



KING'S CROSS REMEMBERED

In November we marked 30 years since the devastating King's Cross fire.

Caused by a discarded match igniting beneath a wooden escalator, the



blaze killed 31 people and made headlines around the globe.

Commissioner **Mike Brown** and Managing Director **Mark Wild** laid a wreath at the station before attending a multi-faith service at St Pancras Church, accompanied by dignitaries from the London Fire Brigade, British Transport Police and the London Ambulance Service.

The fire completely changed the way we manage safety on the Underground. Its legacy can be seen in the latest fire prevention systems on the Elizabeth line, including ventilation channels, trackside walkways and fans above platforms.



EXCITING PLANS AFOOT

Ambitious plans for Oxford Street are set to transform London's most popular shopping street.

Subject to public consultation, traffic will be restricted from entering Oxford Street by the end of 2018, with some changes expected to local bus routes.

Proposed improvements in the area include new pedestrian crossings and wider pavements.

"It's the largest and most complicated scheme that TfL and any borough have consulted on in central London," said Head of Oxford Street Transformation **Sam Monck** (above).



ALL WRAPPED UP

Colleagues and customers came out in force to donate coats to the charity Wrap Up London, which is on a mission to help keep all Londoners warm this winter. Close to 12,000 coats were collected over three days at Canary Wharf, King's Cross St Pancras, London Bridge, Victoria and Waterloo. The coats went to charities supporting the city's homeless, refugees, elderly and families in need.



Skills Development Trainer **Faeem Ahmed**, who organised the collection, said: "It's a very hands-on way of helping, and the charities see the results straight away. We've got a huge number of coats here, but they will use each and every one."

IN BRIEF



SURVIVAL STARS

Two project engineers, **Neera Kukadia** and **Aoife Considine**, flew the flag for LU in the Channel 4 adventure show *Escape*. They worked in 40°C heat while building a vehicle from wreckage on a crash site. "I've never even been camping before, so my colleagues can't believe I went so far out of my comfort zone!" said Neera.

A HELPING HAND

A volunteer from Tax Help for Older People attended the latest Pension Fund Members' Meeting to raise awareness of their services. The charity offers free, professional and confidential advice to older people on incomes of less than £20,000 per annum. To find out more, call the helpline on 0845 601 3321 or email taxvol@taxvol.org.uk

LESSONS LEARNED

Our thoughts remain with those affected by the tragic Croydon tram derailment in 2016. We welcomed the recent report from the Rail Accident Investigation Branch and will be publishing our own report soon. Since the incident we have introduced a range of additional safety measures, including new signage, driver warning systems, enhanced speed monitoring and an upgraded CCTV recording system.



TUNNEL VISION

There's still plenty going on in our disused tunnels, as otm discovered on a visit to Highgate, the home of London's largest bat population.

The Highgate tunnels were closed in 1968 when the line to Alexandra Palace was discontinued. Five species of bat have since moved in, nesting in specially designed 'bat bricks' by day and hunting insects in Highgate Woods at night.

"This tunnel has significant value to the local area, so we take our role of protecting the bats very seriously," said Head of Environment **Steve Judd**.

The mile of subterranean tunnels containing Clapham South's deep-level bomb shelter are also still in use,

and were visited by members of our Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic Staff Network Group (BAME) to mark the end of Black History Month.

The shelter has a long connection to the BAME community as it was the first home for Caribbean migrants who arrived in the UK on the *Empire Windrush* in 1948.



POPPY APPEAL

We are a longstanding supporter of the Royal British Legion (RBL) and hosted a number of fundraising efforts during the run up to

Remembrance Sunday.

Dame **Barbara Windsor** and **Shane Richie** recorded a series of special station announcements urging people to support

London Poppy Day in November. The BBC soap stars came out in support of the RBL fundraisers, who were shaking collection buckets at 40 Tube stations.

Meanwhile, more than 1,100 handmade knitted poppies were sold at our Palestra office, raising £2,100. A commemorative badge designed by retired Stagecoach London bus driver, **Geoff Stockley**, raised an additional £5,365 for the appeal.



BALANCING ACT

Slips, trips and falls are under the spotlight as part of a new plan to reduce customer injuries by 17 per cent.

The plan focuses on escalators, stairs, and the platform-train interface, where eighty per cent of customer accidents occur.

Short-term measures include poster campaigns, blue positional footprints and escalator safety announcements; in the long-term we may introduce 'gap fillers' – a retractable edge that reduces the gap between train and platform.

ELIZABETH LINE UPDATE

January marks the beginning of the Elizabeth line's exciting next phase. Our first big milestone of the year comes in May with the introduction of new nine-coach units between Paddington and Heathrow. Trial running will begin in July, followed in August by a series of major evacuation exercises involving a large number of public volunteers.



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GETTING YOU FROM A TO B

Our Retired Staff Oyster cards are used by around 44,000 TfL pensioners, as well as their nominated partner or dependant. Understandably, the issuing and reissuing of all these passes is no small task.

This responsibility falls to Staff Travel, a small team of ten based

at North Greenwich. In total they manage 50 types of travel passes, including three kinds of season ticket and six kinds of Oyster cards – each type with different conditions of use.

Besides this they also handle revenue investigations, research for the Mayor and Freedom of Information requests.

No two days are ever the same, according to Staff Travel Advisor **Trevor Moloney**, and that's what makes the job interesting.

"The biggest group we serve is the retired, but we also issue passes for staff, contractors and third parties. We have around 100,000 active staff records, and each one has to be dealt with on an individual basis," he said.

"There's a lot to remember but you pick it up as you go along. I'm just starting to get used to it now after 20 years in the job!"

The passes are a valuable benefit to staff and pensioners alike, and the team are determined to ensure the service is available to all who need it – including four active pensioners aged over 100.

Trevor said: "Every case is different, so the most important quality to have here is the ability to listen and empathise with people."

If you have any questions for the Staff Travel team, you can call the helpline on 0800 015 5073 between 08:30 and 17:30 Monday to Friday.

CAPPING NIGHT TUBE NOISE

Noise and vibration are an inevitable by-product of our network, so with the expected spike in complaints associated with Night Tube, our engineers took steps to mitigate the disturbance.

The biggest measure is the laying of resilient track fastenings, which act as shock absorbers and stop vibration from passing into people's homes. Around 4km of the bespoke fastenings have been laid so far.

Other steps have included re-railing certain sites and removing joints where practical, to make tracks

smoother. The way noise in which complaints are collated and investigated has also helped. All complaints are now plotted on a map to pinpoint hotspots, and much more detail about a customer's complaint is being fed to Asset Operations teams.

Principal Track Engineer **Dominic Trueman** said: "It's allowed us to prioritise our noise mitigation, and in many cases we have reduced the in-property noise by 10 decibels or more. We've learned a lot, such as which track forms are bad and which are good for noise and vibration."





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otm

FONDLY REMEMBERED



Joseph Barret sadly passed away on 20 October 2017, aged 80. He retired in 2002 after 24 years' service

in maintenance, working on station escalators and lifts during the night shift.



Former electrical engineer **George 'Ron' Eveleigh** passed away on 5 September 2017 at the age of

88. He worked at Lots Road, Oxford Street, Long Acre and Shepherd's Bush for 30 years before retiring in 1986.



Colin O'Callaghan served as Secretary of West Brompton No.1 Branch of ASLE&F

from 1980-1993 until he was medically retired. Described as 'a fair and compassionate man in a job he was dedicated to', he sadly passed away on 24 March 2014 aged 72.



LETTERS

Dear **otm**,
On 22 September 2018 it will be the 30th anniversary of the closure of Hornchurch Bus Garage, and several ex-drivers want to do something to mark this anniversary. Almost all of the former drivers and engineers will now be retired and hopefully receiving your magazine.

We want to hear from the employees that are still with us so we can arrange a function on the anniversary date

Please contact me for more information. Thank you in advance.

Steve Linger
Steve.linger@unitetheunion.org
Unite the Union, 84
Springfield Road,
Chelmsford, Essex,
CM2 6JY

Dear **otm**,
Please find attached a photo of 55 Broadway

from an unusual angle that will disappear once they build on the New Scotland Yard site (pictured below, right).

Peter Day, retired Tube driver, Morden

Response to Ron Bailey, issue #57:

Dear **otm**,
My brother and I remember Ron Bailey on the 65s and 71s. I think he worked with Ginger from Mortlake, and then after Ginge retired Peter Smith worked with him.

I started at Kingston in 1975 and then joined my brother at Norbiton when Kingston became a bus station only. We both took severance in 1990 after

Kingston Bus and Coach lost most of its work because of tendering.

I still do a bit of driving for The London Bus Museum at Brooklands near Weybridge Railway Station and if Ron wants to put a face to the name just type in 'Front seat ride EGO426' on YouTube to see me driving at STL on the 65 last year!

Graham Burnell and Adrian Burnell



150 YEARS OF THE DISTRICT LINE

Did you travel on the District line between 1938 and 1971? If so, the London Transport Museum would like to hear from you!

We are looking for volunteers to take part in a new oral history project in February 2018, as part of events celebrating 150 years of the District line. 'Back on Track: The Q stock project' explores the social history of the Q stock and the people who rode on it.

We are looking for pensioners who would be happy to talk to young people about their experiences and have their conversations recorded.

If you're interested, or if you know someone else that might be, please get in touch.

Many thanks,
Charlotte Tupper,
London Transport Museum
charlotte.tupper@ltmuseum.co.uk,
0771 602 0107



Get in touch: Send your comments, memories and letters to: otm pensioners' edition, AB, Gemini House, 180-182 Bermondsey Street, London, SE1 3TQ (enclosing a stamped addressed envelope if you'd like photos returned) or email otm@abcomm.co.uk, putting 'pensioners' edition' in the subject header.

PCC ELECTION RESULTS 2017

The longest serving quarter of the TFL Pension Consultative Council (PCC) retired from office on 30 November 2017. The term of office for the new appointments commenced on 1 December 2017 and will end on 30 November 2021.

In Section One (representing pensioners and deferred pensioners) Linda Arwood and Peter Amos retired.

This Section received three nominations and following a postal ballot Linda Arwood and Peter Amos were both re-elected. Ms Arwood and Mr Amos have served on Section One since December 2005 and December 2013 respectively.

In Section Two (representing Tfl and its subsidiaries or contractors, excluding London Underground

Limited) Carole Davies retired. In addition Luke Howard formally resigned from the PCC with effect from 30 November 2017.

This meant there would be two vacancies in Section Two at the start of the new term of office on 1 December. Two valid nominations were received from Sonja Folarin and Huzaifa Essajee.

Both candidates were appointed and it was mutually agreed between both candidates that Ms Folarin will hold the full term of office from 1 December 2017 and Mr Essajee will fill the casual vacancy with a term of office that will end on 30 November 2020.

In Section Three (representing London Underground Limited and its subsidiaries and Tube Lines Limited), Mark Harding and Joan McAllister retired. In addition,

Gilly Leonard-Ross retired from service creating a casual vacancy.

Six valid nominations were received and following a postal ballot Mark Harding was elected. At their November meeting, the PCC ratified the appointment of Neil Cochrane to fill Ms McAllister's position and Tony de Wet to fill the casual vacancy with a term of office that will end on 30 November 2018. Mark Harding has served on Section Three since 1 December 2001.

For more information about the PCC, please visit the Tfl Pension Fund website at www.tflpensionfund.co.uk or contact Julian Collins, PCC Secretary on 020 7918 3789 or email juliancollins@tflpensionfund.co.uk

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PENSIONERS' FORUM SUMMARY

MEETING HELD ON 16 NOVEMBER 2017

ANNUAL MEMBERS' MEETING

Views on the withdrawal of pensioner provisions were expressed at the meeting and passed on to TfL by the Fund Chair.

Stephen Field said that any response would be circulated at the next meeting. A summary of proceedings has been uploaded to the TfL Pension Fund website.

TRAVEL FACILITIES

It was noted that a copy of the updated travel restrictions would be distributed to the Forum representatives.

ON THE MOVE (PENSIONERS' EDITION)

Discussion took place on options circulated to the Representatives regarding the future of the pensioners' edition.

The Representatives said that, whereas they recognised TfL's aim to make savings, this should not be at the risk of compromising regular communication with pensioners.

Considerable discussion took place and the strong views of the Representatives were noted, including their opposition to a reduction

in the number of issues.

It was agreed that the TfL representatives would consider the views expressed, including revised options and report back at the next meeting in early 2018 with a revised option for final discussion/agreement.



CONTACT DETAILS FOR PENSIONER ENQUIRIES

TfL PENSION FUND
4th Floor, Wing over Station,
55 Broadway,
London SW1H 0BD
helpdesk@
tflpensionfund.co.uk
020 7918 3733

STAFF TRAVEL
Transport for London,
Floor 1, 14 Pier Walk,
North Greenwich,
London SE10 0ES
0800 015 5073

HOSPITAL SATURDAY FUND
020 7928 6662

TRANSPORT BENEVOLENT FUND
0300 333 2000

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You can log on to the TfL Pension Fund website at: tflpensionfund.co.uk

OTM ENQUIRIES
otm pensioners' edition,
AB, Unit B, Gemini House,
180-182 Bermondsey Street,
London SE1 3TQ
020 7922 5678
otm@abcomm.co.uk

PENSION PAY DATES

Pension pay dates for 2018 are as follows:

- 22 January 2018
- 19 February 2018
- 19 March 2018
- 16 April 2018
- 14 May 2018
- 11 June 2018
- 9 July 2018
- 6 August 2018
- 3 September 2018
- 1 October 2018
- 29 October 2018
- 26 November 2018
- 24 December 2018

PENSION INCREASE

The full pension increase from 1 April 2018 is 3.9 per cent.

This is based on the rise in the Retail Price Index over 12 months to September 2017.

Depending on the period of membership, your pension may comprise of various components. Some won't be increased by the Fund at the above rate but may be increased by the State. If you have been receiving your pension for less than a year, you may receive a pro rata increase.

Effective date / Increase (%)

Up to 01/04/17	3.900
02/04/17 to 01/05/17	3.575
02/05/17 to 01/06/17	3.250
02/06/17 to 01/07/17	2.925
02/07/17 to 01/08/17	2.600
02/08/17 to 01/09/17	2.275
02/09/17 to 01/10/17	1.950
02/10/17 to 01/11/17	1.625
02/11/17 to 01/12/17	1.300
02/12/17 to 01/01/18	0.975
02/01/18 to 01/02/18	0.650
02/02/18 to 01/03/18	0.325
02/03/18 to 01/04/18	0.000

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