



IN THIS ISSUE

METROBUS OPEN DAY

EVERYWOMAN AWARDS

IRTE SKILLS CHALLENGE AWARDS

NOTTING HILL
CARNIVAL

PAGE 26

IN THIS ISSUE

04	Andrew Edwards
06	Important moves
08	Women in Bus and Coach
09	Koli wins everywoman award
10-11	London Bus Awards 2023
12-13	School visits
14	Azad Mamam saves young child
15	Nihlas Rawther aids colleague
16	Ian Jarrett's charity shave
17	Social Value Fund
18-19	Long service colleagues
20-21	Metrobus Open Day
22	IRTE Skills Challenge Awards
23	Imberbus
24	Lisa Sharpe's Billion Hugs bus art
25	Inktober - know your colleague
26	Carnival
27-29	Decarbonisation
30	Bus Driver of the Year
31	Top 5 Apprentice Employers
32	Pride Celebrations
33	Safe Bus
34	Superloop
35	Route Launches

Message from

Dear Colleague,

Welcome to your Autumn edition of Bus Talk.

This edition covers the three months from June to the end of September. When putting together Bus Talk, it always amazes me how much has happened in such a relatively short amount of time.

You will learn about new role changes within our leadership team. The introductions include Andrew Edwards (Operations Director), Kastriot Gashi (Area General Manager) and Chris McKeown (Engineering Director).

Last month, we said goodbye to Trevor Johnson, Area General Manager. I would like to take this opportunity to thank him for his distinguished 40 year career. As Area General Manager, he played a key role in the leadership team, contributing to our collective success and growth. Trevor also helped steer Go-Ahead London through the difficult Covid period, where his experience played an important part in shaping our approach to the challenges we all faced. I am sure that we all wish Trevor the best as he embarks on his well-deserved retirement.

This September, we held an open day to celebrate 40 years of Metrobus. Open days are typically a labour of love and I extend my personal thanks to a dedicated team of colleagues who made the event possible. I am proud of the money raised for St Christopher's Hospice on this day too, more of which will be highlighted in the Winter BusTalk.

David Cutts
MANAGING DIRECTOR

At Go-Ahead London, we keep London's bus service going, but we do so much more. That achievement is down to all of the colleagues day in, day out, often going above and beyond.

In this edition you will read the stories of colleagues who have saved lives, shown their expertise in challenging situations and made a difference. We should be proud, having been acknowledged in the London Bus Awards, IRTE Skills Challenge Awards, Department of Education Apprenticeship List, Bus Driver of the Year Competition, and the everywoman Awards. We will go through each of these in more detail.

I personally have been delighted to have been part of the launch of Women in Bus and Coach. This Transport for London initiative aims to create a national network to encourage, support and retain women in the industry. The Go-Ahead Women network has also been created to play a key part in developing a culture where everyone can feel they belong. Both are very important groups, and it is worthwhile to engage in discussions surrounding inclusion and diversity.

We share the story of Ee172 with you too. This e-bus was especially wrapped with a design to honour the contribution made by Windrush pioneers and their descendants. It was fitting that it was included in the Transport for London parade at Notting Hill Carnival.



We were pleased to welcome artist Baraka Carberry to unveil her artwork at Morden Wharf Garage.

This particular e-bus was the first bus to sport our new logo. There will be more buses coming into service with this refreshed brand identity on them soon. We are proud to be "part of Go-Ahead" and part of a global family of transport companies.

The new identity brings more clarity and consistency across all of Go-Ahead's operating companies.

Go-Ahead London has a key role in developing our position as a leader in zero-emission buses and delivering the transport industry's most ambitious climate change strategy. Our focus on this is evident in this edition. We are pleased to have had the opportunity to introduce more routes to our operation, including routes SL6 and SL7 which are part of Transport for London's new Superloop network. We have shared images of routes turning electric and behind the scenes of our Henley Road facility in East London. When this is complete, it will be the capital's first purpose-built electric bus garage.

There has been so much happening in the last three months and so much more to look forward to in the future.

Thank you for all for being part of the Go-Ahead London team. I hope that you enjoy reading our Autumn Bus Talk.

Welcome to

Andrew Edwards

Earlier this year, we announced Andrew's appointment as our Operations Director, making him just the third person to undertake this important leadership role since 1996, when London Central and London General joined forces, in the process laying the foundations for today's Go-Ahead London.

39-year-old Andrew has spent his entire career in the public transport sector since joining it in 2006, having attained a degree in Public Relations and Management from Birmingham City University. Initially employed as a graduate trainee by First Group, he cut his teeth performing a wide variety of operational positions in Berkshire, Bristol, Glasgow and London over a six-and-a-half-year period which he looks back on with pride.

"It immediately struck me that the overwhelming number of people working in our business, whatever their background, role, or location, are dedicated to service. Our communities rely on us and it takes a certain person to, say, fuel a bus late at night when the weather is unpleasant. It still impresses me how individuals come together behind the scenes to deliver the end product."

In early 2013 Andrew was appointed to a senior role at National Express Group outside London, during which he closed and opened a garage, introduced an enhanced network and applied innovative solutions to reduce an acute driver shortage. This was

followed by a return to the capital later that year when he joined Tower Transit as their Operations Director, with responsibility for service delivery, recruitment, training, human resources, insurance and engineering.

"London is a challenging, but rewarding, place to run public transport and my responsibilities with Tower encompassed a great deal of what I will be doing for Go-Ahead London. I was based at Westbourne Park Garage for just over three-and-a-half-years and I got to know the operating environment well. I worked with some great people at Tower and I believe in collaboration and mutual respect. I also quickly understood why Go-Ahead is so highly regarded by Transport for London and others."

An international posting followed in early 2017 when Andrew joined Go-Ahead Singapore, initially as its Chief Operating Officer, followed by promotion to Managing Director. During this period, he worked with numerous Go-Ahead London colleagues, such as John Trayner, David Cutts, Daniel Corbin, Gavin Smith and Sajid Chaudry.

"Singapore was an incredible experience. Their version of Transport for London, called the Land Transport Authority, have exacting standards, which ensures everything we do on their behalf must be first rate. Like London, their bus system is world class and road pricing makes private car ownership very expensive, which means most people rely on public transport."

Andrew's time in Singapore was one of growth for the company, during which new services were introduced and electric buses trialled, paving the way for their subsequent introduction over the coming years.

In early 2020 Andrew was appointed Operations Director for Hong Kong's largest bus company, Kowloon Motor Bus, with responsibility for 4,500 vehicles and 12,000 employees. He returned to the Go-Ahead family later the same year during the coronavirus pandemic having been appointed Managing Director of Go-Ahead Ireland.

"I have had the good fortune to run buses around the globe, but London has always been in my blood. I am committed to build on the legacy I have inherited from David Cutts and despite some difficult challenges, our league table performance, tendering success and the continued rollout of electric buses all demonstrates our ability to deliver high quality public transport. I have received a warm welcome as I travel across locations and I very much look forward to getting to know more colleagues now that I have relocated from Ireland."

A proud father to 10-year-old Lilly and stepfather to 19-year-old Filip, Andrew is married to Kasia and enjoys travelling, cooking and a variety of sports.

ANDREW EDWARDS
OPERATIONS DIRECTOR



Moving on up!



“I am delighted to have successfully taken on the responsibility of Area General Manager role, my career journey with Go-Ahead London started 20 years ago as a personal challenge to drive a BIG red bus in London.”

An opportunity that has furnished me with the foundations of a long-lasting career in passenger transport. There has been endless support and guidance I've learned to cherish along the way and I am looking forward to working with new and existing colleagues on my new role.

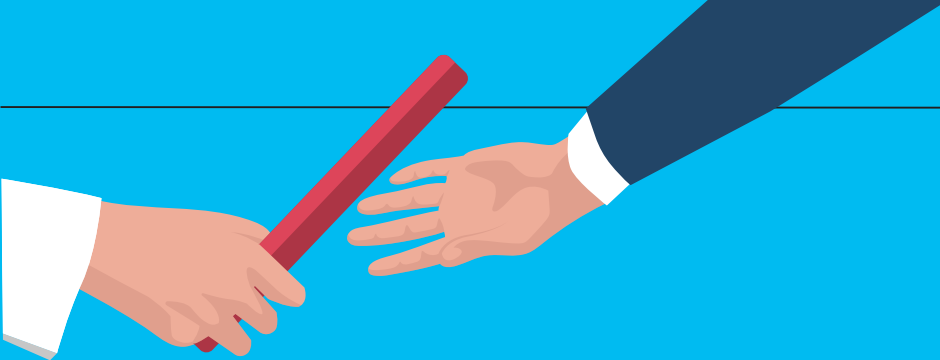


RICHARD HARRINGTON
GROUP ENGINEERING DIRECTOR

Richard Harrington, Engineering Director since 2011, was appointed as Engineering Director for The Go-Ahead Group from 1 August 2023. He leads on departmental best practice and develop vehicle procurement strategy across the entire company.

Richard's well-deserved promotion is a testament to his pioneering and visionary leadership over a 39-year period, especially with Zero-Emission (ZE) vehicles. His many other achievements include an enhanced safety culture, a bus fleet that has doubled in size during his tenure and the successful delivery of complex projects.

He also has the rare distinction of being a global award winner and has strengthened Go-Ahead London's reputation with key stakeholders. Richard's new role will be based at Group Head Office in Westminster and he will continue to apply his decarbonisation expertise, including in London, by remaining Head of Group's ZE Centre of Excellence, an in-house team of industry experts who plan fleet and building transition to electric buses.



PASSING ON THE BATON

Chris McKeown becomes Engineering Director

Following Richard Harrington's promotion to Engineering Director at The Go-Ahead Group, we have appointed from within to undertake an important leadership role.

Oxford Brookes-educated Chris McKeown has taken up the reins as our Engineering Director, with responsibility for 2,300 vehicles, 17 garages and a team of dedicated maintenance professionals.

Chris joined the bus industry as a graduate in 2005 and spent many years in garages learning the job from the ground up, followed by a series of promotions, including 11-and-a-half-years as Go-Ahead London's Chief Engineer.

Chris said: "It is a great honour to follow Richard, whose visionary leadership taught me so much.

London's buses provide an essential public service to millions of people every day and I am committed to

delivering a high-quality public transport experience for the communities we serve.

As the sector decarbonises, I look forward to working with Transport for London and our supply chain to deliver clean air through innovative solutions. I also intend to further digitise the engineering department and to make data-led decisions. Finally, as someone who has benefitted from lifelong learning, I am committed to the company's established investment in engineering apprenticeships."

David Cutts, Managing Director added: "Our fleet represents a quarter of the capital's buses and 2023 has been a year of significant delivery for our engineering teams, with hundreds of new electric vehicles entering service. I warmly welcome Chris as our Engineering Director and I look forward to working with him."



CHRIS MCKEOWN
ENGINEERING DIRECTOR

A Member of the Institute of Mechanical Engineers, Chris is married to Jen and a proud dad to Joseph (11) and Joshua (9). Away from work, he enjoys family time, especially developing a range of projects in his home garage.



FROM LEFT TO RIGHT: HANNAH MAN, CHRIS MCKEOWN, RICHARD HARRINGTON, CAROLINE WELCH, ERIC DALE, MILITZA SMITH AND ANGIE RYDER.

WOMEN IN BUS AND COACH



The Women in Bus and Coach London Launch took place during the summer. The aim of the event was for women and allies within the bus and coach industry to come together to discuss how we encourage women to not just join, but remain within the Bus and Coach industry.

It was a valuable opportunity to raise awareness of Go-Ahead London and the work we are doing to support and celebrate outstanding female talent.

Representatives from all London operators were invited to pin a commitment on the board, explaining how they will be part of bringing gender balance within the bus industry.

Women in Bus and Coach will be a national group, with the full launch taking place in November. Angie Ryder, Area General Manager and Caroline Welch, Apprenticeship Manager are both part of the panel.



DAVID CUTTS
MANAGING DIRECTOR



KOLI BEGUM
APPRENTICESHIP ASSESSOR

DAVID CUTTS, MANAGING DIRECTOR AND KOLI BEGUM, APPRENTICESHIP ASSESSOR, WERE GUEST SPEAKERS AT THE EVENT.

everywoman awards

In its 16th year, the annual everywoman in Transport and Logistics Awards promotes positive female role models in what remains a largely male-dominated sector.

We are delighted that Koli Begum, one of our driver mentors based at Northumberland Park, represented Go-Ahead London in the Apprentice of the Year category. Koli and sixty-eight others were shortlisted for an award at this year's ceremony, which took place on 28 June.



Koli was announced as the winner of the award, after being recognised as making an exceptional contribution to Go-Ahead London in her early career.

Koli has also recently been promoted to being an Apprenticeship Assessor and will continue to make a difference, by supporting future Apprentices.



Go-Ahead Women is a new network open to all our colleagues. We are proud to be developing a culture where all our people feel they can belong and this network plays a key role in improving gender diversity and inclusion across our Group.

As part of this network, we are also pleased to introduce The Go-Ahead Women

Mentoring Programme, utilising the plentiful skills and experience that exist within our business, to help women at Go-Ahead further their personal growth and development.

The first cohort of the mentoring programme is running between September 2023 and March 2024. To find out more about Go-Ahead Women, please check The Hub.





LONDON BUS AWARDS 2023: FROM LEFT TO RIGHT: HEMA RUSSELL, HANNAH MAN, DAVID CUTTS, KAREN TAYLOR, CHRISTOPHER WILSON, LOUISE CHEESEMAN, GARY SMITH, OMAR NANDOO, ANDREW EDWARDS AND MUHAMMAD HAQUE.

**LONDON
BUS
AWARDS**

23

LONDON BUS AWARDS 2023

Congratulations to all Go-Ahead London colleagues that were shortlisted for the London Bus Awards 2023.

The Awards took place at Transport for London's Endeavour Square offices near the Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park on Thursday 13 July.

Waterloo Garage was shortlisted for the 'Best Vehicle Care' category at the London Bus Awards. We were shortlisted by London Buses for this category, based upon their review of our results for key performance indicators.

Waterloo Garage was the UK's first bus garage to fully convert from diesel to Zero-Emission electric vehicles and it is the country's only internationally recognised operational bus facility (we secured an Energy Globe Award in 2019).

The colleagues shown on the next page received individual recognition, based on their exceptional performance over the last year.

“ I am delighted to see so many of our colleagues recognised for their exceptional performance and commitment to customer service. ”

DAVID CUTTS
MANAGING DIRECTOR



MUHAMMAD HAQUE

Muhammad Haque was shortlisted for the 'Outstanding newcomer' category at the London Bus Awards.

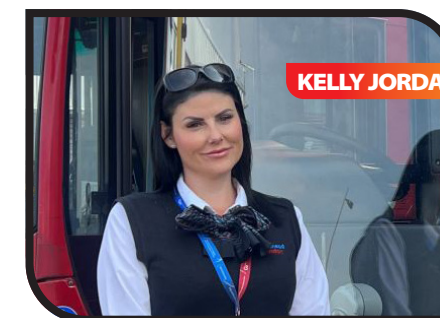
Muhammad joined our award-winning driver Apprenticeship scheme nearly a year ago. Muhammad has been recognised by his colleagues at Stockwell Garage for performing his role to an exceptional standard. He has also been received multiple commendations by passengers due to providing outstanding customer service. Well done Muhammad and we look forward to seeing your career progress.



CHRISTOPHER WILSON

Christopher Wilson is a driver at Waterloo Garage. Christopher was shortlisted for the Award for 'Outstanding Customer Service' at the London Bus Awards.

Christopher is a well-known Waterloo driver, not just at his home garage but across the local community. He has received multiple commendations, one for being the "nicest driver in the world." We are very proud of you Christopher.



KELLY JORDAN

Kelly Jordan is a Supervisor at River Road Garage. Kelly was shortlisted for the Award for 'Actions above and beyond the call of duty' at the London Bus Awards. Kelly was working as usual, when was asked to attend an urgent event on a nearby local bus, where a passenger with a medical condition needed assistance.

Once on scene, Kelly soon realised the man looked like he was slowly losing consciousness, so she calmly moved him onto the floor of the bus and conducted cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) five times, in the process helping to save a life. Her reassuring presence set the tone on the bus, which was appreciated by our driver and fellow passengers.

Kelly updated colleagues in the local control room throughout this event and liaised with the ambulance crew upon their arrival, ensuring a seamless handover to healthcare professionals. We are pleased to report the passenger fully recovered and is now well. Well done Kelly.



OMAR NANDOO

Omar Nandoo is a driver at New Cross. Omar was shortlisted for the Award for "Actions above and beyond the call of duty" at this year's London Bus Awards.

Omar assisted a potentially vulnerable passenger early one morning when driving a Route 21 in the Islington area. His intervention was quickly followed by Police support which was appreciated by the individual. Omar has driven a bus for 16-years and he represents the best of Go-Ahead London.



KAREN TAYLOR

Karen Taylor is the Assistant Operating Manager at Orpington. Karen was shortlisted for the 'Award for embedding a diversity and inclusion culture' at the London Bus Awards. Karen is an integral member of the Orpington Garage team.

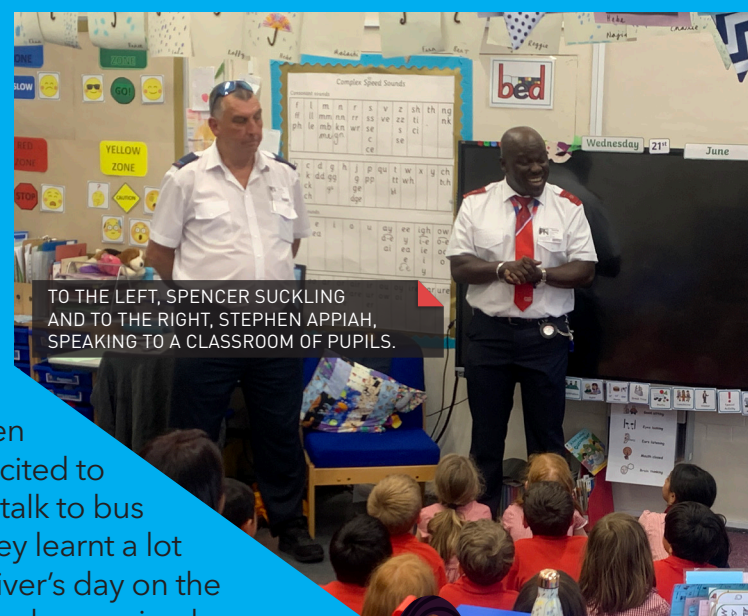
She has been an advocate for celebrating diversity and raising awareness of the importance of mental health over many years. Karen has and will continue making a big difference at Go-Ahead London. Well done Karen.



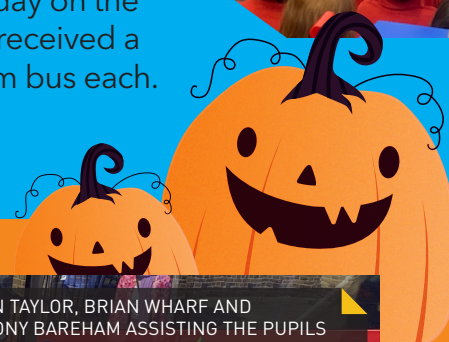
Inspiring a new generation

Representatives from Merton Garage visited Earlsfield Primary School for their Careers Week recently. Driver colleagues Steve Appiah and Spencer Suckling were asked many questions by two groups of Year 1 children.

The children were so excited to be able to talk to bus drivers. They learnt a lot about a driver's day on the buses, plus also received a booklet and foam bus each.



TO THE LEFT, SPENCER SUCKLING AND TO THE RIGHT, STEPHEN APPIAH, SPEAKING TO A CLASSROOM OF PUPILS.



KAREN TAYLOR, BRIAN WHARF AND ANTHONY BAREHAM ASSISTING THE PUPILS

a day to remember

One of our shiny new red electric buses and driver for the day Brian Wharf recently visited Lessons Primary School in Orpington to show children how to board, alight and enjoy travelling on public transport.

The children, aged between 4 and 5, explored the bus with

their nursery teacher Christine Field, who said the school term ended with lots of smiling faces and excitement.

Karen Taylor, Assistant Operating Manager at Orpington said: "The day was a real success and it was very rewarding to help educate young passengers."

"The day was a real success and it was very rewarding to help educate young passengers."

KAREN TAYLOR
OPERATING MANAGER

Go ahead London
OPEN AND APPROACHABLE

A view from the cab

In late June, we hosted an event at Culvers House Primary School, which is just around the corner from our Goat Road site.

Joanne Page, Assistant Head - Early Years at the School, explained that the children had been reading Jan and Jerry Oke's very popular "Naughty Bus".

The bus was stationary in the playground for the Reception children to explore in small groups. Hannah Man, Communications Manager, showed the features of the bus, gave guidance on how to travel safely and answered questions. A demonstration

was given of the wheelchair ramp being deployed and the children appreciated how important bus travel is for all in the community. All 60 children sat in the driver cab, which they really enjoyed.

Nick Groombridge, Commercial Driver, drove the bus to and from the school.

The children were all very excited when they saw that he could change the dot matrix display to show "Naughty Bus".

Some of the children stated that they would like become bus drivers when they are older and that sitting in the cab "is so cool". The event was both fun and educational.



TO THE FAR LEFT, A PUPIL ENJOYING BEING IN THE CAB. HANNAH MAN AND NICK GROOMBRIDGE IN FRONT OF THE COMMERCIAL BUS



Super-Mamam

AZAD MAMAM SAVES THE DAY!



Earlier this Summer, Orpington-based driver Azad Mamam, was driving the Route 320 as usual. He had served the last stop at Catford, when he noticed a young child, approximately 1 year of age, walking between the parked cars heading for the main road.

Azad safely stopped, in a way to block the road to protect the little girl from any oncoming traffic. He looked and could see no supervision for her, even when asking those in the immediate area. He brought her onto the bus for safeguarding and moved the bus to clear the road. Azad then called the Emergency Services and stayed with the lost child. The Police arrived and she was later reunited with her parents.

He has been praised by Transport for London and Go-Ahead London, who are grateful for the support he gave this lost child.

Azad said: "I am thrilled to be recognised for simply doing what anyone would do in the situation. I was very happy to hear that the child had been reunited with her family".



AZAD MAMAM
DRIVER

KAREN TAYLOR
ASSISTANT OPERATING MANAGER



A friend *IN NEED* is a friend *INDEED!*

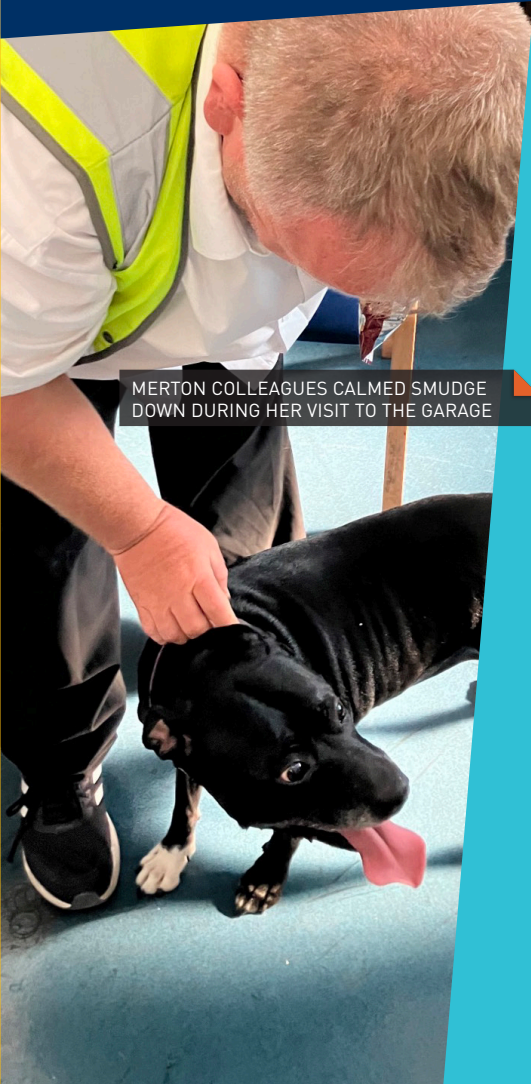
Thank you to iBus Controller Nihes Rawther, based at the River Road hub, who recently came to the aid of colleague.

Whilst at home, Nihes received a call in the early morning from a driver asking for help due to an unfortunate situation. Nihes went to the scene straight away to provide moral and professional assistance to the driver.

The management team for the iBus hub praised Nihes for his empathy and understanding. His actions not only assisted with the management of the situation but also gave support to many drivers that day. Here is a photo of Nihes being presented with his commendation letter by Performance Manager Ahmed Mustafa.



AHMED MUSTAFA (LEFT), PRESENTING NIHES RAWTHER WITH HIS COMMENDATION LETTER.



MERTON COLLEAGUES CALMED SMUDGE DOWN DURING HER VISIT TO THE GARAGE

Paw Patrol

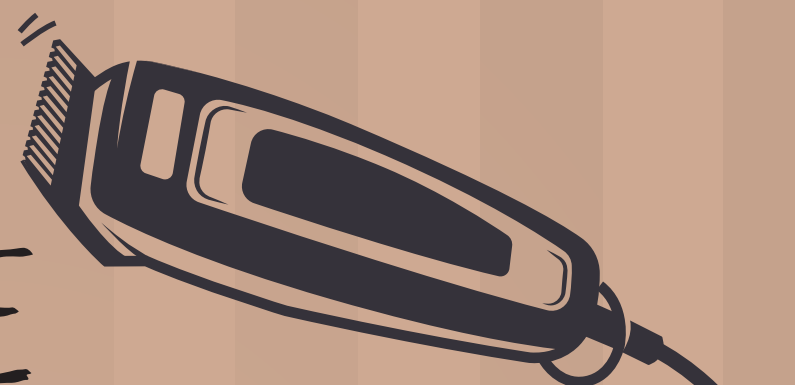
Noorullah Nabi was driving the Route 152 recently, when he noticed that a dog was on its own wandering along the Mitcham area. The day was a hot one, which led to concerns for the dog's welfare. The dog was also in danger due to the traffic, and it was likely that an accident may soon occur.

Noorullah stopped his bus where it was safe to do so and called the dog onto his bus. He then brought it back to the safety of Merton Garage.

Fortunately, the dog had a collar, the owners were therefore called and the garage team found out that it the dog was named Smudge. The owners were very happy to be reunited. Smudge appreciated being looked after and enjoyed the cuddles during her time in garage life.



Brave THE SHAVE



Ian Jarrett, driver at Morden Wharf, braved the shave recently on behalf of Macmillan Cancer Support.

This charity is close to Ian's heart, as unfortunately his son-in-law Lee has been diagnosed with cancer. Lee had been unwell last year, but it was only recently diagnosed.

Ian stated that "Macmillan have been amazing helping with everything from medical support, advice and help with benefits to advising on how to talk to the children about his cancer." Ian's daughter, Claire and Lee have two children, Tate and Kit. As you can see

in the photos, the shave was a family event, with all getting an opportunity to get hands on with the clippers!

Ian and his beautiful family are now aiming to make as many happy memories together as possible. Please contact Ian if you would like further details.

Ian applied for sponsorship through the joint Go-Ahead

London and Bidvest Noonan Social Value Fund and was successful. More can be found out about the Fund on The Hub and the next page.

It is still not too late to sponsor Ian for this great cause via <https://bravetheshave.macmillan.org.uk/shavers/ian-jarrett>.



IAN JARRETT, PICTURED GETTING HIS HAIR SHAVED BY HIS GRANDSON



IAN'S DAUGHTER, CLAIRE AND HER HUSBAND, LEE AND THEIR TWO SONS, TATE AND KIT

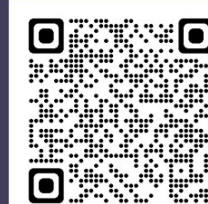
Social Value Fund

Bidvest Noonan & Go-Ahead London

We are delighted to announce a partnership for the benefit of Bidvest Noonan and Go-Ahead London colleagues by establishing a collaborative Social Value Fund Committee that aims to provide financial support to communities and charitable events.

To submit an application, please be prepared to provide the following:

01. An overview of your organisation
02. A clear breakdown of the project/event
03. An explanation of the social value that the project/event will bring
04. A brief summary of how you will monitor and evaluate the project



Application form

If you wish to apply, please scan the QR code to fill out the form.



"Together, we can enhance our community networks and provide aid to those in need"

25 years service

Repping the **REDS** with...



Colin Thompson started with Go-Ahead London in May 1998 and has now achieved 25 years of service. Colin has always enjoyed his role as a bus driver at Orpington. Robert Conedera, Operating Manager, says that Colin is a great member of the team and is very professional in all he does. He is always willing to help out.

Colin is an avid supporter of **ARSENAL** Football Club. Thank you Colin and all the best for your future years at Go-Ahead London.

Morgan Asirifi joined Go-Ahead London early on in 1998. He originally worked at Camberwell Garage as a night driver for 9 years, then moved to Mandela Way driving articulated buses on Route 453 on nights.

Morgan transferred to Bexleyheath in March 2012 for the Olympics. He is a flexible team member, also being loaned to Bevedere, Morden Wharf, New Cross and Orpington during his career so far.

Morgan has a wife and 3 children. He enjoys football and supports **MANCHESTER UNITED**.

Morgan likes to go to Spain and Ghana on his holidays. The garage management team state that Morgan is a very polite gentleman who just comes in and does his job.

Joanna Keane, General Manager, presented Morgan Asirifi with his letter of long service. Thank you Morgan, we wish you all the best for your future years in Go-Ahead London.



35 years service

Backing the **BLUES** with...

John Hanby, Commercial Engineering Manager, recently celebrated 35 years of service. Richard Harrington, Engineering Director at the time, presented John with his long service letter in front of colleagues at Head Office. Richard thanked John for his long service and making a difference to the Engineering Department. He also reminded us all of what was playing back in the charts in 1988, demonstrating how long-ago John joined us.

Avid **CHELSEA** fan, John started work with us back in 1988 as a Trainee Bus Mechanic at Merton. In 1994 he then was promoted to a Maintenance Supervisor role, then became a Workshop Manager in 2000.

In 2003, John became the Engineering Manager for Sutton and Putney. He remained as Engineering Manager for many years, until becoming the Commercial Engineering Manager in 2020. He is therefore very well known across the company.



Thank you John, we wish you all the best for your future years in Go-Ahead London.

Paul Sharkey recently celebrated 35 years of long service with us. Paul became part of the team at Bexleyheath Garage when it was named 'Bexley Bus'.

Paul enjoys spending time with his 4 children and 4 grandchildren.

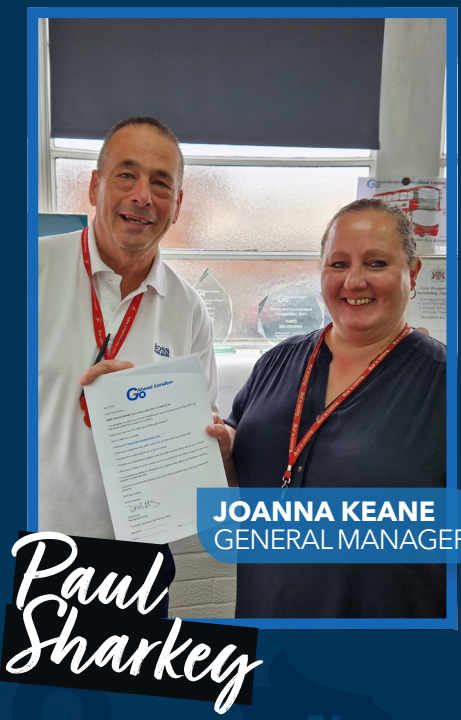
Paul is a sports fanatic and supports **CHELSEA** Football Club. He used to play for the garage football team in the inter-garage league. Paul states that Bexleyheath usually won this, but only because he was on the team.

Joanna Keane, General Manager, gave BusTalk many interesting facts about Paul. The majority of them are about Paul stating that he is a champion and expert of numerous sporting activities!

As well as football, Paul enjoys playing Golf and frequently plays in the Golf Society.

Paul likes fishing too and has recently returned from a fishing holiday in Thailand, where he caught many large fish, including a 140kg Mekong Catfish.

We thank Paul for his long service, and we cannot wait to hear about his future sporting accomplishments.



METROBUS

turns 40!

On Saturday 23 September, we celebrated our Metrobus operation turning 40 years old, with an Open Day at Orpington Garage. Well done to all those involved in the organisation, especially Operating Manager Robert Conedera and iBus Controller Rob Waughman.

All proceeds from the day will be donated to St Christopher's Hospice (stchristophers.org.uk). As well as the hospices in Sydenham and Orpington, they run community programmes that offer practical, emotional and spiritual support.

David Cutts, Managing Director said: "Metrobus is a remarkable success story

and an important part of the Go-Ahead London family. Community engagement is important and I thank all my colleagues for safely accommodating so many people, in the process making the case for public transport."



DAVID CUTTS (GO-AHEAD LONDON MANAGING DIRECTOR), GARY WOOD AND PETER LARKING (ORIGINAL FOUNDERS) IN FRONT OF AN AEC DOMINANT, THE FIRST BUS TO DEPART FROM ORPINGTON IN 1983



FROM LEFT TO RIGHT, HANNAH MAN, KASIA EDWARDS, ANDREW EDWARDS, DAUGHTER LILLY EDWARDS, DAVID CUTTS, EUGENE CLARKE AND SHANNAI LYN



ORPINGTON COLLEAGUES, SUPERVISING THE POPULAR BUS WASH RIDES

IRTE Skills Challenge Awards

Under the spotlight

We had a fantastic set of results at the Institute of Road Transport Engineers (IRTE) Skills Challenge Awards event in Birmingham.

The prestigious ceremony followed a competitive, but friendly, practical competition in June this year, where numerous groups of qualified and apprentice bus technicians from right across the UK took part in a series of bodywork, electrical and mechanical challenges to establish the best in the business.

We won in the following five categories:

ELECTRICAL APPRENTICE

William Keith

ELECTRIC DRIVELINE APPRENTICE

Diego Duran Cuadros

MASTER TECHNICIAN

Chris Bissett

MECHANICAL APPRENTICE

Scott Blakesley

OUTSTANDING APPRENTICE TEAM

Cameron Barton, Diego Duran Cuadros, Fabio Janota and Tiago Da-Silva



Well done also to Ben Stacey, who was runner up in the Electrical Technician category.

The winners are all either current or past Apprentices, that have gone through the Engineering Apprenticeship programme.

The event additionally saw Richard Harrington, The Go-Ahead Group's Engineering

Director and Head of its Zero Emission Centre of Excellence, win the Philip Margrave Memorial Award in recognition of his outstanding achievements during a 39-year (to date) career.

Congratulations to the individuals concerned and the wider engineering department. All should be very proud of this achievement.

Congratulations

Philip Margrave Memorial Award

Winner

Richard Harrington
Go-Ahead London

Congratulations

Apprentice Team

Winners

 Diego Duran Cuadros Go-Ahead (Electrical Apprentice)	 Cameron Barton Go-Ahead (Mechanical Apprentice)
 Fabio Janota Go-Ahead (Bodywork Apprentice)	 Tiago Da-Silva Go-Ahead (Mechanic)

Congratulations

Master Technician

Winner

Chris Bissett, Go-Ahead



IMBERBUS 2023

Imberbus is an annual transport event focused on a classic bus service across the Salisbury Plain to the lost village of Imber. Go-Ahead London's Dave Warran and Micky Webber were responsible for RML2318 for the 101-mile trip from Camberwell Garage to Wiltshire.

Dave said: "Imber has grown in popularity since the first service ran in 2009 and it is now a firm favourite in the bus enthusiast calendar."

Micky stated: "Not only is this a great day out, it also raises funds for local good causes, plus the Royal British Legion Poppy Day Appeal. I love getting into the cab of a Routemaster and it is a joy to see so many happy faces as I collect passengers."

Our presence at fun day's out such as Imber is thanks to a dedicated group of people in our commercial and engineering departments whose care and attention keep this iconic vehicle, soon 58-years-old, roadworthy.

“
Go-Ahead London has a long association with Imberbus and we are delighted to once again join others in offering this unique service. Well done to all involved.

DAVID CUTTS
MANAGING DIRECTOR

Billion Hugs

Artist Lisa Sharpe

We were pleased to host artist Lisa Sharpe at New Cross Garage.

Lisa’s ‘Billion Hugs’ art installation currently appears on several of our buses, including some of those on the busy Routes 21 (Holloway to Lewisham) and 453 (Deptford to Marylebone).

Lisa’s art focuses on two messages - ‘You matter, you are loved’ and ‘We believe in you’. They have been created to give people a visual hug and to uplift them if they are feeling low.

Angie Ryder, Area General Manager with responsibility for numerous garages including New Cross said: “It was a delight to meet Lisa and to introduce her to some of the people who drive and maintain the vehicles carrying her distinctive and effective artwork.”

Graham Johnson, New Cross General Manager added: “Lisa’s bright messages remind people they are valued and it was great she made time to visit the garage. Initiatives of this kind are uplifting and a welcome addition to the bus network.”

The pictures show Lisa in and around a Route 453 bus with Steve Winfield, a New Cross driver with over three decades dedicated service.

“It was a delight to meet Lisa and to introduce her to some of the people who drive and maintain the vehicles carrying her distinctive and effective artwork.”

ANGIE RYDER
AREA GENERAL MANAGER



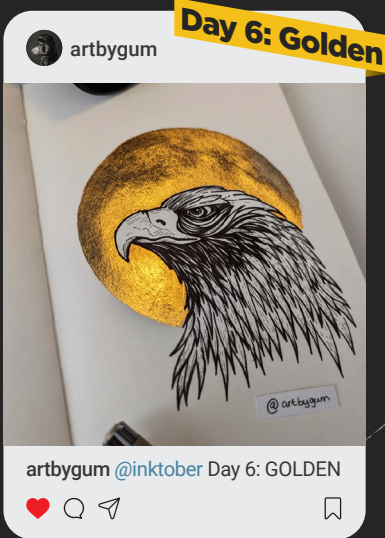
Inktober 2023

At Go-Ahead London we love to celebrate our colleagues as individuals, as well as part of our transport teams.

Gurnam Singh, Graphic Designer based at Head Office is taking part in ‘Inktober’ which is a challenge that involves creating a piece of inked art for every day of October, using a pre-made list of words.

We caught up with Gurnam, who talks about how his passion for being creative, isn’t limited to pixels but also pencils. “I have always been into drawing, since I was a kid. It is one of my greatest passions and formed the roots of my career in graphic design. I decided to participate in inktober this year to challenge myself to draw consistently. It’s been challenging so far but really enjoyable.”

If you would like to check out Gurnam’s art and his journey through Inktober, you can find him on Instagram [@artbygum](#)



This is a feature article from the Transport Benevolent Fund (TBF), one of the membership schemes that you can choose to belong to as a transport professional.



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Terms and conditions apply

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NOTTING HILL CARNIVAL

Our unique electric bus, Ee172, went into service on 1 October, to coincide with the beginning of Black History Month. The e-bus is on our Camberwell-based Route 40, which serves between Dulwich and Clerkenwell.

Artist Baraka Carberry visited the 'Windrush 75' e-bus to unveil her stunning artwork back in late August.

During her visit to the garage, Baraka met driver Angela Gray, a long-serving colleague who is a Route 1 regular and the two are pictured below. The design honours the contribution made by

Windrush pioneers and their descendants, so it was therefore fitting to be part of Transport for London's parade at Notting Hill Carnival 2023. It carried a mixture of elders, some of whom previously worked on the London transport network, plus current TfL staff members.

David Cutts, Managing Director, said: "Our workforce rightly reflects London's diversity and we are proud to provide Carnival with sustainable transport that recognises the contribution of the Windrush generation and their descendants."



BARAKA CARBERRY AND ANGELA GRAY



EE172 PICTURED PASSING ITS WAY THROUGH CARNIVAL WEEKEND



DAVID CUTTS, NICOLA PHIPPS AND TfL REPRESENTATIVES

Investing in the future

To celebrate major investment in Sutton's public transport network, one of our new electric buses attended The London Cancer Hub.

The images show Ee156, a 2023 registered BYD ADL double-deck vehicle that is used on Routes 80, 93 and 213. It is one of the 400 e-buses in Go-Ahead London's fleet, a number that is projected to increase to 600 by the end of this year.

David Cutts, Managing Director said: "The Sutton area joins a growing list of services to benefit from brand new Zero-Emission buses, which are popular with users and showcase sustainable public transport."

Sutton Garage is 100-years-old in early 2024 and it is fitting that we are futureproofing this strategically important building by populating it with vehicles that improve local air quality."



THE BIG 400

During the summer we joined Transport for London in marking the capital's Zero Emission (ZE) bus fleet, reaching over 1,100 vehicles. We also celebrated an important environmental milestone. Our 400th electric bus, fleet number Ee178, a BYD ADL double-deck based at Sutton, entered service on 29 August.

Chris McKeown, Engineering Director said: "We are making good progress on our journey towards a carbon

free future, with more to come later this year and into 2024. Well done to all involved, especially those colleagues who maintain and drive our vehicles."

Andrew Edwards, Operations Director added: "400 e-buses is a significant figure, as is the ever-increasing number of destinations they serve. Our garages are in the midst of impressive upgrade works, making this an exciting time to be involved in service planning and delivery."



Going Electric

Here is a photo from our 109-year-old Camberwell Garage, from back in July.

This busy facility is preparing for more ZE buses later this year, to join those already established at the garage (on Routes 100, 360 and 484).



CAMBERWELL GARAGE PREPARING FOR MORE ELECTRIC BUSES TO JOIN THEIR FLEET OF ZE VEHICLES

The power of electric

As the country's most experienced, and largest, Zero-Emission (ZE) bus company, we are working with Transport for London (TfL) and supply chain partners to decarbonise our vehicles and premises.

We pleased to share exclusive images from our Henley Road facility in East London, which, when complete, will be the capital's first purpose-built electric bus garage.

The transition from diesel to alternative power is being made possible thanks to a dedicated in-house team of experts and innovative suppliers, supported by TfL. As a result, by the end of this year, we expect to have around 600 e-buses in service, representing approximately a quarter of our world-famous red bus fleet.

Richard Harrington, Go-Ahead's Engineering Director and Head of The Go-Ahead Group's ZE Centre of Excellence stated: "2023 is proving to be another milestone year, with record numbers of e-buses being introduced and multiple garages being electrified, as we continue the journey to being a net zero carbon business."



WORK IS UNDERWAY AT OUR HENLEY ROAD GARAGE, WHICH WILL BE THE FIRST PURPOSE BUILT ELECTRIC BUS GARAGE, WHEN COMPLETED





SHORTLISTED CANDIDATES FOR THIS YEAR'S BUS DRIVER OF THE YEAR LOCAL FINAL

CREAM OF THE CROP BUS DRIVER OF THE YEAR

We are pleased to share with you the outcome of the National Final of the annual Bus Driver of the Year competition, where Croydon's Raj Viswanathan won the accolade as London's best.

Now in its 56th year and with a focus on safety, this event sees drivers from across the UK demonstrate their roadcraft through a series of complex vehicle manoeuvres, in addition to a being judged on positioning and signalling, plus a demanding test of the Highway Code. The final was once again held in Blackpool, which has been its home since 1982.

At our local final held at Orpington Garage back in July, the following colleagues were selected to represent Go-Ahead London:

Raj Viswanathan Croydon Garage

Muhammad Harun New Cross Garage Apprentice

Stephen Appiah Merton Garage

Manuel Lopes Dos Santos Camberwell Garage

Zaman Farrukh River Road Garage Apprentice

At the National Final, Raj placed first in the capital, but he was also judged top driver from across The Go-Ahead Group. In an amazing accomplishment, apprentice driver Muhammad Harun came second in both the London and Go-Ahead categories.

David Cutts, Managing Director, said: "Well done to all participants, but especially Raj, Muhammad and the entire Go-Ahead London delegation. There are around 25,000 bus drivers in the capital and it is remarkable that two colleagues took first and second place in the London competition. Congratulations to the whole team for this superb achievement."

If you are considering applying for Bus Driver of the Year in 2024, please keep an eye out on The Hub in May time next year.



AWARD WINNERS - RAJ VISWANATHAN (LEFT) AND MUHAMMAD HURAN (RIGHT)



SUMMER GRADUATES, 2023

TOP 5 APPRENTICE EMPLOYER

For the second year running, The Go-Ahead Group have been named as England's top employer of transport apprenticeships in the 'Top 100 Apprenticeship Employers' list. Go-Ahead Group ranked 5th overall. The 'Top 100 Apprenticeship Employers' list is published by the Department for Education in partnership with High Fliers Research, to identify apprenticeship opportunities at the country's leading employers.

Go-Ahead London is very proud of our apprenticeship programme, and it is fantastic

to have this recognised.

It is great to have seen an improvement in our ranking too, as we have moved up to being in the top 5.

Go-Ahead London understands that apprenticeships are vital for the future in preparing the next generation of bus drivers and engineers.

In July, we held our Summer Graduation Ceremony, celebrating the success of 130 drivers and engineers who recently completed Go-Ahead London's award-winning apprenticeship programme.

Colleagues attending the event were presented with certificates by our Managing Director, David Cutts, who

commented: "I was honoured to spend time with people whose dedicated commitment has seen them attain a well-regarded qualification. Every day, our drivers and engineers provide the capital with an essential public service and their professionalism is worthy of recognition."

We regularly host Job Fairs. You can also find out more about our industry leading apprenticeships and other career opportunities by visiting:

www.goaheadlondon.com/careers



PRIDE CELEBRATIONS

The Commercial Department operate a shuttle service for the University of Roehampton. On 1 July, the University also hired an open top bus from us, to join in the Pride in London celebrations.

Pride in London is the UK's largest and most diverse Pride event, which provides a vital platform for all members of London's LGBT+ communities. The parade saw around 600 groups made up from LGBT+ Community Groups, LGBT+ businesses, and partners, forming together to make a total of over 32,000 participants. As usual, the Mayor of London led the parade. A bus was wrapped in rainbow colours, representatives from Transport for London and operators also enjoyed the celebrations.

As you can see from the photos, the representatives from the University had a great day.



Commercial drivers Clarence Mensah and Alan Russell were responsible for driving the bus. The University stated "Alan and Clarence were both such good fun, professional and extremely helpful with putting up the banners and getting the bus ready. They really made the whole experience, and everyone was saying just how lucky we were to have had two brilliant drivers. They are a real asset to Go-Ahead London".

Jason Tann said "The Commercial team did a great

job in the preparation and execution of this hire. It goes without saying the drivers excelled themselves, going the extra mile in representing Go-Ahead London at the Pride in London event this year.

Both Alan and Clarence provided the client with a fantastically fun day whilst remaining professional, well done both".

For more information about hiring a bus, please visit: www.goaheadlondon.com/events-and-hire.



Go Ahead London

ADAPTABLE

SAFE BUS

In partnership with the local Safer Transport Team, Go-Ahead London regularly provide a bus to support the Barking and Dagenham Safe Bus initiative.

One of our buses is made available on the day and schools' book in to learn more about staying safe on public transport and gain tips on bus travel. Representatives from Transport for London, such as Travel Mentors and Revenue Inspectors also attend.

PCSO Muna Lam, Schools and Engagement Officer, states that "the feedback we have received has been amazing and our schools have walked away with more knowledge, from being able to watch and get involved with role plays of real life scenarios they may come across on their travels."

Helen Kinch, Accident Prevention Manager at River Road Garage, said "this is a good opportunity for Go-Ahead London to support the community and our younger customers who may need support. We look forward to continuing with this partnership and making a difference."

The superloop scoop



Transport for London (TfL) recently announced its intention to introduce a Superloop network of ten express bus routes, designed to improve connectivity between key Outer London town centres and transport hubs.

Previously Route X68, the SL6 operates during peak hours on weekdays as a limited stop service between Russell Square and West Croydon, using an existing fleet of double-deck buses that are in the process of having USB chargers fitted.

Previously Route X26, the SL7 (limited stops between Croydon and Heathrow Airport) joined Transport for London’s (TfL) Superloop express bus network.

David Cutts, Managing Director said: “Superloop is one of many TfL initiatives making bus travel ever more attractive and it is a welcome addition to the public transport family. As always, we will work hard to provide passengers with a high-quality journey experience and I congratulate the Croydon and Camberwell teams for seamlessly introducing the services.”



PAPA THIAM AT 0515HRS, HAVING PREPARED THE SL6 TO DEPART FROM CAMBERWELL GARAGE



KEITH WOOLLER PREPARING THE SL7 TO DEPART CROYDON GARAGE

ROUTE 265 LAUNCH

Congratulations to Putney Garage on the successful launch of the Route 265.

The route operates between Putney Bridge and Tolworth / King Charles Road. In the future it will convert to use 12 new electric single-deck vehicles, continuing to expand our zero-emission fleet.



LEFT TO RIGHT: MARIA MENDOZA LAGOS (MENTOR), SOPHIE ALGER (MENTOR), BRIAN GILBERT (MENTOR), HAMEED ALI (DRIVER), SAF PATEL (GARAGE GENERAL MANAGER), MOSTAFA ZAADANE (RUN-OUT CONTROLLER), IN FRONT OF A ROUTE 265.

ROUTE 450 LAUNCH

Well done to the Croydon Garage team for introducing another route to their operation.

The first Route 450 bus departed Croydon Garage, driven by Roger Green. Roger Tanner, Operating Manager, is also pictured in front of the Route 450. Roger, the garage mentors and team of duty controllers were instrumental in preparing for the route launch by organising the type training and route learning.

The Route 450 operates between Lower Sydenham and West Croydon. It runs using single deck SEe Electric

buses. We are also pleased to welcome new driver colleagues to our Go-Ahead London team at this time too.

Joanna Keane, General Manager stated: “Recently we were celebrating Metrobus turning 40 at the Orpington Open Day. This weekend we are introducing the Route 450 at Croydon Garage. It is poignant, as it shows that we are proud of our history and will continue looking to the future”.

David Cutts, Managing Director said: “Congratulations to the local Croydon team. We are pleased to be introducing

more Zero Emission buses to our fleet, providing green options for public transport”.



OPERATING MANAGER ROGER TANNER AND DRIVER COLLEAGUE ROGER GREEN

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

If you would like to provide feedback or suggest an article for the next issue please email:
communications@goaheadlondon.com



Our sponsored Canine Partner puppy.
Look out for more 'pupdates' on The Hub!

