



PENSIONERS' EDITION

A WARM WELCOME

TfL is helping visitors make the most of their trip to the capital with six modernised Visitor Centres at key locations in and around London.

The first of these new, more spacious, centres recently opened at King's Cross St Pancras complete with retail-type sales counters, dedicated information areas and roaming agents to help customers.

'Our Visitor Centres will provide a warm welcome to visitors upon arrival and offer a range of services,' said Anthony Adye, Visitor Centres Performance Manager.

'Whether it's help planning a journey, access to the range of attractions and experiences London has to offer, or providing travel products, we are here to help.'

Centres are opening at Paddington, Piccadilly Circus, Victoria, Liverpool Street and Euston during spring and summer 2015. A Visitor Centre has already opened at Gatwick Airport.

Mike Brown, Managing Director of London Underground, said: 'I have no doubt that the new Visitor Centres will greatly improve the experience of the 29 million visitors to London each year.'



IT'S ELECTRIC!

London bus route 312 is to make history by becoming the first in the Capital to be operated entirely by electric buses.

Last month, Transport for London (TfL) announced that Arriva had been re-awarded the contract to operate the route 312 starting in September.

There are currently two single deck buses on route 312 which run

between South Croydon and Norwood Junction. Now Arriva is in discussions with manufacturers to add a further seven.

Electric buses offer much lower noise and vibration levels compared to diesel vehicles, with the bus operating company benefiting from lower maintenance and running costs.

The buses have zero tail pipe emissions, resulting in

lower carbon emissions and improved air quality.

Mike Weston, TfL's Director of Buses, said: 'This is an exciting new milestone for our bus fleet, which is already one of the cleanest in Europe.'

More electric buses are anticipated to join the TfL fleet as London is engaged in a partnership funding bid, with seven other cities in Europe, to trial a range of pure electric and hybrid vehicle technologies and charging techniques.

EASY ACCESS

Staff and customers will start seeing more maintenance work taking place on platforms during the day and when the service is running. This follows the simplification of the complex and rigid rules which previously governed working on platforms.

The changes to platform rules are part of the Access Transformation Programme, which aims to improve efficiency and increase the time available for maintenance and engineering work to take place – as long as safety is not compromised.

PENSIONERS' FORUM SUMMARY

Main issues discussed at the meeting held on 10 February 2015

■ Staff travel

Information was given to the Pensioner Representatives regarding the takeover by TfL of the operation of the Great Anglia service from Liverpool Street to Shenfield, which will be branded as TfL Rail. See page 5 for details of the privilege rates which will be available to eligible TfL pensioners.

■ Pensioner Liaison Scheme

Discussion took place regarding the ongoing need for more pensioners to join the Scheme as pensioner liaison

representatives, with the aim of targeting initially the Central London area. See page 4.

■ 2015 TfL Pension Fund Actuarial Valuation

The Pensioner Representatives were advised of the timetable for the 2015 Valuation, which included timely communication with them early in 2016 regarding the outcome and consultation on any measures which might subsequently be required.

STAFF TRAVEL UPDATE

The Staff Travel Card reissue for 2015/16 has now been completed and those that are eligible will have received cards in the post.

If you are eligible and have not received your replacement card(s) you should notify Staff Travel before 30 June 2015. Failure to do so may result in you being charged for any replacements.

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 3021
B or E 020 7918 4897
C or F 020 7918 4697
G, J or L 020 7918 4720
H or K 020 7918 4864
I, M or N 020 7918 4895
P, T, X, Y, Z 020 7918 4784
R, U, V, W 020 7918 3322
O, Q, S 020 7918 3797

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

Simply Health
0800 072 6719

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

Transport Benevolent
Fund
0300 333 2000

Transport Friendly
Society
020 7240 8886

Tax Queries- HMRC
0300 200 3300
(quote ref 083/LT7 and
your National Insurance
number) You can log
on to the TfL Pension
Fund website at
www.tflpensionfund.co.uk



otm ONLINE

You can access **otm** online on the TfL Pension Fund website at

http://www.tfl.gov.uk/microsites/pensions/on_the_move.asp.

You can also opt out of receiving a paper version, saving money on printing and distribution costs as well as doing your bit to help reduce our carbon footprint, by contacting the Pension Fund Office on 020 7918 3733.

Please note that you would still receive the October edition by post along with your copy of the complimentary TfL calendar, even if you opt out.



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STAY IN TOUCH

The London Transport Retired Staff Association is drawn mainly from operational grades, but all former LT employees can join. Life membership costs £5 and, if you are interested, contact Rena Craig on 01789 205739.

BUS DRIVERS ON THE BOX

Transport for London and Arriva London have allowed television cameras behind-the-scenes for a documentary series showing the challenges faced by people wanting to become a bus driver in the capital.

ITV's *Double Decker Driving School* which started on 19 March reveals what it takes to join the ranks of London's 24,500 bus drivers.

Each programme is focusing on candidates from a recent intake of drivers at Arriva's bus driving schools as they undertake a rigorous

six-week training schedule.

Leon Daniels, Managing Director, Surface Transport, said: 'London buses are internationally recognised icons but they owe their fame to the men and women who expertly pilot them through our busy streets. These programmes show how tough it is to be a bus driver in London and how much effort goes into ensuring the safety and comfort of our customers.'

The series is made by Blast! Films, the same production company behind *The Tube* and *Route Masters*.



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NEWS FROM AROUND TfL

1: As part of London Underground's Fit for the Future – Stations programme, nearly 100 new Area Managers (AMs) are settling into their roles. The new role replaces the old group station manager position.

2: New gates will help manage customer flow when Night Tube launches in September. New gates are being installed or existing ones adapted at 18 stations to segregate areas not affected by Night Tube.



3: The 27th and final London Overground train has been converted from four cars to five as part of the London Overground Capacity Improvement Programme.

4: Excellent collaboration and hard work was rewarded when London Underground's Sub-Surface Railway Upgrade team and Bombardier Transportation (BT) won the Rolling Stock Excellence category at the 17th Annual Rail Business Awards.



IT'S A CLASSIC!



The iconic Routemaster bus has won second place in a national poll to find the British public's favourite designs, only narrowly losing out to the classic red phone box.

First unveiled more than 60 years ago, the Routemaster became an instantly recognisable symbol of the Capital and still runs on part of route 15, between Trafalgar Square and the Tower of London.

Other transport design classics that made the top 10 include the Tube map and the London black cab.

The project was led by design expert Professor Catherine McDermott and a panel of judges with the aim of creating a long list of great British designs. Two thousand people took part in the survey.

A HELPING HAND

During his career, Ron Huckle worked in maintenance at Neasden depot and as a storekeeper at Cockfosters.

Now, at the age of 77, he spends his time helping ex-London Transport employees in his role as a pensioner liaison representative.

Ron covers a large stretch of Essex which includes towns like Clacton-on-Sea, Frinton-on-Sea and Harwich and has about

400 people in his area. It is a role he has done for more than 20 years, since his retirement in 1992.

'I really like the job,' he says. 'I still feel healthy and it gets me out and about. People are always pleased to see me, which means a lot.'

'The key thing is to stay cheerful and not be miserable,' explains Ron who is frequently called on to provide support during difficult times such as illness or bereavement.

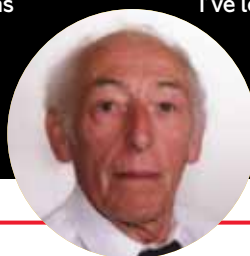
Ron, a keen bowler, does most visits during the winter months but is

always available at the end of the phone should he be needed.

'If you are retired and are looking for something worthwhile and rewarding to do, then the pensioner liaison role is an excellent one. What I most like is that it is flexible and you can work times that suit you.'

'I love the role,' he says, 'because I enjoy meeting and helping people, and I've learned a lot too.'

If you are interested in becoming a pensioner liaison representative then call 0800 015 5074 or email pls@tflpensionfund.co.uk



TfL RAIL GOES LIVE FROM 31 MAY 2015

From 31 May TfL takes over the running of the metro train service that runs between Liverpool Street and Shenfield, Essex.

This service is currently operated by (Abellio) Greater Anglia who also operate an express service from Liverpool Street to Shenfield and beyond, into Essex and East Anglia.

The service will be branded as 'TfL Rail' and MTR Crossrail will operate these services on TfL's behalf.

Once TfL Rail takes over, TfL employees and their nominees will be able to use their valid Staff/Nominee Oyster card to travel free on these metro services. The service is only free on TfL

Rail services to and from Liverpool Street to Shenfield and all stops in between. The stations where TfL Rail will stop are:

Liverpool Street - Stratford - Maryland - Forest Gate - Manor Park - Ilford - Seven Kings - Goodmayes - Chadwell Heath - Romford - Gidea Park - Harold Wood - Brentwood - Shenfield.

From 31 May 2015 Staff/Nominee Oyster cards will be accepted on the yellow card readers at most stations. It is possible that at a small number of stations, you will need to present your Staff/Nominee Oyster card and accompanying photocard to enter or leave the station.

BUS STOP ACCESSIBILITY DOUBLES

The number of accessible bus stops in London has risen by more than 50 per cent since 2008.

Latest figures show that bus stop accessibility has improved dramatically over the last few years, rising from 29 per cent in 2008 to 80 per cent today.

At least 95 per cent of bus stops on London's roads are expected to be accessible by 2016.

Being accessible means that stops have a kerb that's high enough for the wheelchair ramp to deploy

and for the step onto the bus to be at a reasonable height for older or disabled people to board. It also means there is a protected 'clearway' so only buses can use the stop and it is free from any street furniture or clutter blocking access to doors.

All 8,700 buses in the TfL fleet – apart from a small number of heritage Routemasters – are low floor, wheelchair accessible and fitted with wheelchair ramps.



IT'S SUBSCRIPTION TIME FOR STAFF EDITION

Would you like to receive the staff version of **otm**?

The 24-page monthly magazine is available to retired employees for £12 for the issues from May 2015 to April 2016. Please note the staff version only contains articles about London Underground and London Rail but not other TfL modes.

Please fill in your details and send with a cheque or postal order (not cash or credit cards) for £12 payable to London Underground to:

otm subscriptions,
Medina House,
318 Silbury Boulevard,
Milton Keynes,
MK9 2AE

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otm
FONDLY REMEMBERED

Donald 'Danny' Ashman
4 May 2012, Aged 80

Danny worked as a bus driver out of New Cross garage for a number of years and was very popular among his colleagues.

John Butler
March 2015, aged 84

John worked as an electrical engineer at White City and Acton Works before becoming a training manager and transferring in that capacity to London Buses.

Allan Heldt
4 February 2015, aged 78

Allan joined the business in 1980 and worked in maintenance at Lillie Bridge for 14 years before taking voluntary redundancy in 1994.

Mick Hitchcock
16 Dec 2010, aged 66

Mick worked in the booking office at Stratford station. He took early retirement in 2008.

Pat O'Dwyer
6 February 2014, aged 79

Pat worked as a booking clerk at Arnos Grove for almost 20 years.

Malcolm Thomas
27 March 2015, aged 74

Malcolm enjoyed two stints with London Transport. Between 1963 and 1965 he was a driver based at Walthamstow Garage and, between 1973 and 1991, he was a driver based at Edmonton before becoming a bus inspector stationed at the Baker's Arms.

Bertram Whittington
29 Sep 2014, aged 90

Bertram was with London Transport for 38 years. He started as a motorman on the Northern line based at High Barnet before transferring to the Victoria line when it opened in the late 1960s.

Dudley Woods
7 December 2014, aged 85

Starting as a London Transport as a conductor in 1951, Dudley became a driver, then an inspector, garage manager at Merton, then area traffic manager for Selkent. He retired in 1978.

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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, Medina House, 318 Silbury Boulevard, Milton Keynes MK9 2AE or email OTM@headlines.uk.com. We look forward to hearing from you.

STUCK FOR AN ANSWER

Are there any otm readers who can throw some light onto the origins of the word 'sticky' in reference to LT Staff passes? I would certainly like to know because, as a child, when travelling by bus with my father, he would inform the conductor that he had a 'sticky' before we went up the stairs to the top deck. We would then rarely see the conductor after that.

Jim Stringer

ONLINE IS THE WAY FORWARD

I have to agree with Paul Burrows' request (otm 46) to publish otm on line.

The savings in postage would be tremendous, particularly for those ex-employees residing abroad.

I can't agree with Barry White's complaint that there is too much Tube-related material in otm since any news related to LT is shared for everyone.

He is obviously thinking about the old LT Magazine that was 80 per cent bus related.

Keep 'em coming.

Owen 'Smudge' Smithers

• See page 2

VIOLET'S STILL GOING STRONG

I am writing to you about our great Aunt Violet Brown.

Violet worked on the London buses for 30 years with her late husband, Fred. She worked as a conductor while he was a driver. They lived together in West Road, Plaistow with their only son Keith, until they tragically lost him in a car accident. They worked out of

the bus station in West Ham. They both retired in 1978 and moved to Somerset.

My fiancé and I have recently moved to Australia. We greatly miss visiting Violet and listening to her great stories that made us laugh for hours.

She reads your magazine religiously as she has such fond memories of her time working on the buses, so much so that she always shows us the magazine when we visit. She was 95 in March. If you are able to give her a mention at all in your next available edition, this would delight her in so many ways and let her know we still think of her even though we are so far away.

Terry Bourne (great nephew)

ROMFORD REUNION

The next reunion for North Street Bus garage Romford takes place on 10 October 2015.

For more details contact Ted Bott on 01362 421456

MEMORIES SOUGHT

I am researching the general public's experiences of nuclear issues during the Cold War in the 1950s through a series of oral history interviews.

A main aim is to interview volunteers who were active in civil defence-related groups in the 1950s. The interviews will focus on what motivated volunteers to join their organisation, their training experiences, and how they felt towards the Cold War and the threat of nuclear attack. This

REMEMBERING DAD

This is a picture of my father, **Vincent George Smith**, receiving a sports trophy. He first started working as an engineer at West Norwood in 1973 and, before retiring in 1993 aged 50, he drove the number two bus to Brixton.

Unfortunately, my father died at the age of 70 in September 2013. As a youngster, I remember going on trips to the seaside on Sundays and waiting with anticipation for Dad to come home from work with the large shortbread biscuits with LT design on them.



includes the Civil Defence Corps, Women's Voluntary Services and Industrial Civil Defence Service.

If you have memories to share please email or write to Jessica Douthwaite for further information:

**Jessica.douthwaite@strath.ac.uk
Sound Archive, IWM
Lambeth Road
London, SE1 6HZ**

GREAT LAKE

We received this email from **Melvyn Lake** who now lives in Cincinnati, Ohio, in the United States.

'I drove for London Transport' from 1980 to 1988 and drove the last 252 out of Hornchurch. I started at Barking Bus Garage with my good friend Graham Lane. I was a driver and Graham was my conductor in 1980. Then I moved to North St Garage,

Romford in 1983 and then on to Hornchurch until they closed their doors. I lived next door to Andy Andrews on Upper Rainham Road also from Hornchurch Garage.

'I moved to the States in 1989 and have been driving for Greyhound Bus Lines and tour buses.'

Mel would like to hear from anyone who remembers him. You can email Mel at: rml174175@gmail.com

THANKS!

Thank you very much for the hamper you sent me marking my 90th birthday. It was a wonderful surprise and very much appreciated.

**Bill Loram
Ex Booking Clerk, St Pauls**

THANKS FOR MY CALENDAR

Just a note to say many thanks for sending me my calendar every year. I look forward to getting it and I have hung it up every year since my husband died in 1996. It helps keep my year on track.

M. Ryan

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