

ON STAGE



INSIDE Memorial award page 2 | Greener together page 6

megabus.com continues European expansion

megabus.com has revealed record advance ticket sales on its new network of domestic coach services in Italy as well as launching two new international routes.

More than 30,000 customers purchased tickets during the first week of sales in Italy – higher than the initial sales on any of the company’s other networks in Europe.

megabus.com services now link 13 destinations across Italy and passengers have been snapping up bargain fares from just €1 (plus 50 cents booking fee). The major new network of inter-city coach services covers Rome, Milan, Florence, Venice, Naples, Turin, Bologna, Verona, Padua, Siena, Genoa, Sarzana (La Spezia) and Pisa.

megabus.com has also created around 100 new jobs through the opening of new bases near Milan and in Florence.

In addition, megabus.com recently launched its first base in France, where it has created 35 jobs at a depot located near Lyon, from which a new international route now operates between Barcelona, Perpignan, Montpellier, Avignon, Lyon, Mulhouse, Freiburg, Karlsruhe, Heidelberg, Frankfurt and Cologne.

The company also recently announced a new link



megabus.com vehicles at the launch of the new Italian domestic network in Florence

between London and Milan via Lille, Paris, Lyon and Turin.

megabus.com Managing Director Edward Hodgson said: “These latest routes mark even more expansion of our services in Europe. We’re delighted with the success of our megabus.com network in Italy so far and the level of interest

from customers has been fantastic.

“The new routes between London and Milan, and between Barcelona and Cologne are great news for our customers who now have access to even more great value coach links across Europe. We are the only coach operator in Europe to offer €1 fares on all services across all routes.”

Success at Scottish Transport Awards

STAGECOACH East Scotland was recognised with a top honour at the 2015 Scottish Transport Awards. The business was awarded the Best Bus Service accolade at the 13th annual event held in Glasgow after impressing judges with its Coastrider X7 route which operates along the east coast of Scotland. Stagecoach launched the X7 Coastrider service in 2011, providing a vital link between Dundee and Aberdeen via Arbroath, Montrose and Stonehaven. Services quickly proved popular and Stagecoach has since invested heavily in a further new fleet of luxury vehicles for the route, featuring free wifi, leather reclining seats, air conditioning and a toilet. In 2012 the company launched a night service and last year the route was extended through to Perth.

The Coastrider X7 service now carries 12,000 customers each week and has seen a 36% rise in passenger numbers over the past year.

Stagecoach East Scotland Managing Director Andrew Jarvis said: “This award is a real credit to the hard work of our employees who deliver all of these fantastic services to our customers all year round.

“Thousands of people a week rely on the Coastrider X7 services as an affordable and reliable transport solution and, by investing in new vehicles and delivering excellent customer service, we look forward to attracting even more people on to our greener, smarter services in the future.”

Stagecoach signs Armed Forces covenant

STAGECOACH Group has demonstrated its commitment to the UK Armed Forces by signing a corporate covenant to support the country’s military community.

In addition, the Group offered free travel to military personnel on the weekend of National Armed Forces Day.

The voluntary Ministry of Defence written covenant recognises the contribution made by service personnel, reservists, veterans and military families to the UK and the value they bring to businesses across the country.

Story continued on page 3

What a Laugh!



Posted on Twitter:

"This is the last time I take a box of iced fingers on the tube in rush hour."

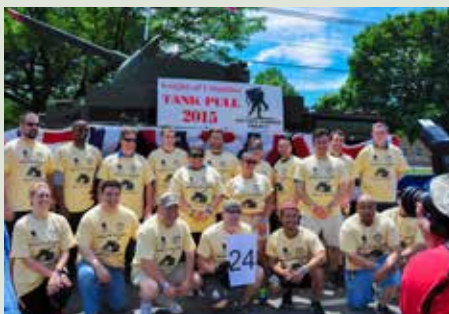
If you have seen or heard something funny – online, in the papers, on social media or just while out and about – send your contributions for the 'What a Laugh' section in the next edition to lindsay.reid@stagecoachgroup.com

Top awards

A TEAM from Stagecoach in Chesterfield's coach department has been recognised at a national transport awards ceremony. Staff at the company's Stonegravels base celebrated winning the Operator of the Year award at the 2014 National Express Awards, held in Coventry, in which the team were pitted against 37 other operations teams. At the annual event, Stagecoach in Chesterfield, which operates National Express coaches between West Yorkshire and London, also triumphed in the Operator of the Year for the 11–20 vehicles category for the second year running. The team were also recognised with the High Achiever accolade. Joe Gilchrist, Engineering Director of Stagecoach Yorkshire, who accepted the award on behalf of the team, said: "These awards highlight the consistently high standards demonstrated by our hard working, talented team. They fully deserve this award recognition."

On the pull

TWENTY Coach USA and megabus.com employees recently undertook a strength-based challenge to raise money for the Wounded Warrior Project. The group pulled a tank on an 18-wheel trailer – giving a combined weight of 80,000lbs – for a distance of 12 feet. The megabus.com team came in 19th out of the 42 teams competing with a time of 7.19 seconds.



The strong megabus.com team of fundraisers

Change at the helm in South Wales

JOHN GOULD, Managing Director from Stagecoach in South Wales, is to retire in August after a 40-year career in the UK bus industry.

John (64) has headed up Stagecoach's bus operations in Wales for the past 14 years and during his career has held senior positions at a number of regional bus companies across the UK.

He will retire on 31 August, shortly after his 65th birthday, and be succeeded by Nigel Winter who is currently Managing Director, Stagecoach Cumbria and North Lancashire.

He was appointed Managing Director of Stagecoach West and Wales in 2001 and has been Managing Director of Stagecoach South Wales since 2003. John said: "I can honestly say that I have enjoyed every minute of my 40 years in the bus industry and I have been privileged to work with, and for, some amazing people at all levels in that time."



Retiring South Wales Managing Director John Gould

Fond farewell for Andrew

Stagecoach South Managing Director Andrew Dyer has retired after a 40-year career. Starting at Oxfordshire independent Charlton-on-Otmoor Bus Services in 1970, Andrew worked as a bus cleaner and conductor before working his way up to Managing Director of Stagecoach South in 1999.

Andrew said: "I have thoroughly enjoyed my career – my philosophy has always been lots of hard work and humour and a focus on bringing new managers on. I am proud of the improvements we have made at Stagecoach South in recent years, which has only been possible because of the great team we have here."



Andrew Dyer pictured with his cake

Christopher Ball Memorial Award



Stagecoach Merseyside driver Dave Birch receives his award from John Ball

Stagecoach's UK Bus division has rewarded its employees for their high standards of eco-driving, with an awards scheme held in tribute to former employee. Christopher Ball, Stagecoach Ecodriver Project Manager, sadly passed away last year. Christopher had worked tirelessly to roll out the GreenRoad eco-driving technology to Stagecoach's bus companies across the UK and was a respected and well-liked employee. The Christopher Ball Memorial Award was awarded to Stagecoach Oxfordshire as the best performing company, with glass bowls also presented to the

best depot (Hartlepool) and the best driver, Dave Birch from Merseyside. The GreenRoad system is installed on all Stagecoach vehicles at the Group's bus companies and gives drivers instant feedback on their driving manoeuvres, encouraging smoother, safer, and more fuel-efficient driving. Stagecoach UK Bus Regional Director Robert Andrew said: "Along with GreenRoad, we wanted to find a fitting tribute to Christopher and, as he was the driving force behind the technology at our bus companies, we felt this was an appropriate way to remember him and pay tribute to his hard work." Christopher Ball's father John was involved in presenting the awards. He added: "Christopher cared deeply about his job and it's lovely to know he is still in the company's thoughts. He was delighted with the backing that Stagecoach gave him and it was very important to him to be involved in this project even during his illness. Our family would like to express sincere thanks to Stagecoach for the way they supported Christopher during his illness, particularly Robert Andrew. It's very nice to hear all of the lovely things that his colleagues at Stagecoach and at GreenRoad have said about him and, along with the rest of my family, I would like to congratulate the winners of these awards."



Stagecoach Group Chief Executive Martin Griffiths with the signed Armed Forces Covenant

Continued from page 1

Stagecoach Group Chief Executive Martin Griffiths said: "The importance of the Armed Forces Community to the UK cannot be underestimated. At Stagecoach 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. "We are forever indebted to those who risk their lives every day and to those who have sadly lost their lives or suffered injury while serving our country. We believe we can play our part in repaying the Armed Forces in some way by pledging to provide support wherever we can for military personnel to ensure they are treated fairly and with respect at all times." Stagecoach Group companies have supported

military personnel in a variety of ways over the last 12 months including donations to the British Legion, activities to recognise local heroes, attending dedicated Armed Forces recruitment fairs and offering free transport to uniformed personnel and veterans on National Poppy Day. For the past two years Stagecoach Group's megabus.com business in North America has also donated \$1 to the Wounded Warrior Project® (WWP) for every passenger travelling on Veterans Day in November. Minister for Defence Personnel and Veterans Mark Lancaster said: "We are incredibly proud of the Armed Forces Covenant and the positive, lasting impact that its schemes are having on our personnel and their families.

"Military life can often have its challenges and, for our personnel, often means putting themselves in harm's way which can result in injury and potential difficulty in integrating back into civilian life. For families, military life can mean having to move around the country every few years affecting places on NHS waiting lists, children's schooling, partners finding jobs and getting credit or mortgages. It is for those reasons that the security the Covenant offers is so vital to our Armed Forces who, due to the sacrifices they make in serving their country, deserve our support and appreciation."

On board with 'Catch the Bus Week'

Stagecoach has joined forces with sustainable transport group Greener Journeys to promote the benefits of bus use during the third annual 'Catch the Bus Week'.

The campaign aims to drive awareness of the benefits of taking the bus and encourage local people to make the switch from the car. Stagecoach companies across the UK, along with Greener Journeys, were involved in promoting the many benefits of bus travel through a range of events, giveaways, activities and best value bus fares.

Robert Montgomery, Managing Director of Stagecoach UK Bus said: "Catch the Bus Week is a great opportunity for people to think about their transport habits. With so many of our companies offering fantastic deals, competitions and giveaways it's a chance for the public to get on board and give the bus a go."

More information on the activities carried out during Catch the Bus Week will be included in the next issue of On Stage.

In the loop

STAGECOACH London has become the first business in the Group to launch the new Group-wide intranet, The Loop.

The new intranet, which will be rolled out to all parts of the company, allows employees to access useful information, receive company updates, put forward ideas and suggestions, keep in touch with each other, access job opportunities from across the Group and lots more useful features.

Staff in London are already benefitting and the company has introduced iPads at each depot to ensure employees can access The Loop. Stagecoach Group Chief Executive Martin Griffiths said: "One of the most exciting developments for our business this year is the launch of our new, Group-wide all staff intranet The Loop. The project is now being trialled at Stagecoach London and we look forward to hearing the feedback of our employees there as we continue to work on the roll-out of The Loop across the rest of the Group.



A demonstration of The Loop at Bromley Garage

"The intranet will benefit our people in a number of ways by helping us deliver more effective communication, improved Group-wide information and time-saving solutions to every day tasks. It will also make it easier for our employees to give their views and ideas about their companies, and there will also be a light-hearted side to it too which we hope people will enjoy.

"Work is well underway to make sure that every member of staff has access to this great resource as soon as possible."

Saving the day

LONDON Service Controller Afruz Ali was praised for his courageous behaviour in preventing a crime.

On the day of the London Marathon Afruz was allocated to Aldgate Station. While there, a panicked woman ran up to him and explained that a man on a bike had robbed her. At that moment the cyclist was moving towards Afruz and tried to dodge his way past but the Stagecoach employee lunged at him to prevent him from getting away. Both landed between two parked buses and the police arrived with minutes and made an arrest. Afruz was treated for grazes and bruises on his leg and thigh but still managed to complete his duty.



Heroic London employee Afruz Ali

Care for Claire

STAGECOACH Yorkshire has supported Barnsley singer Dave Cherry in raising money for a mother who tragically lost both her sons last year by sponsoring a special screening of two of Mr Cherry's archived cine films in June, in aid of the Care for Claire charity. Claire Throssell is trying to rebuild her life after sons Jack (12) and Paul (9) were killed in a

fire started by their father last October at their Penistone home.

Mr Cherry, who is also an author and film archivist, showed a special screening of Barnsley Streets and Penistone the Railway Town in aid of the Care for Claire charity.

Paul Lynch, Managing Director of Stagecoach Yorkshire, said: "We wanted to show Claire that she has the entire community, including Stagecoach, behind her."

East Anglia rail franchise

STAGECOACH Group has confirmed that a Stagecoach-Abellio joint venture has been shortlisted by the Department for Transport for the new East Anglia franchise.

The current Greater Anglia franchise has been operated by Abellio since February 2012. The new East Anglia franchise runs five routes and operates a mix of inter-city, suburban and regional services, carrying more than 350,000 passengers every day.

Shortlisted bidders are expected to be invited to submit detailed proposals later this year and the new operator will take over managing the franchise in October 2016.

Stagecoach Group Chief Executive Martin Griffiths said: "We are one of the country's leading rail companies and we know the railway is central to the economy in East Anglia. We believe our strong track-record, combined with the insight of the incumbent operator, Abellio, can produce a powerful joint bid to deliver a better experience for customers and support jobs and businesses in the region."

On board with poetry

THE WINNERS of a poetry competition have seen their poems published on posters in buses as The Peterborough Literacy Campaign, a National Literacy Trust initiative to boost literacy levels in the area, has announced the winners of their Love Peterborough poetry competition.

Adults and children, aged eight and over from across Peterborough, got scribbling about their pride for their home city and its many sights, sounds, smells and tastes.

Zoe Paget, Operations Director at Stagecoach East, said: "We hope that the winning poems make our customers smile and we're looking forward to further supporting this important initiative."



Melody The Bill with her winning poem on board a Stagecoach bus



PICTURE THIS



This edition's Picture This winner was taken by **Roslyn Black** who works in PSV Claims at Group headquarters. It shows the Mill Street bus interchange in Perth.

Congratulations to Roslyn who will shortly receive her 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 it to lindsay.reid@stagecoachgroup.com

Racing for Tiny Lives

TEN Stagecoach North East employees tackled a 10km race to raise funds for local charity, Tiny Lives. Team Walkergate took part in the Sand Dancer 10km Mixed Terrain race in South Shields and raised over £400 for the charity that helps to care for premature and sick newborn babies and families in the Special Care Baby Unit of the Newcastle Neonatal Service.

Carol Meredith, Head of Tiny Lives, said: "Our thanks to Team Walkergate. They really rose to the challenge! Their fundraising will make a real difference to families."



The Walkergate team who took part in the 10k

Tough Mudder marketeer

KATIE CRAIG, Marketing and Design Assistant for East Scotland, took on Tough Mudder in June in aid of MS Society Scotland.

Katie raised over £350 after completing the 10-12 mile obstacle course which includes ice cold water, tear gas and plenty of mud! Her total has been matched by Stagecoach East Scotland.

Katie said: "I'm very proud of myself for completing Tough Mudder and to have raised so much money for such a worthwhile cause. It was definitely worth the challenge!"



Katie after completing Tough Mudder

New Managing Director

STAGECOACH South West has announced that Bob Dennison has become the company's new Managing Director. Bob, who was Stagecoach East's Engineering Director, took on the role from 1 July 2015.

Stagecoach previously confirmed that current South West Managing Director Mike Watson would become Managing Director of Stagecoach South on the same date. Bob Dennison (38) began his career in 1994 as an apprentice mechanic in Christchurch, New Zealand. In 1999, he moved to the UK and joined Stagecoach in Hull as a shift fitter.

In 2000, Bob achieved a place on Stagecoach's Staff Development Programme and subsequently moved to Cambridge as Engineering Supervisor. He then had a spell as Engineering Manager at Peterborough depot before being appointed Engineering Manager at Cambridge depot. In 2008 Bob was appointed Engineering Director at Stagecoach East.

Robert Montgomery, Stagecoach UK Bus Managing Director, said: "I would like to congratulate Bob on his promotion. With more than 20 years' engineering experience, and more than 15 years with Stagecoach, he understands the challenges and opportunities within the bus industry and has the necessary knowledge and experience to further develop our south west operations." Bob Dennison said: "It's a privilege to be taking on this role and I look forward to working with the Stagecoach team in the south west, and our many partners in the area, to continue delivering high-quality, affordable bus travel and excellent customer service for the millions of people that rely on our services every day."





LETTER OF PRAISE

The below customer wrote to Stagecoach Merseyside and South Lancashire to praise one of the company's drivers.

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing to inform you that as a passenger on a Stagecoach bus I was very impressed with the driver (Thomas Monlyneux) who showed courtesy to old people boarding and was very pleasant to all who boarded. I think he should be acknowledged.
Yours sincerely
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.

Read all about it

A BUS donated by Stagecoach East Midlands is to be converted into a library for a school in Peterborough. Fourfield's Primary School ran a competition for the pupils to come up with how the bus should look with the winning pictures being taken to a design company in London where they have to pitch their idea before a final winner is chosen. The school has raised £10,000 to help pay for the bus to be refurbished and painted before being used as a library.



New directors on board

TWO new directors have been appointed to Stagecoach South.

Operations Director Gordon Frost has 27 years experience in the bus industry and has held senior roles in both commercial and operations teams at some of the UK's leading bus operators.

Chris Remnant is taking on the role of Engineering Director having started his career over 23 years ago. Chris began his bus career at the young age of 16 and worked his way up to Foreman, Garage Supervisor and Engineering Manager at locations in Wales, Basingstoke and London.

Both Gordon and Chris will be based at the company's Chichester head office.

Retiring Stagecoach South Managing Director



Andrew Dyer said of the two appointments: "I am delighted to welcome both Chris and Gordon to Stagecoach South. Their wide range of skills and experience will be invaluable as the business develops in the years ahead."

Special trams

SUPERTRAM recently joined forces with Cineworld in Sheffield to run a special tram to get people home after the midnight showings of Avengers which proved very popular with customers. In addition, the company provided some wedding travel when they transported happy couple Claire and Ben from their wedding venue to their reception in Sheffield.

Time for tea



Staff with some of the tasty treats at the Time for Tea party at Holbrook depot

STAFF from Stagecoach Yorkshire enjoyed a coffee morning to raise more than £430 for Sheffield's Weston Park Hospital Cancer Charity.

Drivers and engineers drank tea and tucked in to home-baked goodies including jam tarts, chocolate cake, scones and more at the transport operator's Holbrook and Ecclesfield Depots during the Time for Tea event.

Paul Lynch, Stagecoach Yorkshire's Managing Director, said: "Our tea parties went down a treat with staff. What better way to raise money to support a fantastic local cause than the traditional Yorkshire way of putting the kettle on and having a cuppa."

Barcelona Bangers

STAGECOACH East Scotland driver, Douglas Bell and two friends participated in the Barcelona Bangers challenge to raise money for the Royal National Lifeboat Institution (RNLI). This year's challenge was to drive to Barcelona in a 'banger' worth less than £400. Douglas and his team received over £200 of donations from their Stagecoach colleagues and £200 was contributed by Stagecoach East Scotland. The team were very successful and raised over £2,000 in total for the RNLI.

Unfortunately the car they used for the challenge didn't make it back to Arbroath!



The 'banger' Douglas and his team drove during the Barcelona Bangers challenge



Bus liveries are just the ticket

TWO special bus liveries, based on 'Southdown Motor Services', have been launched by Stagecoach to celebrate 100 years of public transport across Sussex and South East Hampshire.

The two buses were unveiled by Stagecoach's Commercial Director Mark Turner and Engineering Director Richard Alexander at a special photo ceremony hosted by Amberley Museum & Heritage Centre. They are finished in the traditional Southdown green and cream livery that was evident from 1915 until the early 1990s and the Southdown wartime variation of green and battleship grey.

Mark said: "We are very proud of our heritage and to follow the tradition of providing an important public transport network".

Getting greener together

STAGECOACH held its seventh annual Green Week programme with a series of events taking place across the Group.

Group Chief Executive Martin Griffiths explained that individuals, businesses, communities and public authorities had a "shared responsibility" to protect the planet for future generations.

During the week-long programme of activities, the Perth-based company encouraged employees and customers to continue driving forward the green agenda through the Group's new five-year Sustainability Strategy.

This year's Green Week also incorporated World Environment Day on Friday 5 June – a widely celebrated global day for positive environmental action when people from all walks of life can come together to ensure a cleaner, greener outlook for future generations.

Earlier this year Stagecoach launched its new five-year strategy 'Shared responsibility, shared future' which has been produced in partnership with the Carbon Trust and sets out a package of investments at the Group's bus and rail businesses. It follows a 30% reduction in Stagecoach Group's carbon intensity since 2007-08 and the achievement of previous targets 12 months ahead of schedule. By April 2019, the Group is aiming to:

- reduce buildings carbon emissions by 7%
- cut like-for-like fleet transport carbon emissions by 2%
- lower water consumption by 9%
- achieve a waste recycling rate of 83%

Stagecoach's annual Green Week – this year with the theme of Getting Greener Together – aimed to raise awareness of environmental issues among staff and passengers through a series of events. These included green initiatives and competitions held in partnership with a number of local schools across the country, a series of roadshows across the UK, employee and customer competitions, social media initiatives, interactive online activities and participation in local community events by Stagecoach employees.

Martin Griffiths said: "All of us – individuals, businesses, communities and public authorities – have a shared responsibility to protect our environment. We know from our own experience of running transport networks that climate change is increasingly impacting our daily lives through more extremes of weather.

"We hope that Green Week will help give a real focus for how we can all work together to protect our planet for future generations. It's about making changes in how companies do business, governments taking tough decisions and each of us looking at the personal choices we make in our daily lives. We need to make changes not just for one day or one week, but for the long-term."



Jennifer Shelton won a year's free bus travel with Stagecoach Oxford



Stagecoach East Midlands visited local nursery classes during the week



Stagecoach Merseyside and South Lancashire employee Paul Ward handed out goodie bags in Chorley



Stagecoach South East introduced a new bike shelter for staff at Thanet depot



Stagecoach Supertram staff did some planting in the local community



Stagecoach South launched a special independent travel program with West Sussex County Council, covering 10 schools



Stagecoach London's Green Bus was out and about to mark World Environment Day



Virgin Trains East Coast invited pupils from Richmond School to give an environment-themed performance at York Station



A team from Stagecoach West transformed the wildlife garden belonging to local charity, St James City Farm, to make it fit for purpose for its many visitors



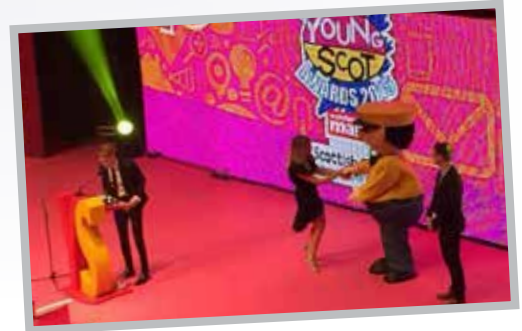
A team of employees from Stagecoach North East cycled over 40 miles around Tyne & Wear to help raise funds for the local community

Wake up to fatigue

STAGECOACH is backing a campaign launched by the Scottish Government and Transport Scotland to help reduce the number of accidents caused by driver fatigue. Using the strapline 'Driving tired? 15 minutes rest and a coffee will sort you out', the campaign reminds motorists to stop when they feel tired. Fatigue induced accidents are roughly 50% more likely to result in death or serious injury as they tend to be high-speed collisions because the driver is unlikely to brake or swerve to reduce impact. Data shows that tiredness is a contributory factor in approximately 20% of accidents and up to one quarter of fatal and serious accidents. The campaign, which will run across radio, online through Facebook and via www.dontriskit.info, offers clear advice to minimise the risk of driving while tired.



Claim to fame



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

megabus.com mascot Sid mingled with the stars recently as he helped present the Entertainment Award at the 2015 megabus.com-sponsored Young Scot Awards in Edinburgh. Sid was joined on stage by radio DJ Edith Bowman and Eastenders star Jamie Borthwick to present the winner, River City actress Keira Lucchesi, with her award.

Hearts of Gloucestershire

TWO Gloucester bus drivers recently won the Public Sector Hero (Non-Uniformed Services) Award at the Heart of Gloucestershire Community Awards for their work in stamping out bullying on the school bus. Stagecoach West employees Craig Sharwood and Andy Jones played an important role in improving the journey to school for a pupil at Newent School who suffered bullying on the school.



Award-winning drivers Andy Jones and Craig Sharwood

The pupil's mum wrote to Stagecoach to highlight the efforts of the drivers, who have now been rewarded for their actions with a well-deserved Heart of Gloucester Community Award.



Allison Dunn (centre) with the cheque after the event

Playing for the Sun

SOUTH West Trains' Senior Information and Customer Experience Manager Allison Dunn has been involved in raising funds and awareness for solar energy and female entrepreneurship in Kenya. Allison and her friends climbed Mt Kilimanjaro earlier on in the year and created the Play For The Sun campaign that saw 120 girls from underprivileged areas of Kenya participate in a football tournament. The event raised thousands of Kenyan Shillings (more than £5,500) for the Solar Sister organisation and also highlighted the positive effects that sports can have in young women's lives.

First for East Scotland



New Commercial Director for Stagecoach East Scotland, Douglas Robertson

STAGECOACH East Scotland has employed its first Commercial Director. Douglas Robertson, originally from Fife, began his career in 1998 as Trainee Manager for Stagecoach Bluebird before progressing to Assistant Traffic Manager in Aberdeen then Planning Manager for Bluebird, Perth and Inverness.

In 2001, Douglas joined First Edinburgh as a Traffic Manager covering the Scottish Borders before returning to Stagecoach as a driver and Relief Scheduler in Kirkcaldy within the East Scotland operating area. Douglas has also worked for Falkirk Council and Preston Bus before joining Transdev Blazefield in 2009.

Winner's parade

Coach USA hop-on/hop-off tour company Chicago Trolley was the designated mode of transportation for the ticket tape parade for the Stanley Cup Champion Chicago Blackhawks recently to celebrate the 3rd time in six years that the Chicago Blackhawks have won the Stanley Cup.



The vehicles play a big part in the parade

A day to remember

THE SLOGAN 'A day to remember...' was printed on the side of Stagecoach's specially designed livery to recognise WW2 heroes and heroines on the 70th anniversary of Victory in Europe (VE) Day. Stagecoach offered a chauffeur driven bus for a group of residents travelling to the Royal British Legion Club in Lancing.

Andrew Dyer, regional Managing Director for Stagecoach, said: "VE Day is one of the most pivotal moments in our nation's proud history. As a tribute, it seemed right to commemorate the 70th anniversary of this historic day."



Andrew Dyer (left) and colleagues from Stagecoach South with the special livery to mark VE Day

■ Rising to the challenge

STAGECOACH South East continued its support for Pilgrims Hospices through an 'It's a Knockout' challenge. Three teams of employees from Stagecoach's Thanet and Dover depots, including bus drivers, administrators and engineers, took part in an action packed day at Government Acre, Ramsgate which involved teams participating in several activities including obstacle courses and agility challenges, all involving a lot of water! Karen Kenward, Pilgrims Hospices Regional Fundraising Manager said: "I would like to thank Stagecoach for their wonderful support to our It's a Knockout event." Stagecoach has supported Pilgrims Hospices since 2013, raising over £10,000 for the charity.



The team from Thanet depot

■ On Train Oscars

EAST Midlands Trains' on train staff who go the extra mile have been recognised for their outstanding service at the second 'On Train Oscars'.

Eleven awards were handed out at the event which was hosted by Andrew Conroy, Head of Customer Experience Delivery.

The winners were:

- Manager of the Year: Joint Winners – Debbie Pye, Catering and Logistics Manager and Rob Mercer, Lincoln
- Team of the Year: Resources, Nottingham
- Friend of On Train: Ray Cook, London St Pancras
- Unsung Hero: Margaret Game, Clerical Assistant, London St Pancras
- Customer Host: George Baiceanu, London St Pancras
- Newcomer: Dragos Voicu, On Train Team, London St Pancras
- Train Manager: Mark Ireland, Derby
- Outstanding Contribution: Joy Iggledon, Train Manager, Nottingham
- Senior Conductor: Den Divers, Lincoln
- Service Proposition Team: Tim Bunn, Chef, Derby
- Top Seller Award: Craig Nolan, Customer Host, Sheffield

More train journeys

RAIL passengers in Nottingham are now benefitting from extra services and quicker journeys after the launch of the new Castle Line timetable. Passengers using Nottingham now enjoy an extra 25 trains every weekday between Nottingham and Newark Castle and faster journey times on the majority of services to Lincoln. The increase in services is a further boost to Nottingham, following the award-winning £60million improvement scheme at the station completed last year. Simon Taylor, Head of Network Development for East Midlands Trains, said: "I am absolutely delighted that we are introducing our new and much improved services for the communities and businesses along the Castle Line. "The new services are a particular boost to the smaller, intermediate stations along the route as many of them will now have more services than they have had in more than a century. This is a real boost for the region and we are over the moon to have worked closely with so many partners and supporters to make this happen."



From left: Jennifer Spencer of Experience Nottinghamshire, Lilian Greenwood MP for Nottingham South, Sheriff of Nottingham Councillor Jackie Morris, Sarah Turner, Route Manager for East Midlands Trains, King John and Robin Hood!

Flying high



CHILDREN of all ages demonstrated their creative talents with the help of Stagecoach and Ireland's innovative 'World's Smallest Kite Company'. Stagecoach parked two buses from their Kite and Gold fleet for workshops in Aldershot town centre and children were thrilled to see the buses as well as making and flying their very own hand-made kites. The kite themed event was not only a clever linking with the fleet's new brand name but also a perfect opportunity to show how easy it can be to jump on the bus and travel. Andrew Dyer, Regional Managing Director for Stagecoach, said, "We believe that buses aren't simply about getting from A to B in a greener, cheaper way, but also about the journey itself. A bus ride is a fantastic way to explore the environment around you."

Top bus driver

DUNFERMLINE bus driver Brian Mackie was awarded the 'Driver of the Year' award at this year's Bus Driver of the Year competition within East Scotland.

Brian also won the local competition in 2008 and 2014 showing his consistently high standard of work since

joining the company 12 years ago. Second place went to Lee Holmes, also from Dunfermline depot, and Izzelle Shaw from Cowdenbeath depot took third place. Brian and Lee will now go on to compete in the National Driver of the Year finals, which will be held in Blackpool in September.



Winner of East Scotland's Bus Driver of The Year competition, Brian Mackie

Great deals from Supertram

STAGECOACH Supertram has teamed up with a number of local retailers to offer special treats for customers. Passengers presenting valid travel tickets are able to claim a range of free and discounted offers, from nachos to coffees.

Claire Ansley, Head of Customer Service at Stagecoach Supertram, said: "We're joining forces with local retailers to provide our customers with some great offers at locations across the city. Starting with free golf and goodies, we expect to be able to offer some more 'tramendous' deals as the year continues."



This issue's recipe comes from On Stage Editor Lindsay Reid. Enjoy!

Yummy Pasta

Ingredients

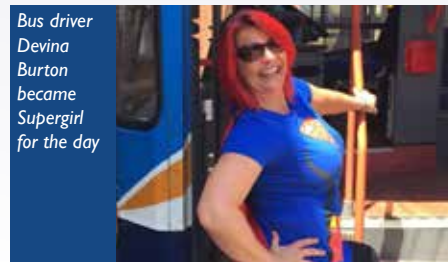
Pasta shells, lean mince (or veggie mince), 1 tin condensed mushroom soup, 1 tin condensed tomato soup, 1 chopped onion, mushrooms (diced), cheddar cheese (grated)

Method

- Cook pasta
- Soften chopped onion in large pot with oil
- Add lean mince (or veggie mince) and cook thoroughly
- Add both tins of soup, chopped mushrooms, cooked pasta and cheese to the pot and mix
- Transfer mixture to casserole dish and put in oven (around 200 degrees) for 30–35 minutes
- Sprinkle some cheese on top of pasta casserole and cook for a further 10 minutes

Serve with a green salad

Stagecoach superheroes



Bus driver Devina Burton became Supergirl for the day

STAGECOACH South supported radio station Wave 105's Cash for Kids Superhero Day to support disabled, disadvantaged and vulnerable children living across the local area. Local businesses were asked to dress up in costume for Cash for Kids and help raise much-needed funds for four local charities. A number of Stagecoach employees dressed up, raising money in the process.

Striking gold

COACH USA Elko transports six million miners to and from work every year and the company recently took part in the annual Elko Mining Expo which has taken place for the last 30 years. It is one of the oldest and most respected mining expos held in the United States and draws close to 8,000 people, nationally and internationally, to its mining industry exhibits. Meanwhile, Elko has renewed a six-year contract with gold-mining company Barrick Gold, bringing in 50 new VanHool vehicles and serving five mine sites in Nevada.



The Coach USA team at the Elko Mining Expo

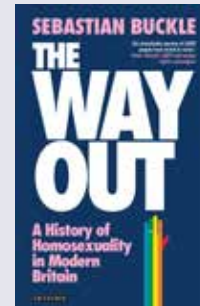
Dave becomes mayor



WELL-respected Grimsby driver Dave Barton recently became the Mayor of Immingham. Dave has been a local councillor for the Humber Ward in Immingham for the last five years. As the Mayor of Immingham

his main goal for this year is to improve the reputation and perceived image of Immingham.

The Way Out



SOUTH West Trains – Network Rail Alliance Internal Communications Manager Sebastian Buckle has published his first book. The book, titled The Way Out, is based on Seb's previous PhD research and explores

the history of homosexuality in post-war Britain. By examining the major milestones in political and social history, the book focuses on how ideas of personal identity have been created and recreated over the past forty years.

Copies are available at www.amazon.co.uk

Charity walk

STAGECOACH Perth employees Evelyn Donaldson and Carolyn Graham have raised more than £1,000 for Breast Cancer Care after taking part in the Pink Ribbonwalk.

The pair completed the 10-mile charity walk at Scone Palace recently and would like to thank everyone who sponsored them.



Evelyn and Carolyn with their medals after completing the Pink Ribbonwalk event

Shaun's new role

SHAUN CLARK has been appointed Operations Manager for Lincoln Depot, leaving his position as Operations Manager for Gainsborough and Scunthorpe Depots after ten years in the position.

He said: "I will miss all of the hard-working and loyal staff that work in Gainsborough and Scunthorpe and I send them my best wishes for the future."

Inspirational Bus

An old deck bus had been donated by Stagecoach Midlands to South End Junior School in Rushden, Northants which has been transformed into new learning space for the children at the school.

Gurdip Kaur, Associate Principal, said: "The bus was named 'The Huddle' by the children and it now provides a different learning experience which inspires and promotes independence and collaboration in a bright, comfortable space."



Youngsters from the South End Junior School with their new bus 'The Huddle'

GETTING TO KNOW YOU...

Elaine Gale, PA to the Directors for Merseyside and South Lancashire

■ **Who are you?**

Elaine Gale, PA to the Directors for Merseyside and South Lancashire

■ **What do you like most about your job?**

I love working in the bus industry. I am based at Gillmoss, a very busy depot where no two days are the same. It's great to be able to offer the team additional support and keep in the loop with what's happening with the drivers.

■ **What do you like least about your job?**

Tough question – I am a positive person but I would have to say filing, which can be quite time consuming.

■ **Favourite food?**

Lobster.

■ **Least favourite food?**

Lamb.

■ **What are you most proud of?**

My two children. They are my life!

■ **Favourite holiday destination?**

Akbuk, Turkey, my sister's holiday home – it's our little bit of heaven.

■ **Most embarrassing moment?**

Being mistaken for the singer Sonia in the '90s in HMV with my mum and people surrounding me asking me for my autograph. The manager of the store had to take my mum and me out the fire exit.

■ **Favourite music?**

George Michael, John Lennon, Ed Sheeran, soul music

■ **Person you would most like to have dinner with?**

John Lennon – he is my idol.

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

Travel the world with my family and friends.



'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

■ Outstanding service

A TOTAL of 38 long-standing employees at Stagecoach Yorkshire were honoured for their decades of dedication at a special event in Sheffield.

Employees were praised for their combined service of 1,225 years, including Brian Barnett from the Chesterfield depot who celebrated reaching 50 years of service.

Meanwhile nine people received awards for 20 years of service, seven for 25 years, four for 30 years, 11 for 35 years, four for 40 years and two for 45 years.

Paul Lynch, Stagecoach Yorkshire's Managing Director, said: "Every year it gives me great joy and pride to celebrate the dedication and achievements of our staff."



The long-serving South Yorkshire employees

■ Long services awards

STAGECOACH South Wales celebrated loyal service with a recent Long Service Dinner. The attendees being awarded had 310 years of combined service between them and the longest serving staff member was Brian Townsend, Cwmbran, with 50 years service.



Long-serving South Wales staff

■ 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 14 August 2015**.

Changes in the North East

A BUS driver from Sunderland has swapped steering wheels for spreadsheets after taking up a new role as Commercial Assistant at Stagecoach North East. Marie McCarty is now part of a team which is responsible for all commercial aspects of the company, including bus and driver scheduling, developing routes and timetables, data collection and financial reporting.

Marie undertook her qualification as a bus driver in October 2014 and she spent the next six months on the roads around Sunderland. Previously she was a knowledge management advisor at Barclays UK Retail and Business Bank.

She said: "This job suits me perfectly as it involves the analysis of numbers which I specialised in as part of my 11 years in financial services. I very much enjoyed that aspect of my job and I felt that this role would be a natural progression to my career and without a doubt it is the best decision I have made."



New Commercial Assistant Marie McCarty

Meanwhile, Lee Mutch has taken up the role of Engineering Manager for the company's Hartlepool operations.

Lee was promoted to the senior role after 20 years of working at Stagecoach depots in South Shields, Sunderland and Newcastle.

He said: "I am really pleased to be taking up this role and thank Stagecoach North East for the chance to develop and progress my career."

Birthday celebrations

STAFF at the Shared Services Centre in Stockport helped celebrate colleague Shirley Davies' 60th birthday.

The office was decorated with balloons and banners and there were a few additional surprises throughout the day, including an inflatable zimmer frame as well as some more serious gifts and a balloon and cake. Shirley then joined her colleagues in the cash management team for a meal.



Shirley (4th down on the right) at her birthday meal with colleagues