

PENSIONERS' EDITION

# Remembering Moorgate

Thirty-nine years to the day since the Moorgate Tube disaster claimed the lives of 43 people, a plaque was unveiled at the station in their memory.

Relatives of many of the victims attended a special service to remember the crash which happened during the Friday rush hour on the morning of 28 February 1975.

Tributes to the victims were led by London
Underground and Rail
Managing Director Mike
Brown, Chief Operating
Officer Phil Hufton,
the Lord Mayor of
London Fiona Woolf and
Archdeacon of London, the
Venerable David Meara.

Among those present was former Permanent Way employee Bob Franklin who spent six days and nights working at the site after the disaster. He said: "I wanted to be here out of respect for those who died."

Kevin Hafter, Head of Operational Learning, recounted how his father Gordon, who was a rolling



stock engineer at the time, was the first person to enter the cab.

Also present was Diane Proudfoot whose father Leslie Newson was driving the train that crashed. "It's a long time ago now but it's still very raw," she said. And Tony Hall, Head of LU's Track Access Control Centre, was there with his family to honour the memory of his sister, Terry, who was 21 when she died in the accident.

The plaque now stands on a wall in Moor Place, where the entrance to Moorgate station used to be.

# **Bob Crow**

Tributes were paid to RMT Leader Bob Crow who died on 11 March aged 52.

London Underground and Rail Managing Director Mike Brown described him as "a decent and straightforward man," and added: "No one can deny his deeplyheld convictions and passion for transport and the good of his members."

His funeral was held on 24 March with thousands lining the route from Woodford, where he lived, to the City of London Cemetery in Manor Park.



### Pensioners' forum summary

Main issues discussed at the meeting held on 26th February 2014

- Stephen Field, as Director of Pensions & Reward, would be chair of the Forum with effect from this meeting.
- Information was given on TfL
  Pension Fund issues, including an
  update on recent developments in
  pension-related matters generally
  and specific issues, including
  progress on Equitable Life AVC
  compensation payments and the
  transfer of payment of pensions
  to overseas pensioners from Royal
  Bank of Scotland to Western Union.
- A report was given on the Pensioner Liaison Scheme and the pensioners' representatives expressed concern at the fall in the number of Pensioner Liaison Representatives (PLRs). Means of encouraging people to volunteer for the scheme were discussed. The pensioners' representatives welcomed the fact that, as a security measure, photographic identity cards were now being issued to PLRs to show to pensioners when making visits. However, they were concerned to hear that some PLRs had not yet submitted the necessary

- photographs for the cards and also that details of visits undertaken were not always provided to the scheme manager. They asked to be kept advised of any steps taken to address these problems.
- A report was given on progress being made as a result of ongoing discussion between TfL management, Rail Staff Travel Limited (RSTL) and the Association of Train Operating Companies (ATOC) to address problems experienced by pensioners in obtaining and using their concessionary travel facilities. The pensioners' representatives welcomed particularly the introduction to TfL of the National Rail staff travel card system for those with limited annual free travel entitlements, which had been suggested by them at previous meetings.
- \* Note: The Forum is a meeting between TfL senior managers and representatives from the London Transport Pensioners Association and the elected Pensioners Representatives from the Pension Consultative Council.

### Travel cards change

There has been a change to the provision of free National Rail travel to some staff who joined TfL on or before 31 March 1996.

With immediate effect you will no longer be required to apply for free tickets when you want to travel, but instead will be automatically issued each year with a National Rail Staff Travel Card for this purpose. This will be sent to your home address via post.

Full instructions will be posted to your home address during April and May along with the Rail Staff Travel Card. Please note this is for retired employees who are eligible for free travel on a number of journeys per year, this is not a new benefit but a change to the existing benefit.

### War wagons

Goodbye Piccadilly – from Home Front to Western Front will open at London Transport Museum on 16 May 2014. The WWI exhibition will tell the story of how drivers took their buses to the front to support the war effort and how women advanced into the transport workforce for the first time.

# 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 020 7918 4895 B or E 020 7918 4697 C or F 020 7918 4784 G, J or L 020 7918 4720 H or K 020 7918 4864 I,M or N 020 7918 4897

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,

O,S, U, V, X, Y or Z

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 7833 2616

Tax Queries— HMRC 0845 300 0627 (quote ref 083/LT7 and your National Insurance number) You can log on to the TfL Pension Fund website at www.tflpensionfund.co.uk

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# Your bus memories



In response to our story about the Year of the Bus in the January edition, many readers sent in some great stories and pictures.

- 1 This photograph, taken in the 1960s, was sent in by Edward Rolfe whose father Frederick (centre front) retired from the Chief Mechanical Engineers Department in 1968 after 37 years' service at Chiswick and Aldenham. Do you recognise any of the other faces?
- 2 Mrs Rose Coult sent in this picture of her late husband Fred, standing beside the last trolley bus to leave Barking station. Fred worked on the

buses for 40 years, rising from conductor to Area Inspector out of Romford station. He passed away in 2002, aged 81, having received the freedom of the city of London for his charity work in retirement.



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### BRIDGE HOUSE

RAILWAY CONVALESCENT CENTRE, in Dawlish, is pleased to announce that work has now been completed on a stunning new development on nine one-bedroom apartments set within its beautiful grounds.

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Annette Everett on 01626 863303 or visit the website www.rch.org.uk

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You can also follow on Facebook Bridge House, Dawlish.



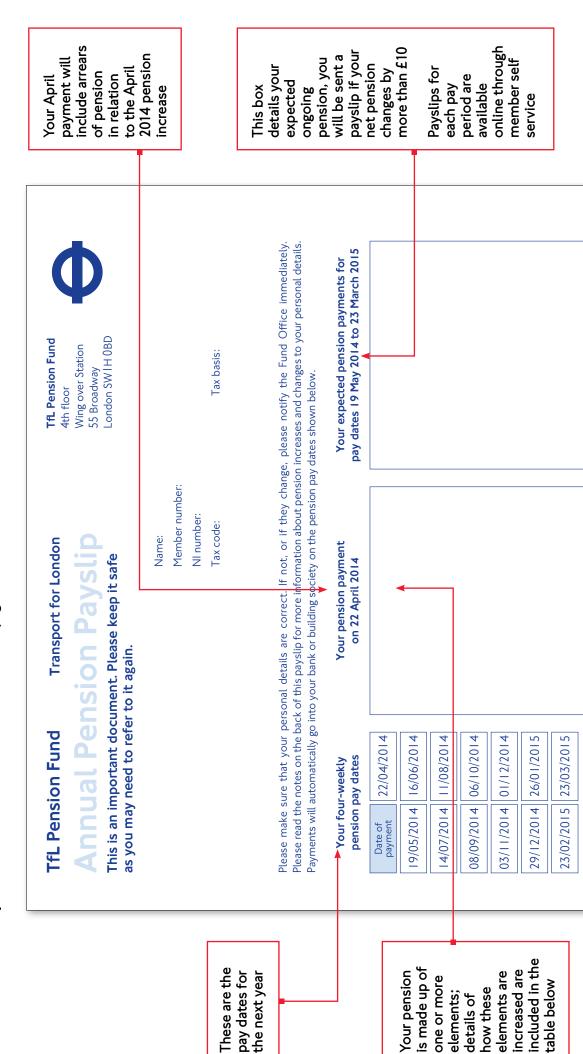
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# OUR PAYSLIP EXPLAINE

Your annual payslip is due to be issued at the end of the month; here is a handy guide to some of the key elements.

If you have any further queries about your payslip, you should contact the pensions service delivery team, their contact details are included on page 2.



Pension Elements	
Fund Pension	This is the pension you earned as a Fund member, over and above any GMP you may have. This element is subject to Pension increases in accordance with the Fund Rules. The increase is based on the change in the Retail Prices Index (RPI) for the 12 months ending on 30 September in the previous year; if you joined the Fund after 1 April 1989 your increase will be restricted to 5%.
Fund Variable Pension (VPO)	This is a temporary pension which stops when you reach State Pension Age. If the Government change State Pension Age this part of the pension will stop when originally advised at retirement. This element is subject to Pension increases in accordance with the Fund Rules. The increase is based on the change in the Retail Prices Index (RPI) for the 12 months ending on 30 September in the previous year; if you joined the Fund after 1 April 1989 your increase will be restricted to 5%.
PRE 88 GMP	The Fund pays Guaranteed Minimum Pensions (GMPs) in return for being contracted out of the earnings related part of the State Pension Scheme. Pre 88 GMP is the GMP earned up to 5 April 1988, this element is increased by the State; increases are paid with your State pension.
POST 88 GMP	This is the GMP earned between 6 April 1988 and 5 April 1997, this element is increased by the Fund in line with increases in the Consumer Prices Index (CPI) up to 3% a year. If the increase in CPI is greater than 3%, the extra increase will be paid by the State with your State Pension.
Other payments	This will include any pension paid for by your former employer rather than the Fund.

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### **otm** Fondly remembered

### John 'Jack' Blake 9 January 2001, aged 71

Jack worked at Lillie Bridge depot before his retirement. His daughter Gillian recalls her father talking about skilled craftsmen and signals engineers and that his hands were always covered in metal splinters.

### Dennis Corcoran 25 February 2014, aged 85

Dennis enjoyed a long and varied career, in part as a cable lineman before retiring as a health and safety advisor in the Signals department.

### Bob Alfred Edwards 9 January 2014, aged 80

Bob joined London Transport in 1975 as a locksmith in the Works and Building department. His daughter Wendy writes: "Dad's best years were working with his team and he truly loved what he did."

### Malcolm Rose

### February 2014, aged 76

Malcolm progressed in his career to Director of Audit.

### **Stanley Selfe**

### 28 October 2013, aged 88

Stanley began working on the trams before switching to buses and later worked as assistant divisional engineer. He was mainly based in East London, including Upton Park and finished his career at 55 Broadway.

### Mike Smith

### October 2013, aged 72

Mike spent 40 years in bus engineering in London, retiring as engineering director for Metroline Buses.

### **Rod Turner**

### **January 2014, aged 83**

Rod spent his career in railway mechanical engineering and retired as production manager, Acton Works.

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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

### Family affair

Thanks to Susan Scofield for sending in this picture (1) of an RM89 bus at Liverpool Street. Her son Paul, a bus driver, is on the left. Susan was a conductor at Norwood Garage between 1966 and 1971.

### Where is Vida?

Bill Furey, who retired in 1994, wrote in asking if anybody can help him locate his former conductor. He and Vida Williams worked at Walworth Garage in the 1970s and 80s but lost touch.

### Remembering Ivy

Vic Phillips, a Fulwell garage bus driver who retired 14 years ago, sent in these pictures of former colleague lvy Webber (2). A keen sportswoman, lvy was a regular at LT sports and is still very active today. She left the company in 1961. Do you remember lvy?



### Searching for Doreen

Peggy Oakden, who retired from the Clapham Common garage in 1983, is hoping to get back in touch with an old colleague. Her name was Doreen and she was one of two female drivers at the garage. Can you help Peggy track her down?

### Who remembers Ben?

Thanks to Vivienne Watson for sending in this picture (3) which shows her friend and former bus driver Ben Cracknell who will be 100 next Christmas Day. Does anyone remember Ben?

### Southall memories

Our appeal for information about the Southall Garage fire got a healthy response.

Irvin Morgan, Phil

Shafe, Dave Boyce, John Pearce, Frank Streather and William Arnold were among many to contact us with the right date, Christmas Day, 1985 and share their memories of the fire which completely destroyed four buses, damaged five beyond repair and left another 11 needing major restoration work.

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.

### Romford reunion

There will be a reunion for Romford North Street Bus Garage on 11 October at the British Legion Club, on New London Road in Chelmsford. The event will run from 15:00 until 23:00 and there will be a fish and chip supper. For more details contact Tedd Bott on 01362 420278 or email teddbott46@gmail.com

### Reader's letter

The last issue of **otm** pensioners' edition perpetuated the myth put out in a TfL press release – the Chinese BYD battery buses on routes 507/521 are definitely not "the Capital's first electric buses."

London Transport once operated the world's largest trolleybus system (1931 to 1962) employing more than 1,800 "electric buses."

Though the UK has had no trolleybuses since 1972 other countries have retained and modernised this eminently sensible (some would say superior) means of urban public transport, and more than 350 trolleybus systems exist around the world.

The nearest to the UK is Arnhem in The Netherlands but it is planned to bring the trolleybus back (in modern form, of course) to Leeds in a few years' time.

Andrew Braddock