

STAGECOACH is launching a new tax-free Buy As You Earn (BAYE) share scheme for all UK employees.

Under the new BAYE plan, to be administered by the Yorkshire Building Society, all Stagecoach employees in the UK with more than three months' continuous service will be eligible to buy Stagecoach shares each month out of their pre-tax income. Employees will be able to invest from as little as a £2 deduction per pay period up to a maximum of £125 per month to buy Stagecoach shares.

And, for each whole share bought by an employee out of their first £10 monthly investment, the employee will also be awarded two free matching shares from Stagecoach. So, for example, by investing £10 a month from pre-tax income (costing only £6.80 out of net take-home pay for a basic rate tax-payer), the employee could receive another £20 of free shares from the Company each month under the BAYE.

The shares are held in trust for the employee, who can withdraw the shares they have purchased at any time. The free matching shares awarded by the company can be withdrawn by employees after three years.

Stagecoach Group Finance Director Martin Griffiths said: "The Group has a long track record of supporting employee participation in the Company and we think this new BAYE will be

New employee share scheme

Special 2 for 1 deal

among the best in the industry, launched with a 2 for 1 matching of free shares from the Company on the first £10 of investment especially targeted to maximise benefits available at the level affordable to the average paid employee."

Eligible UK staff will receive an Invitation Information Pack mid-September and the deadline for applications to the BAYE scheme is 14 October 2011. Interested employees should read the invitation pack for details and look out for posters and other information at depots and in offices across the Group. Employees can also contact the Yorkshire Building Society on 0845 1200300 for information about the plan.

Employees who do not join the scheme at the launch will have further opportunities to do so in October and April each year.

The BAYE is intended to replace the previous Sharesave SAYE scheme which matures on 1 October 2011. **See page 2 of On Stage for more information about the SAYE scheme.**



Metrolink trams sold in Manchester

STAGECOACH Group has completed the sale of its Metrolink tram operation in Manchester. The business has been sold to Ratp Dev UK Limited.

The sale relates only to the Manchester Metrolink system and Stagecoach will continue to operate the Supertram network in Sheffield as normal.

Cash return for shareholders

FOLLOWING a review of its capital structure, Stagecoach has announced proposals to return approximately £340 million to its shareholders through a 4 for 5 share consolidation, returning 47p per each existing ordinary share.

The Group believes this will establish a more appropriate and efficient capital structure.

The proposal will be voted on at a General Meeting on 7 October.

Flat-out on the new sleeper coach

STAGECOACH Group is trialling the UK's first budget sleeper coach service between Glasgow and London, offering passengers their own bed as well as a standard seat for greater comfort during their journey.

On the new pilot service, operated by market-leading budget coach provider megabus.com, passengers will have access to a toilet, free wi-fi, on-board refreshments and a complimentary overnight pack containing a toothbrush, toothpaste, a bottle of water, an eye mask and a luggage label. Each berth has a reading light and curtain for extra privacy, as well as a duvet, pillow and blanket.

The coaches have been safety certified by VOSA and are fitted with CCTV. For additional safety and security, each berth is equipped with a button to alert the driver in the event of an emergency. The vehicles also meet Transport for London's new Low Emissions Zone (LEV) requirements, which come into force in the capital in January 2012.

Stagecoach Group Chief Executive, Sir Brian Souter, said: "Travelling overnight is a great way to save time, and we've already seen



Sir Brian stretches out in the new megabus.com sleeper coach.

growing demand for our night-time megabus.com journeys. The new sleeper services will offer extra comfort and facilities, but still at excellent value for money prices.

"We've always been at the forefront of innovative ways to make public transport more attractive and convenient for people. We believe the best way to find out if it's a service our customers want is by offering them the chance to try it out for real. Travelling direct from city centre to city centre beats the hassle of a red-eye flight from an airport and is a greener, smarter way to travel."

You what?!

(Overheard on a bus in America.)

▶ **Boy says to friend:** "I only had forty minutes of lectures today and I was forty minutes late so, yeah, it worked out."

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



Network cooperation

▶ **SHEFFIELD** bus passengers are trying out a groundbreaking ticketing initiative that will allow them to get on different firms' buses with the same ticket.

Stagecoach Yorkshire and First, together with the South Yorkshire Passenger Transport Executive, have signed up to the Sheffield and South Rotherham Bus Partnership, which introduces multi-operator tickets and coordinated timetables in the area.

Stagecoach Yorkshire Managing Director Paul Lynch, First UK Bus Managing Director Giles Fearnley, David Brown from SYPT, First UK Bus Regional Director David Alexander and Stagecoach UK Bus Managing Director Les Warneford.



UK Bus management appointments

▶ **STAGECOACH** has announced the appointment of two new Managing Directors for regional companies in its UK Bus division.

The new appointments follow a structural change within the UK Bus division's operations in the North-west of England. The former Stagecoach North West operations now form part of two new regional companies: Cumbria and North Lancashire, and Merseyside and South Lancashire.

Elisabeth Tasker, currently Operations Director with Stagecoach Manchester, is appointed Managing Director of Stagecoach Merseyside and South Lancashire. She has responsibility for depots in Liverpool, Preston and Chorley.

Nigel Winter is promoted from Operations Director, Stagecoach North East, to Managing Director Stagecoach Cumbria and North Lancashire, with responsibility for the Carlisle, West Cumbria, Kendal, Barrow and Lancaster depots.

Stagecoach has also confirmed the following positions:

Paul Southgate, formerly Managing Director Stagecoach North West, becomes Commercial Manager, Stagecoach UK Bus.

Les Burton, Operations Director, Stagecoach Merseyside, will become Operations Director Stagecoach Merseyside and South Lancashire.

Paul Lee will continue as Engineering Director for both of the Stagecoach companies in the North-west.

Les Warneford, Managing Director of Stagecoach UK Bus, said: "These new appointments demonstrate the strength of management talent we have across the division. I would like to congratulate Elisabeth and Nigel on their deserved promotions and wish them every success in their new roles."

Decision time on your SAYE shares

▶ **THE** Stagecoach SAYE Sharesave scheme, launched in October 2008, is due to mature on 1 October 2011, giving thousands of Stagecoach employees an important decision to make.

Staff who have been saving into the scheme for the past three years will have to select one of three options. There are also some very important dates for Sharesave scheme employees to remember.

Each member of the scheme will receive a personal letter to their home address with further information about the three options.

In addition, as the market share price of the Group has been trading close to the Option Price recently, each participating employee will also receive a personal illustration giving them key facts about their own personal savings contract to help them make an informed decision.

Staff who have further queries after they have received the information that will be posted to them should contact Yorkshire Building Society on **0845 1200 300**, quoting their Sharesave account number.

SHARESAVE SCHEME OPTIONS

OPTION 1

To exercise their option to buy Stagecoach Group plc shares at £2.51775 per share to receive a Share Certificate. Employees have until **21 March 2012** to return their Maturity Instruction Form to Yorkshire Building Society in order to take up this option.

OPTION 2

To withdraw their savings and tax-free bonus to receive a guaranteed cash refund. Staff choosing this option must return their Maturity Instruction Form to Yorkshire Building Society by **31 March 2012**.

OPTION 3

To exercise their option to buy their Stagecoach Group plc shares at £2.51775 per share and receive a cash amount by immediately selling them. To take advantage of a reduced dealing cost of £15, staff must return their Maturity Instruction Form, as well as the Stocktrade Sale Request Form, to Yorkshire Building Society by **5 October 2011**.



Daz – and mini-Daz – with their 'parent' bus.

Kendal's mini bus

▶ **DARREN** Syverson, a coach builder at Stagecoach North West's Kendal Garage has built a unique publicity platform to help promote the Depot's Central Lakes 599 service, in the form of a scaled down Open-Top Bus.

The bus, nicknamed "Daz", was in place at key locations on the open-top route during the summer, between Bowness Pier and Grasmere.

Birthday celebrations



Andy Campbell (left) receives the award from Michael Pragnell, Chairman of Cancer Research UK.

Caring company

STAGECOACH East Managing Director Andy Campbell picked up the Corporate Community Supporter of the Year award on behalf of the company at the Cancer Research UK National Flame of Hope Awards.

The honour was given for the company's support of Cancer Research over the past five years, including promotions on Park & Ride services, painting buses pink in Cambridge, Peterborough and Bedford and staff taking part in fundraising activities in aid of the charity.



The fit controller

WINCHESTER controller Trevor Kimber got on his bike to raise cash for a great cause.

Trevor made almost £500 for the British Heart Foundation by taking part in the charity's 35-mile Around the Harbours Bike Ride in Hampshire.

STAGECOACH Bluebird has celebrated the first birthday of its award-winning Jet 727 bus route.

The route, which runs between the city centre and Aberdeen Airport, was recently awarded the prestigious title of Best Bus Service at the 2011 Scottish Transport Awards.

Stagecoach Bluebird Managing Director Andrew Jarvis said: "Since the launch of the JET 727 route back in August 2010 we have been delighted by the number of customers choosing to travel with us."

Aberdeen Airport Managing Direct Derek Provan (left) and Stagecoach Bluebird Managing Director Andrew Jarvis celebrate Jet 727's birthday.



Coastal yomp helps heroes

EX-SERVICEMAN Frank Roberts has gone more than the extra mile to help injured comrades.

The South West Trains employee completed a gruelling 633-mile sponsored walk, raising around £3000 for injured service people and their families.

Frank spent five weeks on the South West

Coast Path, trekking from Minehead, Somerset, to Swanage in Dorset, and his hard-earned sponsorship money will go to the Heroes' Haven appeal in Swanage and the Baton Trust.

Frank, who used to serve with the 11th Signals Regiment of the Royal Corps of Signals based at Blandford, is now a Station Manager at Windsor.



Miss Scotland with Malky Duncan from Ardrossan Depot.

Early bath for Ardrossan staff

STAGECOACH Ardrossan staff recently took part in the local Tin Bath Championship to raise money for Cash for Kids.

An open-top bus ferried contestants to the sea front while the Stagecoach bath – piloted by MSP Stuart McMillan and supported by Miss Scotland Jennifer Roech – unfortunately had an early collision and had to be abandoned!

East Midlands Angels

SIXTEEN East Midlands Trains staff raised more than £1860 for Cancer Research after completing the Race for Life together at Clumber Park near Worksop – all wearing their East Midlands Angels T-shirts.



Fresh look for trains

SIX East Midlands Trains are the latest to receive a major makeover as part of a £30 million refurbishment programme.

The seven-car Meridian trains, all running on the Sheffield to London route, now boast new-look interiors with luxury leather seats in First Class and new carpets and seat covers throughout, as well as extra luggage room and a new space for buggies.



Safe delivery: Keith Emmery and Sharon Eve kept their cool when a baby made an unscheduled arrival.

Room for one more on top!

▶ A STAGECOACH London bus doubled as a delivery room when a woman gave birth to a baby boy on board.

Driver Keith Emmery was on his last run of the day when the lady went into labour.

Alerted to the woman's plight by fellow passenger Sharon Eve, the wife of another Stagecoach London bus driver, he stopped, called for emergency help and ushered 20 passengers off the bus.

"It really took me by surprise. It all happened so quickly," said Keith, who's been driving buses for 25 years.

"It was all very calm and was quite exciting in a way. The lady who delivered the baby, Mrs Eve, deserves all the credit. She did an amazing job.

"We wrapped the baby in a cardigan. He was quite tiny. They're all calling me 'baby man' at work now!"

An ambulance arrived a few minutes after the baby was born and safely carried mother and baby to hospital.

Transport for London's Managing Director of Surface Transport Leon Daniels said: "Mr Emmery and Mrs Eve both did an outstanding job of helping deliver this new arrival."

Buses' Open triumph

▶ A TEAM of 80 drivers and support staff from Stagecoach bus depots across the country carried over 30,000 people to and from the Sandwich Open Golf Championship.

A total of 55 buses were used to offer a daily park-and-ride service for the event and an additional three buses offered a shuttle from the railway station.



Stagecoach East Kent & East Sussex Managing Director Phil Medicott gets into the Open spirit with the help of Hastings driver Chris Prince.

Manchester gets smarter

▶ TRANSPORT Minister Norman Baker visited Manchester to launch Stagecoach's innovative smartcard scheme.

The introduction of StagecoachSmart travel cards in Manchester makes it the largest city outside London with a live commercial smartcard scheme on buses using the Government's preferred ITSO technology.

The scheme, which has since been launched in East Kent and East Sussex, allows passengers to store their travel on an electronic card instead of using paper tickets, making hassle-free automatic payments.

Norman Baker said: "This will make bus travel simpler and more attractive, cut carbon and encourage more people onto buses.

"I want to see this rolled out to all modes of public transport!"



Transport Minister Norman Baker (left) launches the StagecoachSmart scheme with Manchester Managing Director Chris Bowles.

Thumbs-up for Citylink Gold

▶ SCOTS motorists are ditching their cars to travel by Citylink Gold's luxury express coach service, new research has revealed.

The service operates six services a day on two routes linking Glasgow with Aberdeen and Inverness, attracting more than 130,000 passengers in just 12 months.

And the latest Scottish Citylink research found more than a third of these used to travel by car, while another 31% had previously gone by rail.

The survey also revealed 94% of all customers said Citylink Gold offered value for money, while nine out of 10 were 'satisfied' or 'very satisfied' with its punctuality.

"Citylink Gold has really taken off and has been particularly popular with commuters and business travellers, who love the fast journey times, at-seat refreshments and competitive fares," said Scottish Citylink Managing Director Bob Montgomery.

"Instead of the stress and rising cost of going by car, people are being attracted by the convenient, stress-free journey and free wi-fi, which means they can relax or can catch up on work on the coach."

Biggest busway beats the queues

▶ STAGECOACH is running services on the world's longest busway after the successful opening of the multi-million-pound public transport link.

The revolutionary new link offers a reliable, fast and frequent service seven days a week between Huntingdon, St Ives and Cambridge, giving locals a high-quality alternative to the long queues and uncertain journey times on the notoriously congested A14.

Stagecoach, one of two operators providing services on The Busway, is using a £3m fleet of 20 luxury buses fitted with small rubber guide wheels.

"The Busway is a visionary project," said Andy



A Stagecoach bus in training on the record-breaking busway.

Campbell, Managing Director for Stagecoach in Cambridge.

"We believe that our luxury buses, with free wi-fi internet access, will encourage more people out of their cars and on to the route. I am pleased to see so many people trying out the new system, which provides a quick and smooth journey."



Stagecoach vehicles ready to take spectators to Silverstone.

The big race

▶ STAGECOACH once again provided thousands of motor racing fans with transport to the British Grand Prix at Silverstone.

The event was a success thanks to the many drivers and staff who again helped show that Stagecoach is among the best when it comes to providing transport for global events.



The new Brompton Bicycle dock at Guildford Station.

Cyclists help themselves

▶ SOUTH West Trains has launched the UK's first 'self-service' Brompton Bicycle rental scheme with the introduction of an innovative bike dock at Guildford Station.

The project marks the latest stage of a long-running partnership between South West Trains and folding bike manufacturer Brompton Bicycle which offers bikes for hire to South West Trains season ticket-holders and the general public.

Passengers at Guildford station are the first in the country to be offered one of the 80 Brompton bikes for rent through the self-service dock scheme.

Phil Dominey, Stakeholder Manager for South West Trains, said: "We believe this will make it easier for people to cycle to or from Guildford station. It is another step to encourage more passengers to think of alternatives to the car."

Information innovation

▶ RAIL passengers are better informed, thanks to new features at East Midlands Trains stations in three counties.

Ten stations in Nottinghamshire, Leicestershire and Lincolnshire have new Customer Information Screens.

"We know how important it is for rail travellers to have easy access to fast and accurate information about their train service," said Rob Mason, Customer Information Manager for East Midlands Trains.

"The installation of these new screens, which use the latest digital technology, will make a big difference to our passengers."

Picture of the Season

▶ THIS edition's winning Picture of the Season was taken by Katie Loudon who works at Stagecoach Group headquarters in Perth. It shows a vintage bus, built in 1943, on its way to Perth Races.

Congratulations to Katie who will shortly receive her 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



Go globetrotting from Leicester



Launching Leicester's new Trainseurope travel desk are, from left: Wayne Kyte, East Midlands Trains; Vic Allen, Managing Director, Trainseurope, and Gareth Leslie and Mark Bennett from East Midlands Trains.

▶ THE WORLD'S your oyster if you travel from Leicester Station.

East Midlands Trains has launched a new international travel desk, giving passengers the chance to buy rail tickets for Europe and many other global destinations.

Trainseurope sells Eurostar tickets, as well as tickets to and within most European countries, including Ireland, Portugal and Greece, plus the Baltic states of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania.

More adventurous travellers can even book rail travel in the USA, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, Japan, India, South Africa, Egypt and Russia, including travel on some of the luxurious train services such as the Rocky Mountaineer from Vancouver.

Sterling service at Southampton

▶ SOUTH West Trains' Customer Service Centre at Southampton has been awarded the prestigious ServiceMark accreditation by the Institute of Customer Service.

The award followed a two-day assessment which was the culmination of six months of hard work by all members of the customer service team, and congratulations go to all of them.

Modern look for Honiton

▶ HONITON train station has a fresh new look, thanks to a £1.4 million refurbishment programme.

The seven-month joint project by South West Trains, the Department for Transport, Devon County Council and Network Rail has given passengers a more welcoming environment.

They're enjoying a more spacious booking hall and ticket office, plus a new ramp, retail unit and waiting shelter.

"I am sure local residents will take pride in the new look of their train station for years to come," said South West Trains Managing Director Andy Pitt.



Unveiling the new-look Honiton Station are, from left: Andy Pitt, South West Trains Managing Director; Councillor Stuart Hughes of Devon County Council and Honiton Mayor Councillor Vernon Whitlock.

Magnificent seven



Councillor Vera Jenkins, Mayor of Caerphilly County Borough Council, launches the cleaner, greener, buses, joined by Stagecoach Managing Director John Gould (left) and William Graham, Regional Assembly Member for South East Wales.

➤ A £750,000 investment has given Welsh passengers access to cleaner and greener buses.

Stagecoach in South Wales recently launched seven new low-floor, single-deck Enviro 200 buses.

The vehicles boast the latest in clean engine technology, meeting Euro V emissions standards and helping to cut carbon emissions, reducing the environmental impact of the service.

“We believe that this enhancement will deliver a much-needed boost for bus provision in South Wales, and also play a vital role in sustaining the environment,” said John Gould, Managing Director of Stagecoach South Wales.

Commitment commended

➤ STAGECOACH Group's commitment to sustainability was recognised at the inaugural 2011



BusinessGreen Leaders Awards.

The Group was highly commended in the main Company of the Year category, while its Chief Executive Sir Brian Souter, who has been the driving force behind the Group's environmental strategy, was also a shortlisted finalist in the Leader of the Year category.

Steven Stewart, Stagecoach Group Director of Communications, said: “This latest recognition for the work we are doing in trying to become a more sustainable business is a tribute to the actions of our people right across the business, including the thousands of bus drivers and train staff who serve our customers every day.”

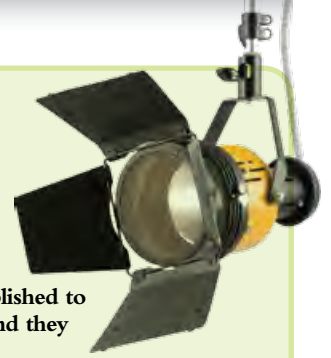
Spotlight on...

Stagecoach Manchester Green Team

➤ THE STAGECOACH Manchester Green Team was established to help improve the company's environmental performance, and they have done a great job.

For the year to April 2011, Manchester has recycled 93% of its total waste while reducing its total energy usage by 19%, saving 380 metric tonnes of carbon.

This has been achieved by introducing energy-saving measures such as motion sensors for lights and push-button taps, and investing in more efficient lighting and heating. Waste is separated in-house and managed by a specialist recycling company to ensure Stagecoach's carbon footprint is reduced further.



Fuel front-runners

➤ STAGECOACH is leading the way in eco-friendly fuel after becoming the first UK bus company to mix its own biofuel on-site.

Kilmarnock depot's new bio-blender will allow some 100 buses in the west of Scotland to run on the cleaner, greener fuel.

While most of the Group's 8100-strong bus fleet uses a mixture of 5% biofuel and 95% standard diesel, the new equipment will enable Kilmarnock vehicles to run on a greener mix of up to 40% biofuel and 60% standard diesel.

The bio-blender has a computerised control unit which allows trained Stagecoach staff to set the blend of fuel required, as this can change according to the air temperature.

Les Warneford, Managing Director of Stagecoach UK Bus, said: “We have had great success in Kilmarnock with the bio-buses which have helped us reduce our own carbon footprint and attract more people on to greener transport.



Kilmarnock depot's bio-blender allows 100 buses to run on greener fuel.

“The installation of this bio-blender means the rest of the vehicles at the depot can now run on up to 40% biofuel, making it one of the greenest bus fleets in the country.”

Stagecoach has invested £75,000 in the new technology, working closely with Argent Energy.

Highlands in a hurry

➤ A £1.5 MILLION investment has allowed six new coaches to operate on the fastest public transport link between Inverness and Caithness in the Scottish Highlands.

Steve Walker, Managing Director of Stagecoach in the Highlands, said: “We are delighted to be making what is one of the biggest investments in public transport in the Highlands for many years.”



Gwen's still on top form

▶ **OCTOGENARIAN** Gwen Zanzottera is notching up her 19th season as a Stratford City Sightseeing tour guide.

The enthusiastic 81-year-old has treated countless passengers to tours of Stratford's famous landmarks aboard open-top Stagecoach buses.

Gwen is a proud holder of the Blue Badge – the most prestigious guiding badge in the country.



Gwen Zanzottera.



Tony Simmons (left) and Craig Woodall get on board.

New team in the driving seat

▶ **A NEW** management team is steering Stagecoach Midlands' Leamington Spa and Stratford depots.

Craig Woodall has been appointed Assistant Operations Manager, joining Tony Simmons who took up an earlier appointment as Operations Manager in charge of the two depots.

Both are looking forward to their new partnership.



Amanda at the start of her cycling challenge.

On her bike

▶ **STAGECOACH** North West employee Amanda Kirtley raised more than £2000 for the Hospice at Home charity after completing a Coast to Coast Cycling Challenge.

Amanda finished the 142-mile cycle, including a 2-mile vertical climb, and has more fund-raising challenges planned for the future.

On the road to fitness

▶ **YORKSHIRE** driver Russell Craft swapped the bus lane for the hallowed turf of Barnsley Football Club to improve his health and fitness.

Russell was the first Stagecoach driver to sign up to the Fit Reds Scheme which aims to inspire overweight or inactive men over the age of 35 to lead a healthier, more active lifestyle.

And it's really paid off for the 46-year-old father of four, who revealed: "I have lost a stone in weight.

"It was really hard work but losing weight and exercising has reduced my blood pressure, which I'm delighted about.

"I feel so much better and Fit Reds has



Russell (right) with Barnsley FC's Community Health Office Darren England.

helped change my attitude to healthy living."

Russell's fitness drive has also inspired him to take up badminton, boxercise and swimming.



Bikes and boards on the bus

▶ **SURF'S** up in North Devon, thanks to a new Stagecoach service for watersports and cycling fans.

The Surf and Cycle service was launched after public consultation, with the double-decker being fitted with racks to carry surfboards and cycles.

Ideas advanced at retreat

▶ **IDEAS** were top of the agenda when Coach USA Tour Managers gathered for a two-day June Sales and Marketing Retreat in Pennsylvania recently.

Colleagues met to exchange ideas and explore new internet and promotional initiatives to increase sales and promote tour packages to new markets, and the event was hailed a great success.



Coach USA staff at their 'ideas retreat'.

Painting the city pink

▶ **ELEVEN** Cambridge staff were 'in the pink' as they pulled on their running shoes for charity.

The colourful crew joined 7000 other ladies who ran the Race for Life through the streets of Cambridge.

The team raised over £1500 for Cancer Research and Stagecoach East also donated £3000 to the charity.

Meanwhile, the company also rebranded a bus with breast cancer awareness branding to help boost the campaign even further.

Stagecoach East Managing Director Andy



Cambridge Race for Life runners with the specially branded bus.

Campbell said: "It was a fun day and for a good cause, and I'm very proud of the efforts made to make this day the success that it was."



Nuneaton Inspector Matt Begg.

Matt's one in a million

▶ **BUS** inspector Matt Begg has lots of little fans who think he is 'one in a million.'

Matt, inspector at Nuneaton depot, pulled out all the stops when he welcomed 30 five and six-year-olds from Wheelwright Lane Primary School on board the 9.25am Matrix 55/56 Nuneaton to Coventry service for their first outing on a bus as part of a school project.

Megabus.com expansion

▶ **STAGECOACH** has expanded its megabus.com network in the United States and Canada to operate out of Omaha, Memphis, St Louis and Boston.

The expansion brings to 64 the total number of locations covered in North America from the company's six key hubs.

As part of the latest expansion, Omaha residents can now travel to Chicago; Des Moines, Iowa; and Iowa City, Iowa, and a new route has been established between Memphis and St Louis, offering one daily departure.

Dale Moser, President and Chief Operating Officer of megabus.com in North America, said: "Our latest expansion will bring great value travel to even more locations across North America. People are continuing to turn to megabus.com for affordable travel and to make their dollar go further."

Walk on by

▶ **TWO** Swindon bus drivers have undertaken a 184-mile trek in aid of charity.

Michael Mullan and Mick Iles completed the Thames Walk, which saw them walk the entire length of the Thames path, from the Thames Barrier in London to the river's source near Kemble in Gloucestershire, to raise cash for Prospect Hospice.



The youngsters with a Stagecoach London bus.

Brownies on the buses

▶ **PHILIP** Wilson, a schedule compiler with Stagecoach London who doubles as an Assistant Beaver Scout Leader, recently borrowed a bus for the meetings of the 7th Welling Beaver Scouts and 8th Welling Brownies.

With some Cub Scouts, Guides and Rainbows joining in as well, over 70 boys and girls found out about bus driving, how buses serve the community and how to be safe and considerate when travelling.

Bus driver of the year

▶ **A TOTAL** of 33 Stagecoach drivers – the most from any of the large transport groups – have made it into the Bus Driver of the Year finals to be held in Blackpool. Eighteen of Stagecoach's regional bus companies will be represented at the event.

One of those to make it is Steve O'Flaherty, who triumphed in the regional Manchester heats. Steve will be joined in the finals by Manchester runners-up Dimitri Potapcik and Stephen Monks.

Good luck to all in Blackpool.



Manchester heat winner Steve O'Flaherty (left) with Manchester Managing Director Chris Bowles.



Staff keep on running

▶ **TWO** members of staff from Mansfield Depot recently took part in their local Race for Life events to raise money for Cancer Research UK.

Sharon McKay completed her race in Nottingham along with her 75-year-old mother-in-law, while Helen White, who has previously participated in Race for Life events, ran the 5km course at Clumber Park.

Sharon and Helen, who took part in the Race for Life.

Graham's still going strong

▶ **KETTERING** busman Graham Coe could well be on the way to setting a record in the bus industry after reaching 50 years' service.



Graham Coe.

Currently a part-time wages clerk, Graham (67) has held various positions at the Kettering depot of Stagecoach over the years.

Operations Manager Brian Hadden explained: "Although he has had a number of different jobs, we pull Graham's leg that he still has the same seat – and the same pencil!"

"The industry is indebted to servants like Graham who still does two days a week with us."

We're making the grade

▶ **MORE** and more graduates are seeking to forge their careers with Stagecoach.

This year, the Group saw a record number of 654 applicants for its UK Bus graduate management programme.

Stagecoach UK Bus Managing Director Les Warneford said: "Our graduate programme has already helped us develop some excellent young managers and we believe that the scheme has a crucial role to play in the continued success of our business."

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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, 7 October, 2011.



The quickfire round - Gary Campion

Stagecoach Merseyside and South Lancashire

- ▶ **Who are you?**
Gary Campion, Inspector at Preston Depot.
- ▶ **What do you like most about your job?**
I enjoy working with the public.
- ▶ **What do you like least about your job?**
Sometimes letting them down.
- ▶ **Favourite TV show?**
Crime Scene Investigation (CSI).
- ▶ **Biggest achievement?**
Being involved in the introduction of the Citi Network in Preston.
- ▶ **Worst job?**
Sprout planter on a farm in Birkdale.
- ▶ **Most embarrassing moment?**
On a visit to Liverpool FC, I reached

up to touch the very famous Anfield sign and slipped and fell down the stairs instead.

- ▶ **Dream job?**
To be involved with the Olympics.
- ▶ **Favourite animal?**
Tiger.
- ▶ **Most like to be stuck in a lift with?**
Kenny Dalglish.



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



Simon gets on board

▶ **SIMON** Davies has joined the engineering team at Stagecoach's Portsmouth bus depot as Assistant Engineering Manager.

Simon, who began his career as a trainee coach builder in 1983, has worked for Stagecoach since 1990.

Tony Probert, Engineering Manager at Portsmouth, said: "Simon's dedication and passion for the quality of the vehicles has ensured him this promotion."

"I have no doubt that he will make an excellent manager".

Simon Davies has worked his way from trainee coach builder to Assistant Engineering Manager at Portsmouth.

Michael shifts down a gear

▶ **NORTH** East driver Michael Ferguson has handed back his keys after 46 years with Stagecoach.

Michael had an exceptional work record, receiving a 32-year safe driving award last year, and was a very well-liked member of staff.

He now plans to relax in his retirement, enjoying gardening and spending time with his grandchildren.



Michael Ferguson (centre) is thanked for his service by North East Managing Director John Conroy (left) and Regional Director Robert Andrew.

John says farewell

▶ **LONG-SERVING** driver John Payne has retired from Dumfries Depot, marking the end of a transport career spanning nearly 40 years.

John began his career with Southend Borough Transport in 1962 and joined Stagecoach in Dumfries in 2003.

John was a valued member of staff and everyone at the depot wishes him well.