



Billy Cummings and John Jackson celebrating 100 years of Go North East service between them.

May 20, 2025 12:58 BST

From the 1970s to today: two engineers clock up a century at Go North East

Go North East is proudly celebrating a combined 100 years of service from two of its longest-serving engineers – William ‘Billy’ Cummings and John Jackson – each dedicating five decades to keeping the wheels turning.

Their careers began in the 1970s – when glam rock ruled the airwaves, the UK had just joined the Common Market, and Raleigh Choppers were the ultimate childhood status symbol. Back then, buses had conductors, ticket

machines clunked and whirred, and the upper deck doubled as a smoker's lounge.

Billy and John have seen it all: from roaring diesel engines to the dawn of electric buses, and from paper timetables to digital journey planning. Through decades of change, they've stayed constant – quietly powering the region's transport network behind the scenes.

Billy joined the business at just 16 and has spent his entire career working as a trimmer at the company's Saltmeadows engineering site, specialising in repairing and maintaining bus interiors.

John, meanwhile, has made his mark as an electrician at the Riverside depot. He was introduced to the trade by his brother – a bus driver in the 1970s – and jumped at the chance of stable work during a difficult period for employment.

Reflecting on their long service, Billy said: "I've always been happy at work, so I've never really thought about leaving. I enjoy what I do, but it's the camaraderie and friendships with my workmates that have kept me coming back."

John added: "At the time, I was just glad to have a job because unemployment was so high. I've worked with a smashing bunch of lads over the years – that's what I'll remember most."

Paying tribute to the pair, Nigel Featham, Managing Director at Go North East, said: "I'd like to say a huge thank you and congratulations to John and Billy for an incredible combined 100 years of service.

"Their commitment, pride and skill exemplify everything that's great about our industry – and about Go North East. The company simply wouldn't be the same without long-serving colleagues like them. It's inspiring to see people who've built their entire careers here."

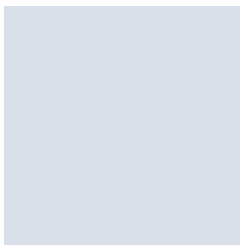
Inspired by Billy and John's story? Learn more about careers at Go North East [here](#).

PHOTOGRAPH: Billy Cummings and John Jackson – an integral part of the engineering team at Go North East – celebrating 100 years of service between them. Photography by Glen Minikin

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