



# NATIONAL APPRENTICESHIP WEEK 2022

PAGES 10 and 11

## IN THIS ISSUE

ROUTE W15 LAUNCH

WELCOME TO NEW COLLEAGUES

OUR SUSTAINABILITY COMMITMENT

## IN THIS ISSUE

### 04 PEOPLE

[Click to go to People](#)

- *International Women's Day*
- *Wonder Woman Linda Perriam*
- *Colourful Monday*
- *Know your Colleague - Richard*
- *River Road Garage school visit*
- *National Apprenticeship Week*
- *Passenger Commendations*

### 14 RECRUITMENT

[Click to go to Recruitment](#)

- *Engineering new starters*
- *Graduate Trainee Isobel's story*
- *New Recruitment Manager*
- *Refer a friend to Go-Ahead London*
- *Engineering Recruitment Scheme*

### 20 ENVIRONMENT

[Click to go to Environment](#)

- *Our sustainability commitment*

### 22 PERFORMANCE

[Click to go to Performance](#)

- *Stockwell Garage in the news*
- *Launch of the all new Route W15*
- *Learning on the go*
- *Roll on Route 677*

## Message from

**A warm welcome to the latest edition of Bus Talk. It is hard to believe that nearly three months have passed since I drafted my last column. Then, we were on the cusp of Christmas and looking forward to what we all hoped would be a happy 2022. Pleasingly, from a coronavirus perspective, the new year has started well, with sustained progress on multiple fronts. As always, thank you for making a real difference and please remain vigilant to what remains a deadly disease.**

It will not have escaped your attention that the Go-Ahead Group recently reported full-year results for the financial year to July 2021. This attracted a lot of media and stakeholder interest, largely because of the possibility of a financial penalty from complex issues on the rail side of the business. Although clearly regrettable, it is important for me to stress that Go-Ahead London and the wider regulated bus division (Ireland and Singapore) continue to perform well. No one has a crystal ball, but I am confident that we will learn from our recent difficulties and emerge stronger from them.

2022 will, inevitably, see new work join the Go-Ahead London family and previously established services depart. We recently welcomed a batch of 12 new single-deck electric buses to Northumberland Park for the W15s, complete with digital blinds and the very latest bus safety standard technology. They will join nine existing zero-emission vehicles to make a full complement of 21 in total for the W15s.

## John Trayner

### MANAGING DIRECTOR

Sadly, Routes 135, 322 and 432 leave us over the coming months, despite solid operational performance and their loss starkly highlights the intense rivalry we face. On a brighter note, Route 119 has been retained and we welcome Route 264 towards the end of this summer, which will result in additional electric buses joining our fleet at Croydon.

At the start of the pandemic, bus usage understandably declined to a fraction of what it had previously been. Over the last few months, it has steadily risen to around 80 per cent of pre-Covid levels and one of the many challenges we face is getting it back to 100 per cent and then into growth. Although Transport for London (TfL) plan, procure and finance the capital's public transport network, we are responsible for making users welcome. A safe and reliable service helps to persuade people back onto buses and we all have an important part to play in this area, so it is crucial that we deliver service excellence on the ground.

It was recently announced that TfL and the Government have agreed another short-term funding settlement, with a deal that will keep the current TfL network operational until 24 June 2022. Like many other interested parties, I am keen for both sides to enter a long-term arrangement as it will deliver essential investment.

TfL's finances, and the decisions they make, directly affect every one of us. For example, we are awaiting developments on a significant number of tender bids, especially in Sutton,

while service reductions have, in places, regrettably become the norm. As I stated earlier, we all need to do our bit to get people onto public transport, in the process highlighting the valuable contribution we make to our capital's wellbeing and to the climate change agenda.

Despite the challenges, it is apparent that we continue to invest across the company.

At Henley Road, building work remains on schedule as we develop the UK's first purpose-built all-electric bus garage. Elsewhere in East London, we have acquired land adjacent to our existing River Road premises, which, over time, will allow us to run even more buses in an area that will become ever more reliant on public transport over the coming decades. Established garages are also benefitting, such as at Bexleyheath, where, subject to local authority

planning permission, we will soon be operating electric buses on Route 132, in the process utilising pantograph top up charging, in yet another UK first for the company.

We are clearly navigating our way through challenging times, but I remain optimistic that happier, and healthier, days are close. London cannot function without a world class bus network and the spirit of camaraderie that has taken us from the difficult early days of Covid remains intact. From long-serving colleagues to new apprentices, irrespective of your role and contribution to the company, thanks again for serving London and I hope you enjoy reading this edition of Bus Talk.



**JOHN TRAYNER**  
MANAGING DIRECTOR

# International WOMEN'S DAY

Tuesday 8 March saw people across the business come together to celebrate the global event that is International Women's Day - highlighting the social, economic, cultural, and political achievements of women.

As part of the event, Go-Ahead London produced a video telling the stories of several female colleagues; including their career stories, progression within the business and future aspirations.

We want more women to join the public transport industry, to ensure our workforce better represents the communities that we serve, and by doing so, create a more diverse and inclusive environment for all. Go-Ahead has a target of 20% of our colleagues, working on buses, to be women by 2025.

[Click here to view the IWD Hub page!](#)

 [Click here to view the Go-Ahead London IWD video](#)



COLLEAGUES SHOWING THEIR SUPPORT BY ADOPTING THE #BREAKTHEBIAS POSE



## WONDER WOMAN Linda Perriam



It is always pleasing when the company receives positive feedback for service above and beyond the call of duty. A recent exceptional example of this was when Linda Perriam (Roadside Controller) provided first aid to a member of the public who had collapsed on the pavement in Ilford, East London in early February.



“ — Linda very much embodies our visions and values. ”

LINDA PERRIAM  
ROADSIDE CONTROLLER

Linda had just returned from her break, ready to commence the second part of her duty at Ilford Hainault Street Bus Station, when a member of the public alerted her to a young person who had collapsed nearby and was unconscious.

Without hesitation Linda came to the young person's assistance, using her first aid experience to place them in the recovery position, ensuring their airways were clear, as well as making them as comfortable as possible whilst paramedics arrived.

Linda remained calm and collective throughout and, after ensuring that no further assistance was required, she returned to complete the rest of her duty, demonstrating true professionalism.

The member of public who had initially alerted Linda wrote to Go-Ahead that evening to commend her actions. Linda's efforts were recognised with commendation letters from both John Trayner, and Christian Schreyer (Go-Ahead Group Chief Executive).

“ Linda has always demonstrated a great willingness to go the extra mile. In every aspect of her role she continually conducts herself to a high level of professionalism, maintaining a sense of care towards others, whether they be fellow colleagues or members of the public. Linda very much embodies our visions and values. My hat goes off to you Linda! ”

SAJID CHAUDRY  
AREA GENERAL MANAGER

# Colourful Monday

Colleagues across Go-Ahead London came together to celebrate Colourful Monday on 17 January.

The third Monday of January is often seen as one of the gloomiest days of the year. To make the day more colourful, colleagues were encouraged to wear a brightly coloured item of clothing. With the aim of sparking a conversation and getting us all talking about mental health.

The event was also used to highlight the range support available to all London colleagues, including the **Employee Assistance Programme** and **The Pod**.

Transport for London held a competition for the best entries and the fantastic efforts of Go-Ahead London colleagues were recognised with several competition winners; including first prize, third prize and a special runner-up prize - congratulations to all our winners!

## TRY TO BE A RAINBOW IN SOMEONE ELSE'S CLOUD



**WINNER!**

**SAKTHIVEL KUMARAN**  
CROYDON GARAGE



**THIRD PLACE**

**MINH TRUONG**  
CAMBERWELL GARAGE



**SPECIAL RUNNER UP**

**GRETCHEN DASALLA**  
PUTNEY GARAGE



**ZANIA HAZEL**  
PUTNEY GARAGE



**INDU SOMASUNDARAM**  
SUTTON IBUS



**FABIAN ADRIAANS**  
MERTON GARAGE



**HILARY DEVANTE**  
NEW CROSS GARAGE

# Ain't no mountain high enough

Climbing mountains and growing fresh fruit and vegetables in his allotment are just some of the ways that Croydon-based driver Richard Hugh maximises his health and wellbeing.

Richard, who has been driving with Go-Ahead London for fifteen years and has previously studied psychology, explains that it isn't always easy for colleagues to keep active both physically and mentally, but that even the smallest change can make a real difference; from reducing sugar intake to taking up a hobby.

Last year Richard scaled mountain peaks across the UK, including Snowdonia, Ben Nevis and Scafell Pike and is currently putting together plans to climb Mont Blanc in June, with a group of colleagues from Croydon Garage.

-  BEN NEVIS (4,406ft)
-  MOUNT SNOWDON (3,560ft)
-  SCAFELL PIKE (3,206ft)



RICHARD IN HIS ALLOTMENT IN BECKENHAM



## Richard's top wellbeing tips!

- Reduce sugar intake
- Exercise
- Improved sleeping
- Hobbies or activities



RICHARD HUGH  
CROYDON GARAGE

RICHARD ON TOP OF SCAFELL PIKE

# A CLASS ACT



Aiming to educate and inspire the next generation to consider a career in public transport, River Road colleagues Gary Higgins and Florin Paduret visited St Margaret's Church of England Primary School in Barking on 4 March.

Go-Ahead London was approached by Toyin Dairo, Leader of Learning at St Margaret's, about participating in the public service event being held at the school, that aimed to enlighten and inspire the children to think about their future careers.

Gary and Florin spent the morning teaching the children about buses and the important

role drivers play in our communities. The children were very eager to ask questions about becoming a bus driver, other jobs in the industry and what drivers do when they need assistance.

Gary and Florin took along a single-deck bus, used locally on Route 364, and demonstrated the benefits

of the mirror camera system on the vehicle and the importance of checking blind spots.

Gary said "We haven't had the chance to do these events recently due to the Covid restrictions, so it was really appreciated! There was a high level of interaction from the children with them asking loads of questions."



GARY SHOWING A GROUP OF CHILDREN A GO-AHEAD LONDON BUS



# The FUTURE is NOW



## National Apprenticeship Week 2022

**It was National Apprenticeship Week from 7 to 13 February. As part of the event, we showcased our apprenticeship schemes, celebrated the success of apprentices and commended the colleagues that make it happen.**

The week was welcomed in with a video from the company directors telling their own personal stories and why Go-Ahead London decided to invest in the apprenticeship scheme. There were additional videos posted over the week; including interviews with apprentices and managers telling their apprenticeship stories and highlighting how Go-Ahead London is working to #BuildTheFuture, which was the theme of this year's National Apprenticeship Week.

All the content for National Apprenticeship Week is available to view on our website [here](#).

To end the week, a highly successful driver Recruitment Open Day was held at the Training Academy in Camberwell, with around 150 people attending.

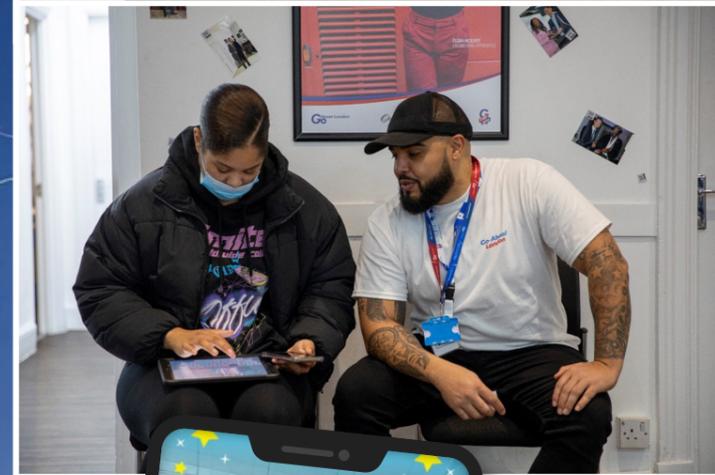
**“ Thank you to everyone who made this year's National Apprenticeship Week such a success. As we welcome in the next generation of apprentices, I would like to congratulate and welcome them, as they embark on their exciting journey with us. ”**

**CAROLINE WELCH**  
APPRENTICESHIP MANAGER

**BUILD THE FUTURE**  
#NAW2022



PHOTOS FROM THE RECRUITMENT DAY ON FRIDAY 11 FEBRUARY



SOME OF THE PHOTOS TAKEN WITH THE SNAPCHAT FILTER

# PASSENGER COMMENDATIONS

Congratulations to all colleagues who have received praise from customers. Here is a selection of those received...



**SW**

**ANDREW DIAS DA SILVA**

"This young driver saw me running for the bus and stopped at the stop and then waited for me. He also allowed me enough time to find a seat before moving off smoothly. He continued to drive smoothly throughout the journey allowing passengers to find a seat. Thank you!"



**ANDREW DIAS DA SILVA**  
STOCKWELL

**RA**

**RICHARD SEETUL**

"There was a passenger on the bus who started to get physically distressed. The driver asked politely if he could please wait as he'd been instructed to wait for a short time. He apologised and expressed there's nothing else he can do. The driver kept calmed and professional while the passenger got abusive."

**PM**

**MATTHEW BELTON**

"Excellent driving! I boarded the bus this morning in Peckham Rye and got off at the last stop Crystal Palace. Very smooth driving, very courteous to other road users and smiles to passengers as they board the bus. A credit to your business."

**PL**

**LAMIN JONES**

"I want to express my gratitude to this man that is a great example of the good and caring people working for Go-Ahead London. I was trying to catch a Route 93 bus and this angel managed to get me safely to the other bus. I am disabled and it is very hard for me to run or even walk fast, not having to wait longer in the cold to get home, made such a difference for me."

**NX**

**JOANNE HOWELL**

"Very Professional! She was courteous, customer focussed, and a very smooth and safe driver. She drove carefully, breaking gently for lights and zebra crossings and accelerated in a sensible manner."



**JOANNE HOWELL**  
NEW CROSS

**A**

**ANTHONY BANKS-WALKER**

"Your driver demonstrated excellent customer service and was very friendly. He greeted us on-board and thanked us when leaving. Also, he was very helpful as we were not sure where we were going, and he helped us get to the correct stop."

**DS**

**DANIEL DISBURY**

"The driver very kindly reopened the door for me at the bus stop after I sprinted off the N9. I really appreciated him for not leaving me. Please pass on my thanks to him."

**C**

**SERGIO ALVESVIVAS**

"I'd just like to give my regards to the lovely driver for the smooth and relaxing journey. It was such a lovely and smooth drive. I really do hope to get the same driver again when on the S1. Thank you."

**AF**

**JASON BYNOE**

"I was in a panic when I left my handbag on the bus, I called Putney Garage and Jason (SGA) immediately contacted the driver. He put me at ease and was extremely helpful. I feel he went above and beyond in his helpfulness and customer care. Thank you!"

**AL**

**JACOB KING**

"The driver waited patiently for me which was very kind of him. A smooth journey especially over the speed humps through Phipps Bridge. Please make sure the driver receives my gratitude and feedback."

**RR**

**MARSELA TOLI**

"I would like to express my deepest gratitude to this Route 5 driver. When we all entered the bus, she was greeting each passenger with a smile and a caring attitude. All passengers were so pleased about this positive and wonderful person. Also, she drove very carefully! Thank you."



**MARSELA TOLI**  
RIVER ROAD

**BX**

**NICK RINGWOOD**

"I would love to thank the bus driver for making me and others feel happy whilst travelling on the bus. He ensured we had a safe trip. We need more drivers like him! I just want to say thank you for making my day."

**MG**

**KIRRON KHUNKHUN**

"Lovely young lady saw me pushing my wife in a wheelchair running for the bus. She stopped, patiently waited, and put the ramp out as we approached the bus. She did not rush to move off and waited until I was seated after tapping my travel card. Very happy with the excellent service given."



**KIRRON KHUNKHUN**  
MORDEN WHARF

**Q**

**EFE OYEGHE**

"Bus driver was friendly, helpful and patient. I have a foot injury and he displayed empathy and patience with my limitations while getting on and off the bus. I waved farewell and I got a happy farewell in return."



**EFE OYEGHE**  
CAMBERWELL

**NP**

**REECE COLLINS**

"I would like to give a shout-out to this young gentleman who waited for a disadvantaged customer until they sat down before moving the bus. I was humbled by his calm manner and respect for others. Thank you for your kindness."

**MB**

**ROB TAYLOR**

"This lovely driver helped me to work on my first day at the office. I have recently moved to Swanley and I wasn't too sure how to get to the station. As well as telling me what bus stop to get off at he directed me in how to get to the station without me even asking him. Thank you for your kindness."

Thank you!



**DS**

HENLEY ROAD

**Q**

CAMBERWELL

**MG**

MORDEN WHARF

**MB**

ORPINGTON

**A**

SUTTON

**RA**

WATERLOO

**BX**

BEXLEYHEATH

**PM**

PECKHAM

**C**

CROYDON

**SW**

STOCKWELL

**PL**

WATERSIDEWAY

**RR**

RIVER ROAD

**NX**

NEW CROSS

**SI**

SILVERTOWN

**AF**

PUTNEY

**AL**

MERTON

**NP**

NORTHUMBERLAND PARK

# Welcome to

## Go Ahead-London

Go Ahead-London  
**ADAPTABLE**



## Simon Drewery

**The opportunity to work across the business, meet as many colleagues as possible and improve his knowledge and skillset, meant that the Cover Engineering Manager role was ideal for Simon, who joined the business in January.**



**SIMON DREWERY**

During his fifteen-year career in engineering, Simon has completed two apprenticeship programmes. The first of which was with BAE Systems, where he completed a HNC (Higher National Certificate) in Mechanical Engineering, and

the second with Southern Vectis (part of The Go-Ahead Group) where Simon achieved a Level 3 Heavy Vehicle Technician qualification. Simon has really valued the experience of these apprenticeship programmes and the skills he gained as a result.

Simon, who has recently worked at River Road and Northumberland Park, is looking forward to covering at locations across London, especially those sites with electric vehicles. "I am really pleased to be

working for Go-Ahead London, a company that I have long admired for its forward-thinking approach and investing in the latest bus technology."

Outside of work, Simon really enjoys spending quality time with his family.

**“ Go-Ahead London... a company that I have long admired for its forward-thinking approach and investing in the latest bus technology. ”**

**SIMON DREWERY**  
COVER ENGINEERING MANAGER

## Jonathon Brown

**The opportunity to move to London and work in a key role for capital's largest bus operator was dream come true for Jonathon Brown, Engineering Manager at Merton Garage.**

Jonathon, originally from Birmingham, joined in January and brings over ten years of engineering management experience to the role. He is particularly looking forward to working

more with electric vehicles and is well-placed at Merton, with the garage having welcomed its second zero-emission route conversion late last year.

Go-Ahead London's high standards of service performance were a particular attraction for Jonathon and he has been really pleased with the welcome he has received.



**JONATHON BROWN**  
MERTON GARAGE

Jonathon is a keen Arsenal fan and will be sure to attend more games, now that he is living in the capital.

**“ I have received such a warm welcome and I am really impressed how people-orientated the company is. ”**

**JONATHON BROWN**  
ENGINEERING MANAGER

## Isobel Hedley-Jones

**A strong interest in both public transport and sustainability made Go-Ahead London the perfect career match for Isobel Hedley-Jones, Graduate Trainee.**

Since joining in September, Isobel has completed her driver training followed by several weeks of driving in service on Route 131 at Merton Garage. Isobel said, "I found driving in service quite a challenge but it was a rewarding experience." She is currently working at the Training and Recruitment

Academy in Camberwell, with future placements at garages and iBus hubs ahead.

Isobel has been surprised with the scale of the Go-Ahead London operation and amazed how much experience there is across the business. "Everyone has been so friendly and it has been a real pleasure to meet so many experienced colleagues, some with over 40 years' service!"



**ISOBEL HEDLEY-JONES**

**“ I found driving in service quite a challenge but it was a rewarding experience. ”**

**ISOBEL HEDLEY-JONES**  
GRADUATE TRAINEE

Isobel, who is originally from York, has also really enjoyed exploring London and getting to know the city.

**HELLO**  
my name is  
*Nicole*

## New Recruitment Manager

With over fifteen years in the transport industry, Nicole Russell brings a wealth of experience to the Recruitment Manager role, which she was appointed to in early January. Recruitment was an aspect of the industry that has always interested her, so the role was a natural progression.



**NICOLE RUSSELL**

February, as part of National Apprenticeship Week. She aims to work more with external partners on driver recruitment and for the company to participate in more recruitment fairs.

One of Nicole's key objectives is to attract more women to Go-Ahead London and the public transport industry.

Nicole is also working to make the Recruitment and Training Academy more sustainable by going paperless and making more use of electronic resources.

“  
Everyone across the company has been really approachable and always willing to help me as I get to know the business more.”

**NICOLE RUSSELL**  
RECRUITMENT MANAGER

Nicole is already confident that joining Go-Ahead London was a great decision, given the career opportunities available and the company's strong values. Nicole's experience so far has been really positive and she has appreciated meeting colleagues from across the business.

In her current role, Nicole focuses mainly on driver recruitment, which included being part of the team that organised the successful recruitment open day on 11

# You got a friend in me *Refer a friend*

Colleagues across the business are earning their bonus, of **UP TO £600 PER REFERRAL**, through the Refer a Friend scheme. Visit [The Hub page](#) now for more details of how you can earn your referral bonus.



“  
I have recently received £600 through the Refer a Friend scheme.”

**DANIEL BACIU - DRIVER**  
Putney Garage



“  
I referred a friend and have earned my first £300 bonus.”

**NATASHA SMITH**  
Apprenticeship Assessor



“  
I referred a friend to Go-Ahead London and received £300 when they started.”

**SHARON HINDS - DRIVER**  
New Cross Garage





**STOCKWELL GARAGE**

# A modernist masterpiece

The architectural and historical significance of Stockwell Garage was recently the subject of an article in the online news and culture website Londonist. The article also featured some insights from current Stockwell colleagues including Lewis Margrave (Engineering Manager) and Sajid Chaudry (Area General Manager).

“  
One of the most important buildings in London’  
”  
LONDONIST

[Click here to read the article](#)



# ‘Love Lambeth’

Stockwell mentor Claude Parchment recently featured on Lambeth Council’s online news website ‘Love Lambeth’. In the article, Claude explains how getting the Covid-19 vaccine has made daily life easier for him.



**CLAUDE PARCHMENT**  
STOCKWELL MENTOR

[Click here to read the article](#)



# CHEERS TO 32 YEARS!

**STOCKWELL driver Anthony Ulett bid farewell to the bus industry when he retired on 17 February, after a 32 year career behind the wheel.**

Anthony described his time at Stockwell Garage as “wonderful and enjoyable” and he is looking forward to his retirement.

To wish Anthony a fond farewell and to recognise his contribution over his long career, colleagues presented him with a certificate and some gifts.



PETER RUSSELL (GENERAL MANAGER)  
PICTURED WITH ANTHONY

# Our Sustainability Commitment



Climate change is all around us and as a responsible operator we are working to minimise our impact on the environment.

Go-Ahead London is committed to acting now for a sustainable future.

We have an ambitious target to be a carbon net zero business by 2045 and to achieve this we are acting now.

## Our strategy addresses climate change through 5 priority areas:



### Adaptation

Identifying how climate change is affecting our operation



### Water

Lowering usage and leaks at our premises



### Decarbonisation

Reducing carbon emissions from our vehicles and premises



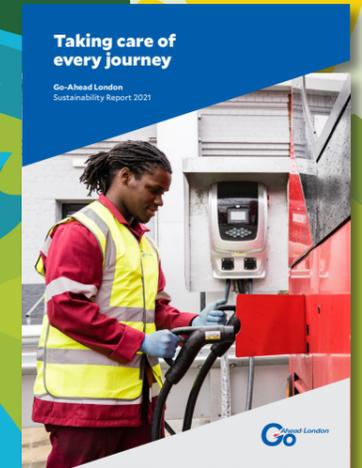
### Waste

Pro-actively increasing recycling rates across our business



### Air Quality

Being at the forefront of new and emerging technologies



Learn more about our commitment in the Go-Ahead London 2021 Sustainability Report - available on The Hub and our website from 23 March.

# Setting the scene for the all new

# W15



It was a double celebration for Northumberland Park on 5 March, when Route W15 joined the garage and converted to zero-emission electric vehicles. The garage also welcomed 23 new driver colleagues, who transferred to Go-Ahead London from Tower Transit.

The route serves many local communities between Hackney and Walthamstow and is just over nine miles long. With over 50 bus stops, it had the potential to be a complex service to fully get to grips with, but the mentor team at the garage ensured colleagues were fully trained, ready for the launch.

The engineering team worked closely with external contractor EO to ensure that the additional charging infrastructure was in place.

"I would like to thank everyone involved for coming together to successfully deliver another electric vehicle route conversion at Northumberland Park." Ryan Osbourne (Engineering Manager)

The route is operating with a mix of new and existing BYD ADL SEe-type buses and, in a first for Go-Ahead London service routes, the new vehicles also feature digital light-emitting diode (LED) blinds.

"I returned to Northumberland Park in December and although I had been away for ten months, I was greeted with the same can-do spirit and cooperation from all departments. Welcome to the new colleagues who have joined the Go-Ahead London family, I am pleased that you are with us to share in

the success of another new route at Northumberland Park." - Peter Russell (General Manager)

Reflecting on another successful route launch, Richard Harrington (Engineering Director) said, "It has been ten years since we took over the operation at Northumberland Park Garage and the W15 is the eighth route that we have converted to zero-emission electric vehicles since then. This truly underlines Go-Ahead London's commitment to making public transport in London more sustainable."

THE NEW BYD ADL SEe-TYPE VEHICLES WITH DIGITAL LED BLINDS

“Welcome to the new colleagues who have joined the Go-Ahead London family, I am pleased that you are with us to share in the success of another new route at Northumberland Park.”

PETER RUSSELL  
GENERAL MANAGER



VASCO DE FRIETAS ABOUT TO TAKE THE FIRST ROUTE W15 BUS FROM NORTHUMBERLAND PARK



SEAN FARRANT (DRIVER) AND SHEPHERD KUZHANGAIRA (MENTOR) WITH ONE OF THE BUSES NOW BEING USED ON THE ROUTE

# Learning on the *go*

**In advance of the arrival of the full fleet of pantograph charged electric vehicles, at Bexleyheath Garage, a new innovative approach has been taken with how engineering colleagues are trained and kept up to date with the latest bus servicing processes.**

Darren Connoly, Technical Support Manager, has put together the content for the first set of video resources that cover the full servicing process.

The video resources, produced by Morden Wharf driver Joseph Reed, provide engineering colleagues with a comprehensive and high-quality step-by-step guide for each part of the servicing process, ensuring a greater level of understanding and accuracy. In a further step, the video resources have been loaded onto tablet computers, making them fully accessible to engineering colleagues, wherever they may be carrying out their work.

The first set of videos cover the servicing process for the BYD ADL Enviro400 vehicles, that will be used on

Route 132 at Bexleyheath Garage. Following the success of these initial video training resources, plans are in place for videos resources for other vehicle types and engineering processes.

“**It’s great that Go-Ahead London is being so forward thinking in how to improve training and resources for engineering colleagues.**”

**DARREN CONNOLY**  
TECHNICAL SUPPORT MANAGER



THE FIRST SIX PARTICIPANTS IN THE SCHEME PICTURED ALONGSIDE CHRIS MCKEOWN (CENTRE) AND MARK LONEGRAN AND RAIKA SHALLY FROM SHORTERM GROUP (THIRD AND FOURTH FROM LEFT)

## Realising a dream with the Engineering Scheme

**On Monday 21 February Go-Ahead London welcomed the first six of twelve participants in an engineering recruitment and upskilling scheme, run in partnership with recruitment firm Shorterm Group. The scheme will see qualified former light vehicle mechanics work at Go-Ahead London garages and be upskilled in bus mechanics, over a twelve-month period.**

Upon successful completion of the scheme, the

participants will receive IMI (Institute of the Motor Industry) accreditation as well as the opportunity to take up a permanent engineering role with Go-Ahead London. The scheme has attracted participants from a wide range of backgrounds and offers them an exciting opportunity to develop their mechanical skills and work with new and emerging bus technologies.

Chief Engineer Chris McKeown, who organised the scheme for Go-Ahead London, said “Given the acute

shortage of engineers across the industry, this scheme presents a real opportunity for us to bring in new recruits who can bring their previous skills and experience with a desire to develop them further in the bus industry.”

Tahir Khan, a former car mechanic and technician, who was amongst the first group of starters, said “I am so pleased to be part of the scheme; it offers me an exciting opportunity to upskill and work with vehicles that are such an iconic London sight.”



**HUMZA NAZIR**  
BEXLEYHEATH ENGINEER

DARREN CONNOLY, TECHNICAL SUPPORT MANAGER AND HUMZA NAZIR, BEXLEYHEATH ENGINEER, WITH THE ONE OF THE TABLETS USED FOR THE VIDEO TRAINING RESOURCES

## Roll on Route 677



**On 14 March, River Road welcomed Route 677 to the garage. The service, which runs from Ilford to Debden, operates Monday to Friday during term time, primarily serving local schools.**

Linda Akinya, who drove the first Route 677 bus from River Road Garage

said, “It’s great to have another school service join us at River Road and I am looking forward to meeting all the passengers.”

“We are pleased to welcome another route to Go-Ahead London and thank you to everyone who worked to ensure the successful launch”. Kastriot Gashi (General Manager)



**Thank you for reading our Spring 2022 issue.**

*The Communications Team*

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If you would like to provide feedback or suggest  
an article for the Summer 2022 issue please  
email:

**[bustalk@goaheadlondon.com](mailto:bustalk@goaheadlondon.com)**

