

ON STAGE



INSIDE Feeding hungry children page 2 | A wheelie good time page 8

William is Britain's best bus driver

WILLIAM Bradford from Stagecoach London has been named the UK Bus Driver of the Year 2015.

He was among four Stagecoach employees to finish in the top 10 best drivers at the competition. William (22) is the second Stagecoach employee to win the title in the past three years, following the success of Gordon Cutting from Stagecoach Oxfordshire in 2013. He is also thought to be one of the competition's youngest ever winners. William was named the competition's overall winner as well as the best driver in England, the highest-ranking London bus driver and the highest-rated Stagecoach driver.

He has worked for Stagecoach for four years and began training as a bus driver just two weeks after passing his driving test.

"I was shocked when they announced I had won but I am ecstatically happy," said William. "It was a very challenging competition but it was a great experience and I really enjoyed it.

"I really enjoy driving. I'm still the youngest driver at the depot. Everyone has been congratulating me and they're all very happy for me since I got back. I'd like to thank everyone at Stagecoach who helped me get to the finals, and the competition organisers as well."

Arkadiusz Owsianski from Stagecoach Merseyside and South Lancashire came seventh overall and was awarded the second-placed Stagecoach driver accolade. In addition, Lee Holmes from Stagecoach



Bus Driver of the Year William Bradford (left) with Stagecoach Regional Director Robert Andrew

East Scotland finished in eighth place while Simon Broughton from Stagecoach North East was 10th. Stagecoach employees also finished in 11th, 12th and 13th positions – Peter Whyte from Stagecoach West Scotland was 11th, Brian Mackie from Stagecoach East Scotland finished 12th and Gary Smith from Stagecoach Yorkshire was 13th. Ted Reid from Stagecoach North Scotland finished 17th while Andrew Brentnall from Stagecoach Yorkshire finished in 18th place. A total of 34 Stagecoach drivers took part in the

national finals, after securing their places following tough regional heats across the UK.

Robert Montgomery, Managing Director of Stagecoach's UK Bus division, said:

"Congratulations also go to William and all of the Stagecoach employees who reached the national finals which is an achievement in itself. These fantastic results are a testament to the skills of our drivers and the training they have received and further demonstrate that Stagecoach produces professional and skilful drivers across the country."

New franchise is good news for customers

RAIL customers on East Midlands Trains are to benefit from around £13m of investment under a new agreement between Stagecoach Group and the Department for Transport (DfT) which will see a new franchise begin in October and run until at least March 2018.

Customers will enjoy a wide range of improvements including a freeze on Anytime fares to London, a ticket sale offering 250,000 discounted tickets, cleaner stations, roll-out of a new 'Cafe en route' to provide an enhanced on-board service, and new technology to help provide faster and better customer information.

£250,000 will be invested in community rail, the introduction of a new schools education programme and continued investment in

apprenticeships and graduate schemes.

Taxpayers will also benefit from the agreement, with £150m of forecast premium payments to the Government between October 2015 and March 2018.

The new franchise will start on 18 October and run until 4 March 2018. The DfT then has the option to extend the contract by up to one year.

Martin Griffiths, Stagecoach Group Chief Executive, said: "This is a significant package of investment for customers travelling on East Midlands Trains.

"It will build on what our team has achieved over the past eight years and deliver further valuable improvements for the millions of passengers and many communities who rely on the East Midlands Trains network."

Caring campaign feeds hungry schoolchildren

STAGECOACH is joining Scottish charity Mary's Meals as its latest campaign – Feed our Future – aims to provide life-changing meals to even more of the world's poorest children.

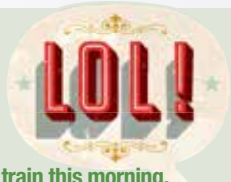
An estimated 59 million children across the world are out of school because of poverty.

Mary's Meals works to help chronically hungry children in the world's poorest communities gain an education by providing them with a nutritious daily meal in a place of education.

In May this year, the charity announced that it is now reaching more than one million children with a daily meal in school. However, with so many children still in need, the work has just begun.

Turn to page 2 to read more.

What a Laugh!



I tried to get to work by train this morning. They said: "Today there is a bus replacement service."

So I gave them a tin of pineapple chunks. They said: "What's that?"

I said: "That's my money replacement service!"

If you have seen or heard something funny – online, in the papers, on social media or just while out and about – send your contributions for the 'What a Laugh' section in the next edition to lindsay.reid@stagecoachgroup.com

Looking ahead to new franchise

STAGECOACH Group plans to prepare a bid for the South West Trains franchise after the Department for Transport (DfT) revealed plans to invite applicants to tender for a new long-term franchise beginning in 2017. The Group recently confirmed it had been notified by the DfT that it was ending discussions with Stagecoach subsidiary South West Trains regarding the direct award of a new rail franchise. The current franchise is due to end in February 2017 and South West Trains had submitted proposals to the DfT as part of previously announced government plans for the direct award of a new franchise to at least April 2019. Meanwhile, the DfT has indicated that it expects to exercise its pre-contracted option to extend the current South West Trains franchise beyond February 2017. The option allows the DfT to extend the franchise to no later than August 2017. In the meantime, Stagecoach will continue to deliver on its commitments to government and customers, including the £50m package of investment agreed with the DfT earlier this year as part of a Deed of Amendment to the existing franchise.

Just six pence makes a world of difference for needy child

Continued from page 1.

Between 28th September and 28th December 2015, the UK Government will double any donations made to Mary's Meals, meaning just £3 will provide not 50, but 100 meals for children in the developing world. Additionally, Stagecoach will match donations made by customers and employees through the text campaign up to £100,000, which could provide ingredients for more than three million meals. The campaign will be promoted on buses throughout the network, with signage on fleets across Central Scotland, North West England and Southern England. There will also be information on the Stagecoach website and intranet, and in depots. Stagecoach and advertising partners Exterior have also joined forces to donate a full double-decker bus wrap to the charity.

Sir Brian Souter, Stagecoach Group Chairman and co-founder, said: "Providing a child with one meal every school day can make a huge difference – improving their health, encouraging them in their education and helping lift them out of poverty in later life. The amazing thing is that it costs just 6 pence to provide a life-changing meal. "I hope our match funding pledge will encourage our employees and our customers to get on board

with Mary's Meals. "Whether they live in Kirkcaldy or Kenya, Motherwell or Malawi, children everywhere are our future. We can all play our part in giving them a better chance in life."

The Feed Our Future campaign aims to extend the charity's successful school feeding programme to more hungry children across Malawi and Zambia, and underlines Mary's Meals' commitment to improving the future for significantly more of the world's hungry children.

Magnus MacFarlane-Barrow, founder and Chief Executive of Mary's Meals, said: "We are incredibly grateful to Stagecoach for their commitment to our campaign and helping us to journey ever closer to our vision that every child receives a daily meal in their place of education."

For just £3, you can provide 100 children with a meal in school. Text 'DBLE15 £3' to 70070. For more ways to donate, please visit www.marysmeals.org.uk



Travellers encouraged to Catch the Bus

SUSTAINABLE transport group Greener Journeys joined forces with bus operators across the UK to promote the benefits of bus use during the third annual 'Catch the Bus Week'.

The campaign highlights the benefits of taking the bus and encourages local people to switch from the car.

Stagecoach companies across the UK took part in a range of events, giveaways and activities during the week.



Chester primary school pupil Ruby Davies won the 'design a bus' competition held by Stagecoach Merseyside and South Lancashire



Stagecoach South East employees handed out Catch the Bus Week giveaways in Thanet



This youngster was in the driving seat when Stagecoach took a vintage vehicle and a new bus to Mortimer Primary School in South Shields



Stagecoach North East Managing Director Phil Medicott (centre) joins in a roadshow in Middlesbrough town centre

Getting pretty muddy

A NUMBER of Stagecoach employees across the UK have been raising money for Cancer Research by taking part in the 5km Pretty Muddy Race for Life.

Stagecoach Midlands storekeeper Sharon Jayne, who works at Nuneaton depot, completed the race and raised £720 for Cancer Research. A further contribution of £360 was made by Stagecoach Midlands bringing her total raised to £1,080.

Five years ago Sharon was diagnosed with breast cancer and was off work for six months having chemotherapy and radiotherapy. She said: "I decided it was time to give something back and I

got together with a group of my friends to take part in the run. Several of us are around 50 years old and I am really proud of them for all their effort," said Sharon.

Meanwhile Andrea McGlynn, Karen Hampson and Davina Moss, who work at the Stagecoach Shared Service Centre, took part in the Manchester event, raising £425 with more still to be collected.

A team of six Stagecoach East employees completed the challenge in Peterborough, raising a total of £602, while Supertram Marketing Assistant Christie Round and PA Abi Barker also took part in the event in Sheffield.

Sharon (wearing vest 9109) shows her delight in completing the obstacle course



The Shared Service Centre team of Karen, Davina and Andrea



Pioneering park and ride scheme marks milestone for Manchester

STAGECOACH has opened Britain's first privately funded bus park and ride in Greater Manchester.

The company has invested around £3m in the new 400-space facility, which will be served by a £12m fleet of 40 hybrid electric buses equipped with free wifi.

The facility also has a cycle hub, part-funded through Transport for Greater Manchester, and is Greater Manchester's first bus park and ride facility. It links Stockport and central Manchester and is expected to help remove 6,000 car journeys per month from the region's roads.

Greater Manchester is also set to benefit within months from multi-operator smart ticketing as part of a pledge by the country's major public transport groups.

Stagecoach Group Chief Executive Martin Griffiths said: "This ground-breaking investment in the country's first privately funded bus park and ride initiative demonstrates the importance of the private sector in making the Government's devolution plans and Greater Manchester's aspirations a reality.

"We have a shared responsibility to get the most from the nation's bus network. It connects people with work, health and education, and is crucial to the economic health of the high street. With continued austerity and stretched public funding, the private sector more than ever has to be part of the solution."

Buses Minister Andrew Jones said: "I applaud

Stagecoach for investing in this bus park and ride scheme, which will make it easier for people travelling to Manchester to get to work, do their shopping and visit friends and family.

"This facility will link communities and the cleaner, greener buses will also help improve air quality by reducing traffic congestion in surrounding areas, encouraging people to take public transport rather than driving their cars into town centres."

Since 1996, the number of high-frequency bus services operated by Stagecoach Manchester has doubled, with the company investing an average of £5m a year in new buses alone for the region. Manchester has the greenest bus fleet of any major city in the UK outside London, with Stagecoach Manchester alone operating 128 hybrid electric vehicles.



Stagecoach Manchester Managing Director Christopher Bowles and Stagecoach Group Chief Executive Martin Griffiths launch the new park and ride facility

Remembering one of UK's darkest days

STAGECOACH joined others in remembering the many people whose lives were changed forever by the 7/7 terrorist attack in London 10 years ago. On 7 July 2005, 52 innocent people were killed and hundreds more injured in a series of bombings targeted at London's transport network and those using it.

Ten years on, a series of events were held to mark the courage and compassion shown in response to the attacks.

Stagecoach was represented at a service of commemoration in St Paul's Cathedral, while employees across the UK observed a nationwide minute's silence. The Group also made a donation to the 7/7 Tavistock Square Memorial Trust.

The Trust is fundraising for a permanent memorial in Tavistock Square Gardens, where 13 people died and many were injured after a number 30 Stagecoach bus driven by George Psaradakis fell victim to one of the terrorist bombs.

French window of opportunity

megabus.com is doubling the number of its employees in France as the company launches a new wave of expansion at its growing inter-city coach network in the country.

Only a month after the market was liberalised by the French government, megabus.com is launching 17 new domestic journey options for customers, including its first services from Marseille and Toulon.

To support the latest expansion, a €2.7 million fleet of 10 state-of-the-art coaches operate the new services and the number of employees at megabus.com's base near Lyon has doubled to more than 75.

This means megabus.com now offers 27 domestic journey pairings in France, covering 13 locations, with fares from just €1.

By the beginning of 2016, megabus.com expects to have a fleet of 35 vehicles based in France, offering more than 50 journey options across the country.

Marathon effort



South West Trains employee Ibrahim Jalloh

Ibrahim Jalloh, Revenue Protection Assistant at London Waterloo, completed eight marathons last year to raise money for Cancer Research UK. He ran in honour of his sister Aicha, who sadly died from the disease after his fourth run.

To donate, visit: www.justgiving.com/ibrahim-jalloh

By Royal appointment

THREE Stagecoach apprentices who were recruited through a Prince's Trust Programme recently had the pleasure of meeting HRH Prince Charles, the Prince of Wales as he made a trip to Glasgow. His Royal Highness visited the GTG Training facility – attended by the apprentices – to support the Prince's Trust programmes 'Get into Cars' and 'Get into Buses'. While there, he spent time talking to apprentices and employees alike. The Prince discussed his interest in getting more young people into engineering. Stagecoach supported the Prince's Trust Programme during the summer of 2014 and recruited a group of apprentices who are now working in depots across West Scotland.



First-year Glasgow depot apprentice Christopher Palmer talks to HRH The Prince of Wales

Fundraising family

GROUP HQ-based Architectural Technician Marc Dellanzo has completed a 10-mile walk in support of Parkinson's UK. Along with his family, Marc raised £1300 and they would like to thank everyone who donated for their support and generosity.

Self service

COACH USA has introduced a new web-based service for staff called Employee Self Service (ESS).

The system is a convenient, secure and user-friendly resource that is available through any internet connection 24 hours a day and 7 days a week. It provides employees with access to their personal information within Coach USA's Human Resources and Payroll system and is part of the company's green initiative to strive to eliminate paper waste.

The ability to directly view their personal and payroll data in the ESS system provides an excellent opportunity for employees to ensure that their personal information is correct and kept up-to-date, and one of the major advantages of the system is that the data is displayed in real time.



PICTURE THIS



This edition's Picture This winner was taken by **Terry Lee**, Infrastructure Assistant Team Leader at Stagecoach Supertram. It shows the Supertram tracks in Sheffield at daybreak. Congratulations to Terry who will shortly receive his prize of £50 in M&S vouchers. If you have any good photos for Picture This please send them to Lindsay Reid, On Stage, Stagecoach Group, 10 Dunkeld Road, Perth, PH1 5TW, or email them to lindsay.reid@stagecoachgroup.com

Medic marches on

STAGECOACH West Scotland driver and Army Reservist Private Alex Wood has taken part in an intensive three-week training package to ensure that recruits are trained to the same standard as their Regular counterparts.

Ex-regular soldier and father of two Alex will now consolidate his Combat Medical Technician training (combat medic) with G Detachment, 205 Field Hospital, based at Govan.

Already trained as a Combat Medic from his previous full-time experience in the Army, Alex – who works as a coach driver with Stagecoach in Glasgow – said: "I felt I had so much military experience to offer and wanted to put my spare time to good use.

"This is a real personal achievement for me. My outlook on life has changed and I find that I have the confidence to come up with new ideas and approach situations from a different perspective, allowing me to see the whole picture."



Stagecoach driver and Army Reservist Alex Wood

Charter for change

STAGECOACH'S UK Bus division confirmed its commitment to accessible transport as it announced a new charter, produced with the Royal National Institute of Blind People (RNIB) to deliver a better service to customers with sight loss.

It has made a series of pledges to help improve the accessibility of its local bus services as well as raising awareness among employees of the need to understand the practical issues faced by blind and partially sighted customers.

A series of service principles are being implemented to improve the service given by drivers and the information provided to customers with sight loss. Stagecoach UK Bus Managing Director Robert Montgomery said: "We want our buses to be accessible to everyone. When someone loses their sight, things like stopping a bus, buying a ticket, and finding a seat become a huge challenge. Our employees have an important role to play in providing assistance."

Gleneagles gathering

A GROUP of young managers from across the company recently took part in a conference at Gleneagles.

Those involved came from across the Group's bus and rail businesses in the UK and North America and on the day there were sessions on data analytics, new technology and employee engagement.

In the evening the young managers enjoyed a dinner with the Stagecoach Group Board during which ideas and opinions on various aspects of the business were shared.



The group of young managers at Gleneagles. Not pictured is Zoe Bodnarc, On-board Manager, Virgin West Coast



LETTER OF PRAISE

A grateful customer thanked Wisconsin Coach Lines, Coach USA, after the driver went the extra mile to help a vulnerable senior citizen.

Hi,

I took the Coach USA bus from O'Hare to Milwaukee. The bus driver's name was William. He spent about five minutes trying to help this elderly lady figure out if she should be getting on that bus. Her English was not great. During the first few minutes it was clear she was confused. After some time of being super helpful she said something about needing to meet her family for something related to a medical appointment.

William went way above and beyond to help this elderly lady. Everyone on the bus went from "come on, let's go" to smiling that William had taken the time to help this lady. When we arrived at Racine he made sure she got off the bus and to her waiting family. Everyone on the bus was very impressed with his service.
Regards,
Name supplied

If you or one of your colleagues has received a letter of praise from a customer, please email a copy to lindsay.reid@stagecoachgroup.com or post it to Lindsay Reid, Senior Group Communications Manager, Stagecoach Group, 10 Dunkeld Road, Perth, PH1 5TW. We will publish as many as possible.

A helping hand

STAGECOACH South supported the victims and families of the recent earthquakes in Nepal by raising funds for the DEC appeal. The company sold wristbands on buses throughout North East Hampshire, where Stagecoach employs a number of Nepalese staff. All the money raised from wristband sales went to The DEC Nepal Earthquake Appeal. Stagecoach Operations Manager Martin Gibbon said: "With quite a high number of Nepalese nationals working for us as drivers, particularly at Aldershot and Winchester, we are partnering with DEC to fully support our Nepalese colleagues here in the UK and their relatives back in Nepal."



Stagecoach South operations Manager Martin Gibbon and driver Raman Thapa

On-course for development



NINE Stagecoach employees recently completed the company's UK Bus Engineering Development Programme. To mark their achievement, the group attended a presentation dinner at Lancaster House Hotel where certificates were presented by Gary Nolan, Regional Director North, UK Bus. The Engineering Development Programme involves the employees taking part in a short secondment at another company, on-job training and a series of external courses.

Pictured, from left, are: Pawel Lesczynski (South West), Anthony Seed (Merseyside/South Lancs), Cris Savage (London), Gary Nolan, Danny Pulo (South East), Daniel Cameron (Highlands), Pete Atherton (Midlands), James Dwyer (East), Stuart Todd (West Scotland) and Marek Kirkiewicz (South)

Hole in one

A GROUP of drivers from Stagecoach Cumbria and North Lancashire held an annual golf tournament and raised £500 to help fund Eden Valley Hospice. Thirty eight drivers from the company's five depots took part in the event at Stoneyholme Golf Course, Carlisle, raising £250 which was matched by Stagecoach management.

John Nunn, a driver from Carlisle who took part in the tournament, said: "We are really pleased to present Eden Valley Hospice with the money raised from the Stagecoach golf day. The drivers who took part had an excellent day and are proud to be able to make a difference at the hospice."

Michael Sanderson, Stagecoach Commercial Manager (left), Katrina Sander from Eden Valley Hospice and Carlisle driver John Nunn who organised the golf tournament



Supertram rallies behind the armed services

STAGECOACH Supertram has committed to helping the armed forces community in Sheffield as part of the Group's recent signing of the Armed Forces Corporate Covenant.

The pledge commits the Group's businesses to upholding the key principles of the Armed Forces Covenant which include treating all members of the armed forces community with fairness and respect, and supporting military personnel and their families at all times.

Supertram is to offer a £1 single flat fare for service personnel, as well as committing to guaranteed entry to the first stage of the Supertram recruitment process for those in the forces community.

Stagecoach Supertram Managing Director Margaret Kay said: "The importance of the armed forces community to the UK cannot be underestimated. At Supertram we are hugely grateful to our military personnel for the courageous work they do, both at home and abroad, in the interests of British citizens."



Supertram Managing Director Margaret Kay with Dave Morrison, Lead Network Coordinator for Supertram and Army Reservist for the past 28 years

New bus fleet

STAGECOACH North East has unveiled the first of 19 brand new buses to join its fleet in South Shields. The newly branded single-decker ADL E200 buses were launched as part of over £2.2 million in-investment, which will see 19 buses with state-of-the-art fuel-efficient engines, improved seating for customer comfort and free wifi out on the roads over the next few weeks. Phil Medlicott, Managing Director of Stagecoach North East, said: "We are delighted to launch the first of these new vehicles for the South Shields region. This is great news for our customers and a fantastic addition to the local Stagecoach bus fleet."



Phil Medlicott, Managing Director, Stagecoach North East, with Brian Sleightholme, Operations Manager at Stagecoach North East's South Shields depot

On your bike

A TEAM of 12 staff from Stagecoach in Oxfordshire braved the rain and clocked up 242 miles on static bikes outside the Helen & Douglas House shop in Witney. The mileage covered by the group was equivalent to the distance covered by the Stagecoach Witney bus routes. On the day the team raised £101.52 from donations with sponsor money still to be collected. Suzi Attree, spokesperson for Helen & Douglas House said: "The team from Stagecoach were great and so enthusiastic, despite the rain! A big thank you to all the riders and those who supported them on the day."



Staff from Witney depot took part in the challenge

Pedal power

IT WAS full speed ahead for Stagecoach in Portsmouth employees as they took part in a fundraising cycle ride from Portsmouth depot to Chichester depot and back. The cycle was completed to raise funds for a defibrillator for Havant Bus Station following the sad death of a young bus passenger, Sarah Morgan (17) who passed away following a cardiac arrest. Simon Davis, Assistant Engineering Manager for Stagecoach, was the organiser of the event entitled 'Save a Life, Make a Difference'. £1,000 was needed to purchase the defibrillator and almost double this amount has been raised in sponsorship from the 30 riders who took part.



Simon and his team of fundraising cyclists



A vehicle on one of the new services

All aboard

STAGECOACH West Scotland has launched two new bus services to the new Queen Elizabeth University Hospital and Royal Hospital for Sick Children in Glasgow. Staff, patients and visitors will be able to take full advantage of these new services and students will also benefit. William Mainus, Commercial Manager, said: "We hope this service will be popular with staff, patients and visitors to the hospital as well as offering a local service to students studying at Glasgow University."

Going green in Kendal

STAGECOACH in Kendal has provided vehicle sponsorship to a local social enterprise, allowing it to continue recycling. Right2Work, established by The Oaklea Trust, supports disadvantaged people by offering employment and training. The Right2Work vehicle enables the team to collect unwanted items of bulky furniture from across the South Lakeland area. It also offers the opportunity for members of the team to become more active amongst their own local community. Through a furniture warehouse on Kendal's Dockray Hall Industrial Estate, the team can offer pre-loved furniture at affordable prices to households on low incomes. The money generated

from re-selling this furniture helps to support more people with disabilities to gain the skills and experience they need to get into work. The funding Right2Work has received from Stagecoach will contribute towards the lease and maintenance of a van large enough to cope with the most awkward of furniture collections and deliveries.



Right2Work Project manager Chris Pantechis with the team and vehicle

Sun shines on special family fun day

FAMILIES enjoyed a day of free activities at a special Family Fun Day hosted by Stagecoach East Midlands at Rufford Country Park. The event – held in partnership with Nottinghamshire County Council – aimed to encourage more people to use public transport to get out and about during summer. Scores of children enjoyed the fun day which included activities such as trampolines, a bouncy castle, craft tables, birds of prey demonstrations, face painting and a variety of games. There was also a vintage bus on display.

Michelle Hargreaves, Managing Director of Stagecoach East Midlands, said: "The sun came out and it was great to see so many people, and especially children, enjoying all the activities and finding out about the Sherwood Arrow, a service that is perfect for helping families get out and about and into the countryside."



Michelle Hargreaves and Sybil Fielding opening the event

■ Your chance to join Buy As You Earn

OUR award-winning Buy As You Earn Share Plan (BAYE) has been operating successfully for almost four years and is seen as a valuable benefit by many employees.

UK employees can join the BAYE plan when they have three months' service with Stagecoach Group, or every six months in June or December each year after that.

The BAYE is seen as a long-term savings and investment vehicle to support employee participation on tax-advantaged terms in the shares of the Company. The value of investments are subject to movements in the share price and investments can increase or decrease in value over time.

If you haven't yet joined the BAYE Plan, you can start contributing from your December 2015 payroll, with the first purchase of shares being in January 2016. To start the process, you can request an application pack by sending an email to bayeadmin@stagecoachgroup.com by 1 November 2015. Your email must include your first name and surname, your date of birth, your address, your employee number, your National Insurance number and your depot.

If you are already a member of the BAYE scheme and would like to change the amount you are currently contributing, your request must be submitted by email to bayeadmin@stagecoachgroup.com by 1 November 2015. Your email must include your first name and surname, your date of birth, your National Insurance number and the amount you wish to save per period.

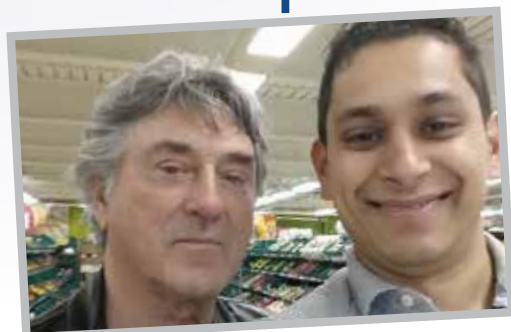
For example, if you are weekly paid, state the amount you wish to pay each week.

Please note you can only have one BAYE account and the maximum amount you can save is £1,800 each year.



If you, or one of your colleagues, have a claim to fame – perhaps a hidden talent, a meeting with a celebrity or an interesting hobby – please email details to lindsay.reid@stagecoachgroup.com

Star snap



There is never a dull moment in the life of Stagecoach London service controller Abdus Shahid – he bumps into celebrities even just popping out to his local supermarket. On this occasion, Abdus got his photo taken with actor Billy Murray – who has starred in *The Bill* and *Eastenders* – in the fruit & veg aisle.

New Managing Director appointed



New Managing Director
Matthew Cranwell

STAGECOACH has announced the appointment of a new Managing Director of its Cumbria and North Lancashire bus operations.

Current Stagecoach North East Operations Director Matthew Cranwell began the role of Managing Director, Stagecoach

Cumbria and North Lancashire from 1 September 2015. Stagecoach previously confirmed that current Cumbria and North Lancashire Managing Director Nigel Winter was to become Managing Director, Stagecoach South Wales on the same date. Matthew joined Stagecoach in 2004 through the

company's graduate training programme, which saw him work at five Stagecoach companies around the country, building up his experience and knowledge of the industry. He previously worked as Operations Director at Stagecoach Cumbria and North Lancashire and was appointed Operations Director, Stagecoach North East, in 2013.

Robert Montgomery, Stagecoach UK Bus Managing Director, said: "I would like to congratulate Matt on his promotion. His appointment is another example of the strength of our graduate development programme in helping to develop successful young managers." Matthew Cranwell said: "I am delighted to be taking on this role and I look forward to working with the Stagecoach team in Cumbria and North Lancashire to continue delivering high-quality, affordable bus travel, strong partnership working and excellent customer service for the millions of people that rely on our services every day."

■ Partnership boosts Scotland's towns

STAGECOACH has joined forces with Scotland's Towns Partnership to help support the regeneration of the country's towns and communities.

The aim is to improve connectivity, community and prosperity for towns across Scotland and boost their success by sharing ideas, delivering improved accessibility and raising the profile of Scottish towns.

Stagecoach will support Scotland's Towns Week as well as delivering transport at the World Towns Summit in Edinburgh in 2016.

It will also help to fund research into sustainable commuting and travel in Scotland's towns and communities.

Sightseeing success in the city

THE CHESTER City Sightseeing Bus, which is run by Stagecoach Merseyside and South Lancashire, has been recognised for its high standards of quality and the role it plays in helping to boost tourism in the area with an official Visit England Quality Assured Tour accreditation.

Established in 2002, the hop-on-hop-off tour bus takes passengers to Chester's tourism hotspots including the Roman Amphitheatre, River Dee and Anglican Cathedral.

Elisabeth Tasker, Managing Director of Stagecoach Merseyside and South Lancashire, said: "We're delighted to see the continued success of our sightseeing buses. To have our services recognised by the tourism board is fantastic and is testament to



One of the Chester's colourful sightseeing buses

our team's hard work and their real focus on giving our passengers the best possible experience during their tour."

Rainbow bus goes west

STAGECOACH London drivers Billy Birkett and Danny Dudzic took the company's Rainbow Bus to participate in the annual Imberbus service to raise money for charity.

The drivers – along with others from the bus industry – drove the 'Ride with Pride' vehicle from Warminster to the abandoned village of Imber on Salisbury Plain, an area used for military training. There are only a few days each year on which the road through Imber is open to the public.

Billy and Danny had a great time representing the company and raised over £250 to be split between the Royal British Legion Poppy Day Appeal and the upkeep of St. Giles' Church.



Billy and Danny with the Rainbow Bus

■ Anyone for tennis?

SOUTH WEST Trains once again played a crucial part in the Wimbledon tennis championships, making sure that travel ran smoothly for the fans arriving by train.

To really make the difference to this year's event, staff handed out strawberry and cream sweets and South West Trains sweatbands to customers, and ran competitions for staff and volunteers, including a prize for 'best selfie'.

Flagship Station Manager Wimbledon Amy Dickens said: "We've been having a lot of fun throughout the event and we hope all our passengers enjoyed themselves too. The Wimbledon management team would like to say a huge thank you to all the staff and volunteers who have helped make this event a success and great fun for our passengers!"



A winning performance at Wimbledon

■ Road to the aisle



MERSEYSIDE and South Lancashire driver Andrew Lindley and his partner Bernie have raised more than £1200 for Breast Cancer Care by cycling from Land's End to John O'Groats.

The couple travelled a total of 913 miles over 12 days as part of the challenge, with the journey taking them through some amazing scenery, including over the Clifton Suspension bridge, over the Ironbridge in Shropshire, past Gretna Green, and along the banks of Loch Lomond and Loch Ness.

To top off the successful trip Andrew proposed to Bernie at the end of the cycle and she said yes!

A wheelie good time



Some of the youngsters with conductor Barry Dobson

ALMOST 200 pupils from a school in South Shields became bus drivers for the day as they learned all about buses past and present from Stagecoach North East as part of Careers Week.

The pupils were treated to a visit by Operations Manager Brian Sleightholme and conductor Barry Dobson, who talked to the youngsters about how buses have changed and how technology has played a part.

The company brought along an old-style traditional bus and the latest modern version, which the youngsters could explore, and the class was also treated to goody bags and a chance to sit in the driver's seat.

Vital help

INSPECTOR Trevor Stamford from Merseyside and South Lancashire went "above and beyond the call of duty" when he rushed to help a passenger who suffered a cardiac arrest.

Trevor was working in the Stagecoach office at Chorley Interchange when a driver asked for help after a passenger, aged around 70 years old, had fallen ill on a bus.

Trevor found the man was "completely unresponsive" so he and a female passenger decided to carry out CPR. Both were elated when the man started breathing.

Paramedics arrived quickly and told him the man had suffered a heart attack. Trevor knew what to do because of his military background and through first aid courses with Stagecoach.

Elisabeth Tasker, Managing Director of Stagecoach Merseyside and South Lancashire, said: "Trevor went above and beyond the call of duty to do everything he could to help and he has set a great example to the team."

Race for life

GROUP HQ employee Katie Loudon recently took part in the Perth Race for Life 5km with a couple of friends to help raise money for Cancer Research.

Katie raised £345 through the event and is very grateful for the generosity of friends and family who donated.



Katie (centre) and her friends at the start of the Race for Life



This recipe was provided by our colleagues at Coach Canada – enjoy!

Maple apple cranberry crumble

Ingredients

- 1 cup plus 1 tbsp whole wheat flour, divided
- 3/4 cup large flake oats
- 1/2 cup plus 2 tbsp brown sugar, divided
- 1/3 cup chopped pecans
- 1 tsp cinnamon
- 1/4 tsp salt
- 1/2 cup butter, melted
- 1/3 cup maple syrup
- 6 medium apples, peeled, cored and chopped into 1 inch chunks (5 1/2 cups total)
- 1 cup fresh or thawed frozen cranberries
- 1 tbsp lemon juice

Method

- Preheat oven to 375°F
- In a large bowl, mix 1 cup flour, oats, 1/2 cup brown sugar, pecans, cinnamon and salt until blended. Add the melted butter and 2 tbsp of the maple syrup and mix until moist and crumbly. Put aside while you prepare the fruit.
- In a large bowl, toss apples and cranberries with 1 tbsp flour, 2 tbsp brown sugar, remaining maple syrup and lemon juice.
- Pour fruit into a baking dish measuring 11 x 8 x 2 in. Cover evenly with crumble topping.
- Place on a baking sheet. Bake for 50 to 60 min until fruit is bubbling and the top is golden.
- Allow to cool for at least 30 min before serving.

Mark takes the lead

LONDON driver Mark Dorrington performed an important pet rescue after spotting a dog sitting in the middle of the road during the last journey of his shift.

He stopped the bus and picked up the young Jack Russell which was clearly distressed. A female passenger looked after the dog until the end of the journey when Mark took her to the vet.

They found the dog was chipped so they contacted the owners who collected her. She had left the family garden unnoticed but, thanks to Mark, there was a happy ending.

Shiny new Pebbles

PEBBLES the High Speed Train made her first visit to Skegness to help launch the Skegness Seaside buses and special family fares. Pebbles also carried 4-year-old Isobel Pickering and her family who won the competition to name the train. Customers travelling around Skegness can also take advantage of the family of specially designed Stagecoach East Midlands open-top buses. Candy, Rocky, Sandy, Pierre, Shelly, Salty, Rolly, Milly and Hattie are all open-top buses, complete with eye-catching designs, inspired by Skegness. Andy Smith, Commercial Manager South for East Midlands Buses, said “We were delighted to expand our award winning Seaside family this year. We already have three new additions – Rolly, Milly



Isobel Pickering and her family gather with East Midlands Trains staff to name Pebbles

and Hattie – and with Pebbles the high-speed train joining now as well, it is great news for Skegness.”

Kirsty Green, Area Station Manager for East Midlands Trains, said: “We’re delighted to welcome Pebbles to the growing family of trains and buses helping customers travel to Skegness and enjoy their time by the seaside.”

Vintage prizes

STAGECOACH South West recently won two prizes for its heritage vehicles at the Plymouth City Transport Preservation Group’s 2015 Plymouth Bus Rally. The 1956 Leyland PD2 open top bus won the award for best preserved bus pre 1966 while the Devon General Leyland Atlantean 872ATA vehicle won the best preserved bus in the show award. Well done to all involved.



Passengers enjoy a ride on two of the vintage buses at the rally

Chris Long-Melton shaves the head of Julie Stark for charity



Brave the shave

LINCOLN employees Dave Woodthorpe and Julie Stark took part in the ‘Brave the Shave’ day on behalf of Macmillan Cancer Support. The two had all of their hair shaved off and raised over £550 for the cause.

Julie and Dave were shaved by another Lincoln member of staff, Chris Long-Melton.

The Chris Lemon Express

SOUTH WEST Trains Senior Operations Trainer Chris Lemon was given a surprise recently to mark his retirement after 41 years on the railway. Chris thought he was visiting Woking station for a meeting with his boss Michelle

Kynaston, Senior Operations & Safety Training Manager and Marc Sellis, Head of People Development & Strategy. However, on reaching platform 6 he was greeted by his wife, children and grandchildren, plus friends, to witness the naming of an engineering train in his honour.

■ Bill bids farewell

Bill Finlayson has retired from Stagecoach at Wellwood depot in Dunfermline after serving 18 years with the company. Before that, Bill started his career as a continental touring driver operating tours to France, Austria and Spain. He became the Health & Safety officer for the depot in 2008. Over his term of employment he has achieved eight perfect 100% attendance years. When asked what he will do in his retirement he said he was looking forward to no early starts!



Bill (centre) is given a fond farewell from colleagues

■ Love on the buses

TWO members of Stagecoach Mansfield staff tied the knot recently. Gary McArthur and Leighann Robbins were married at St John's Church, Mansfield, and all at the company wish them every happiness in their future life together.



Gary McArthur and Leighann Robbins on their wedding day

■ Peter's presentation



Stockton Engineering Manager Neil McLeary (left), and Gary Chisholm, Engineering Director (right), with retiring Peter Murray (centre)

STOCKTON fitter Peter Murray was presented with gifts to mark his retirement recently from Stagecoach North East. Peter started work with Stagecoach in 1989 and everyone all at the depot wish him well.

■ Contacts

Editor: **Lindsay Reid**, On Stage, Stagecoach Group, 10 Dunkeld Road, Perth, PH1 5TW
Email: lindsay.reid@stagecoachgroup.com

If you have a story for On Stage, please contact Lindsay Reid as above. The copy deadline for the next edition of On Stage will be **Friday 16 October 2015**.

GETTING TO KNOW YOU...

Scott Bridgman, Commercial Officer, Stagecoach East Midlands

■ Who are you?

Scott Bridgman, Commercial Officer, Stagecoach East Midlands.

■ What do you like most about your job?

The responsibility and variety – doing something different every day. And, of course, I love the team!

■ What do you like least about your job?

Monday mornings.

■ Favourite food?

Fat Friday! Every Friday we have an office fast food day!

■ Least favourite food?

Nuts. In fact I'll tell people I am allergic to them so they keep them away...

■ What are you most proud of?

Moving across country to progress my career at such a young age.

■ Favourite holiday destination?

Barcelona.

■ Most embarrassing moment?

Meeting Bob Montgomery at Stagecoach South West where I was a Commercial Apprentice. I asked if you put milk in black coffee.

■ Favourite music?

I listen to Radio One mostly but also a fan of the Beach Boys.

■ Person you would most like to have dinner with?

David Beckham – what a guy!

■ First thing you would buy if you won £1 million?

A villa abroad with a pool.



'Getting To Know You' features in every edition of On Stage and we want to hear from as many staff as possible. To suggest the next participant, email lindsay.reid@stagecoachgroup.com

Richard retires after long career

STAGECOACH South Engineering Director Richard Alexander has closed his tool box one final time after 51 years of continuous service with Stagecoach South and its predecessor, Southdown Motor Services.

Richard began his career in 1964 as an apprentice before becoming an engine fitter, and then working in fleet management, serving at bus depots across the Southdown operating area.

In 1985 he became Fleet Engineer for the West Sussex Division of Southdown which was taken over by Stagecoach in 1989. Richard was promoted to Chief Engineer 1991 and in 1993 he was appointed Engineering Director for Stagecoach South.

Richard said: "I have thoroughly enjoyed working for both companies and the entire 51 years has bought me into contact with many loyal and hard-working managers and staff, many of which have become very good friends."

Robert Montgomery, Stagecoach UK Bus Managing Director, said:

"Richard has been a core part of the DNA of Stagecoach South for as long as anyone can remember. His experience, wisdom and unique personality will be missed by everyone in the business but he has more than earned a long, happy and peaceful retirement and leaves behind a solid foundation for his successor." Richard has been succeeded by Chris Remnant as Engineering Director. DIY and maritime enthusiast Richard has some projects on the agenda plus some quality time with his wife Sue, son, daughter and his grandchildren.



Retired Engineering Director Richard Alexander

2,475 years' service

STAGECOACH North East has recognised employees that have demonstrated loyalty and dedication to the company in its annual long service awards.

This year, 86 long-serving staff were acknowledged after accumulating an impressive 2,475 years of service between them, and each one was recognised for their prolonged hard work and commitment over the years at a celebration dinner and awards ceremony.



Congratulations to all of the long-serving employees

Amongst the employees are bus drivers, engineers, administration and management staff based at Stagecoach North East's depots across Newcastle, Sunderland, South Shields, Hartlepool and Teesside.