

# BUCKFASTLEIGH – ASHBURTON RAILWAY REPLACEMENT BUS

**AS part of the South Devon Railway's post COVID-19 recovery the Routemaster should be running on most open days.**

**The initial post COVID-19 recovery 2020 dates are :-**

Saturday 1 <sup>st</sup> August	Tuesday 4 <sup>th</sup> August	Saturday 8 <sup>th</sup> August
Sunday 2 <sup>nd</sup> August	Thursday 6 <sup>th</sup> August	Sunday 9 <sup>th</sup> August

		a.m	a.m	p.m	p.m.	p.m
<b>Buckfastleigh Station</b>	<i>leaves at ...</i>	11 0	12 0	1 30	2 30	3 30
Buckfast Abbey	<i>calls at ...</i>	11 5	12 5	1 35	2 35	3 35
Ashburton (Bull Ring)	<i>calls at ...</i>	11 15	12 15	1 45	2 45	3 45
Buckfastleigh (Valiant Soldier)	<i>calls at ...</i>	11 25	12 25	1 55	2 55	3 55
<b>Buckfastleigh Station</b>	<i>arrives back at ...</i>	11 30	12 30	2 0	3 0	4 0

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

**NOTE: ALL passengers are required to wear a face covering when on the 'bus.**

- *Due to the COVID-19 restrictions family groups MUST stay together and passengers not in the same family group/bubble must maintain social distancing of at least 1 metre.*
- *For your safety the capacity has been reduce to 32 seats.*
- *At the end of each trip ALL passengers must disembark so the vehicle can be cleaned ready for the next trip. Your co-operation is greatly 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.

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.

