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Message from

A warm welcome to the latest edition of Bus Talk. Here we are in Spring, a quarter of the year behind us, on the cusp of what we all hope will be a carefully phased return to freedom. As always, a massive thank you for serving our communities and a reminder to keep making those all-important virus interventions, as they make a real difference to our collective safety.

The last 12 months have proved to be a year like no other and we know all too well the devastating effect of coronavirus. Tuesday 23 March 2021 marked a year on from the first national lockdown and it saw a series of commemorative events across the country. This included a tree planting ceremony at the Olympic Park, during which Stockwell driver Claude Parchment joined the Mayor of London, Sadiq Khan. Claude richly deserved the honour of accompanying the Mayor and his dedicated hard work epitomises the very best of Go-Ahead London - well done Claude.

Continuing with the pandemic, I addressed an event at the end of last year examining the future of London's public transport network, including whether it will return to pre-virus levels of ridership. Although no one can predict with any accuracy, there is a view, supported by data, that users

John Trayner
MANAGING DIRECTOR

are returning. I believe that will continue as the capital re-opens, helped by a cleaning regime that independent research shows is working well. We must remain vigilant, and ready to respond to changing circumstances, but I am optimistic that happier days will soon return.

Moving away from the pandemic, the company remains busy on a series of fronts. Bus electrification continues apace, with charger installations now becoming apparent at many locations, soon to be followed by new vehicle deliveries. Elsewhere, work on our latest garage site, literally down the road from the established Silvertown facility, is progressing well.

More good news comes in the form of our industry leading driver apprenticeship scheme, which recently passed an Ofsted evaluation process, designed to independently assess that we are delivering on our commitments.

We have also launched Routes 184, 484 and 456 in the last few months, while also retaining Routes 413, 507, 521 and 646. Such diverse activity demonstrates our strength in depth, while creating employment opportunities, and it generally bodes well for the future.

I will also take this opportunity to publicly wish Daniel Corbin well as he imminently embarks on a new career with Go-Ahead Singapore as Operations Director. Daniel has played a major part in the company's success over recent years and our loss is Singapore's gain. He will be replaced as Area General Manager by the well-recognised, and experienced, Nigel

Wood. Congratulations also to Ben Smith on his promotion to Schedules Manager, plus Eric Dale on his promotion to Academy Manager. I have every confidence that all will excel in their new positions.

On a sadder note, a couple of company stalwarts have recently passed. Robin Young was Go-Ahead London's Operations Director until his retirement in 2001. A vastly

experienced bus professional, he was known to many in the industry. John Griffiths was a trade union official and he played a key role in the privatisation of the capital's buses a quarter of a century ago. Those that knew John and Robin will, I am sure, remember them with fondness and be thinking of their families.

By the time you read this, the country will be easing out of lockdown. Whatever you are doing, I hope you enjoy it, while staying safe. As always, thank you for contributing to London.



JOHN TRAYNER
MANAGING DIRECTOR



International Women's Day



**Caroline Welch,
Apprenticeship Manager**

**What achievements
are you most proud of?**

My proudest achievement is raising my children, all while rising through the ranks in an industry typically not chosen by women. Their success means the world to me. I am also proud to be a champion for other women in the industry. When I see the women I've trained thriving at work it fills me with pride.

**Jolanta Gut-Nidecka
Stores Manager**



**What advice can you
give to women who want
to get into Engineering?**

Don't be afraid of coming into this industry, don't be nervous, the people here are always here to help. I would always say just go for it, there are always roles available, just try, don't be afraid.



**Katarzyna Bilinska
Accident Prevention
Supervisor**

**What can the company do
to recruit more women?**

Go-Ahead London is full of great leaders, inspirers, men and women who will build you up. We need to encourage more women to join our industry, just let them know that there are women in all areas of the business: engineers, drivers, supervisors, and managers - there is no limit for your dreams to come true.



**Hema Russell
Operating Manager**

**What advice would you
give other women who
want to join the industry?**

It's a good industry to get into, the job is interesting and challenging, never the same day twice, and pay is good. There are opportunities for progression and benefits include free travel for employee and nominee. Being a bus driver lets you use your customer service skills in a different way - to help people in the local community get from A to B. Procedures and policies in place to keep colleagues safe. Workplace TU rep and Equalities officer in every garage - garages located all around London.

**Emma Tooze
Operating Manager**



**What challenges have
you experienced in
your career journey?**

When I first come in as a conductor it was very much a male-dominated environment. As the years have passed Go-Ahead London have been instrumental in changing people's attitude towards women in the industry.



**Flora McIlroy
Engineering Apprentice**

**What can the company do
to recruit more women?**

The company could advertise more of their engineering female staff, as they do with drivers, on the sides of their buses. Thousands of people will see that particular bus every day as it does its routes, and likely a lot of children will see it on their way to school. This could be that inspiration to get girls into engineering.



**Indu Somasundaram
iBus Controller**

**What advice would you
give other women who
want to join the industry?**

Some people think that driving buses wouldn't be a good job, especially not for women, but it's one of my best jobs ever. I will always love driving I still love driving all this time.

When I applied, I had lots of negative comments about it, I am a minority and I am female, and it's not a traditional job for people like me, but my mum prayed for me in the church and encouraged me. If I can do it any woman can do it! Females don't have to stay behind.

**Eleanor McDonnell
Assistant Operating
Manager**



**What advice would you
give other women who
want to join the industry?**

It is a great industry to be a part of and it is not solely a 'man's occupation'. You will be accepted as part of the team and your gender is not an indication of how good you'll be at the job. On another note, I would also say that it's ok to point out when someone is being inappropriate, rather than just laughing it off (which I've done numerous times throughout my years working in the industry). Now, if I feel uncomfortable, I will make it obvious and not entertain it. Cultures are changing and you shouldn't have to put up with outdated behaviour, as many women before me did.



Tweet us **@Go_Ahead_London** using the hashtag **#ChooseToChallenge** to share your own experiences!



APPRENTICE VIRTUAL GRADUATION

On Friday 12th February Go-Ahead London hosted the very first virtual graduation for all apprentices.

The event, presented by Go-Ahead London’s Managing Director and masterminded by Apprenticeship Manager Caroline Welch highlighted the outstanding work of our newest recruits, officially welcoming them to the Go-Ahead London family with a presentation of their graduation scrolls.

Special guests spoke on the day to send their best wishes to the graduating apprentices, including Claire Mann former Director of Buses for TfL, and David Brown, CEO of Go-Ahead Group.

Taking place during Apprenticeship Week (8th – 14th February) the live ceremony celebrated the achievements of over 120 apprentices and presented awards for exceptional performances in the following categories.



APPRENTICE OF THE YEAR
CHEMAINE RUSSELL



ABOVE AND BEYOND APPRENTICE AWARD
JOHN DALEY



OUTSTANDING CUSTOMER SERVICE AWARD
CALLY MEAGER



VISIONS AND VALUES APPRENTICE AWARD
DWAYNE OSEI



MOST IMPROVED APPRENTICE AWARD
ARON DUNCAN

On the night Engineering Director Richard Harrington also presented the Engineer of the Year Awards for 1st, 2nd and 3rd Year.



1ST YEAR ENGINEERING APPRENTICE OF THE YEAR
PABLO LUNA-ROJAS



2ND YEAR ENGINEERING APPRENTICE OF THE YEAR
ARNOLD DURAN



3RD YEAR ENGINEERING APPRENTICE OF THE YEAR
MICHAEL RYDER

Assessors of the Year Award were then named: well done Pierre Lansiquot and Natasha Smith!



ASSESSOR OF THE YEAR
PIERRE LANSIQUOT



ASSESSOR OF THE YEAR
NATASHA SMITH

John then presented a little gift as a mark of thanks and gratitude for Angel Stopher and Caroline Welch for their hard work in making the ceremony such a successful event.

The night ended with a performance by the assessors of the song Lean on Me.

Well done to all of the apprentice graduates of 2020 and 2021, welcome officially to the Go-Ahead London family!



Please see [back page](#) for a list of all of the graduates.

From dream to reality

A day in the life of *Ashley Blow*

1) How long have you been working as a bus driver for Go-Ahead London?

I've been with Go-Ahead London now for the past 9 months having been in the bus industry for three years.

2) What made you decide to become a bus driver?

I've always wanted to drive a big vehicle. I was working in retail before I joined the buses. I saved up some money and on my annual holiday I decided to take a chance and get myself training. I haven't looked back since.

3) What do you enjoy most about being a bus driver?

I love being out and about I get to see stuff you wouldn't normally see if you work in an office or a shop. I like meeting new people too. Some passengers will even have a laugh with you which helps you get through the day. Especially when passengers compliment you're driving and say thank you when they leave the bus, it makes me feel like I've done a good job.

4) What advice would you give to someone interested in becoming a bus drivers?

Go for it! If you're looking for a job where no two days are the same this is the job for you. It is a career for life.

5) What garage do you work from? What's it like to work there?

I work at River Road Garage. All the staff are friendly. They will always say hello to you and make sure you are okay. The mentors,

allocation staff, yard staff and the engineers are all great and will help you out without any questions asked. Since I first joined the garage, I felt welcomed by everyone which is something I never received at my previous companies, truly the best company in London.

6) What do you do to set up for your first route of the day?

I check my bus using my Tranzaura device making sure my bus is ready for service. I make sure my bus has the correct destination signs, all external and internal lights are working, bells are operational, poles secure, clean seats and all emergency exits are clearly marked and fully operational for the passengers in case of emergency. I then make sure to get my seat in the correct position along with my mirrors then I hit the road.

7) What route do you drive?

I drive the 147 which runs between Ilford and Canning Town station.

8) What kind of customers do you have on your route; do you often see regulars?

The 147 serves East Ham and Canning Town stations which are very busy on the early runs with commuters going into central London for their 9-5. The route also serves loads of schools and colleges as well as shopping areas which keeps the bus busy throughout the day. As I do the same duty for a week, I normally see a lot of the same passengers who sometimes recognise me and say hello. Since I live very close to the route I regularly see my friends who wave as I drive past.

9) What is it like driving in London?

I love driving in London! Every corner you turn down something will catch your eye. London is full of surprises. One trip is never the same as the last.

ASHLEY BLOW
BUS DRIVER



Stockwell's local hero, Mo!

In January Agency Driver Mohammed Swaleh who works for Integrated Solutions and based at Stockwell Garage received a commendation from the Network Management Control Centre for helping reunite a missing person with her family.



MOHAMMED SWALEH
AGENCY BUS DRIVER

On one of his shifts, Mohammed identified a lady who had been reported missing to the police by her daughter earlier that day, and a missing person

announcement had been issued across the bus network. The lady, who has dementia, had been missing since early in the morning. Her family were frantic with worry.

Through the driver's actions in identifying that this lady was vulnerable and confused and keeping her safe on the bus until police arrived, he

be able to help reunite her safe and well to her family.

A big well done and thank you to the driver for his kindness and professionalism, a job very well done!

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BEING CAN-DO

Go Ahead London
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. Well done to all colleagues mentioned below!



Are you following
Go-Ahead London on twitter?
Find us here [@Go_Ahead_London](https://twitter.com/Go_Ahead_London)

Go-Ahead London @Go_Ahead_London · Apr 12

Yesterday our 'EN1' dressed in classic London General livery, had a day out with the @londonbusmuseum running the old London Transport Route 65 from Leatherhead to Ealing. Did you spot it?



6 10 81

Tricky Micky @TrickyMicky14 · Apr 12

Must say that EN1 looked good out there even with controller @DaveWarran at the wheel good work guys another one for our events team 🙌🙌

1

Graduation Attire @GraduationGown

We are all prepared for the @go_ahead_london Virtual Graduation Live Stream! We are so excited to hold these celebrations in National Apprenticeship Week for all of their apprentices! 🎓 #NAW2021 #BuildTheFuture #GraduationsLIVE



6:15 PM · Feb 12, 2021 · LaterMedia

Mike G. McDermott @MikeGMcDermott1 · Apr 10

Anyone at @Go_Ahead_London know this driver at Camberwell Garage? Kudos to him for being a good sport upon having a photo of his bus (LT 287) taken in Peckham. This is how London's bus drivers should be towards enthusiasts such as myself. #happybusdriver



2 2 4

Martijn Gilbert @MartijnGNE · Mar 27

A big thank you to the guys @Masquettes for my delivery this morning! I'm now proudly sporting this wonderful @Go_Ahead_London moquette style facemask whilst out and about this afternoon! 🙌🙌



3 3 80

Go-Ahead Group fans @AheadFans · Mar 9

Morning all! Whether you're working, at homeschool or real schooling, we can all enjoy this picture of a @Go_Ahead_London bus!

Have any pictures to pick us up today? Show them in the replies or tag us in a photo! ^Admin



Go-Ahead London and 2 others

3 13

Michael Campbell @SLBusSpotter · Feb 20

@Go_Ahead_London Had a very polite driver on the 213 this morning (running number A247) greeting passengers as they boarded and taking care to pull close to the kerb!

2 2 4

Go-Ahead London @Go_Ahead_London · Apr 9

Route 484 caught brightening up a grey day 🌞

Ky @KysTransportV1 · Apr 7

Here is @Go_Ahead_London SEe153 on Route 484 to Camberwell.



2 1 13

Amandeep @Amandeepho · Apr 12

Love these E-buses!

1

Matt Harrison @gnwmatt · Mar 8

Love this! A fantastic insight into Natasha's day. Great to learn how colleagues work across our business 🙌🙌

The Go-Ahead Group @TheGoAheadGroup · Mar 8

For #IWD2021 Natasha Smith, Apprentice Assessor for @Go_Ahead_London gives insight into a day in her life - watch below. #choosetochallenge



648 views 0:05 / 2:10

4

Peter Burke *After work*

At Go-Ahead London we love to celebrate our colleagues as individuals as well as part of our transport teams. Peter Burke is one of our Bus Driver and Apprentice Assessors based at our Camberwell Training Academy. On top of that, he is a talented author, poet and singer/songwriter!

Peter sat down with us recently to share how he got into his many passions. This is his story below.

"I've been with Go-Ahead London for 4 years now which has been an excellent experience for my life, and actually given shape to my career. My personal hobbies have involved a love for music and writing. I have always been creative but not always confident or consistent enough to make anything of it.

4 years ago, my bedtime story telling nonsense as a Dad kicked in when I started using my early bus driving experiences to write short stories for a character, I created called Bev the Bus Driver.

Music was something I really wanted to get back to as it had been 15 years since putting down song writing. I also had been returning to a faith since my divorce a few years earlier, trying to piece my life together again.

One specific experience that led me to song writing again was 6 months into bus driving. The pain of divorce with a child involved was too much for me. So that morning, I said a prayer, 'I can't take any more'. A passenger about an hour later wanted to speak to me. She said, 'I can see the pain you are in; I'll say a prayer for you'.

I was astounded but it wasn't until that afternoon that I felt that something or someone out there cared. I just burst into tears.

From that moment, it was like my heart was open, songs from my younger church days just kept coming to mind which were helping me to find my faith. I found plenty to write about when I picked up the guitar. I have also begun learning film scenes and poetry.

I know life isn't easy for many of us and I hope my music

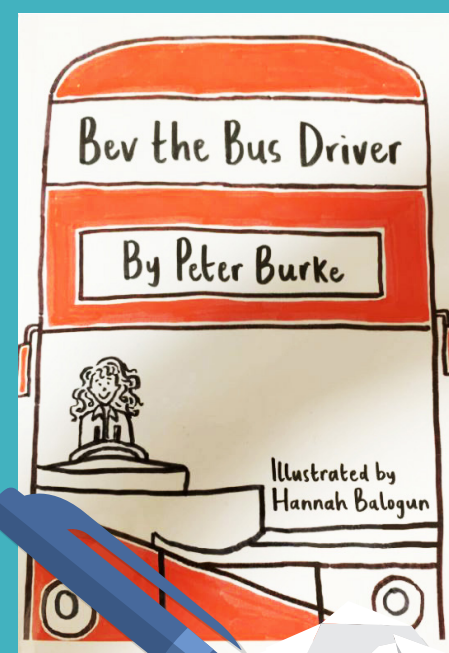
inspires others the way I was inspired that day.

If you would like to check out Peter's music, please see link below to his YouTube channel.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZXdNNyXrqOk>

Peter's children's book 'Bev the Bus Driver' is also available to be purchased on eBay.

<https://bit.ly/3tpCLBE>



Go Ahead London
**BUILDING
RELATIONSHIPS**



Well done to the colleagues recognised below for their wonderful efforts in the iBus Team! If you would like to nominate a Controller of the month please contact communications@goaheadlondon.com

I am very happy to be of assistance to my colleagues. I take pride in my work. It is an honour to be selected as controller of the month.

GABRIEL PANAIT
RIVER ROAD HUB

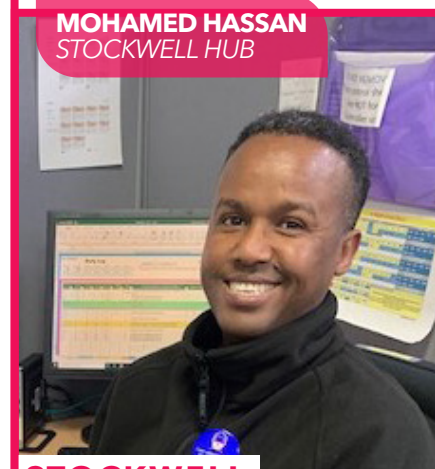


RIVER ROAD

Gabriel goes above and beyond whenever his services are required to assist the company, he volunteers to attend roadside incidents when he has finished his duty without any hesitation. He is also one of the strongest members of the team.

- Meandad Matthew, PM

MOHAMED HASSAN
STOCKWELL HUB



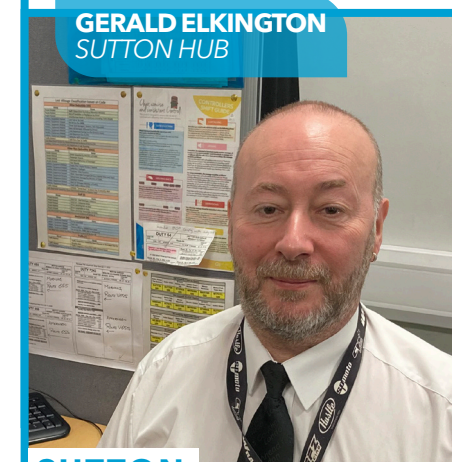
STOCKWELL

Mohammed consistently goes above and beyond. He is always happy to help and control extra routes when there are delays. He is also willing to stay on after his duty, or to come in and do overtime. This is beneficial not only to the business but also to his fellow colleagues. He thinks outside the box and rarely do I see gaps in his service or any mistakes with paperwork, logs or driver complaints.

- Robert Gladwin, PM

I feel very privileged to be nominated as controller of the month, I work with a great team and a fantastic group of drivers. At times it can be challenging, but as a team we get the results needed.

GERALD ELKINGTON
SUTTON HUB



SUTTON

I would like us to recognise Gerald Elkington for having gone beyond the call of duty. On several occasions, he has provided valuable support on his rest days. There have been challenging instances such as, assisting our driver colleagues that are stuck in major road closures or, to evaluate roadworks affecting our service delivery. Gerald is always on hand to support the team. We appreciate his work ethic and want to say thank you for clearly demonstrating the Go-Ahead visions and values.

- Alex Johnson, PM

Local Lockdown Hero

Diana Boyd

During the height of the pandemic, Peckham SGA Diana Boyd has been using her spare time to help the vulnerable in her local community. Diana lives in Kent and has teamed up with North West Kent Volunteer Centre to shop for people having to shield due to being vulnerable, including those who were ill, older and disabled. She also picked up and dropped off their medication.

Diana thought it was an important thing to do for her community because she understood how hard it can be for vulnerable people during the pandemic. Diana's parents in Lithuania are both vulnerable, and she knows the challenges her brother, who is disabled, faces on a daily basis and the impact

it has on the whole family. Unable to travel abroad to help her loved ones, Diana reached out to help others in her community instead.

The North West Kent Volunteer Centre offers a befriending service, a community transport service and a garden support scheme. The group aim to enhance their local community by promoting, supporting and delivering volunteering and active citizenship. They operate in Dartford, Swanley, Gravesham and New Ash Green and help people who live, work and study in the North West Kent area.

Well done to Diana for your thoughtfulness and charity work!



DIANA BOYD
SGA, PECKHAM GARAGE

Go Ahead-London
BEING CAN-DO

Route G1 Appreciation



On the 9th March 2021 Stockwell Garage received a parcel, sent from residents and children who live in the Thrale Road / Furzedown area in Tooting. The parcel contained several cards and treats, some of which were handmade, thanking and commending the G1 drivers, who serve the area.

The G1 is a, technically difficult route, which is often the only route to serve some of the roads it runs on. It runs through residential areas, serving schools, St George's Hospital and caters to vulnerable passengers.

James Barlow, Operating Manager of Stockwell said "The team at Stockwell would like to thank the residents for this thoughtful and considerate treat. It is excellent to see our colleagues being recognised for engaging so well with their passengers and contributing to their community".



A HUGE THANK YOU FROM THE TEAM AT STOCKWELL GARAGE



A SELECTION OF CARDS COMMENDING G1 DRIVERS FOR THEIR SERVICE

THE FIGHT AGAINST FATIGUE

From January to the end of March 2021, Fatigue Management Awareness workshops have been taking place to increase awareness of fatigue in the business, recognise the signs of fatigue and decide next steps to take to combat this. The workshops were designed by TfL, the bus operators and Unite.

The attendees included Directors, Managers, Controllers, Driving Instructors, Apprenticeship Assessors, Supervisors, Union officials and those in cover roles.

Altogether, 524 colleagues participated. Across 15 TfL led workshops, 131 colleagues were trained and across 46 GAL led workshops, 393 colleagues were trained.

Hannah Man, General Manager, organised and delivered the GAL led workshops. Hannah said

“Thank you to everyone who participated in the workshops. It has been a unique experience to work with so many of you, share experiences and discuss what we are going to do together to raise awareness and support the open culture.”

Most of the time, fatigue can be traced to one or more of your habits or routines. Fatigue can be a normal response to physical exertion, poor eating habits, emotional stress, boredom, or lack of sleep.

In some cases, however, fatigue is a symptom of an underlying medical problem that requires medical treatment. Over the coming months you will hear about hydration, healthy eating, getting enough sleep, and simple exercises to improve energy levels.

Please keep an eye out for more guidance on fatigue coming soon.



INDU SOMASUNDARAM
IBUS CONTROLLER

“Thank you to everyone who participated in the workshops. It has been a unique experience...”

HANNAH MAN
GENERAL MANAGER

Breast Cancer AWARENESS IS POWER



At Go-Ahead London we support many of our colleagues with their charity fundraising initiatives, especially those with an important cause. Emma Bilclough our Payrolls Manager is fundraising for Breast Cancer UK, and she sat down with us recently to share her latest fundraising campaign.

What inspired you to raise funds for this important charity?

Every week I participate in a weekly bootcamp local to where I live. Recently, one of my fellow bootcampers was diagnosed with breast cancer. In support, me and the bootcamp family decided to do some fundraising for Breast Cancer UK.

Why is this cause important to you?

I lost a very dear family member to this illness because it wasn't

detected early enough - raising awareness will hopefully remind people that it's important to 'cop a feel' (the Breast Cancer UK slogan) and regularly check for abnormalities and get it checked out ASAP - the earlier the detection the better chance of a positive outcome.

What are you doing to raise the funds?

Me and my family are participating in 3 challenges:

- **Challenge 1** - 7k for 7 days, which Emma ran with her husband Mark and 2 daughters
- **Challenge 2** - 12-hour bootcamp hopefully held in May when all restrictions are lifted.
- **Challenge 3** - Equinox 24 <https://www.equinox24.co.uk/>

We are proud to be supporting Breast Cancer UK. They kindly

sent us some t-shirts which we wore for challenge 1, the 7k for 7 days.

What is your fundraising target?

We're aiming to raise £500 by September and all donations would be a big help, pennies to pounds.

If you would like to support Emma with her fundraising goals please visit <https://gofund.me/6593abcf>

To find out more about Breast Cancer please visit <https://www.breastcanceruk.org.uk/>



EMMA AND FAMILY WEARING THE BREAST CANCER T-SHIRTS

How to recognise the signs of breast cancer:

Dimpling or change in skin texture	Lump or thickening in breast or underarm	Swelling of all or part of breast area	Unusual discharge from nipple	Constant breast or nipple pain	Nipple is inverted (turning inward)	Rash or colour on skin around nipple	Change in size or shape of breast

Chinese New Year 2021 with... Hoo Tang and family!

What is Chinese New Year?

Chinese New Year, or the Spring Festival, is the most important celebration observed in China, with cultural and historic significance. This year Chinese New Year was celebrated on 12th of February.

Chinese New Year in London

Though all celebrations have been cancelled this year due to the pandemic, usually London is full of celebration and cheer for Chinese New Year. Many parades with colourful decorations take place in central London, and everyone of all ages and races are welcome to attend. At night there is often a firework show attended by many people.

Go Ahead London
RESPECTING
EACH OTHER



HOO TANG
BUS DRIVER

A SELECTION OF COLOURFUL DECORATIONS
AROUND HOO TANG'S HOME.

THE YEAR OF THE OX
OXEN ARE HARD WORKERS, THEY'RE
ALSO CONSIDERED TO BE VERY
INTELLIGENT, RELIABLE AND MODEST.

To give us an authentic insight into Chinese New Year traditions, Hoo Tang, a Bus Driver at Northumberland Park Garage sat down with The Communications Team to tell us about his Chinese New Year celebrations with his family.

How do you celebrate Chinese New Year?

On New Year's Eve, we usually have a big meal to unite the family. The next morning, we all have a vegetarian meal and stay at home. On that day we give the children a red envelope with money inside. On day two, we go and visit more relatives to present them with envelopes of money for good luck.

Why is the occasion important?

It's the start of a new year and we celebrate for a more prosperous and a better year to come.

What traditions are important to you and your family?

We always give the red envelope gift to the kids, and we usually enjoy the parade line dance shows. You can often catch these in Chinatown.

How can colleagues at GAL celebrate Chinese New Year?

They can say Kung Hei Fat Choi. (Happy New Year)

How can colleagues celebrate Chinese New Year with their families?

They can take part in the celebration by eating Chinese food on the day. This year will be more difficult due to Covid-19, but I will be celebrating at home with my family and a traditional Chinese meal.

HAPPY St. Patrick's Day!

Saint Patrick's Day is a cultural and religious celebration held on 17 March that honours the foremost patron saint of Ireland. This year, during the pandemic lockdown, the celebration, usually enjoyed around the world often with traditional Irish Guinness, the lucky shamrock and the colour green was honoured a little bit differently!

Two of our Go-Ahead London colleagues sat down with us to share their experiences of celebrating their heritage; here are their stories.



PATRICK DONHUE DRESSED IN GREEN CELEBRATING WITH HIS FRIEND

Go-Ahead London
RESPECTING EACH OTHER

“

This is the second year that our national celebration was a dry one!! Under normal circumstances the Irish Community would come together to celebrate from opening time to closing time. Traditional Irish music, Irish dancing and a celebration of our patron saint would entail emptying copious numbers of Guinness barrels and a great day of craic amongst friends. Dressing up and doing a pub crawl would be a big part of the day. All good fun!!

PATRICK (PADDY) DONOHUE
BUS DRIVER
CAMBERWELL GARAGE

PATRICK CONNOLLY
ACCIDENT PREVENTION MANAGER
CAMBERWELL GARAGE

I always look forward to St Patrick's Day, having a few beers with family and friends. Due to Covid our usual event didn't happen again this year, however I'm looking forward to 2022, when we can all celebrate in the traditional Irish way with a few pints of the black stuff!



RAMADAN 2021

What is Ramadan?

Muslims around the world fast during daylight hours, meaning they abstain from eating, drinking or engaging in sexual relations for the duration of their fast. Young children, pregnant women, the old, the sick and travellers are examples of those who are exempt from fasting.

Aside from fasting, Muslims observing Ramadan also increase in spiritual devotional acts such as prayer, giving charity and strengthening family ties. Muslims are also encouraged to share their food with friends, family and neighbours and to reach out to those who may be fasting alone, to share their Ramadan experiences.

When is Ramadan?

The Ramadan start date for 2021 is expected to begin on either Monday 12th or Tuesday 13th April 2021, following the sighting of the moon over Mecca.

Lasting for 30 days, Ramadan will end on Tuesday 11th May 2021, with the celebratory days of Eid al-Fitr starting on Wednesday 12th or Thursday 13th May 2021.

Please be considerate to your colleagues who are participating in Ramadan.

For those who are participating in Ramadan during this holy time, please ensure you are making every effort to prevent fatigue whilst on duty for the safety of yourself and others.

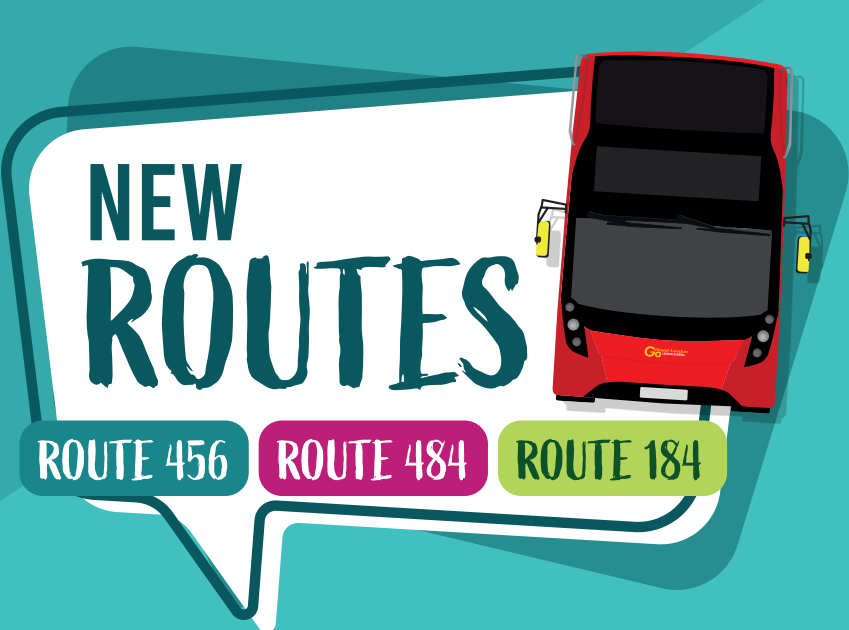
When breaking your fast, try to:

- Drink plenty of water
- Eat foods which have a fast intake of energy e.g. dates
- Try not to overeat prior to the start of your fast

Foods which help to prevent fatigue:

- Unprocessed foods
- Non-caffeinated beverages
- Lean proteins
- Whole grains and complex carbs

If you feel that we can provide you with support during your fasting period, please contact your management team



NEW ROUTES

ROUTE 456 ROUTE 484 ROUTE 184

ROUTE 456

On the 13th March colleagues at Northumberland Park successfully launched the 456 to the North London community. The route was converted from the W10 early Saturday morning.

The team faced a few challenges while preparing for this launch. The new route now runs on residential roads that were previously not served by buses, and some residents were not keen on the change.

On the morning of the launch, all buses left the garage on time during the run out. However shortly thereafter it was discovered that the buses were not showing on I-Bus! The issue was raised with TfL by the I-Bus team and was quickly remedied.

Despite these difficulties the team and the route had a successful first day on the road. Operations Director David Cutts and Area General Manager Trevor Johnson both congratulated the team for a job well done and a smooth transition.

ROUTE 484

Saturday 20th March 2021 saw the introduction of route 484 into Camberwell Garage. Go-Ahead London was successful in the tendering process and the route moved from Abellio (just across the road), to Camberwell. Route 484 is not new to Camberwell having last been operated by Go-Ahead London up to 2011.

23 colleagues transferred to Go-Ahead from Abellio, and we welcome them to the Camberwell family. The route has been allocated a brand-new fleet of SEe fully electric buses, this meant a lot of logistical work prior to the return, in respect of new charging points being installed in the garage, type training, route learning (for Camberwell drivers), new uniforms for the Abellio colleagues, applying the rotas, and lots besides.

Derek Barker, General Manager of Camberwell Garage said "The launch on Saturday was a great success. I would like to thank everybody concerned who worked tirelessly with the introduction".

ROUTE 184

On Saturday 6th February 2021 the team at Northumberland Park launched the new electric route 184.

Usually the launch of a new route is a celebration of a smooth bus roll-out, but this time the team at Northumberland Park was faced with a challenging night where the electric charging system displayed 21 chargers out of 117 offline!

With all 19 vehicles on the 184 being electric, a shortage of charge would have put the whole route in jeopardy and jeopardised the charge of the other electric buses from the garage.

Thankfully the entire Northumberland Park team including Engineering, Operating, BYD and Cordant managed to get it all resolved by the morning, working through the night to solve challenges that might have caused a huge delay to the service.

Once sorted and on the road, the team faced another issue with some buses not polling on I-bus! Whilst trying to resolve with the TfL engineering team, the

controllers could thankfully see the buses on the map and were able to make radio calls to keep the buses connected.

A big thank you to the mentor support provided to the drivers on the route as they were on hand to assist with smooth changeovers.

Trevor Johnson, Area Manager said of the launch "A big well done to Peter Russell and the team for doing the best that they could in difficult circumstances. What has been particularly impressive is the 'Can Do' and 'Adaptable' attitude the team have demonstrated that enabled the successful launch".

Peter Russell, General Manager of Northumberland Park (now at Stockwell) said of the unusual launch, "I am used to sharing the news about a smooth Northumberland Park implementation, but we had serious issues to overcome with the charging system this time round. It is truly a time to celebrate when a new route joins the company, but we must never underestimate the hours and hours of countless hard work put in by colleagues at the garage prior to the first day of operation. A big well done to the whole team".



ROUTE 456



ROUTE 484



ROUTE 184

Our Go-Ahead London apprentice graduates 2020-21 - Read the full story on page 06-07

Bexleyheath Garage:

Alex Schofield
Callum Beckett
Jodie Gailer
Danny Dobbs
Nicholas Ringwood
Lee Stringer
Laurentiu Giorta

Camberwell Garage:

Cally Meager
Jordan Wisdom-Muir
Prince Kamara
Katie-Louise Stepto
Djeilian Lang
Cody Best

Croydon Garage:

Mariusz Pludowski
Denzil Taylor
Abbie Davey
Sophia Lewis
Joseph Kagulire
Reece Robinson
Naomi Williams
Daniel Anderson
Michaela Adeyemi
Dipak Bhayani
Richard Joslyn
Leon Phillips
Stephen Walcott

Northumberland Park Garage:

Michael Samuel
Ayyubkhan Pathan
Serdal Dursun
Nickelle Morgan-Scott

Morden Wharf Garage:

Haider Al-Turaihi
Georgeta Lixandru
Arlind Papajani
Eduardo Dalla Vecchia
Kazeem Adekeye
Marcela Ramirez-Vergara

Putney Garage:

Taylor Hales
Zambeze Fergus - Dehaney
Benjamin Bryan
Jonathan Hearn
Izak Debois
Christian Gomez
Eric Owusu

River Road Garage:

Michael Tucker
Frank Thompson
Kayode Akintola
Harminder Singh Panesar
Trudy-Ann Mills-Harriott
Muhammad Arzam
Todor Todorov
Brett Onyesom-Enu
Harpreet Bagri
Stephen Miller
Ajad Khan
Sreehari Salimkumar
Seyer Atmar
Paul Boatey
Arif Mehmood
Adnan Ghafar
Faisal Miah
Patrice Felix
Mokshud Miah
Gurpreet Singh
Joshua Ige

Orpington Garage:

Luke Neil
Stephen Wright
Gary Stone
Alwayne Douglas
David Jones
Terri Bulmer
Daniel Lansdowne

Stockwell Garage:

William Pereira Benedito
Reyneel Ashie
Jordan Quinde Garcia
Marlon Fletcher
Marouf Diallo
Dwayne Osei
Rosa Fernandes Pereira
Ismail Dagia
Fernando Diaz Corella
Aron Duncan
Tony Dean
Leibert Punzalan

Merton Garage:

Chemaine Russell
Dwayne Gray
Darien Clarke
Mohammed Mansur
Kashif Asghar
Sharma Peters
Richard Scott
John Daley

Silvertown Garage:

Ekramul Ahsan
Mohammed Umor Uddin
Abdur Rahman
Niyaz Uz-Zaman
Victor Rosu
Cristian Yaguar Salinas
Ali Hussain
George Gardiner
Ekramul Ahsan

Peckham Garage:

Reece Johnson
Phillip Dunkley
Julio Benedetti Villa
Husani Williams
Gabriel Akinfenwa
Kevin McMullen
Richie Prempeh-Clarke
Kurtis Tyler
Chrystal Owens

New Cross Garage:

Garfield Pearson
Johan Daza Rodriguez
Dahmarly Goldbourne
Aaron Fanis-Jones
Dragos Miron
Oladimedji Awesu
Serena Hansen
Christiana Donaldson
Valerie Shaw
Lee Hudson

Waterside Way Garage:

Daniel Wilson
Lamin Jones

