

Coach to make its final journey back home

By Luke Powell

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It is a much-loved coach which was once a familiar sight to residents of the remote Shetland Islands.

For almost three decades it served as a lifeline to the community until it was sold in 1979 and never returned.

But now, thanks to one man from Suffolk, it will be donated back to the islanders after more than 35 years.

Owner Nick Taylor, of Weybread,

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Nick Taylor

near Diss, is to drive the Bedford OB coach 1,000 miles from Norwich to Shetland, next June.

It comes after one of the former drivers came to visit Mr Taylor having heard that he had restored the vehicle to its former glory.

Mr Taylor, 66, said: “I was staggered by the depth of fondness not only he [the driver] had for this coach, but also what many islanders had for it.

“It was more than just a coach for them, it was a lifeline. This bus needs to be back in the Shetland Islands.”

He purchased the vehicle five years ago from a private owner in Wincanton for £27,000 and has taken it to various shows across the county.

But when he takes it to Scotland next year, he will donate to the Shetland Commercial Vehicle Preservation Trust.

John Watt, 71, of Reawick in Shetland, who drove the vehicle for 11 years from 1968, visited Mr Taylor



Nick Taylor's coach trip

in 2013.

He said: “It was nice experience to not only see it again, but to see the condition it was in.

“It was quite a popular vehicle here and was used to carry passengers and help deliver groceries to people.”

Mr Taylor and a team of enthusiasts will drive the coach to Shetland over a two-week period in June next year.

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JOURNEY: Nick Taylor with the restored coach which he will take back to the Shetland Islands.