

# NEWS ACROSS THE GROUP

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NORDIC

## Bus wrap honours Windrush pioneers at Notting Hill Carnival

A Go-Ahead London electric bus took pride of place in this year's Notting Hill Carnival with a special design themed around the Windrush generation.

The bus was decorated to commemorate the 75th anniversary of the voyage of the HMT Empire Windrush from the West Indies to Britain, which marked the start of large-scale migration from the Caribbean.

The annual Notting Hill Carnival returned to west London on Sunday 27 and Monday 28 August, to celebrate the city's diverse Caribbean community. In collaboration with TfL, Go-Ahead London were a central part of the parade and celebrations, with its double decker bus visually entwines the culture, community and colours of Notting Hill Carnival and the 75-year history of Windrush, in a vibrant,

richly layered design. Featuring three characters – an elder and two younger descendants – the artwork captures the generations of people who have shaped the stories of Windrush and the carnival.

The bus wrap is designed by artist Baraka Carberry, who was one of five artists of Caribbean heritage who created the Windrush 75 stamps for Royal Mail.





# Welcome

from Christian Schreyer



Dear colleagues,

Everything's going yellow in Manchester. In a few weeks' time, Go-Ahead will begin operating the first 'Bee Network' bus services in the city in a distinctive yellow livery that will eventually be common across all Manchester's public transport services.

We were successful in winning contracts to run buses in Bolton and Wigan on behalf of Transport for Greater Manchester under a new system of bus route franchising overseen by mayor Andy Burnham.

I was in Manchester myself recently to see preparations for a truly massive operation – we'll have 1,000 colleagues taking 320 buses, running 50 routes out of two depots. And it all has to happen overnight.

It's an exciting time for all involved and it was a real pleasure to meet some of those involved – including people who are transferring to Go North West from other bus operators,

and new recruits who we've hired for our Elite Bus Driver Academy.

There are two types of bus operation in the UK. In many areas, Go-Ahead has commercial bus operations, whereby we decide our own routes, fares and timetables. In some – notably London and, soon, Manchester, we operate under a franchised system whereby a city authority sets the routes and fares, and we get paid a fee to operate.

Both have their pros and cons and neither system is right for every part of the country. As a company, I believe we can prosper – and deliver great services – under either system.

Elsewhere around the group, it was pleasing to see Flexbuss, our bus company in Sweden, win a number of new contracts to operate school routes. Flexbuss has been a really good addition to Go-Ahead since we bought it a year ago.

On the rail front, at GTR it's been a busy month of improvements with a brand new signalling system near London Victoria improving reliability on our Southern and Gatwick Express services. Well done to all involved!

Across the group, September will be Cyber Security Awareness Month. A year ago, we were hit by a cyber attack. Please look out for information and activities reminding everyone of the importance of strong passwords, of being alert for fraudulent emails and of sensible steps for wifi security. Look before you click!

Thank you for everything you do to deliver outstanding bus and rail services.

Best regards

Christian Schreyer,  
Group Chief Executive



## Flexbuss' new school service begins in Sweden

This August saw our Swedish bus operator, Flexbuss start a new school contract in Åmål and Borås. Åmål is a small rural town and Borås is a large city known as 'textile city', home to the Swedish School of Textiles that is part of the University of Borås.

The service will operate seven zero-emission buses and two biogas buses, and the contract will run until 2031 with the possibility of an extension until 2033. Flexbuss held an open day for its new drivers ahead of the new contract starting, engaging with them on the values and culture of the company, and where they currently operate.

The company is part of Go-Ahead Nordic, having been acquired in April 2022. Flexbuss first started operating public transport in 1989 and employs more than 600 people and has 380 vehicles.

## GTR installs 6,000 solar panels

Our UK based rail operator GTR (Govia Thameslink Railway) has agreed contracts with community climate action group Energy Garden to install solar panels at three of its main depots.

The agreement will see almost 6,000 solar panels installed on train shed roofs at Bedford, Selhurst in South London, and Three Bridges in Sussex, transforming them into local sources of renewable energy and funding for community development projects.

The total combined output of energy per year from the three depots is the equivalent of boiling enough kettles to make over 47 million cups of tea!



Energy Garden installation at Streatham depot

## Go-Ahead's on-demand service for Wiltshire rural communities

Go-Ahead is connecting rural communities in North Wiltshire with a new on-demand bus service. Wiltshire Connect, allows people to summon a low emission bus using a smartphone app to pick them up and take them anywhere within a prescribed operating zone. The network stretches across the North Wessex Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty – a popular area for ramblers, cyclists, horse riders and day trippers.

Our colleagues at Go South Coast, Salisbury Reds will be operating the services on behalf of Wiltshire Council. It's funded and managed by the local authority with support from the government's Rural Mobility Fund. This will be Go-Ahead's fourth demand-responsive bus network, the others include: JustGo in north Lincolnshire, PickMeUp in Buckinghamshire and The Robin in the Forest of Dean, Gloucestershire.



## Christian visits Go North West

Group CEO, Christian Schreyer, was in Manchester to help with preparations for the launch of our new Bee Network bus services in Bolton and Wigan.

Christian, alongside Go North West's Managing Director Nigel Featham, joined the Bee Ready tour as our colleagues meet new team members who will be joining us when buses begin running on September 24th.





## Secretary of State for Transport visits Go North East operations

We were pleased to recently welcome the Secretary of State for Transport, Mark Harper to our bus operations in the North East. He experienced our Voltra buses and discussed our transport ambitions for the region with our colleagues.

Go North East facilitates 175,000 journeys every day across Northumberland, Tyne and Wear, County Durham and into the Tees Valley.



## Come on you girls in blue!

Congratulations to Dublin LGFA who were crowned All-Ireland Ladies Football Senior Champions! Go-Ahead Ireland was delighted to host the senior players and management team during their homecoming.

## Mick Harford, from professional footballer to station announcer

Luton Town's Mick Harford swapped the football stadium for life on the rails, taking on the role of station announcer at Luton.

He tried out the new job to celebrate Luton Town's first ever Premier League match on Saturday 12th August. The club headed over to the other end of the Thameslink rail network and took on Brighton and Hove Albion before losing the game at 4-1.

This was the club's first game back in the top-flight division for over 30 years – Govia Thameslink Rail (GTR) hailed it as the 'Thameslink Derby'! GTR has a longstanding relationship with Luton Town FC, supporting its Academy players with free travel passes for the past 15 years.



## Thomas and his 'mam' go on tour

Our colleagues at Go North East took Thomas and his 'mam' on a tour around Sunderland depot. He got to see where we fix buses, the bus wash and he also got to ride on a bus around Sunderland.

Thomas has had several medical obstacles – he has a rare genetic condition called 8p23.1 deletion syndrome, which has resulted in him having severe learning difficulties and has meningitis and haemophilia along with sleep apnoea.

Our colleagues said: "It was a pleasure to show Thomas around the depot and to see how excited he was to see how things work and to see all the buses. We have agreed with his mam that in a few months he can come back to the depot for another tour."



## Pride in Brighton fills the city with colour

At Go-Ahead it is our commitment to ensure our workforce reflects the diversity of the communities in which we operate. It's great to see our colleagues at Brighton & Hove Buses and Metrobus support the 2023 Brighton Pride festivities, as proud pride partners.

This year the theme is to challenge everyone to 'break the mould' and 'express who you are'. Hundreds of thousands of people filled the streets to participate and to watch the array of colour – despite the rain!





## Oxford Bus Company to the rescue

Pulhams Coaches, which is part of Go-Ahead's Oxford Bus Company, stepped in to rescue a series of special summer days out for Oxfordshire charity Be Free Young Carers.

The recent unexpected closure of local operator Heyfordian Travel left the charity's booked summer respite activities for its carers in severe jeopardy. The non-government charity could fulfil its trips, which it feared it would have to cancel, for more than 80 young carers, thanks to Go-Ahead's bus company.



*"Oxford Bus Company have saved our Summer!"*

## 'Bee Ready Tour' visits Bolton and Wigan depots

Go North West 'Bee Ready Tour' visited bus stations and depots in Bolton and Wigan to welcome new colleagues transferring to Go-Ahead. Go North West will run 55 routes in the north and west of Manchester, as part of Transport for Greater Manchester's Bee Network, which will begin operating in September. Around 750 people will transfer to Go North West from existing bus operators.



## Go-Ahead Singapore encourages young talent to the industry

Go-Ahead Singapore was thrilled to take part of the 13th WorldSkills ASEAN Competition which brought together regional youth talents to compete in several skill areas, showcasing their abilities and expertise.

Go-Ahead Singapore's engineering and human resources teams were on hand throughout the event, to answer questions, share their expertise, and provide guidance to those aspiring to pursue a career in the public transport industry.



## Top marks for Go-Ahead's Allgäu E-network in Germany

Go-Ahead Bavaria started operating its E-Netz Allgäu network, on the Munich to Memmingen to Lindau route in Dec 2021. 18 months on and it has achieved eighth place in the annual quality rankings. Go-Ahead's rail services in Germany were compared to a total of 32 networks and the rail operator was marked on cleanliness, comfort, and customer orientation.

"I am proud of this great performance of our team and thank all the employees involved for their commitment. The BEG ranking basically officially confirms that we are working well despite many adversities," said Fabian Amini, Managing Director of the Go-Ahead companies in Germany. "We will continue to do everything in the Allgäu e-network as well as in the Augsburg network and on our routes in Baden-Württemberg to provide passengers with reliable and comfortable travel on our trains."

## Camberwell Garage gets electrified

Go-Ahead London continues to make good progress installing the all-important electrical infrastructure in advance of new e-buses being introduced at Camberwell Garage over the coming months.

Richard Harrington, Go-Ahead Group Engineering Director said: "2023 is proving to be a transformative one for Go-Ahead London's e-bus fleet, which is in the process of doubling from 300 at the start of this year to 600 by the end of it. Camberwell is one of multiple ZE schemes currently being developed by Go-Ahead in the capital and it reinforces the company's position as the UK's premier e-bus operator."



## Purple bendy buses, from Luton Airport to Ukraine's frontline

Go-Ahead's fleet of purple bendy buses that shuttled passengers between the terminal and London Luton Airport Parkway station, have recently been donated to a local charity. Swindon Humanitarian Aid Partnership is providing the vehicles to be used in Ukraine as field hospitals, rest areas for troops or for transporting supplies. The retired vehicles can be put to good use as a small contribution to Ukraine's war effort.







Get to know...

# Stefanie Petersen

Chief Finance Office for our rail operations in Germany

## **Tell us a bit about your transport habits. How do you get about?**

I usually travel by bus to my office in Stuttgart. If the weather is nice then I take my bike. For business trips and tours in my spare time I use regional and fast trains. I enjoy journeys where I can watch out the window.

## **What are your ambitions and what are you passionate about? What gets you out of bed in the morning?**

Of course, I have a passion for public transport. My father used to work for Deutsche Bahn and I studied economics of transport. My whole professional life has been in this industry. It is really interesting, with a lot of challenges and never gets boring. We have an excellent team here in Germany and I am motivated to contribute my efforts in making our German rail services one of the best.

## **What positive changes do you hope to bring to the group?**

I am keen to collect the expertise and knowledge in the public transport sector from over the last years and I hope that will help to establish and stabilise our young company in Germany.

## **What advice would you give to women pursuing a career in the transport industry?**

I believe we work in a very attractive industry. So I would encourage women to consider a career in transport, we have a great, sustainable product that people can identify with so well, because almost everyone uses buses and trains.

## **What are your hobbies?**

I have a family, husband and two kids aged 9 and 12. They are the centre in my life. In my spare time I love to listen to music, to discover new bands and visit concerts. I relax by playing E-bass in a band or working in my garden. But I also love travelling and being active in outside sports.



## **Toon Tour wins Open Top Cup**



The Toon Tour, run by Go North East, has been voted Britain's best open top bus tour.

A hop-on, hop-off service, the tour takes in the sights, sounds and industrial heritage of Newcastle and Gateshead. It includes a ride along the quayside, a trip over the Tyne Bridge, a visit to St James' Park and a glimpse of Ouseburn, Newcastle's cultural quarter.

The tour beat 31 rivals across the UK to win the 'Open Top Cup', a social

media competition run by Great Scenic Journeys. In second place was the New Forest Tour – another Go-Ahead excursion, run by Morebus in Hampshire.

Martin Dean, Go-Ahead's Managing Director, Regional Bus, said:

"We are proud that our efforts have been recognised. Open Top Buses are a trend right now, with people re-connecting with the great British outdoors and enjoying the pleasures of a trip overlooking great scenery."