

# Vote for your 2013 Stagecoach champions



**▶ THE search has begun for the Stagecoach Champions of 2013 – and we are hoping for even more nominations than ever before.**

2013 marks the fourth year of the awards and around 50 employees have previously been honoured for their outstanding efforts across a number of fields.

The 2013 awards will recognise success in the following categories: Safety, Environment, Community, Health, Customer Service, and Innovation.

The awards are judged by Helen Mahy, Chair of the Health, Safety and Environment Committee. Gold, silver and bronze awards are presented for each category and shortlisted entrants receive a trophy and a cash prize.

This year we are looking to encourage even more entries from our bus and rail companies across the UK, North America and Canada.

To nominate your Champion, download a nomination form from the FAQ section, under 'Media', at [www.stagecoach.com](http://www.stagecoach.com). Email the completed form to [champions@stagecoachgroup.com](mailto:champions@stagecoachgroup.com) or send by post to Lindsay Reid, Corporate Communications Manager, Stagecoach Group, 10 Dunkeld Road, Perth PH1 5TW. Any staff member can nominate a colleague for an award.

Nominations close on Friday 29 March 2013. Look out for updates on the awards and the shortlisted nominees in future editions of On Stage.

## Categories for 2013

**Safety Champion:** awarded to employees who have championed good safety or excelled in dealing with a specific situation or incident.

**Environment Champion:** presented to individuals who have championed greener

working practices and sustainability, such as by improving energy efficiency, reducing the company's carbon emissions or developing innovative ways to get people to switch from the car to public transport.

**Community Champion:** recognises employees who have made a significant contribution to the local community through charitable fund-raising or volunteering.

**Health Champion:** for employees who have done most to promote employee health within the Group.

**Customer Service Champion:** presented to individuals who have gone the extra mile to deliver exceptional customer service.

**Innovation Champion:** for employees who have developed good ideas across any area of the business, whether it's the launch of a new product, the introduction of a new system or a way of saving the company money.

**▶ STAGECOACH bus driver Mike Reid has been awarded a British Empire Medal (BEM) in the Queen's New Year Honours list.**

Mike, who is based at St Andrews depot, was awarded the honour for charitable services in Fife and Angus after raising around £65,000 for good causes over the past 25 years.

The 63-year-old is well-known locally for his charity work, and has raised thousands of pounds for a number of local and national charities including Guide Dogs for the Blind, CLIC Sargent and the St Andrews branch of Enable.

Mike said: "To find out I was getting this honour was just amazing. It was the last thing I thought about but I'm absolutely delighted. I've had great support for my charity work from local people and from my colleagues and managers at work and I would like to thank them all for that."

Mike, who lives with his wife Pam, began his transport career in 1970 and has worked for Stagecoach since 1985. He is a driver on services in the St Andrews area where he is a favourite among passengers and staff. Stagecoach Group Chief Executive Sir Brian Souter also provided a letter of support for Mike's honour nomination, which was submitted by one of the recipients of his charitable work.

As an experienced busman, Mike was also selected to drive one of the buses for the Olympic Torch Relay last year as Stagecoach

## Queen's honour for Mike



Stagecoach driver Mike Reid BEM.

supplied the vehicles for the event. Mike drove the length and breadth of the country as part of the Olympic and Paralympic torch convoys in advance of the London 2012 Games last summer.

Stagecoach East Scotland Managing Director Charlie Mullen added: "Mike is an excellent ambassador for the local community and for the company and has helped countless people through his charitable work."

**Find out more about Mike in the Quickfire Round on page 9**

## Brian Blessed gets on board for Samaritans

**▶ SOUTH West Trains passengers at London Waterloo were treated to a booming announcement from Brian Blessed recently, as the actor supported a fundraising day in aid of Samaritans.**

Brian Blessed urged passengers to spare a few coins for Samaritans, while the charity's volunteers collected at the station all day and helped South West Trains managers hand out complimentary mince pies.

The idea came after passengers tweeted Brian Blessed – a regular South West Trains commuter – to suggest he recorded an announcement. South West Trains got to work with Samaritans and staged the charity fundraising day at Waterloo station, with Mr Blessed's fee going to Samaritans to support their work.

Samaritans is halfway through a five-year partnership with Network Rail to reduce suicides on the railways.



Brian Blessed records his special announcement.

## You what?!

Overheard on a night bus in London.

**Person 1:** "Anybody know when we've got to get off?"

**Person 2:** "When we get there."

**Person 1:** "Ah....anybody know where there is?"

Can you beat that? Send your weird and wonderful overheard comments to [lindsay.reid@stagecoachgroup.com](mailto:lindsay.reid@stagecoachgroup.com)



## Aberhill anniversary



The anniversary celebrations at Aberhill Depot.

STAGECOACH in Fife celebrated the 50th anniversary of its Aberhill Depot in Methil by bringing together past and present employees and vehicles for a trip down memory lane.

Old and new vehicles, painted in the same classic red and cream livery as the Fife Scottish vehicles were back in the 1960s, joined retired drivers and conductresses from the same era to commemorate the anniversary.

# Your essential employee guide



## UK bus appointments

STAGECOACH has announced a series of appointments at its UK Bus division as preparations continue for Robert Montgomery to take up the post of Managing Director on 1 May this year.

Elizabeth Esnouf (50) has taken up the new post of Managing Director, Coaches and Special Activities. She will be responsible for the megabus.com and Scottish Citylink businesses, as well as rail replacement services and other special contracts.

Gary Nolan (56), Managing Director of Stagecoach East Midlands, is appointed Regional Director (North) from 1 February 2013. His role will be to oversee Stagecoach companies in the North West, North East, Yorkshire, Manchester, Merseyside, East Midlands and East.

Robert Andrew (49), currently Regional Director (North), becomes Regional Director (South) on 1 March 2013. A former Regional Director (Scotland), this means he will have had senior management responsibility for each of the bus division's regions.

In addition, Les Warneford, who has more than 40 years' experience in the UK bus industry, will continue to undertake special project work for Stagecoach after he retires in May 2013.

## Charity triathlon

RICHARD Fletcher from Chesterfield recently competed in the Virgin Active London Triathlon to raise £237 for the Breathtakers OB trust.



The charity supports sufferers of the lung disease Obliterative Bronchitis and their families. The gruelling triathlon involved a 1500m open water swim, a 40k bike ride and a 10k run.

Thanks to all who supported Richard.

EMPLOYEES are reminded of the importance of reading the Group's Code of Conduct, which sets out the values and standards all staff are expected to live up to.

The Code of Conduct applies to all directors, managers, employees and representatives of Stagecoach Group and its businesses.

All employees should take time to read the Code of Conduct and consider how it affects their own particular role. Copies are available online at [www.stagecoach.com](http://www.stagecoach.com) or from your line manager.

Laws and cultures vary from location to location, however the Code of Conduct applies across the whole Group in addition to local rules and regulations.

At the heart of the guide are the principles that have guided the development of Stagecoach Group over the past 30 years: acting with honesty and integrity, taking responsibility for our actions, treating people with dignity, respect and thoughtfulness.

The Code of Conduct covers how we deal with our employees, suppliers, customers, competitors, and the wider communities in which we work.

Sir Brian Souter, Stagecoach Group Chief Executive, said: "We have always had a very clear set of values at Stagecoach and it is vital that we live up to them in practice. I would encourage everyone, no matter what their role, to take time to read this guide and consider it carefully. It is just as important as your contract of employment."

"The Code of Conduct sets out the principles

we should all follow and should help you to decide how to act if you are ever in doubt. Honesty and integrity have been crucial in building our relationships with the people and communities we work with and serve. We want to make sure these values and our reputation as a high quality organisation are protected."

For any questions, advice or further information, please get in touch with one of the following people:

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STAGECOACH London employee Sharon Moonie took part in the trip of a lifetime when she completed a sponsored trek to climb Mount Kilimanjaro in Tanzania, Africa.

Sharon, who has worked for Stagecoach for 13 years, raised £3575 for the charity 'SCOPE', which cares for disabled children, by trekking for 10 days up the 5895metre high mountain, often in freezing temperatures.

She would like to thank her London colleagues who helped raise around £1000 of the total.

## A mountain to climb



Sharon (right) pictured with one of her trekking companions Bernadette.



## Gifting trolley

COMMUTERS and those travelling home for Christmas on East Midlands Trains services from London St Pancras to Nottingham were able to purchase top gadget gifts directly from a special Currys and PC World gifting trolley service.

Goodies available through the service included iPads, Beats headphones and the 'Paperwhite' Kindle, as well as holiday essentials such as spare batteries and memory cards.

Neil Micklethwaite, Customer Service and Commercial Director for East Midlands Trains, said: "We're constantly on the lookout for ideas about how our services and facilities can be improved, and we think this is a great initiative that hopefully proved popular with our passengers."

## West Coast deal

STAGECOACH has announced that its joint venture, Virgin Rail Group has reached an agreement with the Department for Transport to continue operating train services on the West Coast Mainline until 8 November 2014.

Martin Griffiths, Stagecoach Finance Director, said: "This is a good deal for passengers and taxpayers, as well as our business and Virgin Trains employees. It will ensure customers continue to benefit from the best customer service on the UK rail network and it brings continuity for our people."

## Rainbow Day

SOUTH West Trains passengers recently enjoyed a 'Rainbow Day', at Farnborough Main Station, taking advantage of a special bargain price of £10 return to encourage people to try the train.

Jake Kelly, Customer Service Director for the South West Trains-Network Rail Alliance, said: "With over 212 destinations to choose from, this offer allowed parents and families to leave the car at home and plan a great day out on our network."

## Mince pie delight

PASSENGERS travelling through Nottingham station before Christmas received an unexpected festive treat as the 'East Midlands Trains Elves' descended on the station to hand out complimentary mince pies.

Andy Moore, Head of Stations for East Midlands Trains, said: "We wanted to say thank you to our passengers for their patience and understanding while important improvement work takes place at Nottingham station."

# New apprentices at East Midlands Trains

EAST Midlands Trains has recruited its first four engineering apprentices. The four new recruits will be based at the company's maintenance depots in Etches Park, Derby and Eastcroft in Nottingham while also attending Derby College's Engineering Academy at the Roundhouse in Derby.

The new apprentices are Matthew Taylor from Mickleover, Jamie Spooner from Alvaston, and Callum Howling and Joshua Brear who are both from Long Eaton.

All four are delighted to have the opportunity to earn while they learn and gain valuable work experience on the first step of their career ladder in engineering.

Tim Sayer, Engineering Director for East Midlands Trains, said: "Derby has a long and proud heritage of railway engineering



L-R Joshua Brear, Jamie Spooner, Callum Howling, Matt Taylor.

and we recognised the need to invest in the future of the maintenance side of the business."

## Customer service stars

EAST Midlands Trains employees have been recognised at the company's inaugural Customer Service Awards.

A total of 13 employees were named as winners at the awards:

- **Outstanding Individual of the Year** – Samantha Willerton from Leicester station
- **Team of the Year** – Leicester station Customer Service Team
- **Unsung Hero** – Cheryl Parkin, Head Office, Derby
- **Manager of the Year** – Jason Cocker, Station Manager, Sheffield



The East Midlands Trains Customer Service Awards winners.

- **Driver of the Year** – Steve Wilkinson, Norwich
- **Senior Conductor of the Year** – Tara Grafton, Derby
- **Train Manager of the Year** – Tim Scott, Derby
- **Customer Host of the Year** – Emma Jones, Sheffield
- **Ticket Office Staff of the Year** – Kim Cinavas, Sleaford station
- **Train Dispatcher of the Year** – Joe Kelham, Lincoln station
- **Welcome Host of the Year** – Kass Pinjara from London St Pancras station
- **Revenue Protection Staff of the Year** – Izzy Maher, Leicester
- **Depot Staff of the Year** – Mark Vardy from Eastcroft Maintenance Depot, Nottingham

Neil Micklethwaite, Customer Service & Commercial Director for East Midlands Trains, said: "It's fantastic to be able to celebrate success and reward those employees who have gone above and beyond to ensure their customer feels like East Midlands Trains really cares about them as an individual."

## tRAILblazers walking for charities

A group of Network Rail, South West Trains and West of England line employees known as the tRAILblazers recently walked from Feniton Station to Exeter St David's.

This was the fifth leg of their Atlantic Coast Express Walk, which they began in 2009.

Since then the tRAILblazers have raised £10,000 for The Queen Alexandra Hospital Renal Unit, Cosham, the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Air Ambulance, Motor Neurone Disease Association and Salisbury Hospice.

Their latest endeavour has raised £1410 for the MS Society.

## Jayson connects with Movember

STAGECOACH Midlands Operations Manager Jayson Smith has raised £170 by taking part in prostate and testicular cancer charity campaign Movember.



Jayson had personal reasons for deciding to take part. He said: "Sadly, we have just lost my grandfather who was 98. My father, who lives in the Republic of Ireland, is under treatment at the moment so prostate cancer as a charity is very close to my heart."

After growing it for the month of 'Movember', Jayson's moustache vanished on the morning of December 1.

## Award recognition

STAGECOACH bus and coach companies were recognised at the 2012 UK Bus Awards.

The megabus.com overnight sleeper coach scooped the Innovation Award at the London ceremony, while Stagecoach's role in the Olympic and Paralympic Games was also praised.

Stagecoach UK Bus Deputy Managing Director Robert Montgomery said: "It was a great honour to be involved in the London Olympic and Paralympic Games. Our staff worked very hard to deliver a high-quality transport operation and we're pleased that their commitment has been recognised in this way."

## Cash For Kids

STAGECOACH in Cumbria has raised money for the Cash for Kids charity through a special pre-Christmas promotion.

From 24 November to 24 December Stagecoach donated 1p for every 100 tickets issued on any of its buses based in Carlisle and Penrith.

The overall charity donation was expected to be around £3,000 and the company is continuing to raise funds after naming Cash for Kids as its official charity partner.

Stagecoach Commercial Manager Fraser Smith said: "We wanted to work with a local charity to help support those who live in the communities we serve and Cash for Kids offered us the ideal fit, with all money raised being used on local projects."



(l-r) David Barrie, Dover depot manager, Karen Griffiths and Andrea Hayes present their cheque to Karen Kenward of Pilgrims Hospices.

## Run to the beat

STAGECOACH employees Andrea Hayes and Karen Griffiths recently took part in a Run to the Beat half marathon in London in support of Pilgrims Hospices.

The two ladies managed to complete the 13.1-mile run, which took place on 28 October, in 2 hours and 21 minutes, and crossed the finish line together. They managed to raise over £1100 through sponsorship from friends, family and colleagues, which Stagecoach bosses rounded up to £1500.

# Poppy buses play their part

STAGECOACH played an important part in London Poppy Day and Remembrance Day last year.

The company had two buses wrapped in poppy livery to promote London Poppy Day and on the day itself Stagecoach London provided one of the buses to transport a military pipes and drum band to various locations.

Stagecoach West also provided a Routemaster bus to take the Military Wives Choir to several performances.

Another Routemaster bus was provided by Peter Hendy CBE, Commissioner for TfL, and that transported numerous celebrities and went to Clarence House where HRH Prince Charles joined the bus and met some of the fundraisers.

The poppy livery on the buses was so popular that London Mayor Boris Johnson agreed that it



The Poppy buses at Parliament Square in London.

be added to TfL trains too.

London Poppy Day 2012 raised £801,000, all in support of the Armed Forces and their families.



Bus inspector Geraint Howells with one of the posters.

## Christmas crime

POSTERS were recently displayed on more than 60 Stagecoach buses in South Wales reminding passengers how to avoid being a victim of crime over Christmas.

The campaign, called 'Don't Have a Nightmare This Christmas!', was based on a series of images which were produced in the style of film posters.

## Helping hand with a Bus for Jobs

STAGECOACH is backing a new 'Bus for Jobs' initiative to help hundreds of thousands of jobseekers across the UK find employment by enabling them to use Stagecoach routes free of charge throughout the month of January.

Sir Brian Souter, Chief Executive of Stagecoach Group, said: "Bus for Jobs could make the vital difference for those who are struggling to get that first job or training place. In particular, I hope we can help more of our young people make a better start in life."





The Lord Mayor thanks Paul Southgate, Managing Director of Stagecoach in East Kent.

## Lord Mayor's Christmas bus

STAGECOACH South East unveiled a bus which showed its support for the Lord Mayor of Canterbury's Christmas Gift Fund.

The vehicle went into operation in Canterbury before Christmas. Councillor Robert Waters, the Lord Mayor of Canterbury, said: "This is a moving advertising board which is seen by thousands every day, so thank you Stagecoach for helping us, once again, to raise funds for this worthwhile charity."

## Management accolade

STAGECOACH Group has one of the best management teams of any business in the UK, according to an authoritative annual survey of corporate reputation.

Stagecoach was also voted the top public transport group in the Britain's Most Admired Companies 2012 survey.

Steven Stewart, Stagecoach Group's Director of Communications, said: "We are delighted to be recognised once again by our peers for the strength of our business, particularly the high reputation of our management team."

## Open for business

STAGECOACH South East has opened new premises on Romney Marsh. The new outstation, which initially brings eight driver jobs to the area, will allow Stagecoach to increase its bus fleet to improve local bus services.

## Picture of the Season

THIS edition's winning Picture of the Season was taken by Dave Paterson, who works for Stagecoach East Scotland in the Arbroath depot. It shows the X7 service leaving Arbroath bus station heading for Dundee.

Congratulations to Dave who will shortly receive his prize of £50 of M&S vouchers.

If you think you have a picture that captures one of the four seasons, please send your image to Lindsay Reid, On Stage, Stagecoach Group, 10 Dunkeld Road, Perth, PH1 5TW, or email it to: [lindsay.reid@stagecoachgroup.com](mailto:lindsay.reid@stagecoachgroup.com)



WIN A £50 VOUCHER

## Improvement for Andover

A £700,000 improvement scheme has been completed at Andover station.

The improvements include a refurbished waiting room and station toilets, improvements to the car park and forecourt area providing a more welcoming and easily accessible station and new secure cycle compound.

Jake Kelly, Customer Service Director for the South West Trains-Network Rail Alliance, said: "The upgrade of the facilities at Andover, together with the improvements to access, will provide a significantly improved station for our passengers."



Jake Kelly and MP Sir George Young mark the official opening of Andover's station improvements.

## In memory of Peter



The group of Santa Run participants, including some of Peter's family members.

STAFF at the SSC took part in a Santa Run to raise £3,000 for the British Heart Foundation in memory of former employee Peter Williams.

Peter's daughter Katie organised the 5km event which a group of Peter's former colleagues took part in. Donations also flooded in from staff around the UK. Separately, Peter's family have also raised around £3,300, taking the grand total to well over £6,000.

UK Bus HR Director June Ashton said: "It was brilliant to do something to remember our lovely friend and colleague Peter who touched many people's lives and certainly would have involved himself in events such as this."

## Award for best new share plan

STAGECOACH Group's Buy as You Earn (BAYE) share incentive plan has been named 'Best New Share Plan' at the ifi ProShare Annual Awards 2012.

The judges considered that the BAYE scheme met the company's key objective of increasing the number of employees owning shares in the business. They were impressed with the

communications used to promote the scheme and said that Stagecoach had ensured that all employees would benefit equally from it.

The judges concluded, as a result of the benefits of the scheme and the way it has been promoted, Stagecoach has greatly increased the number of employees now holding shares in the company.

## New buses for Nuneaton

STAGECOACH has invested £1.7 million in 14 new state-of-the-art buses for the Nuneaton town network.

The buses were launched at Nuneaton Town Football Club by Member of Parliament for Nuneaton Marcus Jones and Stagecoach Midlands Managing Director Steve Burd.

Steve Burd said: "We have continually reinvested in the network to improve the quality of the service in order to give people a reliable and frequent service, coupled with value for money travel and comfortable clean buses."

## Rail companies have pedal power

STAGECOACH'S rail franchises – East Midlands Trains and South West Trains – scooped three top honours at this year's National Cycling Awards.

South West Trains won first prize for Best Customer Service at the event as well as picking up the top honour in the category of Summer of Cycling. Richmond station was also highly commended in the category of best London Cycle Parking.

East Midlands Trains was named the winner in the category of Partnership Working.

## Mega investment

COACH Canada rolled out 15 new double-decker coaches this week on its Ontario and Quebec routes. The \$11 million investment offers passengers a better view from the upper deck with ceiling skylights running the total length of the coach, a better ride, and a reduced environmental impact.

## New buses for Aberdeen commuters



Bluebird staff with the new vehicles.

STAGECOACH Bluebird has launched 10 brand new single-deck buses for its popular X17 route.

Andrew Jarvis, Managing Director, Stagecoach Bluebird, said: "The new buses, increased frequency and free wifi now on this route are a welcome development to the busy commuter corridor.

"The eye-catching branding also means the vehicles are easily identified on the roads and bring something fresh to the area."

## Green Santa goes back to school

STAGECOACH North East's Green Santa visited primary schools across the region spreading the festive spirit, after selected schools won an eco-competition, winning a 'green' gift worth up to £250.

School children were invited to write a letter to the bus company's Green Santa to ask for environmentally friendly presents for the school, with some wonderful entries including solar-powered clocks, compost bins, energy savings lights and wormeries.

The Green Santa initiative is part of Stagecoach North East's



Green Santa visits a local primary school in the North East.

environmental programme 'Ready Steady Green' and is designed to encourage children across the region to be more

environmentally aware and demonstrate how easy it is to make a difference to their local environment.

## Golden touch

WARWICK Stagecoach West has invested nearly £3.5 million in 19 brand new vehicles for the introduction of its third luxury Gold Service.

Ian Manning said: "I am delighted to be unveiling our luxurious new double-deck fleet today, which will go into operation this Saturday on Service 10.

"The new buses will take the customer experience to a whole new level and we look forward to welcoming new passengers on board."



Ian Manning, Managing Director of Stagecoach West (centre) with Martin Horwood, MP for Cheltenham and Councillor Paul McLain, Deputy Leader of Gloucestershire County Council.

## On board with vehicle investment

STAGECOACH in Fife launched two fleets of brand new vehicles for passengers recently.

The company has invested over £1.9 million in 11 new vehicles for its Taylink 99 route as well as investing £2.7 million in nine new vehicles to go into service on its Express coach services between

Fife and Glasgow.

Charlie Mullen, Managing Director of Stagecoach East Scotland, said: "We are delighted to continue investing in public transport in the Fife area and making improvements wherever we can to provide a high quality service for our customers."



The new Taylink vehicles were launched at RAF Leuchars.



## Top award for TV commercial

▶ PR and communications firm Hanser & Associates has won a prestigious Adrian Award in the Hospitality Sales & Marketing Association International (HSMIA) 2012 competition, for a TV commercial created for megabus.com.

Paramus, NJ-based megabus.com's first TV commercial ('Megabus.com - Stay Connected') showed how megabus.com helps customers stay connected with friends and family.

"We're honored that our TV commercial has received international recognition," said Mike Alvich, megabus.com's Vice President of Marketing and Public Relations. "The ad describes what has already been written in thousands of news stories: free Wi-Fi and other amenities onboard our buses have changed the way 22 million Americans travel."

## Top awards for staff

▶ COACH Canada has named its annual Driver of the Year and Employee of the Year.

Howard Morris was named the winner of the Driver of the Year Award while Marketing Coordinator Jason Bulman, was the recipient of the Employee of the Year honour, as voted by their peers.

Howard has been a driver with Coach Canada since 1969 and is always willing to go the extra mile for customers.

Jason has worked for Coach Canada since 2007 and is a great employee who has a humble attitude to help others.

Congratulations to both.

## On the stage

▶ THE famous New York City Sightseeing brand played an important role in the Radio City Christmas Spectacular starring the Rockettes as the dancers took to the stage with a City Sightseeing double decker.

## Spreading the word

▶ THE phrase 'megabus.com' was the fifth most Google searched term in Atlanta in 2012 and was the ninth most searched term in Chicago, proving that news about megabus.com is spreading fast in the US.

One of the first vehicles arrives at Riverside Train Station in California.



# megabus.com heads to California and Nevada

▶ THE North American megabus.com network has expanded to eight locations in the major states of California and Nevada, which have a combined population of around 40 million people.

Services will cover Los Angeles, San Francisco, Oakland, Calif., Riverside, Calif., Las Vegas, Sparks/Reno, Nev., Sacramento, Calif., and San Jose, Calif.

The expansion means more than 120

destinations are now covered by megabus.com in the United States and Canada. It comes only six months after megabus.com launched a new network of routes in Texas.

Dale Moser, President and COO of megabus.com in North America, said: "We are confident that our 21st century double-decker buses with Wi-Fi and power outlets, combined with our outstanding prices, will prove popular with people in California and Nevada."

Chuck (front right) at the event.



## Chuck goes networking

▶ MEGABUS.COM'S US mascot Chuck was busy networking at the Pennsylvania Tourism Summit in Harrisburg, PA, recently. Chuck promoted megabus at the state capital building along with a number of other mascots.

## Chicago Trolley is lighting up

▶ CHICAGO Trolley's Holidays Lights tour is going from strength to strength.

According to Rob Pierson, Coach USA General Manager, Chicago Trolley and Double Decker Bus Company said that the new tour was first introduced in 2011 and sold a total of 1,667 tickets – this number more than doubled in 2012.

The festive tour allows customers to view

the Christmas lights in Chicago.

Tour guides play holiday music, provide an informative tour about Christmas & Chicago, and have sing along Christmas Carols with customers.

Chicago Trolley was also recently nominated by Concierge Preferred in the category of Best Attraction in the annual awards.

## Santa drives in Devon

▶ STAGECOACH South West had a very special seasonal driver as Santa Claus took his turn behind the wheel! Santa used his driving shift as an opportunity to raise money for the Multiple Sclerosis Society.



Santa on Service 57 to Exmouth.

## Get your skates on



Marketing Analyst Michael Sanderson and Marketing Assistant Chris Brooke get their skates on.

▶ STAGECOACH in Lincolnshire helped local school groups make the most of Lincoln's Christmas Ice Rink by running free buses to the attraction. In return, adverts promoting bus travel were displayed at the rink.

## Tash-tastic

▶ MERSEYSIDE driver Mark Wignall went tache-tastic and raised more than £250 in the process for the Movember campaign, which raises awareness of prostate cancer and other male cancer, and associated charities.



The 'tache-tastic' fundraisers.

## Hairy drivers

▶ A GROUP of 49 bus employees in Lancaster got hairy by growing moustaches in November and raised almost £5,000 for the Special Care Baby Unit at the Royal Lancaster Infirmary in the process.

# Push once – 50 years of public transport

▶ FORMER UK Bus Policy Adviser Peter Nash has written a book which charts the fascinating story of life in the bus industry through the eyes of 30 career busmen.

The book – called 'Push Once – A Life in the Bus Industry' – chronicles 50 years of change, from the early 1960s to the present day, including a look behind the scenes of the successful delivery of the transport

requirements at the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games.

Fifteen of the 30 contributors to the book are former and current Stagecoach employees.

Profits from book sales will be donated to the Kithead Trust, the national archive for records about the industry. For more information, or to purchase a copy visit [www.mdsbooks.co.uk](http://www.mdsbooks.co.uk)

## Christmas cheer on the buses

▶ STAGECOACH South ran two Santa Buses over the festive period, in Basingstoke and in Portsmouth, to help raise money for charity.

With buses being driven by Santa, the initiative raised cash for St Michael's Hospice in Basingstoke and for Rowans Hospice and the Roberts Children's Centre in Portsmouth.



Brian Griggs, Simon Davis and Les Barnett, who help prepare the Portsmouth Santa Bus for service.



The victorious Rawmarsh darts team.

## Bullseye

▶ STAGECOACH Yorkshire's Rawmarsh depot darts team won their league for the second year running after winning 10 out of their 12 games this season.



## Tim hands back his keys



▶ **CHELTHENHAM driver Tim Marsh has retired after more than 40 years' service.**

Tim, who started his bus career on 5 May, 1972, is pictured with Stagecoach West Managing Director Ian Manning and Cheltenham colleagues on his last day.



Stagecoach's Worthing and Chichester Mouvember Team with the moustached bus.

## Mouvember mania

▶ **TEN Stagecoach staff from Chichester and Worthing bus depots raised over £800 after participating in the Mouvember Appeal, in which men grow moustaches to raise awareness and fundraise for prostate cancer charities.**

The team of 10 were sponsored by colleagues from their depots.

Dave Fulford, Assistant Operations Manager based at Stagecoach's Worthing Depot, said that he and his 'mo bros' were grateful for the support shown by everyone.

## CONTACTS

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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 15th February, 2013.

## Long service awards

▶ **STAGECOACH Yorkshire recently paid tribute to a number of long-serving and retiring staff.**

A presentation ceremony was held in November for 41 members of staff who have 20-45 years' service.

The company also recently celebrated a group of retiring employees who clocked up almost 150 years of service between them.

Daniel Lawrence, from Stagecoach's Barnsley depot, retired after completing 43 years of service, along with Brian Jukes, who was with the company for 39 years, and David Knaggs, who completed 29 years of service.

Antony Herberts stepped down after 38 years



Staff at the long service presentation.

with the company and retired driver Fred Wood was presented with a special award for 40 years of safe driving.

Paul Lynch, Managing Director at Stagecoach Yorkshire, said: "It gives me a great sense of pride to be celebrating the loyalty and achievements of staff who have dedicated their careers to the company."

## The quickfire round - Mike Reid BEM

### East Scotland

- ▶ **Who are you?** Mike Reid BEM, East Scotland driver.
- ▶ **What do you like most about your job?** Driving and meeting people.
- ▶ **What do you like least about your job?** 05:30 starts.
- ▶ **Favourite TV show?** All major soaps.
- ▶ **Biggest achievement?** Awarded BEM in the New Years Honours list.
- ▶ **Worst job?** Painting Doors.
- ▶ **Most embarrassing moment?** Taking a service bus on what I thought was a City Tour but the season had just finished.

- ▶ **Dream Job?** Driving the Olympic Torch Relay bus.
- ▶ **Favourite animal?** Dogs (Guide Dogs).
- ▶ **Most like to be stuck in a lift with?** My wife Pam and Natasha Kaplinsky.



The Quickfire Round 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](mailto:lindsay.reid@stagecoachgroup.com)

## Oh what a night

▶ **STAGECOACH West Scotland driver Jane Young has been named the 'Song for Heroes 2012' competition winner.**

Jane beat off competition from six other talented Ayrshire song-writers, who all performed their own original songs to a sell-out audience and judging panel to raise awareness and funds for

the Help for Heroes charity.

Jane's winning song will be recorded and sold with proceeds going to the charity.

More details can be found at [www.songforheroes.com](http://www.songforheroes.com).



Jane Young.



The long-serving Stagecoach South staff with Managing Director Andrew Dyer (front left).

## Loyal service

▶ **STAGECOACH South recently recognised a group of long-serving employees who have worked in the bus industry for between 20 and 60 years.**

The event also celebrated the retirement of Maureen Dickinson, who retired from Aldershot depot after 36 years service.

▶ **COLLEAGUES past and present were on hand to wish Grimsby operations Manager Ron Smith a happy retirement after 41 years with the company.**

Gary Nolan, MD Stagecoach East Midlands,

## Ron calls it a day

praised Ron's hard work and his sense of humour when presenting him with a retirement gift of holiday vouchers.