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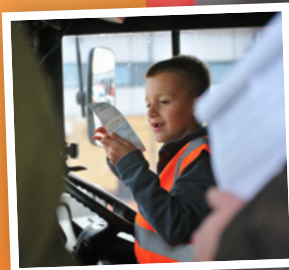
A VIP tour in Oxford for seven-year-old bus fan Vincent

A seven-year-old bus enthusiast had the experience of a lifetime when he was given a special hands-on tour of Oxford Bus Company's depot.

Vincent Aitken-Rogers has autism and ADHD and has been fascinated with buses since he was a toddler. He enjoys studying bus routes, travelling on buses and is an avid collector of timetables.

Oxford Bus Company was made aware of an online appeal from Vincent's parents seeking a copy of the Thames Travel 41 bus timetable, the only one missing from Vincent's collection.

Vincent was treated to a behind the scenes tour of the control room, engineering department and yard, and even sat behind the wheel and printed tickets for passengers on a bus bearing his name on the destination display. Vincent's day was captured and broadcast by the BBC to complete his experience.



It was one of the best days of my life!

A teenager's dream came true when he won a day-in-the-life experience as a train driver.

Charlie Avery, 15, from Herne Hill, enjoyed a train driver experience day with Govia Thameslink Railway (GTR) after he won the prize in a charity auction.

The money raised from the auction will help four-year-old Teddy Lichten, from West Sussex, access lifesaving cancer treatment. Charlie said: "It was one of the best days of my life and was a great opportunity to go behind the scenes and see what it's like to be a train driver."



Welcome

from Christian Schreyer



Dear colleagues,

Two years ago, I stepped through the door of The Go-Ahead Group's London office and received a warm welcome. Together, we set out on a journey to strengthen and build Go-Ahead as one of the world's best bus and rail operators.

I'm very proud of what we've achieved. But this will be the last time I write this monthly column – I'm leaving Go-Ahead at the end of October, handing over to a new CEO, Miguel Ángel Parras.

When I joined Go-Ahead, the company was going through a challenging period, after running into difficulties with its Southeastern rail franchise. After stabilising the position, we were able to secure a new contract for Govia Thameslink Railway, cementing our future on rail. And this month, we've negotiated a successful exit from our German rail business, through a sale to an ambitious buyer, Austria's OBB.

On the bus front, we've expanded by buying three UK bus companies – Dartline, Southdown and Pulhams – and by entering a new country, Sweden. We've hit a new high in London, running 26% of the capital's buses. And we've made huge progress in introducing zero-emission buses, delivering cleaner air for all.

I'm pleased that our strategy, The Next Billion Journeys, has been adopted across the business. And I've enjoyed working closely with Managing Directors from each of our bus and rail companies.

But for me, the true highlights of this role have been in getting out of the office, visiting depots and meeting team members. It was a real pleasure to be in Crawley this summer, when our first Metrobus hydrogen buses went out on the road, and to be in Newcastle last year as we took delivery of a new fleet of Voltra buses.

I never fail to be impressed by the remarkable work of our rail colleagues at GTR's Three Bridges control centre. And I will look back with pride at seeing off the first of our Bee Network yellow buses in Bolton, at 5am one October morning this year.

Go-Ahead is a strong, healthy and inspiring business. Thank you all for your dedication and commitment, and for being a fantastic team. I offer my successor, Miguel, my very best wishes for the future.

Best regards

Christian Schreyer,
Group Chief Executive



Go-Ahead's Multicultural Apprenticeship Award for diversity, inclusion, and talent

The Go-Ahead Group has been named Employer of the Year at the Multicultural Apprenticeship Awards in the Logistics and Transport category.

This incredible recognition is a testament to our commitment to diversity, inclusion, and fostering talent from all backgrounds. We're proud of our apprentices who contribute to our success every day. A huge congratulations to our apprentice finalists Mehmet Pacaci and Rachael Ayegba.

Prince William's letter to Ukrainian bus driver

When the news of Brighton & Hove Buses' first Ukrainian refugee driver Volodymyr Syrotyuk hit the BBC, The Times and Evening Standard, the story caught the eye of Kensington Palace.

Prince William has now sent a personal, signed letter to Volodymyr Syrotyuk, congratulating him for joining us as a bus driver and sharing how moved he has been by his story, and his hopes that Volodymyr will be an inspiration to fellow Ukrainians who have been victims of war in their country.



GTR's Trainslyvania for a ghoulish tour this Halloween

Govia Thameslink Railway (GTR) has published a ghoulishly reimagined special-edition route map, which has identified 10 picture-perfect pumpkin patches and eight spine-tingling spooky stops across its network for passengers looking to celebrate Halloween this year.

The ultimate Halloween railway guide, the 'Trainsylvania' Map features destinations across the Thameslink, Great Northern and Southern networks, from Cambridge and Peterborough, down to Brighton and Polegate - and everywhere in between, all within a short stroll or taxi-ride from a GTR station.



Konectbus donates sports equipment to local high school

Katherine Voyce, Community Coordinator for Konectbus, visited Neatherd High School in Dereham to hand over a set of rugby balls to students, who are all part of the school's rugby teams.



Cyber Security Awareness Month: The winner is...

We received an impressive array of submissions for our Poster Design Competition for Go-Ahead's Cyber Security Awareness Month, each reflecting the incredible talent and dedication of our colleagues. After careful consideration, we're thrilled to announce Octavian Enache, Operations Supervisor for Go-Ahead Ireland is the winner. Octavian encapsulates the key messages and the importance of this month-long campaign. In recognition of his outstanding work, Octavian will receive an iPad. The poster will be displayed prominently throughout Go-Ahead head offices, bus, and rail depots to spread the message far and wide.



Go-Ahead Singapore, welcomes Managing Director, Leonard Lee

Leonard Lee is the new Managing Director for Go-Ahead Singapore, replacing Andy Thompson who has decided to return to the UK. Leonard is stepping up from his previous role of Engineering Director. He has overseen the introduction of a number of digitalisation and telematics tools, and his engineering team has consistently regulatory standards. He's a terrific leader and he knows the bus business inside out.



Leadership changes at Go-Ahead Group

Miguel Ángel Parras will be The Go-Ahead Group's new Chief Executive from November 1st, replacing Christian Schreyer who is standing down. Miguel brings extensive experience to Go-Ahead with more than 15-years in business development, transport, infrastructure and environment. In his previous role as the Chief Investment Officer at Globalvia, Miguel led the acquisition of Go-Ahead for the Globalvia consortium team in early 2022. As Group CEO, Miguel will oversee the next stage of Go-Ahead's growth. The company has ambitions plans to expand in bus and rail in Britain and in selected markets around the world.

Go-Ahead sells German rail operations to ÖBB

Go-Ahead has decided to sell its German rail operations to ÖBB, the Austrian state railway company, in a deal which is expected to be formally completed by the end of the year. This will mark an end to Go-Ahead's four years of operating train services in the southern Germany states of

Baden-Württemberg and Bavaria. Go-Ahead believes this is the right strategic decision both for us as a Group and for our colleagues in Germany and is pleased to have found a good long-term buyer in ÖBB with positive plans for investment.



Matt Carney, Bus CEO

Matt Carney has joined us in a new role of Bus CEO, overseeing all of the group's bus companies in the UK and overseas. Matt's background lies down under, where he was Managing Director (Australia) for Kinetic, the largest bus operator in Australia and New Zealand. He was instrumental in building Kinetic from a single airport transfer business to one of the region's most respected mass transit operators. A bus person through and through, he can often be found supporting teams driving shifts and working in dispatch.



Patrick Verwer, Rail CEO

Patrick will step up from his previous role as Chief Executive of GTR to become the group's Rail CEO on November 1st. Patrick is already leading our bid to run Melbourne's Yarra Trams and he will take a strategic role going forward in exploring how Go-Ahead can continue to prosper in rail here in the UK and beyond. Under this structure, Patrick will oversee GTR as well as all Rail development projects.



An honour for Richard Stevens, Go-Ahead's bus boss in Devon and Cornwall

Richard Stevens, Managing Director of Go-Ahead's bus operations in Devon and Cornwall, was awarded an MBE at Windsor Castle this month for services to transport and to the community.

Richard oversees Plymouth Citybus, Go Cornwall Bus and Dartline - but away from the day job, he is involved in a vast range of community and charitable activities.

He leads several business groups in the Devon area and is passionate about boosting skills, delivering opportunity to young people and attracting investment into his home city, Plymouth. He also acts from time to time as the royal family's representative in the region as Deputy Lord Lieutenant of Devon.

Richard said: "I do pinch myself, Bus Driver to MD to MBE... not at all the story of my life I expected... huge thanks to everyone who has shared my journey, through good and bad times, you have blessed and enriched my life."

Richard started his career in transport back in 1989 and became MD of Plymouth Citybus in May 2012.



The Brighton and Hove Buses Black History Tour

Brighton and Hove Buses partnered with Brighton & Hove Black History Group and the NHS for the Brighton & Hove Black History Bus Tour held during Black History Month this October.

The day was a great success with over 50 people joining the tour and with Bert Williams MBE, Black History historian leading the tour and providing commentary. Passengers boarded the Thomas Highflyer, which is named after an African slave who lived and died in Brighton. They got the opportunity to discover the Black History of Brighton & Hove by visiting key historical and memorial sites.

Goodbye Andy Edwards from Go-Ahead Ireland

Andrew Edwards' term as Managing Director at Go-Ahead Ireland has come to an end, as he has been appointed the Operations Director at Go-Ahead London.

Since joining the business in 2020, Andy demonstrated great leadership throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, guiding the organisation through difficult circumstances. Fostering strong relationships with local representatives and councillors, improving recruitment processes during a nationwide driver shortage, and establishing vital partnerships to expand Go-Ahead Ireland's brand, most notably with Dublin GAA.

His successor and newly appointed Managing Director for Go-Ahead Ireland, Dervla McKay said: "Everyone at Go-Ahead Ireland would like to thank Andy for his contributions, and wish him all the very best in his new role. As he moves to Go-Ahead London, we are set to continue on his work of innovation and community engagement, delivering for the communities we serve."

Morebus Breezer and New Forest Tour services awarded national Premium Journey status

Morebus is celebrating after its popular Breezer and New Forest Tour services received a Premium Journey rating by an independent auditor.

The bus operator was reviewed by Great Scenic Journeys - which was set up to help transform, promote and accredit the collection of scenic transport routes across the UK and beyond.

The review included comments about the branding being excellent, information on bus stops being first class, and actual delivery - both mechanically in the vehicles and in the appearance and manner of the driving - being excellent.

Demo vehicle prepares drivers for zero emission buses delivery

A Wrightbus battery-electric demonstrator vehicle has been in use at Oxford Bus Company as part of an on-going driver training programme. This is in preparation for the delivery of 104 zero-emission 99 Streetdeck Electroliners. Drivers received hands-on sessions to learn about the unique features and technical aspects of the vehicles.



28 new double deckers hit the roads in Dorset

Morebus celebrated the arrival of 28 new buses at a special launch event in Bournemouth Square this month.

Thanks to an investment of £7.7 million, the local bus company's latest fleet is bigger and better than ever, with the 28 double deckers operating its M1 and M2 services between Bournemouth and Poole. The Alexander Dennis E400 MMC vehicles also sport on-board technology - offering USB charging points for smartphones and hand-held devices, and contactless 'tap on tap off' ticketing facilities.





Get to know...

Dan Graham

Commercial Development Manager for Go North East

What does your role with Go-Ahead entail?

They key things I'm responsible for at Go North East are seeking growth opportunities, local bus contract tender bidding, stakeholder management, as well as bidding for and organising special events such as Park & Ride services.

What do you enjoy most about your role?

It sounds incredibly clichéd, but the fact no two days are the same. There is so much to get involved in. Organising special events such as the Great North Run are a particular highlight as there is a great sense of achievement in planning large-scale transport.

Congratulations on your recent nomination for the Young Bus Manager of the Year.

What did the award mean to you?

It's a huge honour to have been shortlisted at the UK Bus Awards. I've had to prove myself as I didn't follow a 'conventional academic route' into the industry. It's proof that you can progress and excel if you're committed enough!

What's your favourite bus route?

The aptly numbered Hadrian's Wall Country Bus AD122 route. A couple of summers back, I had the pleasure of driving it most Saturdays. The views of the iconic Hadrian's Wall between Hexham and Haltwhistle are simply breathtaking!

An honourable mention - as a passenger - goes to the Needles Breezer on the Isle of Wight, run by Southern Vectis. It takes in some stunning views as the bus climbs the winding hill up from Alum Bay to the Needles Battery.



What do you do to relax in your spare time?

I have two very energetic Border Collies. I'm not sure they help me relax, but they certainly keep me entertained! They enjoy long walks along the brilliant beaches we have here in the north east.

**Go-Ahead Singapore
host polytechnic
students at Loyang
Bus depot**

