



DIGGING DEEPER

Colleagues go on a subterranean salt mine adventure

Two lucky colleagues were given an exclusive tour of the working salt mine in Cheshire that houses TfL's corporate archives.

Engineering Librarian **Lorna Fleming** and Assistant Project Planner **Neal Dodge**, both keen history buffs, descended 150m to see how 20,000 boxes containing more than 158,000 documents and artefacts are stored at Winsford salt mine near Crewe.

The items in deep storage include several centuries' worth of property records, wills, staff annals and burial records, any one of which can be delivered to London within 24 hours.

The collection was started in the 1850s but the oldest items date back as far as the mid-16th century.

The mine, which produces more than one million tonnes of rock salt for Britain's roads each year, is extremely secure and has a dry, temperate climate that prevents degradation, mould and pests, making it perfect for storage.

Corporate Archivist **Tamara Thornhill** guided Neal and Lorna through the cavernous chambers and selected interesting items for them to see. For Lorna, the most exciting finds were back issues of London Transport's old staff magazine from the 1940s.

"I could've spent all day reading them," she said. "They were a great look into the past – how the company was run, and how ordinary people lived their lives."



OZZIE TO THE RESCUE

A Dial-a-Ride driver was praised for his life saving actions after one of his passengers stopped breathing on board his minibus.

Ozzie Mirzanlia was returning a group of shoppers home when he noticed one passenger had fallen unconscious.

He said: "I tried to

get a response from her but there wasn't anything, so I laid her out on the bus floor and started CPR."

On the fourth round of chest compressions the passenger started breathing and regained consciousness, later making a full recovery. Ozzie was presented with a Gold Make a Difference award – our highest staff accolade.

BRINGING THE Q STOCK TO LIFE

An oral history project run by the London Transport Museum in celebration of the District line's 150th birthday had a huge response from our readers after we asked for volunteers in our last issue.

Four conversations between our pensioners and young researchers were recorded for

the project, and more volunteers may be recruited for further research.

Museum Educator **Charlotte Tupper** said: "It's been wonderful to hear everyday stories of the Q stock trains, which create a lovely narrative of what life was really like back then."

For updates on this and future projects, visit www.ltmuseum.co.uk



DESIGN FOR THE FUTURE

The new-look purple Elizabeth line roundel is about to make its first appearance on the network, more than a century after the very first roundel was installed at St James's Park station.

As the most prominent part of

the Elizabeth line's appearance, the roundel has been specially designed to ensure customers can easily tell it apart from London Underground lines and other modes of transport.

Head of Design **Jon Hunter** said the purple roundel would be mirrored within

the Elizabeth line trains themselves, which feature metro-style seating to give customers more room, and high quality, damage-resistant stainless steel materials.

Jon said: "We've gone for a monochromatic set of colours, involving the Elizabeth line purple in the seat moquette. The fixtures and fabrics will be used for 20 hours a day, every day. So they've got to be hard-wearing, but they have to be beautiful too."

SMOOTH OPERATOR

A baritone-voiced Passenger Service Agent has become a star of the DLR thanks to his silky-smooth announcements.

His dulcet tones have won him a legion of fans and landed him a string of media appearances, including a spot on the sofa of ITV's This Morning.

Jacob Cole, who has been nicknamed the Barry White of the DLR, said: "It's flattering. It's not a title I'd give to myself but one that I'll gladly take."



GENDER AGENDA

A jam-packed programme of events highlighting gender equality was held across the network to mark International Women's Day last month.

Hosted by our Women's Staff Network Group (WSNG), the programme included a careers fair, parenting workshop and learning session on the gender pay gap.

Heritage displays exploring 100 years of women in London Transport also opened at Gunnersbury and

Bermondsey as part of the Mayor's #BehindEveryGreatCity campaign.

WSNG chair **Harriet Glen** said: "While things are changing, women make up only 23 per cent of the workforce. That's why we're inviting colleagues to challenge the status quo, to go further to achieve diversity and to celebrate the amazing achievements of women who work in transport."

You can read more on our inclusive working culture on page 3 opposite.



IN BRIEF



FROM CUP TO CAP

Coffee grounds have become the latest biofuel to power our buses. Bio-bean has been used to run some of our fleet since November, and is created by blending diesel with the oil extracted from old coffee grounds.

This greener fuel joins buses running on cleaner diesel blended with waste products, including cooking oil and tallow from the meat processing industry.

TRAM TRACKER

Croydon's trams have been immortalised in photography, thanks to a generous pensioner.

Railway fan **Colin Farmer** archived the return of the trams to the area through his camera lens, and the result is on show in the London Trams office.

Head of Operations and Contracts with London Trams **Nick Baker** said: "It's a pictorial history of the construction of the network."

KEEPING TAXIS SAFE

The Metropolitan Police has granted officers in our Taxi and Private Hire Compliance team additional inspection powers. After rigorous training, 24 compliance officers can now stop vehicles for inspection and request the name and address of a driver, without need for a police presence.

"This is a huge boost for us," said Training and Development Manager **Satty Ral**. "We'll be able to do more roadside inspections at more locations, which will help us tackle illegal activity and keep more passengers safe."



CELEBRATING LU'S HISTORY

Maida Vale station made history for LU when it opened in June 1915 as it was our first station to be staffed wholly by women.

Throughout the First World War around 100,000 women joined the transport industry, moving into jobs previously filled by men. London Transport, as TfL was then known, was at the forefront of this cultural change.

True to this legacy, LU continues to champion women in transport, and we now have more women than ever in operational roles.

Twaniqueca Rhule and **Magdalena Cross**, Customer Service Assistants at Maida Vale, enjoy working at a station with such an important place in the Underground's history.

Twaniqueca said: "I feel LU promotes all staff regardless of gender, race, anything. I really enjoy my job and wouldn't change it for the world."

Magdalena added: "I can be a bit quiet and don't really stand up for myself, so it's really fun having all these strong women working with me to give you that extra push."

FOSSIL FIND

Construction workers on the Northern Line Extension discovered a rare fossil after it was unearthed by a 36-tonne excavator.

Spotted by Construction Manager **Chris Jones** in the muck bay at Battersea, he was "overwhelmed" after he learnt its true origins.

Experts believe the 17cm x 12cm treasure is likely to be a fossil Nautilus – a marine mollusc – and is aged around 50 - 55 million years old.



SPECIAL DELIVERY



London's buses could soon be used to deliver Amazon parcels – helping to tackle congestion.

Go-Ahead, which is among our bus operators, is considering opening its depots as delivery hubs and using its fleet to deliver packages to London addresses.

David Brown, Go-Ahead's Chief Executive, said the company was always looking at ways to maximise assets and using buses for deliveries could cut congestion – a positive move for all road users.



A FRIEND IN NEED

The Silver Line is a free, confidential helpline for older people, providing information, friendship and advice 24 hours a day. For many lonely and isolated pensioners, it's a crucial connection to someone who cares.

Since its launch the charity has received more than 1.8 million calls, day and night. As well as general support and guidance, The Silver Line also runs telephone and letter friendship schemes with volunteers

based on shared interests.

"We have volunteers aged from 22 to 102, and many are actually pensioners themselves," said Volunteer Manager **Gwen Wild**.

"In the past we've had some fabulous matches between people who share an interest in art, music, the countryside, and even two people who both lived on remote Scottish islands."

Once a match is made the volunteer will call once a week for at

least a year. The charity also offers facilitated group calls where people can discuss specific topics with a wider group.

Gwen said: "My husband's been in the transport industry for 25 years, so I know it can be a very intense occupation. When you leave that environment it feels as if something's missing. We can help you reconnect with that."

For LU pensioner **Peter Stobart**, The Silver Line has been life-changing. He said: "I retired in 2011 and moved over to Belfast, last working at Finchley Road. Although I have good friends over here, having a weekly Friendship Call from Helen at The Silver Line is an added bonus.

"We hit it off right from the start, and talk of so many topics, and Helen always asks how I am. That is so important. It makes you feel cared for. I would recommend Silver Line to anyone older, and you don't have to feel isolated to join."

For more information call The Silver Line helpline: 0800 470 80 90, or visit www.thesilverline.org.uk

INDEPENDENCE DAY

Customers with impaired mobility or learning disabilities are gaining the confidence they need to try public transport for the first time thanks to the support of our Travel Mentoring team.

The team, part of our Assisted Transport offering, provides mentoring for those aged 16 and above through methods including one-to-one accompanied journeys and classroom group sessions.

"We want to get people moving and broaden their horizons beyond using specialist assisted

transport services such as Taxicard or Dial-a-Ride, wherever possible," says **Corey Green**, Travel Advice and Membership Manager.

One of the team's training methods involves driving larger groups on an out-of-service bus while simulating real-life situations.

"These 'bus days' give time and space for people to get used to bus travel," said team leader **Brian Gordon**. "For instance, they have the opportunity to try manoeuvring in the wheelchair space without other passengers being around. It's 360-degree



learning for everyone, including drivers."

The Travel Mentoring team is small, but its members – **Brian**, plus **Sharon Till**, **Ibiyinka Akande**, **Ariel Mofondo** and **Janet Fish** – help build further capacity in London by working with other agencies and the London boroughs, encouraging

the introduction of local travel mentoring schemes.

Team members also manage the mobility aid recognition card, help people to safely use appropriate mobility scooters on buses and provide valuable feedback to TfL to ensure services are accessible to all.

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LETTERS

Dear **otm**

My husband John Ayton (known as Jim) was a booking clerk at Holborn at the time of the King's Cross fire. He helped some passengers through the tunnels to the next station. He received a letter of commendation, which I still have today.

We had a daughter, Bridget, who died six months ago. I will always be grateful for the kind letter of condolence we received and for the pension (she was very disabled), which came as a complete surprise and helped in many ways. Best wishes and thanks,
Pat Ayton

Dear **otm**

I thought I would drop you a line to tell you a little about myself and what I've been up to.

I joined London Transport at Acton Works as a mechanical engineering apprentice in 1959. I worked primarily on the rolling stock until



my retirement in 2001.

It was during my apprenticeship that LT were disposing of their old steam locomotives, and in order to try and save one for future generations I started the Met Tank Appeal fund. The amount raised was enough to secure the future of an E-class locomotive with fleet number L44 (pictured below). This locomotive, now correctly re-numbered Metropolitan Railway No. 1, is enjoying a very busy retirement back on LT metals where she belongs.

My other interest is in vintage cars, or to be more precise 'Austins', as I purchased one manufactured in 1929 back in 1962 for the sum of £35. My interest encompassed historical aspects of The Austin Motor Company and

my first book on the subject 'An Austin Anthology' is available now. Best regards
James Stringer (pictured above with his 1929 Austin)



Dear **otm**

The layout of the January edition No 58 was interesting. On page 4 there was an item about noise reduction during night track work. Right opposite on page 5 there was a large advertisement for a pensioners' hearing aid. Are my wife and I the only readers who found this amusing and ironic?

Peter Herring,
Retired Victoria line Information Specialist

The editor replies:
This was entirely unintentional, but thanks for bringing it to our attention – it gave us all a good laugh!
Best wishes,
otm

For our next issue, we'd like you to share your memories and photos of London's trolleybuses, or 'Diddlers'. We'll print the best ones in July's magazine!

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.

otm

FONDLY REMEMBERED

Jesse Beckles,
a former ticket collector at King's Cross, sadly passed away in November 2017 aged 86.



Former bus conductress and cash office worker **Sheila Meekins** passed away in November 2017. After 30 years of service she retired to Spain in 1996, along with her partner Sam Macaulay whom she met at the Seven Kings garage.

Bryn Evans was a wages clerk at Acton Town and worked for LU for more than 44 years. A motorbike accident at 24 left him with RHS paralysis and speech difficulties, but he was re-employed by LT and granted early retirement on health grounds. Seaside retirement gave Bryn 29 more unexpected years with his family, and he died aged 91 on 17 July 2017.

Peter Denham
was a bus driver at Tottenham garage for 25 years before being medically retired in 2006. He passed away on 17 January this year aged 78.



John Cyril Lashley peacefully passed away at home on 10 December 2017 aged 75. A bus conductor based at West Ham and Stockwell garages, he took redundancy in the 1980s after an impressive 30-year career.





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OTM PENSIONERS' FORUM SUMMARY – FEBRUARY 2018

MEETINGS HELD ON 16 NOVEMBER 2017 AND 13 FEBRUARY 2018

The main focus of discussion at these meetings continued to be future arrangements for the pensioners' edition of On the Move in light of TfL's desire to reduce costs of production and printing. At the initial meeting the pensioners' representatives expressed concern about some of the proposals and stressed the importance to pensioners of being able to keep in touch with the "outside world" and their previous

colleagues via the magazine. Other possible means of reducing costs were discussed and it was agreed to reconvene for further discussion in February.

At the February meeting a revised proposal was made to the Pensioners' Representatives which retained the number of issues of the pensioners edition of On the Move at four per calendar year, whilst achieving some of



the required cost saving, which included changes to paper type and postage arrangements. The revised proposal was accepted by the pensioners' representatives.

PENSION PAY DATES

Pension pay dates for the rest of 2018 are as follows:

- 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

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If you would like to be emailed full copies of our employee magazines – otm (for London Underground) and Upfront (for Surface Transport) – you can subscribe for free using the same link.

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