

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 **2016** :-

Saturday 20 th February	Sunday 27 th March	Sunday 29 th May	Friday 26 th August	Saturday 29 th October
Sunday 21 st February	Monday 28 th March	Monday 30 th May	Saturday 27 th August	Sunday 30 th October
Saturday 12 th March	Saturday 30 th April	Saturday 18 th June	Sunday 28 th August	Saturday 5 th November
Sunday 13 th March	Sunday 1 st May	Sunday 19 th June	Monday 29 th August	Sunday 6 th November
Friday 25 th March	Monday 2 nd May	Saturday 2 nd July	Saturday 10 th September	
Saturday 26 th March	Friday 27 th May	Sunday 3 rd July	Sunday 11 th September	

¶ - on 2nd, 3rd & 4th 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	
Buckfastleigh Station	leaves at ...	11 35	1 10	2 10	3 10	An additional round trip may run at 4.10p.m. if required. Please check with the driver or conductor earlier in the day.
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.

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.

