

SHERIFFA DAWKINS

UPSKILLING ENGINEER **PAGE 15**



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Message from

It is a great privilege to be writing my first column as Managing Director of London's biggest bus company. Little could I have imagined 36-years-ago when I walked into Tottenham Garage as a teenager where my personal work journey would take me and I am grateful to the very many colleagues I have engaged with down the years. A special mention of personal thanks must go out to my predecessor, John Trayner, who I have had the good fortune to work with, and for, since 2006. John's status within our family, and the wider industry, is cemented and it is an honour to take over from him. Thank you John.

Enough of me. 2023 has started well, with three new services at three garages. Routes 91, B13 and N97 are welcome additions to the Go-Ahead London portfolio and we will, as always, work hard to repay the trust shown in us by Transport for London (TfL) by providing a high quality offering our users can rely on. Further good news came a few weeks ago in the form of our successfully retaining a significant rail replacement contract, thanks to the hard work of Phil Seago's commercial team. Also, I am writing this having just been informed that Peckham Garage has won Route 78. I worked at Peckham in the 1990's, when it previously ran this service, so I am particularly pleased it is coming home. Well done to all involved in retaining, or winning, new business.

The same diligent approach applies as we progress fleet decarbonisation during the year. Sutton, 100-years-old in

David Cutts
MANAGING DIRECTOR

2024, is on the cusp of electrification, along with multiple other buildings (Camberwell, Croydon, Merton, Orpington, Putney and River Road). You may also have seen in the media a glimpse of the innovative buses due for service on Orpington-based Route 358. Their design, coupled with charging at each end of the service, has been called "game changing" by the Mayor of London, which is a deserved public accolade for the pioneering work led by Richard Harrington and the local garage team.

In his last column, John rightly expressed disappointment at TfL's decision to withdraw Routes 507 and 521, which clearly has implications for Waterloo Garage. I am therefore delighted to announce that Route 214, currently a Northumberland Park-based service, will move to Waterloo on Saturday 29 April.

This brings me onto another of our garages, namely Waterside Way. An established operating base since 2007, our landlord has regrettably exercised their right to end the lease, in the process compelling the company to secure an alternative site near Mitcham Junction called Goat Road. This new location uses the garage code 'GM' which, for those of you with an awareness of London bus history, know was previously applied to Victoria Garage. Moving people and services can be unsettling and the 'can do' approach shown by those directly impacted is appreciated.



DAVID CUTTS
MANAGING DIRECTOR

In the three months or so since I took over from John Trayner, I have, with support from others, been covering my former role as Operations Director and I am therefore pleased that Andy Edwards will soon be joining full-time in that position. I have known, and worked with, Andy for nearly six-years and he joins us from his current job as Managing Director of Go-Ahead Ireland (he also has experience of running buses in Hong Kong, London and Singapore).

Andy is working his way around the London estate, visiting multiple locations, and will become a recognisable face to many over the coming years. I welcome him on board and I thank the operations team for once again 'stepping up' during recent times.

As I write this column, the evenings are getting lighter and despite the occasional

snow flurry, Spring is on its way. The first three months of 2023 have given us much to celebrate, including National Apprenticeship Week and International Women's Day, along with a few challenges, such as high levels of traffic. The 36-years I mentioned at the start of this column have resulted in change the like of which no one could have predicted and although there will undoubtedly be more of it, I am firmly of the view we are well placed to meet it and that Go-Ahead London has a great future.

As always, thank you for making a real difference and I hope you enjoy reading this latest edition of Bus Talk.

Colourful MONDAY

The third Monday of January has been given the gloomy title of 'Blue Monday' as it is seen as the saddest day of the year. Often it is a day when resolutions made on New Years' Day get abandoned, we have post-Christmas blues, and there are cold, short dark nights. To bring some brightness to Blue Monday, it has been renamed Colourful Monday.

In collaboration with TfL, colleagues were encouraged to wear a brightly coloured item of clothing this Colourful Monday, 16 January to bring some cheer to the bluest day of the year and talk about mental health.

Colleagues sent photos of themselves in the colourful clothes and were entered into a Transport for London (TfL) competition. Well done to our Orpington colleagues for winning the TfL Bus Operation's Colourful Monday competition (photo on right showing colleagues outside a brand new Irizar bus).

Congratulations also to Croydon colleague Sakhivel Kumaran for being recognised by both TfL and Go-Ahead London for his continued efforts in such events. We like your multi-coloured top!



SAKTHIVEL KUMARAN
CROYDON GARAGE



CAROL ELLINGTON
NEW CROSS GARAGE



JORGE PEREA SUAREZ
SUTTON GARAGE



DIZY LAGO AND WENDY MATTHEWS
NEW CROSS GARAGE



HEAD OFFICE COLLEAGUES, (LEFT TO RIGHT) VALERIE CLARK, ANDREW BURY, TRICIA CUNNINGHAM, HANNAH MAN



ZAINAB MOMOH
CAMBERWELL GARAGE



LEFT TO RIGHT: MENTOR JOHN KELLY, ASSISTANT OPERATING MANAGER KAREN TAYLOR AND DRIVER TEONIA MCDONNELL

Go Ahead London
BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS

Wayne Ashe and Alain Comty the rescue!

A Camberwell duo received a commendation from a member of the public recently.

An unfortunate incident happened where a 79-year-old lady slipped on ice on the pavement whilst trying to board the bus on Route 484. This resulted in a horrible injury to her shins. As no ambulance was available for 6 hours, Wayne drove her to Kings Hospital. Wayne and Alain Comty (Cover Accident Prevention Supervisor) then took the lady

into A&E in a wheelchair. The lady sung the praises of Wayne and Alain for the way they looked after her. She could not speak highly enough of the Camberwell duo.

Wayne said "I am extremely grateful for this recognition, however I can't take full credit. It was a team effort between myself, Patrick Connolly and Alain Comty. In fact every Go-Ahead London employee reading this deserves recognition for getting up everyone day, rain or shine and giving 100%. Let's go guys!"



ALAIN COMTY
CAMBERWELL GARAGE



WAYNE ASHE
CAMBERWELL GARAGE

Neuro-diversity Celebration Week



We were proud to be supporting Neurodiversity Celebration Week in 2023!

Neurodiversity Celebration Week is a worldwide initiative that challenges stereotypes and misconceptions about neurological differences.

Allen Edwards Primary School

As part of our celebrations, Stockwell Garage hosted a visit for the local Autism Base at Allen Edwards Primary School, which is just around the corner from Stockwell Bus Garage.

Tommaso, a teacher at the school, explained that a topic being studied this term was Transport. The children had been reading Jan and Jerry Oke’s “Naughty Bus”, which is a book about a toy bus (Route 88 of course) who has a few naughty adventures, and one that includes driving through a plate of baked beans!

General Manager, Peter Russell, arranged for the children to be collected

and have a short tour of the garage and the all-important trip through the bus wash to wash off all those beans! Peter said “It is always a pleasure to be involved with the local community and host this event. The bus ride and trip through the bus wash brought a smile to all. Get on board for Neurodiversity Celebration week!”

Jason Tann, Commercial Operations Manager, arranged for private hire bus E3 to have its dot matrix display to show the Naughty Bus, which drew some smiles driving to the school. The children had a fantastic time, and some gifts were handed out to parents, teachers, and children.



GUESTS ENJOYING THE VIEW INSIDE THE GARAGE



GUESTS ENJOYING THEIR BUS RIDE

Brookfield Infants and Junior School

Our involvement in Neurodiversity Celebration Week also led to lots of smiles from children at Brookfield Infants and Junior School in Kent. Colleagues from Orpington Garage attended with a bus to give a special experience to all 14 classes at the school!

Karen Taylor, Assistant Operating Manager, Anthony Bareham, Performance Manager, Jo Taylor, iBus Controller, Adrian Smithers, Driver, and Joseph Reed, Driver/photographer, were all involved in making the event a success.

From the moment each class arrived in a perfect line, the Orpington team could see the excitement in both the children and the teachers. All the pupils had the opportunity to sit in the driver’s seat, have their photograph taken, look at the engine and ask questions. The questions

were plentiful and varied, for example, how long the bus is, how fast does it go, what is the ramp for? The favourite question came from a 6-year-old girl who asked Karen, “is your driveway very big, it must be much bigger than my mummy and daddy’s house. I asked why would my driveway be big? She replied because you have to park this at nighttime when everyone is asleep.”

The visit to the school was an educational one as well as fun. There were discussions with the children and the teachers surrounding

accessibility related issues, such as use of the ramp, the rails and allowing those who are vulnerable to have the priority seats.

Principal Cathy Smith welcomed the Go-Ahead London team and the bus to the school. The school is soon to embark on reading ‘Naughty Bus’ so the timing was perfect. See back page for the winner of our colouring competition.



TO CELEBRATE UNIQUENESS, THE CHILDREN COLOURED IN GO-AHEAD LONDON BUSES



KAREN TAYLOR AND ADRIAN SMITHERS WITH A CLASS FROM BROOKFIELD SCHOOL

CHINESE NEW YEAR 2023 WITH Lai Jim and Chi Man

Lai Jim started working at Camberwell Garage in 2003. Having made the move from Hong Kong in 1978, Lai found the bus driving experience such a positive one that she recommended her eldest son to join the company. Chi Man has now been working for Go-Ahead London since 2004, initially as a driver at Stockwell, then mentor and he is now the Mileage Clerk at Croydon.

Together with their family, Lai and Chi both celebrate Chinese New Year. The date of this changes each year, based upon the lunar calendar. It is one of the most widely celebrated festivals in the world. This year it started on 22 January and lasted for 15 days.

Chi said "There are many traditions to observe for Chinese New Year, that have been passed on through generations. For example, we clean the house beforehand to clear out any

bad luck. During Chinese New Year sweeping should be avoided for the first three days, or we may sweep out the good luck."

Lai states "On New Year's Eve, it is a time for family. The children are given red packets called lai-see, and our homes are decorated in red. Red is worn as it is the colour of good fortune. Due to legend, it was originally worn to scare away Nian, a monster who would turn up on New Year's Eve. Loud firecrackers and fireworks are also used for this same reason. Gold is also worn for good luck and prosperity. There are often lion and dragon dances to watch too."

Chi went on "I have also started a new tradition in our family. One of our family members goes to the school our children attend and reads The Great Race. This is the story of the order of the animal names of the zodiac, and the children enjoy hearing more about it. This year it is the Year of the Rabbit."



CHI MAN AND LAI JIM POSING WITH DECORATIONS

IN THE FESTIVE SPIRIT

Go Ahead London
OPEN AND APPROACHABLE

NEW CROSS decorated the garage to celebrate Chinese New Year from 20 - 23 January.

Mary Trantham, Accident Prevention Assistant, said, 'this was really well received by all the drivers who enjoyed the oranges along with other fruit and cakes.'



CHINESE NEW YEAR DECORATIONS AT NEW CROSS GARAGE

Leo Rabbit

THE YEAR OF THE RABBIT
ALTHOUGH GENERALLY CALM, GENTLE AND LOVING, PEOPLE BORN IN THE YEAR OF THE RABBIT CAN BE VERY AMBITIOUS AND INTUITIVE. THEY ARE GOOD LISTENERS, KIND AND SWEET BY NATURE.



NEW CROSS recently acquired a strange object of lost property - a rabbit!

The driver checked his bus at the end of the day and found a rabbit in a cardboard box. The rabbit was looked after in the Engineering department overnight. He was never claimed and has been adopted by Nicola Hall, Garage Administrator.

Nicola has had rabbits before.

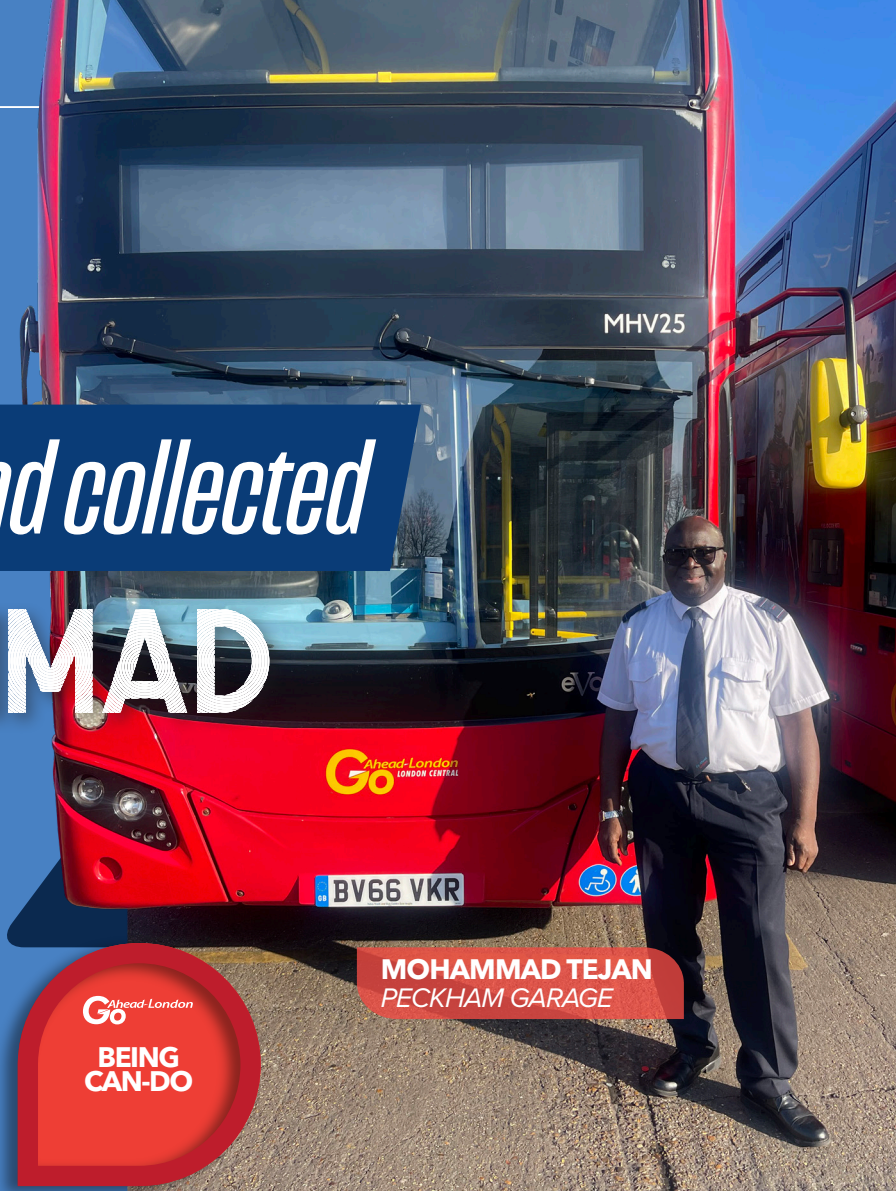
The rabbit has been named Leo, as he is a Lionhead breed of rabbit. Nicola says "Leo is very spoilt and has the run of the house. He is in his forever home now."

Cool, calm and collected

MOHAMMAD TEJAN

Mohammad Tejan, driver at Peckham, has been praised for assisting a member of the public and preventing a robbery. Mohammad's day had been going well on Route 363, when he noticed a man acting suspiciously in the queue to get on his bus. The man was carrying out a robbery, trying to steal from an older woman in the queue. Mohammad made others aware of what was happening, leading to the man running away, pushing the woman over.

The Metropolitan Police attended the scene and wrote a letter stating that Mohammad 'was



MOHAMMAD TEJAN
PECKHAM GARAGE

instrumental in identifying that the suspect who appeared to be accompanying her was actually trying to steal her purse. He asked remaining passengers to exit the bus, remained on scene until we arrived, reassured the older woman and kept her comfortable. His actions were commendable and were greatly appreciated by us, and more importantly the woman and her family who would like to personally pass on their gratitude.'

Mohammad has worked in the bus industry for over 9 years and is coming up to 3 years at Peckham. Mohammad has worked at Sutton too and says that he enjoys working at Peckham. His family are proud of him for his actions on that day.

The Metropolitan Police would like it known that Mohammed "is a credit to Go-Ahead London, his instinct and aftercare shown towards the member of the public was second to none." Well done and thank you Mohammad.

International Women's Day

On 8 March, Go-Ahead London enjoyed many events to celebrate International Women's Day (IWD).

The main Go-Ahead London event was a Virtual Coffee & Conversation, with the invitation to attend open to all colleagues. Communications Manager, Hannah Man and Apprenticeship Manager Caroline Welch hosted this, starting off by giving the background to IWD. A quiz followed on the history of Women in Bus and the current circumstances too. After this, General Managers Graham Johnson, Joanna Keane and Nicola Phipps, plus UK Bus Award winner driver mentor Koli Begum, led conversations to consider the future and discuss any appropriate actions. Thank you to colleagues for attending and taking part in such a worthwhile discussion.

Locally at garages and offices, our colleagues showed solidarity by striking the IWD 2023 pose #EmbraceEquity. We are always working towards having more women join the public transport industry and ensure our team represents the communities that we serve.



LEFT TO RIGHT: ERIC DALE, MAUREEN WILLIAMS, PAUL MCKENZIE, REGINA ADDY, DARYL BRADFORD, INES MACHADO, MILITZA SMITH



LEFT TO RIGHT: GURNAM SINGH, CARICE WELCH, HANNAH MAN, BRIGITA DAMBRAUSKAITE, SHANNAI LYN, ANDREW BURY



LEFT TO RIGHT: PAULA BRAILEY, MARIA COLLINS, HANNAH TAYLOR, SHARON HAWKINS



LEFT TO RIGHT: MECHELLE PUDUCAY, KELLY JORDAN, HELEN KINCH, CLAUDIA CULLUM, FARIDA NAGGAYI-SHOMEFUN



LEFT TO RIGHT: ELEANOR JONES, ALTHEA AMOS, IBTISAM ABDULLA, NADINE ALLEN



ANDY JOHNS
NORTHUMBERLAND PARK GARAGE

GUESTS AND COLLEAGUES CELEBRATING THE DAY



Go Ahead London
RESPECTING
EACH OTHER

**WORLD DOWN
SYNDROME DAY**

Rock your SOCKS!

Across Go-Ahead London, we rocked our odd socks to raise awareness for World Down Syndrome Day. 21 March is chosen to celebrate, as each person with Down Syndrome has 3 copies of Chromosome 21. As chromosomes look similar to socks, this day is marked by wearing odd socks.

For more information about Down Syndrome, learn how to make a donation or to look at the official #Lotsofsocks style for 2023, please take a look here: [lotsofsocks.org](https://www.lotsofsocks.org) [worlddownsyndromeday.org](https://www.worlddownsyndromeday.org)



THE MAN FAMILY LEFT TO RIGHT: LUCAS, CHI (MILEAGE CLERK AT CROYDON), NAOMI AND HANNAH (COMMUNICATIONS MANAGER)



NAOMI MAN

We hosted an event at Stockwell Bus Garage on World Down Syndrome Day, inviting guests from local community groups to celebrate with us. Hannah Man, Communications Manager and Kyle Simmons, Assistant Operating Manager organised the day, with the support of the Commercial Department. Guests enjoyed a trip through the bus wash, a bus journey into London and a tour of the garage.

Angie Ryder, Area General Manager, attended the event and said "It was a pleasure to support our World Down Syndrome day event at Stockwell Garage. Buses are essential to our local communities, providing independent and accessible travel for everyone".

Kyle Simmons added, "it was a delight to support World Down Syndrome Day. We serve all in our community and feel strongly about ensure we are inclusive in all we do. Seeing the children's and young adults faces light up upon seeing the marvel of our garage was a wonderful sight."

We are very grateful that George Marcar, TfL Driver Communications Manager and Eleanor David, TfL Bus Customer Experience Manager also attended the event. A fun day was had by all.



COLLEAGUES ROCKING THEIR ODD SOCKS!



GUESTS ENJOYED A BUS TOUR OF LONDON, DRIVEN BY COMMERCIAL DRIVER NICK GROOMBRIDE

Birch Tree Cafe

In the picturesque village of Easton on the Hill, there is a spacious café which serves a fine selection of tasty, high-quality food and beverages.

The Birch Tree Café is partly staffed by young adults with Down Syndrome who enjoy serving guests from the village as well as walkers, cyclists, and visitors from nearby Stamford and the surrounding area.

The Chair of the Trustees for this café is

Maggie Scott, sister to Helen Simpson, Payroll Administrator at Go-Ahead London. Maggie was part of the group who set up "T-21", the registered Charitable Incorporated Organisation supporting the café.

Maggie was motivated to provide a safe working environment for those with Down Syndrome partly due to the close relationships both sisters had with their beloved brother Ian, who had Down Syndrome. Ian is much missed, but still talked about frequently.

If you are in the area, please see www.birchtreecafe.co.uk for more details.

There are also similar cafés in London, which provide employment opportunities those with learning disabilities. For example, Nickel Support (www.nickel.org.uk) in Carshalton and Cheam, the Fair Shot Café in Covent Garden (www.fairshot.co.uk) and Bridget's (www.aspiresupportlearn.co.uk) in Stratford.

Please do consider visiting one of these cafés. You will not just be attending a coffee service; you will be joining the community.

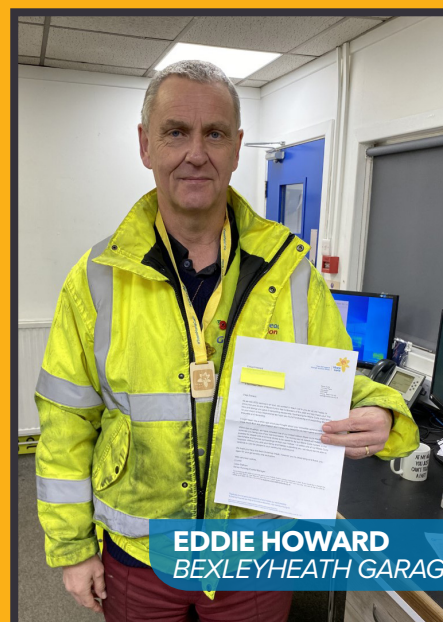
FUNDRAISING WITH EDDIE HOWARD

Well done to Eddie Howard, Satellite Manager at Bexleyheath Garage, for being recognised as one of Marie Curie's top fundraisers of 2022. Eddie received an envelope from the charity and inside it contained a limited edition Marie Curie medal as a thank you. They said that the "Support and money raised for us had not gone unnoticed" and it means so much to them and the care that they can give those with

a terminal illness to be looked after by Marie Curie nurses.

Eddie raised £1,200 taking part in the Great North Run in 2022, and is up to £800 already for 2023.

Eddie shared "the reason I do this is down to losing so many friends due to cancer, and seeing people very close to me go through treatment for cancer (this includes friends at work). I could not raise as much without a fantastic set of friends and family to help me."



EDDIE HOWARD
BEXLEYHEATH GARAGE

In the spotlight

SHERIFFA DAWKINS

We are pleased to introduce you to Sheriffa Dawkins. Sheriffa is an Upskilling Engineer based at Merton Garage. Sheriffa joined Go-Ahead London in June 2022, via our Upskilling programme.

Hello Sheriffa, how did you start working in the buses?

I had work experience doing engineering elsewhere in Year 10 and really enjoyed it. By the second day I was changing brake pads by myself and knew that a practical job would be best for me. I achieved an Engineering BTEC and applied for the Go-Ahead London Upskilling Programme. It is a dream come true to be working on the buses.

What training have you received?

I came to the company as a fully qualified Level 3 Light Vehicle Mechanic. Go-Ahead London's Upskilling Programme provides the training required to fill in the gaps between the Light Vehicle qualification and the relevant PSV (Public Service Vehicle) qualification. Upon completion of this programme, I achieve an Institute of the Motor Industry (IMI) accredited qualification which means I am then recognised as a fully qualified PSV mechanic. At the moment

I have one more exam left to do in May. We are going to cover online diagnostics next, as the buses have so much more technology on them than in the past.

How do you feel working in a male dominated industry and sector?

It is second nature to me. I am not made to feel any different and do what I need to do.

Are you enjoying this upskilling process?

Yes, I would like to learn as much practically as possible. I would like to thank Workshop Manager Chris Peters, Engineering Manager Lewis Margrave and 'Shorterm Group' (partner to Go-Ahead London to deliver this scheme) for their support. I have weekly reviews to talk through my learning. I aim to be in management down the line, but right now I am enjoying the hands-on engineering experience. I would definitely encourage others to do the Upskilling Programme.

Thank you Sheriffa and all the best for the future!



SHERIFFA DAWKINS
MERTON GARAGE



BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS

PIN THE TWEET

Many customers, colleagues and Go-Ahead London bus enthusiasts follow our Twitter page and use it as a platform to communicate their feedback about their experiences. On our Twitter page we receive a lot of positive tweets on topics as diverse as good customer service to retrieving lost property.

 Are you following Go-Ahead London on Twitter? Find us here [@Go_Ahead_London](#)



2009Stock
@2009TubeStock

Today [@Go_Ahead_London](#) took over the route B13 and so I went and travelled on it. I must say, SEe104 was a good experience!





Go-Ahead London
@Go_Ahead_London

We're delighted to host Transport Minister Richard Holden and Transport for London Commissioner Andy Lord at Bexleyheath Garage earlier today. The visit allowed us to showcase some of the innovative technology we apply as London's red buses transition to a Zero-Emission future





London Connected Blog
@LConnectedBlog

It's been a while, but we have another post covering the recent takeover of route 91 by Go Ahead.


[thewestlondonbusblog.blogspot.com/2023/02/south-...](#)





mlynch
@maevelynch7

[@Go_Ahead_London](#) Our little boy left his favourite owl on the bus today. Huge thank you to the lovely drivers on the 162 route who helped us track him down!





Martin MacGurk
@pompey4ever007

Looking smart in the winter sun [@HDTrim](#) [@Go_Ahead_London](#) LT281





Go-Ahead London
@Go_Ahead_London · Mar 3

Thank you, Leo, aged 5, for recommending "The Hundred Decker Bus". Leo aspires to be a bus driver, and one of his favourite routes is Go-Ahead London's 664 from Orpington garage.

We look forward to seeing you on one of our buses again, and possibly driving one in a few years!

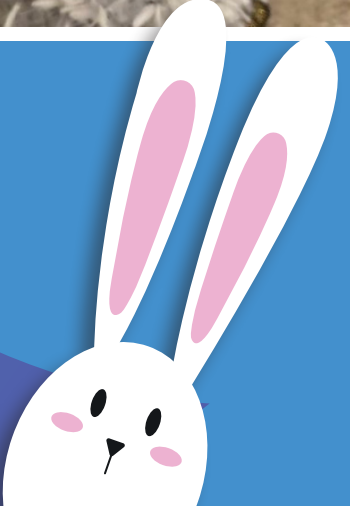


Go-Ahead London
@Go_Ahead_London · Mar 2

We are wishing you all a happy World Book Day! Here at Go-Ahead London, we love the opportunity to read and learn more. Have you seen that our Route 88 is the centre stage of [@SampsonF](#) 'The Girl on the 88 Bus'....



Wishing you all a very Happy Easter! 



Cheers to 35 years!

Raymond Kerr joined London Buses on 15 February 1988 as a bus driver in a company which then became London General. Raymond seized his opportunity with the company and became a Roadside Official in 2006.

Raymond has had a fulfilling career with Go-Ahead London, and he has worked in five different garages so far: Stockwell, Putney, Camberwell, New Cross, and Peckham. Raymond encourages and recommends others to join the company.

Raymond's happiest moment by far is when he is regulating the routes at a "point". This means that he can help to provide the finest service to the customers. Raymond also enjoys meeting and assisting customers who are lost and need assistance.

Well done Raymond for your 35 years service.



RAYMOND KERR BEING PRESENTED HIS LONG SERVICE CERTIFICATE BY PERFORMANCE MANAGER DINO FRIMPONG

The Pod is going mobile!

The Pod feedback kiosks have been in place supporting the wellbeing of our colleagues for over 4 years. We will soon be launching the "How Are You Feeling" app to make it easier for all colleagues to access the surveys from a mobile device or garage tablet, and report any concerns to the management team.



The DJ Tony Chambers

37 Years

Tony Chambers retired after 37 years with Go-Ahead London, when Waterside Way closed.

Tony is known for being cool and getting on with the job in hand. All of this has helped him in achieving his long service in driving. Colleagues are also very familiar with Tony's love of wearing special hats and suits on days out at Ascot. Tony is also called "the DJ".

David Cutts, Managing Director, was happy to visit Waterside Way to present Tony's certificate. Tony recalls David Cutts as his General Manager at Putney in the past, so this was appreciated. We wish you all the best for the future Tony.

“

Tony is a man favoured for old school reggae music, catch him on a good day and he's full of vibes. This is the end of bus driving with lots of stories to cherish and the start of something new. Enjoy your retirement my brother.

WAYNE CESPEDES
UNION REPRESENTATIVE



MANAGING DIRECTOR DAVID CUTTS PRESENTING TONY CHAMBERS WITH HIS LONG SERVICE CERTIFICATE



Long Service Awards

Back in November, our annual long service awards were held at the Royal Lancaster London. The ceremony recognised colleagues with 25, 30, 35 and 40 years' service.

John Trayner hosted his final Long Service Awards in the role of Managing Director. Due to his long service, he will be welcomed to return to the event in the future though, so will not be a stranger. David Cutts, current Managing Director, and Richard Harrington, Engineering Director, presented the awards to our long serving colleagues for their dedication to the business.

This year also saw the Apprentices receiving their Graduation scrolls. It was great to celebrate the achievements, and also highlight to them the longevity of working with Go-Ahead London.

The evening began with a dinner, followed by a presentation of awards, and a disco afterwards.

“It was great to recognise and celebrate the long service so many colleagues have achieved in the London Bus Industry. I would like to thank them for their hard work and dedication over their many years working for Go-Ahead and its predecessors. They should be proud of what they've done for London and their local communities.

DAVID CUTTS
MANAGING DIRECTOR

Congratulations to the following colleagues

40 years

Alan Austen, Gary Conn, John Egan and John Povey

35 years

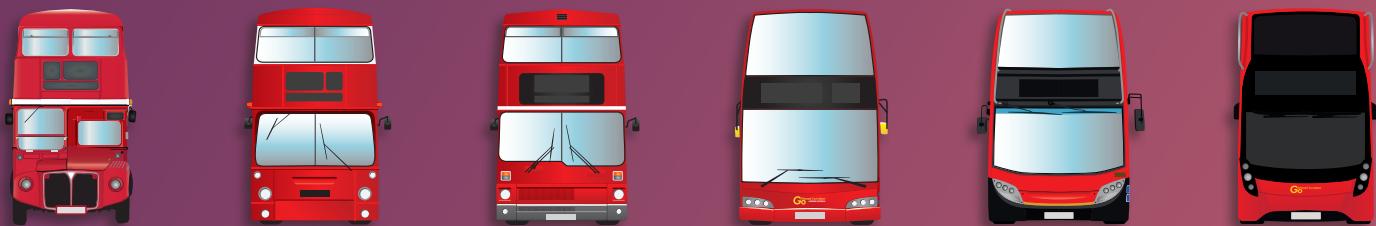
Angie Ryder, Calvin Brown, Charles Quin, John Crichton, John Moses, Michael Brown, Paul Addley, Paula Beahan, Peter Russell, Rory Pearce and Steve Orr

30 years

James Barham, Kamal Flora, Rita Campbell, James Mitchell, Winston Bryan, Douglas McDonald, Barbara Gibbons, John Auguste, Clive Wilson, Valling McCleary, Daniel Prescott

25 years

Albert Cordeal, Ali Kazim, Amanda Brandwood, Anthony Gordon, Balbir Dhami, Bradley Faithfull, Christopher Cunningham, Deljit Luggah, Derek McCaffrey, Eartha Henry, Farooq Shipkolye, Gary Cable, Inamul Patel, John Hibbert, John Thompson, Julie Jessup, Mark Bensley, Michael Ladipo, Nwabeze Iwenya, Paul Santos, Shawn Smith, Siam Mohun, Sunday Akinrimisi, Wajahat Kazmi and Yasin Khan



GROUP OF LONG SERVICE COLLEAGUES



COLLEAGUES WITH 35 YEARS LONG SERVICE



COLLEAGUES WITH 30 YEARS LONG SERVICE



THE APPRENTICESHIP GRADUATION

Hitting your career goals

JOB FAIR

We have recently hosted a number of very successful recruitment events. One of these was the Tottenham Hotspur Foundation and DWP Job Fair on 23 February.

We had almost thirty on the spot applications submitted. Camile Blake, an Apprentice came along to assist to share her journey and also assisted with completing applications. We were also fortunate to make contacts with organisations seeking to get people into employment. We look forward to having more people join our team.



MARCUS BLACKFORD EXPLAINING THE APPRENTICESHIP ROLE TO AN ATTENDEE



MARCUS BLACKFORD WITH NATOYA THOMPSON



NATOYA THOMPSON PICTURED WITH FORMER TOTTENHAM HOTSPURS PLAYER LEDLEY KING, NOW AMBASSADOR OF THE FOUNDATION

Rail Replacement

We are pleased to share that our Commercial Department has been successful in retaining the Southeastern Rail Replacement Contract for Planned and Emergency provision.

Commercial Manager Phil Seago commented, "I am delighted to have retained this important contract for a further two years. The win is a testament to not only those involved in the bidding for

the work, but all the planning, operational and administration staff who week after week provide a consistently excellent service to the client".

This contract makes a sizeable financial contribution towards Go-Ahead London. Thank you also to those at garages who have been assisting in ensuring the work is covered. We appreciate your continued support.

One of the great ideas generated and implemented during the Risk Competition in 2015 came from a Waterloo driver. The idea was a simple and effective eye sight test.

Since then, all of our garages have found a suitable location where they display a registration plate and marked a line at 20 metres distance. The registration plates used to read the same message; going forward the initiative has been refreshed. There are now different messages at garages, and these will be swapped around.

By reading the registration plate from 20 metres, colleagues can, in an honest and discreet manner, take responsibility for self-testing their eyesight. There are mandatory eyesight checks for drivers, but it is hoped that between any tests, this will prompt colleagues to visit an optician for an eye-test if they are unable to clearly read it.

Carl Trainor, Operating Manager, stated "the eye testing facility is something that I personally use on a daily basis. I do not need glasses, but as time goes on the likelihood is greater, so this little test is quick and easy for me, and so far, the results are good".

EYE 735T Initiative



CARL TRAINOR
MERTON GARAGE

REFER A friend

Refer a friend is better than ever! Thank you to everyone continuing to refer someone to work for us. Your efforts do not go unnoticed, and most importantly, colleagues across the business are receiving their monetary incentives.

If you would like to earn some extra money, then make sure to take part in the scheme. If you have any questions, please email communications@goaheadlondon.com or speak to your local management team.



GENERAL MANAGER, DEREK BARKER PRESENTING REFER A FRIEND CHEQUE TO CHANTE MORRIS

DO YOU
DO YOU HAVE A SPARE
ROOM AVAILABLE?

IF SO YOU CAN POTENTIALLY EARN UP TO

£7,500

TAX-FREE PER YEAR

As part of our international search for Engineers using the Skilled Worker Visa Scheme there is an opportunity to provide appropriate accommodation for the Engineers joining us. Weekly rent will be £160 for a single room & £190 for a double room (inclusive of bills) and there is security in knowing that the person has full-time employment with Go-Ahead London.

Please register your interest by emailing Natoya Smith, HR Co-ordinator, via natoya.smith@goaheadlondon.com, providing your contact details and information about your accommodation.



GoAhead-London

SPRING 2023

Welcome TO THE FAMILY

London Borough of Merton
**GOAT ROAD
GARAGE, CR4**

We welcomed Goat Road, Mitcham, to the Go-Ahead London network of operating bases on 25 March, following the end of our lease at the nearby Waterside Way.

Using the GM garage code, Goat Road is now home to Routes 280 and 470, which successfully transferred overnight thanks to a lot of hard work and planning by colleagues. Here are photos of the first Route 280 and 470 buses leaving Goat Road.

Managing Director, David Cutts said: "A big thank you to the many people involved in closing one site and opening another, while also cascading a number of buses and all the time delivering a seamless service. None of this would be possible without careful planning and dedicated teamwork, so well done to all involved."

Nicola Phipps, Merton's General Manager, added:

"We were all sorry to see Waterside Way go, but we now welcome Goat Road and will work hard to ensure Routes 280 and 470 continue to deliver consistently high levels of performance. The 'can do' approach shown by all involved in this weekend's project showcased the very best of Go-Ahead London and I am proud to have been a part of it."

Other Route moves/changes

Putney Garage also begun to operate route 39 and Merton Garage is operating routes 485 and 493. Route 424 from Putney Garage and route 690 from Waterside Way were also relocated to Stockwell Garage as part of these changes.



Keeping it green with the Route B13

Congratulations to the team at Bexleyheath Garage on the successful launch of the Route B13. Our new route operates between Bexleyheath Townley Road to New Eltham Station. We also welcome the new colleagues who have joined us with the route, Gary Heselden, Simon Pearce and Gary Wall.

Sharing her enthusiasm on the successful launch, Joanna Keane, General Manager, said "The Route B13 is great addition to the electric vehicles we already have in operation at this garage. We look forward to our new vehicles going out into service, as well as providing this essential route for our customers in our Borough".



OPERATING MANAGER DAVE TERRY (LEFT) WITH DRIVER OF THE FIRST BUS, GARY HESELDEN (RIGHT)

Route N97

Congratulations to Putney garage for the successful launch of the N97 on 4 March. The route operates between Hammersmith Bus Station and Trafalgar Square. Here is a photo of driver colleague, Ian Sterling, taking out one of the first buses.

Takmil Kiani, Operating Manager, explains the significance of this route - "we are excited to have the route

N97 join service at Putney, which was re-numbered as N97 on 28 September 1960. It has the distinction of being the shortest dedicated Night bus route. We feel honoured to have such a historic route and look forward to providing the best service to the community."

Saf Patel, General Manager, stated "we are proud to having another route join us at Putney garage and are pleased to have new colleagues join the team."



IAN STERLING
PUTNEY GARAGE

Launching Route 91

Well done to the Stockwell team for the successful launch of the Route 91 and N91 routes on 3 February. The 91 operates between Crouch End and Trafalgar Square. The N91 operates between Cockfosters and Trafalgar Square.

Peter Russell, General Manager, stated "We have been looking forward to this day. With the excellent route

booklet, videos, and fantastic Mentors we have, we ensured the launch would be a success. Much planning and preparation goes on behind the scenes with Performance, Engineering and Operating all working together to ensure a successful launch."

Lance McFarlane, Operating Manager, added "A massive thanks and well done to the Mentors, Supervisors,

Engineers, Managers and of course Stockwell drivers." The iBus team, Engineering team along with Stockwell SGAs, all worked together to ensure the successful implementation went off without a hitch.



DRIVER ETHAN CAMPBELL WHITEHEAD AND MENTOR RICARDO CANDIDO



Above is the winning design for the Neurodiversity Celebration Week colouring challenge. We love the message "we are all unique."

Thank you for reading our **Spring 2023** issue.

There is a lot to look forward to in the **Summer Issue** of BusTalk, including photos from National Pet Month, Mental Health Awareness Week and more on the mobile launch of The Pod.

Please do keep sending us your experiences and photos to
bustalk@goaheadlondon.com

It is wonderful to share all of your great stories!

