



Train Driver of the Year
Paul Trigwell.

Driver of the year

▶ A TRAIN driver helping colleagues cope with a very sensitive issue was named Train Driver of the Year Award at the recent Railstaff Awards.

Derby-based Paul Trigwell from East Midlands Trains earned the award through his proactive work in helping other drivers deal with the effects of fatalities on the rail network.

He has worked closely with Samaritans, helping the UK-wide support service develop training courses and educational material, and openly sharing his experiences to ensure the work is tailored to drivers' needs.

David Horne, Managing Director of East Midlands Trains, said: "Paul is a great example of a driver who is willing to put himself forward to make a real difference in an area he feels passionate about."

Rail travel fit for a Queen

▶ SOUTH West Trains was honoured to be chosen as the preferred mode of transport for Her Majesty The Queen when she visited Guildford recently.

Guildford Station Manager Venkatesh Nathan Sankaran greeted Her Majesty and Prince Philip as they arrived from Waterloo.



Time to choose your champions

Awards hail those who go the extra mile

▶ THE SEARCH is on for the Stagecoach Champions of 2012.

More than 30 employees across a number of fields have been honoured for their outstanding efforts since the first Champions awards were held two years ago.

The 2012 awards will recognise success in Safety, Environment, Community, Health, Customer Service and Innovation, and all employees are invited to nominate colleagues making a real difference in these fields.

Last year's awards sparked a big response from bus and rail companies in the UK and, this year, it's hoped there will be even more entries – particularly from North America.

To nominate your Champion, simply download a nomination form from the FAQ

section, under 'Media', at www.stagecoach.com

Then email the completed form to champions@stagecoachgroup.com or post it to Lindsay Reid, Corporate Communications Manager, Stagecoach Group, 10

Dunkeld Road, Perth PH1 5TW.

You are free to nominate yourself, or one of your colleagues, but all entries must be received by Friday, March 30.

Gold, Silver and Bronze awards are presented for each category and shortlisted entrants receive a trophy and a cash prize. The awards are judged by a panel that includes Helen Mahy, Chair of the Group's Health, Safety and Environment Committee.

Look out for updates on the awards and the shortlisted nominees in future editions of On Stage.



Champions award categories:

- **Safety Champion:** Awarded to an employee who has championed good safety or excelled in dealing with a specific situation or incident.
- **Environment Champion:** Presented to an individual who has championed greener working practices and sustainability, such as by improving energy efficiency, reducing the company's carbon emissions or developing innovative ways to get people to switch from the car to public transport.
- **Community Champion:** Recognises employees who have made a significant contribution to the local community through charitable fund-raising or volunteering.
- **Health Champion:** For the employee who has done most to promote employee health within the Group.
- **Customer Service Champion:** Presented to the individual who has gone the extra mile to deliver exceptional customer service.
- **Innovation Champion:** For the employee with best new business idea across the Group.

Lifesavers honoured

▶ TWO Stagecoach Inspectors who helped save lives during the Cumbrian floods have been honoured for their bravery.

Kevin Sheehan and David Hoare acted to stop people crossing Workington's Northside Bridge, which collapsed in the devastating flooding of November 2009.

And their bravery and selflessness during the incident has now been recognised with a Royal Humane Society Award.

Kevin Sheehan (left) and David Hoare helped protect the public during the Cumbrian floods of 2009.



You what?!

(Overheard on a New York bus.)

Passenger: Driver, does this bus have a bathroom?

Driver: Yes.

Passenger: Is it on the inside or outside?

Can you beat that?
Send your weird and wonderful overheard comments to
lindsay.reid@stagecoachgroup.com



Oxford takes top title

SETTING the highest standards in service earned Oxford Tube the title of Top Express Coach Operator at the 2011 UK Bus Awards.

Judges praised the Stagecoach service for the excellence of its operations and its continued success in attracting new passengers.

Meanwhile, Stagecoach Group won the Environment Award at the London ceremony, thanks to its efforts to make its UK Bus Division a greener business.

In the Top Express Coach Operation category, Stagecoach East Scotland was named

runner-up for its Fife Express operation, while Stagecoach South West's Torbay depot also came runner-up in the Top National Bus Depot Award.

Other runners-up awards went to Stagecoach London driver Yvette Tomlin in the Top London Bus Driver category, and Stagecoach UK Bus's Stagecoach Gold product in the Marketing Excellence category.

Congratulations also go to all the Stagecoach employees and companies who were Highly Commended at the awards.

Two extra-special police volunteers

TWO Stagecoach Manchester colleagues have been honoured for their bravery while serving as Special Constables.

Revenue Inspectors Steve Delaney and Paul Edwards received commendations at the Special Constable and Police Support Volunteers Awards.

The awards follow an incident in Manchester in November 2010, when they apprehended a man who had stabbed a student in the neck with a broken bottle.

Steve was also promoted to Sergeant last year, further acknowledging his services to the force.

"We are extremely proud of their brave actions and professional conduct," said Chris Bowles, Managing Director of Stagecoach Manchester.



Poetry in motion

PUPILS' poems were given pride of place on Stagecoach buses.

Five poems written by entrants to the Canterbury Festival Schools' Poetry Competition were displayed for Stagecoach East Kent & East Sussex passengers to enjoy.

Phil Medlicott, Managing Director of Stagecoach East Kent & East Sussex, is pictured with some of the young writers.

Gold-standard upgrade



A NEW fleet of Stagecoach Gold branded buses has hit the road, thanks to a £1.9 million investment by Stagecoach Midlands.

The 13 new double-deckers are running on the 70-mile route of the X4 stopping at Corby, Peterborough and Northampton.

"We believe this latest upgrade will encourage more passengers to travel on the route and this will mean a further enhancement of the service in the not too distant future," said Steve Burd, Managing Director of Stagecoach Midlands.

Stagecoach Midlands Managing Director Steve Burd joins the mayors of Corby, Peterborough and Northampton to launch the new Stagecoach Gold fleet.

Stagecoach wins Britain's admiration

STAGECOACH Group has again been named the most admired transport company in Britain in an authoritative annual survey of corporate reputation.

The Group headed the transport sector in the Britain's Most Admired Companies 2011 awards and emerged as the 11th most admired company in 2011 out of nearly 240 businesses assessed across 25 sectors.

It's the third time in four years Stagecoach has topped the transport sector in Management Today's annual review of Britain's top companies, following the Group's success in 2008 and 2010.

900-mile bike trek boosts baby care unit

A UK-LONG bike marathon by Stagecoach colleagues has raised thousands for a great cause.

Stagecoach North East engineer Alan Appleby and co-workers Steve Laws, Davy Wynn, Eddie King (retired) and Mark Rutherford cycled the 900-mile journey from Land's End to John O'Groats.

The ten-day trek raised more than £3600 for the Tiny Lives special care baby unit at the Royal Victoria Infirmary in Newcastle.

The cyclists have thanked Stagecoach Group and Stagecoach North East for their donations, as well as expedition support driver and cook John Green and Steve Green, who served as a support driver and navigator.



The charity cyclists stop off at Perth HQ en-route from Land's End to John O'Groats.



Rail staff connected

SOUTH West Trains has issued BlackBerry handsets to over 800 guards to improve communication and passenger information during times of disruption.

New-entrant guards are now given the smart phones as part of their basic training, and some of the recruits are pictured showing off their new BlackBerrys on the Basic Guard Course (BGC).

Love on the line

A HAPPY couple's rail romance led to a special train-themed wedding day.

Emma Mcrae and Gary Lucas first met on the 7:38am South West Trains service from Surbiton to London Waterloo.

And they didn't forget their love's railway roots at their recent wedding – even naming their tables as stations at their reception.



Picture: Don Wales Photography

At the cutting edge

SHEFFIELD'S newly appointed Master Cutler, Pam Liversidge OBE DL, joined East Midlands Trains and representatives from across the city at a special train naming ceremony at Sheffield Station.

The naming of 'The Cutlers' Company' marks a successful partnership with the city, bringing big improvements to rail links to and from Sheffield, including faster journey times, extra services and fully refurbished trains.



Master Cutler Pam Liversidge OBE DL and former East Midlands Trains Managing Director Tim Shoveller unveil 'The Cutlers' Company'.

Two in a row for spanner honours

SOUTH West Trains picked up two honours at the prestigious Golden Spanner awards.

For the second year running, the company earned the top awards for the best reliability of both its Class 455 and Class 158 trains.

The Class 455 train is maintained at

Wimbledon depot while the class 158 is maintained at Salisbury depot.

Andy Pitt, former Managing Director for South West Trains, said: "While we remain one of the most punctual train operators, we continue to work hard to try to deliver further improvements."

Tram gets the blues

SUPERTRAM passengers were given a musical treat during the recent Blues Music Festival in Sheffield.

Blues singer and guitarist Dave Couldwell performed a short acoustic set on board a tram as part of the city-wide festival.

Trying the train

HELPING people with impaired mobility to feel confident travelling by rail was the purpose of a special 'Try a Train' day held recently by South West Trains.

Phil Dominey, Stakeholder and Accessibility Manager for South West Trains, said: "We are aware that transport plays a crucial role in people's lives but we know that, for many, lack of confidence or knowledge can often prevent them from travelling by train."

Bus travel brings big savings

TAKING the bus instead of commuting by car could save drivers some £150 a month, according to new research.

A Stagecoach survey of transport corridors across the UK revealed those making the eco-friendly switch to the bus saved over £1700 a year on average – enough to pay household fuel bills for an entire year.

"Rocketing motoring costs and household bills are squeezing living standards for many families across Britain," said Stagecoach Group Chief Executive Sir Brian Souter.

"This survey shows that people can save hundreds of pounds a year by switching from the car to the bus as well as avoiding the stress of being stuck in traffic jams on their way to and from work."

Stagecoach has surveyed more than 30 commuter routes across its national bus network, used by millions of passengers every year.

The study compared the cost of making the journey daily by car, in terms of fuel and parking only, with the price of a weekly multi-journey ticket on Stagecoach buses.

From Perth with love

CARING staff from Stagecoach Group headquarters helped send some welcome relief to the needy overseas.



The Perth colleagues donated 36 shoeboxes full of goodies to the Blythwood Shoe Box Appeal, which sends presents to underprivileged children and adults in Romania, Serbia, Bulgaria, Albania, Hungary, Ukraine, Moldova and India.

Polar express

SANTA travelled in style when he made a special pre-Christmas visit to Chichester's Parklands Community Primary School.

Stagecoach buses and local radio station Spirit FM saw Father Christmas safely to and from the North Pole when it looked as though he might not be able to make the journey.

Santa said: "I am most grateful to Stagecoach and Spirit FM for their help. Not only did they arrange to collect and return me home, but they also kindly allowed me to use the bus as a grotto for the fair."

"What jolly festive fun!"

Adam Keen from Stagecoach in Chichester revealed: "Santa has travelled with us before and he's always a cheerful customer."

Top of the pups

SOUTH Wales Inspectors Kelvin Chedzoy and Ray Harvey are both top dogs when it comes to the Kennel Club.

Kelvin has reached the highest level of judging, while Ray acts as a steward for open and champion shows across South Wales.

Inspectors Ray Harvey and Kelvin Chedzoy are taking the lead in the Kennel Club.



Driving ambition in Africa

DRIVING instructor Neil Rettie has swapped the Highlands of Scotland for sub-Saharan Africa as he shares his expertise in road safety.

Neil, from Stagecoach Highlands, is half-way through a two-year secondment working with international development charity Transaid as Project Manager of its Professional Driver Training Project in Tanzania.

He's there to improve the quality and delivery of practical elements of the local driver training course.

"Public transport here is a nightmare, but that's why I am here," said Neil.

"Buses are small but are crammed full with many people standing, and they drive with the door open and the conductor standing on the steps. There is very little road discipline and traffic is chaotic."

"Training of bus drivers is also very different. Sixty people at a time go out training on one vehicle, so each driver only gets a few minutes behind the wheel."

But, thanks to the Transaid project, things are starting to improve.

Stagecoach has donated a second vehicle to the



Neil Rettie has his work cut out promoting road safety in Tanzania.

project and Neil and his team have just seen their new training curriculum approved.

Neil continued: "It's hot and humid, for which I am not designed! Running water is also an issue so, in the morning, I have a bucket instead of a shower."

"But I am loving this experience. It's a huge challenge."

"When I started as a bus driver with Stagecoach in Inverness over 15 years ago, deepest, darkest Africa is not where I thought I'd end up."

"This has been a huge opportunity for me to make a difference and it would not have happened without the support of Stagecoach."

Tug of war: A team of police and armed forces personnel pulled a Routemaster through the streets of London.



On the pull in London

MILITARY might provided the power for an unusual charity bus journey recently.

Twenty soldiers, sailors, airmen and police officers joined forces to pull a Routemaster

double-decker from The Cenotaph in London's Whitehall to Victoria.

The vehicle was supplied by Stagecoach London and all funds raised by the event went to the Veterans Aid charity.

Kevin's career steps up

KEVIN Levett has been appointed as new Assistant Operations Manager at Stratford bus depot.

Kevin joined Stagecoach Midlands nine years ago and worked as a driver, relief controller and inspector prior to taking up his new position.



Paul Prior and Matt Dawson from East Midlands Trains' On-train team at Sheffield collect their certificate from Arlene Phillips OBE.

Strictly superb service

FORMER Strictly Come Dancing judge Arlene Phillips took the floor to present a special award to East Midlands Trains.

The company was shortlisted for Transport Provider of the Year by Sense, the charity which supports and campaigns for people who are deafblind.

Nominated by a Sense member who praised the support he received from its staff, East Midlands Trains was named runner-up, and received its certificate from the Strictly star.

Ron's record year

KEEN charity collector Ron Wiltshire was delighted this year when the East Midlands Poppy Appeal raised a record-breaking £15,850.

The East Midlands Trains employee is well-known locally for his efforts in aid of the British Legion Poppy Appeal.

He said: "I make an announcement to say that I will be popping down the train collecting any donations of cash."

"The smallest donation this year was 1p and the largest was £100, but every penny counts."

Ron Wiltshire helped raise a record amount for the East Midlands Poppy Appeal.



Picture of the Season

THIS edition's winning Picture of the Season was taken by Manchester Inspector George Franks. It shows a Stagecoach Manchester vehicle at Sharston Depot.

Congratulations to George who will shortly receive his prize of £50 of M&S vouchers.

If you think you have a picture that captures one of the four seasons, please send your image to Lindsay Reid, On Stage, Stagecoach Group, 10 Dunkeld Road, Perth, PH1 5TW, or email it to lindsay.reid@stagecoachgroup.com



John's an inspiration

A SOUTH West Trains worker hopes others may follow his lead in going the extra mile for good causes.

John Donoghue has raised more than £55,000 for charity over the past five years.

His passion for fundraising began after he donated a kidney to his own daughter.

Within nine months – thanks to a sponsored bike ride with support from South West Trains – he went on to raise enough money to buy a kidney dialysis machine for

his local hospital.

Since then, he's taken part in several charity challenges for good causes, the most recent of which was a 1522-mile cycling marathon from Gibraltar to Poole to raise money for elderly people in his community.

John said: "I am proud to be an employee of our company, and I hope my story may be of some use to inspire others to try and make the difference to those who are less fortunate than ourselves."



700 years down the line

MORE than seven centuries of service were celebrated when East Midlands Trains paid tribute to long-serving staff.

The loyal employees enjoyed a lunchtime meal and shared some memorable stories of their time in the rail industry.

East Midlands Trains' long-serving staff.

Help kids on the street

WOULD you like to help ease the suffering of children living on the streets?

The Railway Children charity has launched its fundraising events programme for 2012, with activities including cycling, hiking and running, as well as the popular Three Peaks Challenge by Rail which celebrates its 10th anniversary this year.

New events include a bike ride through the Sierra Nevada; Cycle India, a two-wheeled trek from the Taj Mahal to Jaipur, as well as the Welsh 3000s – climbing 15 mountains over 3000 feet.

If you'd consider doing your bit for this great cause, visit www.railwaychildren.org.uk/ events to find out more.

Badges of pride

EAST Midlands Trains colleagues pinned their hopes on selling badges during a recent charity event.

And the idea proved a big hit, helping to raise £24,000 for the Railway Children charity.

Pictured showing off the special badges are Train Managers Ian Morrish (left) and Matt Dawson (centre) with Dave Ellis from the Railway Children charity.



Low-carbon kings

➤ **Stagecoach is top at keeping carbon emissions down.**

The Group recently earned the Low Carbon Vehicle Operator of the Year award at the 2011 Low Carbon Champion Awards held in London.

It was recognised for its continuing commitment over the last two years to operating greener vehicles, and impressed judges after reducing the carbon footprint of its buses by using cleaner fuels, investing in new technology and introducing eco-driving techniques across its UK bus operations.

Stagecoach Group Chief Executive Sir Brian Souter said: "We're delighted to have won this latest green award, which recognises the hard work of our employees in reducing the impact of our operations on the environment."



Green light for Yorkshire

➤ **STAGECOACH Yorkshire was highly commended in the Sterecycle Green Business Award category at the Barnsley & Rotherham Business Awards.**

The recognition follows Stagecoach Yorkshire's recent nomination in the Environmental category at the Sheffield Star Business Awards.

Spark of inspiration

➤ **CHRISTMAS shoppers enjoyed greener bus rides thanks to an electric bus service in the north east of Scotland.**

Stagecoach Bluebird joined Elgin BID and Moray Council to launch the free electric service between Elgin City Centre, the bus station and retail park over the festive period.

Stagecoach Bluebird Managing Director Andrew Jarvis said: "We were delighted to work closely with Moray Council to promote greener, smarter, and hope this helped encourage customers in Elgin to swap their cars for the bus."

Green gets even greener

➤ **AN ECO-friendly energy regime is being upgraded to make Stagecoach even greener and save millions of pounds.**

The company already uses an energy management system provided by Vickers Electronics Ltd to control heating and lighting at more than 100 UK depots.

But it's now started upgrading the technology to an even more modern and efficient Vickers system, which is expected to cut energy use by more than a fifth, saving an extra 2800 tonnes of CO2 each year.

The programme is being rolled out to all Stagecoach UK Bus depots over the next year, and it's predicted that, by 2013, it will have saved around 58,000 tonnes of CO2 – enough to power around 12,000 homes for a year.

Bike-friendly awards



Cycle facilities at Farnborough Station helped South West Trains win a National Cycle Rail Award.

➤ **SOUTH West Trains rode off with no less than three honours at the National Cycle Rail Awards.**

The operator, which has taken a number of steps to encourage cyclists to use the rail network, scooped the sought-after Operator of the Year title.

Meanwhile, Stakeholder and Accessibility Manager Phil Dominey was named joint winner in the Cycle Champion of the Year category, and Eastleigh Borough Council won the Local Government Partnership Scheme honour for its joint work with South West Trains.

Jake Kelly, Customer Services Director at South West Trains, said: "We have consistently championed the needs of cyclists, taking steps to make travel by train easier for those using their bikes in the South West."

Special offer

Go wild with our special offer

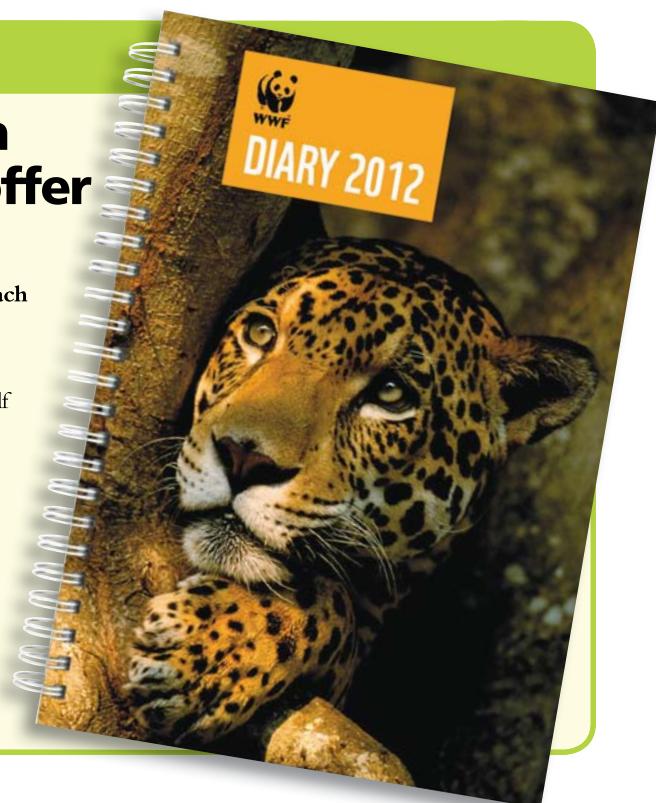
➤ **INTERNATIONAL conservation organisation WWF-UK is offering Stagecoach staff a 10% discount on all products in its shop.**

Make a New Year's Resolution to 'go green' in 2012, and treat yourself to a beautiful 2012 diary that uses recycled paper.

Or why not treat your loved one to a sweet-smelling sustainable candle, just in time for Valentine's Day?

Simply visit www.wwf.org.uk/shop and enter the discount code STAGE10 at the checkout.

The offer ends on February 29.





Christmas lights in Windy City

► CHICAGO Double Decker Company sightseeing vehicles helped light up the recent Holiday Parade in downtown Chicago.

The colourful event kicked off the traditional annual holiday season festivities in the Windy City.

Manchester takes gold

► THE £6.5 million launch of Manchester's new Sharston Depot has attracted some special recognition.

The event earned Stagecoach Manchester a gold award for Best Community Relations campaign at the Chartered Institute of Public Relations' annual North West PRide Awards.

US school bus operation sold

► STAGECOACH has completed the sale of its Wisconsin School Bus business in the US which it has owned since 1999.

The business was bought by Student Transportation Inc, and the General Manager of Wisconsin School Bus and the rest of its management team have transferred with the company.

Record year for long-serving staff

► COACH Canada has presented Years of Service awards to a record 52 recipients.

The winner of this year's Employee Achievement Award was Terry Beauclerc, while the Jim McKellar Memorial Driver Award went to Linda Walker.

Congratulations go to all who were honoured.



Knit-ivity scene is star attraction

► THIS wonderful woolen Nativity scene has been delighting bus customers at Dunfermline's Stagecoach Travel Shop. The much-admired work of art was created by expert knitter Annette Young, who's an administration clerk at the Fife shop.

Shelters shine with colourful designs

► BUS shelters needn't be boring – as artistic locals in Worcestershire have proved.

Stagecoach Midlands drivers have new landmarks to point out to passengers, thanks to around 40 members of the Harvington community who painted two local shelters with colourful designs.

They looked so impressive that the artists decided to hold an official launch event, which Stagecoach Midlands Managing Director Steve Burd was delighted to attend.

"It's a wonderful example of community spirit and everyone involved should be warmly congratulated on a truly fantastic effort," said Steve.



Steve Burd cuts the ribbon at the shelters' official opening.



Kids have a grrr-eat time

► CHILDREN attending Coach Canada's latest kids' Christmas party had a close encounter of the furred kind.

Thanks to a visit from the Safari Team, the fun festive event featured a variety of animals, including a Siberian tiger, lemur, hawk, lynx and even a tarantula.

The kids also enjoyed time bouncing on two over-sized bouncy castles.

The event allows families from each of the 11 regions covered by Coach Canada to get together, have fun and even enjoy a visit from Santa.

A Siberian tiger cub was just one of the animals who helped Coach Canada kids' have a wonderful Christmas party.



Wishing Frank (centre) a happy retirement are Steve Burd, Managing Director Stagecoach Midlands (left), and Operations Manager Colin Briton.

Frank really has come a long way

▶ **NORTHAMPTON** bus driver Frank Duffy has covered a lot of ground in his 44 years at the wheel. In fact, it's reckoned he's driven some 2.5 million miles – equivalent to 104 times around the world – prior to his recent retirement.

Frank – a regular driver on services between Northampton, Wellingborough, Raunds and Thrapston – revealed: "I shall miss my bus driving pals and the passengers – particularly the ladies who give me sweets and chocolates."

Bus fuels festive fun in Sheffield

▶ **STAGECOACH** Yorkshire driver Lee Cottam and Norman Cook from Chesterfield Coach Station helped make Christmas a memorable occasion in Sheffield's city centre.

The festive pair took a decorated open-top Stagecoach bus to the switching on of the city's Christmas lights, and also helped to promote the company's charity calendar.

Caring colleagues help the heroes

▶ **A LONDON** training supervisor inspired his colleagues raise hundreds for Help the Heroes.

Brian Williamson's family friend Private Tony Rawson died serving his country in Afghanistan and, in Tony's memory, staff at Rainham Garage staged a charity walk and collection to raise £800 for the good cause.



Holly's facing a bright future

▶ **AMBITIOUS** Scots youngster Holly Rodgers could be on the road to stardom on the European stage.

Stagecoach West Scotland has sponsored the local teenager in her quest to be the 'Face of Europe'.

In return, Holly helped launch the company's fleet of new coaches for the X76 service between Cumnock and Glasgow.

Holly Rodgers and Stagecoach mascot Buster the Bus Ticket launch the new vehicles.

Give someone a sporting chance

▶ **WOULD** you like to make someone's dream come true?

Stagecoach employees are being invited to nominate carers and people with disabilities to be given the chance to fulfil their lifetime's ambition.

Anything's possible – from simply watching their favourite football team or going to EuroDisney to swimming with dolphins in Florida or hang-gliding in the Swiss Alps.

Scottish charity Give Them a Sporting Chance organise dream activities for people of

all ages who have a disability, or who care for someone with a disability, and more than 5000 people have already benefited from a huge variety of Sporting Chances.

All costs – except personal insurance and spending money – are met by the charity and all they ask of recipients is that they raise some money for any other charity of their choice.

■ To nominate someone, simply complete an application form available from lindsay.reid@stagecoachgroup.com or, for more information, visit www.givethemasportingchance.com



The Stagecoach runners with children and fundraisers at Demelza House.

Run aids hospice services

▶ **FIT** fundraisers from Stagecoach East Kent & East Sussex ran up a £4000 donation for a very good cause.

The colleagues took part in 2011's Demelza Run, and were delighted to hand over the bumper cheque to the hard-working fundraising team at Demelza Hospice Care for Children, in Sittingbourne, Kent.



▶ **LONG-SERVING** Stagecoach Highlands staff (pictured above) recently enjoyed a special dinner in recognition of their loyal service.



Stagecoach Manchester's long-serving employees.

▶ **STEADFAST** Stagecoach Manchester employees were recognised at the company's annual long service awards.

Managing Director Christopher Bowles told the 36 loyal workers: "I am delighted to express my genuine appreciation and congratulations to all of the award recipients for their dedication to the company."

CONTACTS

Editor: Lindsay Reid, On Stage, Stagecoach Group, 10 Dunkeld Road, Perth, PH1 5TW

Email: lindsay.reid@stagecoachgroup.com

www.stagecoach.com

If you have a story for On Stage, please contact Lindsay Reid as above.

The copy deadline for the next edition of On Stage will be Friday, February 17, 2012.

The quickfire round - Deborah Killen and Calum Durward Stagecoach Group Head Office, Perth

▶ **Who are you?**
Deborah Killen and Calum Durward who work on reception and in the mailroom at Stagecoach Group Head Office in Perth.

▶ **What do you like most about your job?**

Calum - I enjoy meeting new people all the time.

Deborah - The people I work with.

▶ **What do you like least about your job?**

C - Having to walk round and round the office all day. D - Irate passengers.

▶ **Favourite TV show?**

C - Most Haunted.

D - Don't Tell The Bride.

▶ **Biggest achievement?**

C - Gaining my Hons Degree in Media Production at Uni.

D - Buying my first house at 19.

▶ **Worst job?**

C - Worked in a card shop, which was very boring. There's only so much you



need to know about cards.

D - Working in a call centre.

▶ **Most embarrassing moment?**

C - Working for Ann Summers - all of that was embarrassing.

D - I don't know!

▶ **Dream Job?**

C - I'd love to own my own nightclub.

D - Does winning the lottery

and not having to work count?!

▶ **Favourite animal?**

C - Cats - you just leave them to it and no walking needed. D - My German short-haired pointer Oskar.

▶ **Most like to be stuck in a lift with?**

C - Dawn French and Jennifer Saunders - they're hilarious. D - Robbie Williams!

The Quickfire Round features in every edition of On Stage and we want to hear from as many staff as possible. To suggest the next participant, email lindsay.reid@stagecoachgroup.com



Ronnie Horsman's team bid him a fond farewell.

Lie-ins at long last!

▶ **AFTER** nearly half a century of early starts, recently retired Ronnie Horsman is finally enjoying a few well-earned lie-ins.

Ronnie, who worked for Stagecoach North

East, began his career in 1962, working as a coach painter at the Byker bus and tram depot in Newcastle before moving to Sunderland in 1997.

He said: "I have really enjoyed my time with Stagecoach North East though it's been hard getting up at 5.30am every day for almost 50 years. That's something I certainly won't miss!"

Ronnie, who is married to Janine and has two daughters and five grandchildren, added: "The people are great - a really lovely bunch. They've been a pleasure to work with and I've made some good friends along the way."

Farewell to Sholto



Staff at Stagecoach West bid a fond farewell to Sholto Thomas (centre, wearing red tie).

▶ **GLOBETROTTER** and gardening are on the agenda for Stagecoach West Operations Director Sholto Thomas, who's just retired after 38 years in the bus industry.

Sholto began his career as a conductor with the Edinburgh-based Eastern Scottish bus company in 1973.

After working at various locations across Scotland as both a driver and depot manager, he moved to Stagecoach West in 2003.

"I'm looking forward to more time in the garden and travelling to places, both local and long-haul," said Sholto.