	
Buckfastleigh (Valiant Soldier)	calls at ...	12 0	1 35	2 35	3 35	
Buckfastleigh Station	arrives back at ...	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 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 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.

