

List of Horse Buses that went through Carnon Downs 1860-1920

The Queen (Devoran Bus)	Proprietor	Solly Martin
The Perranwell (no name)	"	W Knuckey
The Fairy (Carnon Downs Bus)	"	J Mitchell
The Ponsanooth (no name)	"	W H Martin

They went through the village at 1/4 hr intervals on Market days (Wed & Sat). The 1st was the Ponsanooth Bus at 1 o'clock, the 2nd The Queen from Devoran, the 3rd Perranwell Bus, and the last The Fairy, Carnon Downs Bus which started from the Commercial Hotel at Devoran. They left Truro for the return journey at 5 o'clock in the summer and 4 in the winter. These Buses were drawn by 2 horses with the exception of the Ponsanooth bus which was drawn by 3 horses: it was larger than the others having a seat across the top behind the driver. Subsequent Buses which ran from Devoran from time to time owing to the death of former owners or going out of business were the Express by W J Moyle, Geo Dungeys Bus & Capt Kemps', the latter was short lived: he soon discovered that driving a Bus was not so remunerative as being a Ship's Capt.

In addition to the Buses they ran Waggonettes, Brakes, Cabs and Jingles for Private Hire, and Martin (Ponsanooth) also had Jersey Cars which were hired by the Churches and Chapels of the district for their summer outings, the destination limit was approximately 30 miles and the starting time was 6-7am according to the length of the journey, and the younger members of the party would walk the steep hills in order to ease the horses load. The Jersey car was drawn by 5 horses.

At the end of the First World War motor transport superceded the horses, the first and only very small privately owned Motor Bus in the district owned by Gordon Martin, ran from Ponsanooth through the village on Market days, it was soon superceded by the Enterprise Coy. which ran between Truro and Falmouth, they used converted London Horse Buses (with open tops) which were double deckers. This company was later taken over by the C.M.T. (Cornwall Motor Transport) (Easter Monday 1922), a few years later this company was acquired and is still operated by the Western National Omnibus Company.

Notes compiled by the late Mr T Trebilcock for the Carnon Downs Old Cornwall Society.

ROADS AND HORSE-OMNIBUS Continued

The chief means of transport between Devoran and Truro was by a horse bus twice a week. It also went to Redruth on Fridays. There were two buses, The Express and The Magnet, one for two horses, the other for one. There were inside and outside passengers, and in the old Cornish way, there was always "room for one more." The buses were owned by Mr. Dungey, Mrs. Lavin's father, and were driven by him and his sons.

MOTOR OMNIBUS

The coming of motor buses in 1922 made a great difference to the village, as there was then constant service between Truro and Falmouth, which came through Devoran, and enabled numbers of Devoran people to go to work in those towns.

