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METROBUS

Bus Driver, Becky takes the wheel and changes her life

Becky was at a crossroad in life when she joined a project in Plymouth which helps people into employment. It changed her life and gave her the confidence to drive a bus as a career.

The Creating Change project helps people to realise their potential and gain back some normality after the pandemic. For Plymouth City Bus driver Becky, it allowed her to fulfil her dream and aspirations to drive a bus.

Becky, single mum of two, said: "I got to a point where I didn't know myself because I had lost myself. I was so consumed by everyday life that I didn't think about me and what I needed."

The six-month government funded project uses hip hop culture and focuses on group and individual mentoring to help people get back on their feet.

Becky continued: "I had never voiced my dream before. Never told anyone but I said I want to be bus driver; I know that's really bizarre. I wanted to do it when I was 21 and I moved on to different things that fit in with my life at the time. But I've always wanted to be a bus driver".

When Becky was asked if being a Plymouth City Bus driver was a dream come true – she said, 'absolutely a million percent'.

Emma Courtier, Driver Trainer said: "Becky has been absolutely amazing. When she did her test, she passed first time. Probably one of the best trainees we had that week, she was absolutely fantastic."



**Go-Ahead UK's top
transport apprenticeship
employer**

Read more on page 4

We're proud to be a Top 100
Apprenticeship Employer.

Apprenticeships
Top 100 Employers 2022

Welcome

from Christian Schreyer



Dear all,

It's been a blisteringly hot July here in England, and across Europe. A big 'thank you' to all those who have worked so hard to keep our buses and trains running in the heat, and to take our customers where they need to go.

It's not always easy to focus when the mercury is shooting upwards, and the sun is glaring down. Some of our bus companies relaxed their uniform requirements to make it more comfortable – and it was good to see that colleagues took full advantage! (see pics on page 7)

At Go-Ahead, our core values include being agile and collaborative. We certainly see those strengths under challenging conditions, such as the heatwave. We also encourage people to be accountable – to their customers, colleagues and to local communities; to be open-minded about what's going on around them, and to be transparent, so we can

learn from things that have gone wrong, as well as our successes.

You're likely to hear more about those values over the months to come as we talk more widely about the group's vision for the future under our recently announced strategy, The Next Billion Journeys.

It's an exciting time for the group, with plenty of opportunities. For me, recent highlights include news that Go-Ahead has been named the UK's top apprenticeships provider in the transport industry, and one of the top 20 apprenticeship employers across the economy as a whole.

It is encouraging to see many of our companies and colleagues supporting LGBT Pride – in towns and cities across the UK. And I'm delighted that in Germany, Go-Ahead is leading the industry in recruiting refugees from troubled parts of the world to retrain as drivers on the railways.

There will be more news later in the summer on the future ownership of Go-Ahead. Back in June, our board of directors recommended an offer for the company by a consortium comprising Kinetic, an Australian bus company, and Globalvia, a Spanish infrastructure group. Shareholders are due to vote on this bid in August.

We will keep you updated on any developments. But to reiterate, Kinetic and Globalvia intend to keep Go-Ahead intact as a standalone company. Our head offices will remain in London and Newcastle, and our strategy and management team will be retained. So business will continue as usual.

Kind regards,

Christian Schreyer,
Group Chief Executive

Grey Street celebrates Newcastle Pride

Colleagues at Go-Ahead's Grey Street office celebrated Newcastle Pride on Friday with fancy dress, non-alcoholic Pimms, cakes and snacks.

Newcastle-upon-Tyne hosts Northern Pride – the biggest LGBT festival in the north-east of England – over three days from July 22nd to 24th. The festival, on Newcastle's Town Moor, features live music, entertainment and a Rainbow Village with local and national charities. This year's theme is "Remember, Resist, Rise Up".

Go-Ahead Group and Go North East are proud to celebrate diversity, and to support Northern Pride.



Colleagues at Go-Ahead and Go North East are getting behind Newcastle's bid to host the headquarters of Great British Railways.

A competition is underway to select the city that will be home to the new organisation overseeing the UK's railway network. Newcastle is one of six on a shortlist, that will be put to a public vote.

Newcastle has a proud railway heritage – it was the city where Robert Stephenson built the first railway locomotive. And GB Railways would bring jobs, skills and investment to the area.

Go-Ahead was founded in the north-east and employs more than 2,000 people in the Newcastle area. The group is officially backing Newcastle's bid and we urge everybody to vote for the city!

Martijn Gilbert, Managing Director of Go North East, joined a photocall at Newcastle Castle to support the bid, and Carolyn Ferguson, Group Company Secretary, recorded a video in front of the Tyne Bridge.



#RouteForNewcastle
#DestinationGBR

VOTE HERE

Scan the QR code to vote or go to <https://gbrrt.co.uk/hq-competition-public-vote/>

Go-Ahead named top apprenticeship employer in the UK transport industry



Go-Ahead has been named as Britain's top provider of transport apprenticeships in a ranking developed by the Department for Education. Go-Ahead ranks 13th overall on the 'Top 100 Apprenticeship Employers' list which is intended to help future apprentices, parents, and careers advisers to identify apprenticeship opportunities at the country's leading employers.

Scott Maynard, Group HR Director, said:

"Apprenticeships are a great way to begin a career in transport, whether it may be driving a bus, training to be an engineer, working in customer services or driving a train.

"Our apprenticeship program is preparing a new generation of people to operate public transport across Britain, and we view it as a crucial investment in the long-term success of our company. We're very proud that Go-Ahead has been named as one of the country's top apprenticeship employers."

GTR recruits special guests for announcements ahead of Brighton Pride

Govia Thameslink Railway (GTR) has enlisted the help of two of Brighton's most iconic drag queens ahead of Brighton Pride and have confirmed there will be an enhanced service plan to support visitors from Friday 5th until Sunday 7th August.

Stephen Richards and Jason Sutton – better known as Lola Lasagne and Miss Jason – have both been part of the UK drag scene for over 25 years, performing regular shows in Brighton and beyond. With such unique and recognisable voices, the rail operator snapped them up to record special-edition station announcements that will grab attention in the week leading up to Pride (From 1st August).



Manchester buses reach pre-pandemic passenger levels

Mancunians are leaving the pandemic behind and re-embracing public transport. Go North West's buses are as busy as they were before COVID-19 – and plans are in place to boost the number of buses on the network.

The company is now operating 9 out of every 10 buses that ran pre-Covid, and over the last few months it has seen a surge in customers getting on board: with passenger levels per bus now equalling 2019 figures.



Go North West is the first in The Go-Ahead Group's UK-wide network to hit this level of passenger recovery. Across the UK, bus usage is at about 85% of pre-pandemic levels.

Nigel Featham, Managing Director, Go Northwest, said:

"We're delighted to see Manchester bounce back from the COVID-19 pandemic. The combination of a young population, a thriving local economy and a lively nightlife scene have all contributed to this recovery in customer levels. We are now looking to the future with plans to add additional resource to our network to ensure we meet the demand."



Go-Ahead London apprentices graduation ceremony

Congratulations to our recent driver and engineer apprenticeship graduates. Their achievement was celebrated on the evening of Thursday 16 June at a Graduation Ceremony held at the Oval Cricket Ground.

Go-Ahead London's apprenticeship programme saw 94 drivers and 4 engineers recently graduating, with many of them attending the ceremony and being presented with their certificates by the company directors.

John Trayner, Managing Director, explained how the awards really 'celebrated the successes of the apprentices' Richard Harrington, Engineering Director, said that all the graduates should be 'very proud of their achievement'.



By Royal Appointment, Siggy Cragwell commemorates the Windrush Generation

Thameslink's oldest employee, 82-year-old station assistant Siggy Cragwell, was a guest of honour at the unveiling of the National Windrush Monument on Wednesday 22 June at Waterloo Station where he met the Duke of Cambridge, Prince William.

Siggy sat among other VIPs including the Duchess of Cambridge, the chairman of Network Rail and its chief executive, and the Mayor of London Sadiq Khan.

Siggy said afterwards: "It was very, very good, I was quite happy to meet Prince William and speak to him. He was a relaxing kind of guy. I've had a wonderful day."

Since Siggy's railway career began 60 years ago, he has worked at Marylebone, Bedford, St Albans, and Luton stations, and has been a popular figure at Elstree & Borehamwood since 2002.





Southern Vectis Community Fund boost for local charity providing horticultural therapy for adults with learning disabilities

Southern Vectis provided a day out to a charity offering therapeutic horticulture for adults with learning disabilities.

Muddy Boots Gardening Group on the Isle of Wight is run on behalf of Southern Housing Group. Based on land at Quarr Abbey, its members grow vegetables and other produce, which they sell from the Abbey shop - raising money to fund the group's operation.

"We applied to Southern Vectis' Community Fund, for the use of an open-top bus - which we took on a wonderful trip up to The Needles. Some of our groups have never travelled by bus before - and they were so excited, especially with the views we got from the top deck. This was a fantastic gesture from Southern Vectis. It really was a lovely treat, and an amazing time was had by all."

TfL London Bus Awards

Congratulations to the Go-Ahead London colleagues who were shortlisted for the TfL London Bus Awards, which were held on 14 July in Stratford, East London. The awards acknowledged the dedication of those working in the capital's bus industry and recognised their achievements.

Katarzyna Bilinska, Accident Prevention Supervisor at Merton Garage, received a Silver Award for her efforts in supporting colleagues throughout the pandemic and for her incredible charity fundraising initiatives.

Emma Tooze, Operating Manager at Camberwell Garage picked up a Bronze Award for her swift action and heroism when she saved the life of a fellow colleague earlier this year.

Graham Gordon, driver at Bexleyheath Garage, received a Bronze Award for his efforts and quick-thinking last year when he assisted and supported a vulnerable passenger in difficulty.



STAFF NOTICE BOARD

August 2022

Fun in the Sun!

Our front line workers are doing a great job of keeping services running and ensuring passengers are safe in the hot weather.

Some of our operating companies are allowing colleagues to wear comfortable clothing, and encouraging colleagues to drink plenty of water and take regular breaks.



Go North West colleagues enjoying an ice cream



Go North West colleagues in good spirits



Brighton and Hove colleagues swap their uniform for summer wear

BEAT THE HEAT!



Stay cool!

Drink plenty of water throughout the day to **prevent dehydration and fatigue** whilst on your shift.

Go Ahead-London



Go East Anglia colleagues taking part in a fancy dress competition



Go East Anglia colleagues taking part in a fancy dress competition

GTR launches fund for local community social and environmental projects

Govia Thameslink Railway (GTR) is inviting customers and community organisations to bid for funding for social and environmental projects in their areas.

The train operator has launched a new fund with up to £500,000 available each year to encourage ideas and activities that will strengthen links between stations and the local communities they serve.

The improvement fund, called “Your Station, Your Community,” will be shared by projects that engage local people in tackling social issues important to their community and the railway. The key themes for GTR include mental health, education, and employability skills amongst marginalised groups; diversity and inclusion; and environmental sustainability.



Go-Ahead Ireland 'I Am The Passenger' campaign

Go-Ahead Ireland launched its “I Am The Passenger” campaign, part of the Driving Towards Destination Zero vision.

Over 120 colleagues across Ballymount and Naas depots, took part in the Spin The Wheel challenge, which focused on passenger safety by testing colleagues awareness and experience.

The Go-Ahead Ireland team showcased several ‘I am The Passenger’ events over five weeks.



Seeing truly is believing

Last month, Go East Anglia welcomed on board the Chatty Bus senior business leaders from many household names including Aviva, Marks & Spencer, AXA, The Mercers Company and Sainsbury's to shine a spotlight on Norwich and the great projects and organisations, Konectbus have collaborated with to help combat loneliness and isolation across the region.

As part of the Prince's Trust "Seeing is Believing" visit organised by Business in the Community, Chatty Bus volunteers from one of the local projects shared real life experiences, and how community projects have helped people to connect with each other, learn new skills and improve their life chances.



French journalists visit London

French journalists were invited to see our London bus operations in Stockwell and Waterloo. Go Ahead London, Managing Director, John Trayner and Engineering Director, Richard Harrington were on hand to explain our plans to decarbonise the fleet.

The Go-Ahead Group recently struck a partnership with Lacroix & Savac to bid together to operate bus services in the Paris region. We look forward to strengthening our cross-Channel ties.



Plymouth students win award with pioneering green technology

Students from All Saints Academy Plymouth, supported by Plymouth Citybus, won an award at their first ever race day with GreenPower Formula 24, a pioneering project to educate and encourage young people to learn more about science and engineering by challenging them to design, build and race an electric car.

The team, made up of students from Years 7 to 10, took part in a race day at Prendannack Airfield and led their field for much of the race before finally coming in 4th. However, they won 'Best Presented Team'. The team were sponsored by Plymouth Citybus.



Christian visits Go South West

Go South West MD Richard Stevens and Christian in front of a Go Cornwall Bus vehicle



Christian leaving a Go Cornwall Bus



Christian with a colleague from the engineering team at Plymouth Citybus' Milehouse depot



Engineering at Milehouse depot



Christian in Engineering at Milehouse Depot with Engineering Manager Adam Tait



(L-R) Christian, Chief Engineer Neal Borbon, Director of Engineering Mark Horide and Engineering Manager Adam Tait



Refugees in Germany train to be rail drivers

Go-Ahead Germany is aiming to recruit more refugees who want to work as train drivers in Baden-Württemberg in the future. Under an initiative from the Ministry of Transport and the Federal Employment Agency, a new Tf qualification course for refugees was launched in Mannheim. The trainees are employed by Go-Ahead, AVG and SWEG and complete their theoretical training at MEV Eisenbahn-Verkehrsgesellschaft.



Oxford Bus Company hosts inaugural bus summit



Luke Marion (interim MD, Oxford Bus Company), Layla Moran, Liberal Democrat MP for Oxford West, and Rachel Gelliamassi, MD Stagecoach West

Oxford Bus Company and Thames Travel hosted Oxfordshire's inaugural bus summit to explore how a net-zero transportation system can be achieved.

Delivered in partnership with Oxfordshire County Council and Stagecoach the stakeholder event was attended by more than 50 people. Bus operators, MPs and speakers from Milton Park, Oxford Brookes University and the Green Investment Bank gave insightful talks.

The Summit explored how to improve bus patronage, introduce bus priority improvements, and reduce bus journey times to deliver the bid to deliver 159 electric buses to Oxford.

Luke Marion said: "This first-of-its-kind Bus Summit in Oxfordshire was an important opportunity to educate key stakeholders on what the big opportunities are to improve connectivity and introduce net-zero technology and what we need to do to bring our vision to reality."

The Highflyer bus at the Multicultural Festival on Brighton Seafront

Brighton and Hove colleagues, Michael John, Jason Fernee both drivers along with Victoria Garcia took the Thomas Highflyer bus down to the Multicultural Festival on Brighton seafront.

It was an incredible day. Accessibility and Communities Manager for Brighton and Hove buses, Victoria Garcia said "The event was one of the best community events that I have attended as the atmosphere was just incredible. Such a great opportunity to be within the heart of our community and speak and meet with so many people."



Go-Ahead Singapore bus captain commended for his kindness

Sin Geok Chin offered to pay the bus fare for a woman who had forgotten her wallet. The passenger waited at the same bus stop at the same time hoping to see him again to repay the money.

After boarding the bus, she could not find her fare card or wallet in her bag.

She said: "He quickly took out his bag and found \$2.50 to help me pay for the bus fare. I am so grateful that he was willing to help me. "As I alighted from the bus, I said I would return the money. I am so grateful that this world still has a nice and kind driver like Mr Sin."

Get to know...

Brian Tallman



A bit about Brian Tallman

Since 2019, Brian has worked as a Conductor for Go-Ahead Nordic in Stavanger, where he also lives with his son, wife and dog.

He was born and raised in Iowa, USA, where he worked as a graphic designer. He met his Norwegian wife while she was studying at university there and moved with her to Norway 20 years ago.

What is your role?

Since moving to Stavanger, I have had different jobs: most customer service, sales, and a bit as a graphic designer. I now work as a conductor on both local and regional trains. My shift pattern changes. I don't have a normal day, almost every day is different. I like having a little variety in everyday life. If it was the same every day, I'd be bored.

What's the best thing about working in Go-Ahead?

It's just great to work here and my colleagues are the best. I like the structure and I like that when I'm done at work I can go home and don't have to think about it anymore. I'm a bit of my own boss on the train and there's a little bit of freedom there. I like a lot of different things – everything really!

The best thing is when I witness passengers arrive to a homecoming, especially with children, that's the best experience. It's great if I can help to make people smile or laugh. Also, dogs, I like to have dogs on the train!

How do you like to spend your spare time?

First and foremost, it's family I spend the most time with. We have a son who is now 15 years old. We have a cabin at Sira, and I like to be there – to fish in the garden and be out in nature.

What are your hobbies?

Everybody knows me as a photographer! I like street art photography and work a lot with the NuArt festival. I will even be taking part in a festival in Aberdeen as a photographer for three or four days. I'm making a book with some of my pictures too, but that takes time!



Beautiful shot taken by Brian. A very talented photographer.

