



PENSIONERS' EDITION



REMEMBERING OUR HEROES

Preparations are beginning across TfL to mark the centenary of the outbreak of World War One.

One of the first projects has been the restoration of one of only four remaining B-type London buses which were commandeered for the war effort.

They were fitted with protective wooden boarding, painted khaki and used to transport troops. Some were used as ambulances and even mobile pigeon lofts. Over 1,000 London vehicles went on war service in France and Belgium, with some travelling as far as Egypt.

The newly-restored bus was unveiled outside

the London Transport Museum before embarking on the first of a series of garage open days.

Sam Mullins, Director of London Transport Museum said: "The project is a memorial not only to the bus drivers and their mechanics who worked on the front line, but also to those who stayed behind to provide a public transport service, often



in extremely dangerous conditions as London came under attack from aerial bombardment for the first time."

In September the bus will be re-painted in camouflage colours to coincide with the centenary of the vehicles being commandeered.

"Then it will go across to the battlefields in France and Germany as part of the commemoration of the beginning of the war. It is going to do a tour of the Ypres Salient and the Somme," said Jeff Mills of London Transport Museum Friends.

The restoration project was led by London Transport Museum curator Tim Shields, working with independent restorer Richard Peskett.

TfL would like to hear recollections or family anecdotes from employees or former employees about World War One. Maybe you had

a family member who worked on the buses or the Underground during the war. Have any of these stories been passed down through the generations? If

so, contact Scott Thornton on scott.thornton@tfl.gov.uk or write to him at Scott Thornton, TfL, Floor 7, B3, Palestra, 197 Blackfriars Road, SE1 8NJ



PENSIONERS' FORUM SUMMARY

Main issues discussed at the meeting held on 14 May 2014

● TfL Pension Fund:

An update was given on the current situation regarding the accuracy of contact details for deferred Pension Fund members. A comprehensive review has now been completed with 85 per cent of deferred member addresses having been verified. Further checks on unverified addresses are now only being carried out as the members concerned approach retirement age.

● Pensioner Liaison Scheme:

The pensioners' representatives welcomed the fact that two new pensioner liaison representatives (PLRs) had recently been appointed

and other pensioners had expressed interest. Also, progress had been made with issuing photographic identity cards for PLRs to use when making visits. It was agreed that a reporter from **otm** would attend the next annual meeting of the PLRs with the aim of producing an article on the scheme for the pensioners' edition.

● **Staff Travel:** It was reported that the Staff Travel team were currently dealing with the introduction to TfL of the National Rail staff travel card system for TfL pensioners with limited annual free travel entitlements. The pensioners' representatives said the initial

responses they had received were positive once people understood the advantages of the system compared with the arrangements to which they were accustomed. Regarding problems which had been raised by the pensioners' representatives with obtaining tickets on National Rail when ticket offices were closed or ticket machines were out of order, the Staff Travel manager confirmed that, in these circumstances, on production of a valid PTAC, a privilege rate ticket should be issued by ticket inspection staff either on the train or at the destination station.

NOMINATIONS FOR TFL PENSION CONSULTATIVE COUNCIL IN 2014

Nominations are being sought for TfL Pension Fund members to stand for election to the TfL Pension Consultative Council (PCC).

The council is made up of three sections representing Fund members:

1. Pensioners and deferred pensioners
2. Employees of TfL, subsidiaries and contractors except those covered by Section 3
3. Employees of LU, its subsidiaries, contractors and TTL

The PCC meets at least four times a year picking up issues of concern to Fund members (other than issues relating to individual entitlements to benefits under the Fund), commenting on and making formal representation. Four Councillors are nominated by the PCC as Trustees of the Fund and regularly report at PCC meetings.

PCC councillors are elected for four years.

The members from Section 1 are also required to attend the four Pensioners' Forum meetings each year. This Forum meets with TfL management representatives to discuss and be consulted on issues relevant to pensioners and deferred pensioners.

Retiring Councillors are David Biggs and Keith Goldsworthy from section one, Stephen Ellaby from section two and Jackie Darby and Gilly Leonard-Ross from section three.

Nominations must be made in writing by a member of the TfL Pension Fund from the same Section as the nominee and countersigned by another member of the same Section. The information listed below must accompany the nomination:

- **Name, as nominee wishes it to appear on the ballot paper**

- **Dates, if nominee has previously held office as a councillor**
- **Whether pensioner or deferred pensioner is from section one**
- **A personal statement of up to 100 words, including the reason for standing for election to the PCC. This must be factual, appropriate and inoffensive.**

A passport-sized photograph may also be provided for inclusion in voting papers.

Completed nominations must be sent to the PCC Secretary Julian Collins, TfL Pension Fund, 4th Floor, Wing over Station, London, SW1H 0BD by Friday 15 August 2014. The constitution and further details on the PCC can be found on their website www.tflpensionfund.co.uk or by contacting the PCC Secretary.

If there are more nominations than vacancies, elections will be held by postal ballot among Fund members in the relevant sections.

WE HAVE A PLAN

TfL's Rail and Underground and Surface businesses have published their 2014/15 plans.

The Rail and Underground Plan consists of 18 programmes including the completion of the Northern line re-signalling (see page 5) and the continuation of major track, station and infrastructure renewal programmes.

The Surface Plan has 10 principal outcomes spanning buses, roads, cycling, walking and rivers and includes programmes aimed at reducing crime, casualties and improving the environment.

The October edition of otm will include your free 2015 calendar so make sure you don't miss your copy

CONTACT DETAILS FOR PENSIONER ENQUIRIES

TfL Pension Fund
4th Floor,
Wing Over Station,
55 Broadway,
London SW1H 0BD
helpdesk@tflpensionfund.co.uk

Your surname begins with/
Telephone number
A or D 0207 918 4697
B or E 0207 918 4897
C or F 0207 918 4784
G, J, L 0207 918 4720
H or K 0207 918 4864
I, M, N 0207 918 4895
O, S, U, V, X, Y or Z
020 7 918 3797
P, Q or T 020 7918 4828
R or W 020 7918 3322

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

Hospital Savings Association
01264 353211

Pensioner Liaison
Transport for London
4th Floor,
Wing Over Station,
55 Broadway,
London SW1H 0BD
0800 015 5074
pls@tflpensionfund.co.uk

Hospital Saturday Fund
020 7928 6662

Simply Health
0800 072 6719

Transport Benevolent Fund
0300 333 2000

Transport Friendly Society
020 7240 8886

Tax Queries- HMRC
0300 200 3300
(quote ref 083/LT7 and your
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Pension Fund website at
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EASY ACCESS

More Tube stations across the network are becoming easier to access for mobility-impaired customers following work by LU to create innovative new 'bridge' style boarding ramps.

The new ramps have been designed to solve the problem at stations where there is a gap and step down from platform to train.

Traditional ramp designs are unsuitable for use in these situations, so LU has been working hard to develop and trial a unique new design, and gain the necessary approvals from the Department for Transport and Office of Rail Regulation.

The ramps have been introduced at three Jubilee line stations during June – Kilburn, Stanmore and Wembley Park – making journeys at these stations step-free from street to train, and fully accessible to wheelchair users, for the first time.

These will then be introduced at further stations on the network later in the summer, following staff training.

Have you ever thought about becoming a pensioner liaison representative (PLR)?

Transport for London is always looking for former employees to become PLRs and help provide support to other pensioners.

Here are some questions frequently asked by people thinking about becoming a PLR:

Q: Do I need any qualifications?

A: No. You just need to be honest and enjoy meeting and talking to people like yourself. You need a willingness to help people and be sympathetic, caring and willing to listen.

Q: Do I need a car?

A: Not necessarily but, in remote areas not adequately covered by public transport, a vehicle may be necessary.

COULD YOU HELP OTHERS?

Q: Who becomes a rep?

A: Retired TfL staff or their dependants, and occasionally current staff nearing retirement, who care for the wellbeing of fellow retired members.

Q: Do I have to be available 24/7?

A: No. You are not expected to be at the beck and call of members. However, some reps and their members have gone to on to forge strong, lasting friendships.

Q: Is there any paperwork involved in the role?

A: There is some

straightforward paperwork involved. The pensioner liaison office can help with any concerns you may have.

Q: How long does each visit take?

A: It depends on how much time you and the person have but most reps say they spend around 30 minutes with each member.

If you would like to know more about becoming a rep then please contact Sarah Halsey on 0800 015 5074

THE RESTORATION MAN

Do you have a passion for trolleybuses? If so, then Jeff White wants to hear from you.

Jeff has started a group to restore a former Bradford trolleybus (pictured), which is kept at the East Kent Railway near Dover.

Jeff is looking for people to join the group, or anybody who is interested in receiving their newsletter.

You can contact Jeff at East Kent Trolleybus Group, 20 Cunningham



Crescent, Chatham, Kent ME5 0ES or via e-mail at trolleybusnut@hotmail.com



IMAGES SHOW A CHANGING CAPITAL

A collection of vintage colour photographs belonging to Gavin Whitelaw, Advanced Train Maintainer, Central line, has been published in a new book.

Vintage London - The Capital in Colour 1910-1960 shows the changing capital from before World War One through to the end of the 1950s using mostly unpublished original colour transparencies from Gavin's collection.

"It shows a London that in some views still looks familiar but in others has changed out of all recognition," said Gavin.

You can find out more about Gavin's collection at www.vintage-images.co.uk



TfL NEWS IN BRIEF

Shopping with Amazon has become even more convenient for thousands of LU customers as TfL and Amazon announced a partnership to install Amazon Lockers at station car parks.

Customers can have Amazon orders delivered to the lockers at Finchley Central and Newbury Park.

Stamford Bridge, Chelsea's ground, Craven Cottage, home of Fulham, and the Kia Oval, are just some of the sporting venues sports fans can enjoy on a new self-guided Barclays Cycle Hire route. Running along the river from Hammersmith in West London, through Battersea Park to Kennington in south London, the ride uses mainly quiet roads which are especially suitable for leisure cyclists and tourists.

London Underground's upgrade programme reached a significant milestone recently with the conversion of the Northern line to a modern, 'moving-block' signalling system.

The conversion will enable a more frequent train service with a 20 per cent increase in train volume through central London and a reduction in inter-station run times.

It will involve the decommissioning of redundant assets including line-side signals, train stops and associated cabling and control centres.

BOOK HAILS NEW BUS

A fully illustrated book entitled *London's New Routemaster*, telling the official story of the first bus designed specifically for the Capital in more than 50 years, has been launched.

The book, published by Merrell in association with Transport for London (TfL), includes contributions from key personnel involved in the design and manufacturing process and takes a fascinating behind-the-scenes look at the bus's evolution.



otm FONDLY REMEMBERED

Brian Ashdown 25 May 2014, aged 67

Brian worked in bus and rail engineering. He retired as a compliance engineer from the chief engineer's department, and was then actively involved in a LT Museum Friends project relating to Victoria line stock.

Don Bowett 5 June 2014, aged 94

Don worked in the supplies department.

Reg Cayford 16 February 2014, aged 87

Reg worked as a coachmaker starting as an apprentice at Chiswick in 1946. He then moved to Aldenham Works and eventually retired from Potters Bar Garage in 1988.

John Dupree 15 August 2013, aged 77

John worked at Harrow Weald bus garage for 25 years as a coachmaker and also worked at Park Royal vehicles building Routemasters.

John Fawkner 15 June 2014, aged 70

John worked in senior LT Finance Department roles before moving to Head of International and European Affairs at TfL.

Robert Goodwins 26 February 2014, aged 57

Robert started as a train operator at Morden in 1978. He later became an engineering train operator working out of a number of depots including Lillie Bridge and Ruislip. He retired due to ill health in 2011. His widow Sharon thanks former colleagues who attended his funeral and helped raise money for his headstone.

Patrick Denis Hayes 10 May 2014, aged 81

Patrick started as a driver and worked at Merton and Morden Garages before becoming an instructor and taught on the skid pan at Chiswick. He also worked at Mitcham Head Office.

Phil Madeson 4 October 2013, aged 77

After working for LT and metroline travel for 25 years, Phil was engineering foreman at Cricklewood garage and then worked in the buying office. He finished as head store man at Willesden garage.

Aubrey John Monin 16 June 2014, aged 87

Aubrey started as a driver on the District line and became a revenue inspector in 1967, based at Lambeth North. He retired in 1992.

David Mortimer 28 May 2014, aged 79

David held several senior managerial posts in LT Finance.

Peter Saunders 16 March 2014, aged 72

Peter was a guard, motorman and supervisor on the Central line. He was later a railway instructor and subsequently held a number of managerial posts on the District line.

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Thank you to everyone who has contacted us. We read everything, but due to limited space we are only able to publish a selection each time. Write to: otm Pensioners' letters, beetroot, 68 Leonard Street, London EC2A 4QX or email otm@beetroot.co.uk. We look forward to hearing from you



MY HUSBAND FRANK

Thanks to Hilda Cox for sending us this photograph (1) of her late husband Frank (right) who worked as a conductor at Turnham Green garage before becoming a bus driver. Frank retired in 1986 and died in 2009. Does anyone know the driver?

LET'S BE MORE MODERN

Being a retired staff member, I am commenting on the content of **otm Pensioners'** edition being so morbidly based. No disrespect to Bob Crow or Moorgate but the last issue was both morbid and overly nostalgic. Other than those items mentioned, there's Fondly Remembered, difficulty getting into the shower together with the enclosure of a funeral leaflet. There was nothing about TfL today. Surely more current positive items should be included rather than the depressing content presently offered? The new free pass system for retired staff might be an example.

Regards, Dave Bolton

Editor replies: Thanks for your letter Dave. The last edition featured a double page spread showing the new payslip so we did not run as much news as normal. However, we recognise the broader point you are making and it's a perfectly valid one. The trick with any publication is getting the right balance of articles so that no section of the readership feels left out or alienated. We make no apology for allowing our older readers the opportunity to share their memories of days gone by but I also think you're right that we could run more articles of topical interest. While the next couple of editions may have a slant towards the centenary of World War One you'll also find a number of articles (on pages 4 and 5) giving a taster of things happening

in the business today and in the future. We are also continuing to work closely with our advertising agency to ensure the ads and inserts we run are appropriate for large numbers of our readers.

TESS REMEMBERS

Theresa 'Tess' White (nee Sheldon) has shared her memories of working at 55 Broadway as a secretary in the 1950s and 60s. Based on the third floor, she remembers seeing the State Opening of Parliament, State Visits and many other ceremonial activities. She also played hockey for London Transport.

Tess was also touched by the article about the Moorgate disaster. Her husband Danny, who was a foreman at Lillie Bridge Depot, spent two days

working at Moorgate in the immediate aftermath of the crash. The experience so affected him that he would not go near the station again.



LOVE AND CARRIAGE

Mark Perry sent in these pictures of his parents, Norman (2) and Gladys (3), who joined London Transport in 1954, working on the No 6 route out of Willesden garage.

Gladys was Norman's clippy for 10 years and the couple made great friends including Len Fagg, Mick Kofkin, Eric Winchester and Ted and Doll Welch. Norman retired in 1983 after 29 years' service.

"My dad is now nearly 90 and my mum 84 and they both still speak very warmly of their time on the buses," said Mark.

POETRY IN MOTION

Betty Portsmouth, who worked at the Traffic Audit Office in Hillingdon in the 1950s, sent in this photo of a leaving card presented to her colleague Eileen Denyer upon her retirement.



We love your old memories and pictures so please keep them coming. The best thing is to email any old pictures to otm@beetroot.co.uk or post them, enclosing a sae, to the address above.