

otm

o n t h e m o v e

NEW PENSIONERS' EDITION

Welcome to your exclusive issue of **otm**

We've taken your feedback about **otm** on board and come up with a solution which we hope will bring you the best of both worlds.

This new eight-page magazine will be published every quarter for pensioners only – in October, January, April and July.

It will contain exclusive material with specific news that is relevant

only to pensioners.

The remaining pages will bring you the best articles from the preceding three months' issues of the staff version of **otm**.

We hope you like the new format of your very own publication. There's

no need to subscribe to receive it – this magazine doesn't cost you a penny. However, those of you who do still wish to receive the staff version of **otm** every month can continue to subscribe at £1 per issue. Please see form enclosed.

What's inside

We hope there's something for everyone in this pensioners' issue of **otm**.

You can find out what issues were discussed at the latest Pensioners' Forum in August and how they affect you on **page 2**.

On **page 3**, we meet one of our Pensioner Liaison Representatives and find out how you can get involved in this worthwhile and valuable scheme.

On the **centre pages** and **back page**, we meet some of our long servers and recent retirees and find out what's in store for life after London Underground, from community work to Caribbean sunshine.

Page 6 brings you a round-up of some of the benefits news which you may need to know.

Our behind-the-scenes trip of a lifetime for a young boy with special needs is profiled on **page 7**.

Changing times

otm has switched to a new publisher called AB Publishing, who now produce this magazine for you, as well as the monthly staff version.

We are keen to hear your views and contributions. It's your magazine – we'd like you to help shape it into the useful and entertaining read we aim to provide.

If you have a story you'd like us to include, please send your idea in to the team – contact details are on page 2. The deadline for contributions for the next (January) issue is 28 November.

If you'd like to share your views on the new magazine, please take a couple of minutes to complete and send in the quick questionnaire on page 2.

Thank you for taking the time to contribute and we look forward to working on your magazine.

Happy Birthday to you!

Century celebrations: Meet two pensioners who have celebrated their magic 100th birthday on page 8. Congratulations!



Meet the team



The team from AB Publishing, bringing you your exclusive magazine, from left: Editorial Manager Lisa Mobley, Editor Paul Turner and Reporter Keira Hammond.

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Forum for debate

The Pensioners' Forum is a quarterly meeting at which TfL's senior Pensions and Human Resources Managers consult with Pensioners' Representatives from the Pensions Consultative Council and the management committee of the London Transport Pensioners' Association on pensions and other retirement benefits.

We'll bring you regular summaries of the meetings, and progress with issues raised, in future issues of *otm*.

Summary of August meeting

- The representatives welcomed the new *otm* digest, published exclusively for pensioners. They gladly accepted the invitation to contribute articles and put forward ideas for its development.
- The pensioners present made strong representations for the Forum to be consulted on the findings of the current triennial actuarial valuation of the Fund as soon as they are available.
- A discussion took place on the Pensioner Liaison scheme. Pensioners greatly appreciate a visit from a Pensioner Liaison Representative, so it was disappointing to learn the scheme covered only a minority of retired staff. The meeting asked to know TfL's view on the future of the scheme.



Your views count

To help make your exclusive edition of *otm* as useful and entertaining as possible, please let us know what you like and don't like, and ideas for future issues.

Please cut out this section or photocopy it and post to us at *otm* survey, AB Publishing, 24-26 Great Suffolk Street, London SE1 0UE to arrive no later than Friday 7 November.

1. Do you like the new exclusive quarterly magazine?

Yes No No opinion

2. Do you enjoy the articles carried over from the regular staff magazine?

Yes No No opinion

3. Is the pensioner news (pages 2, 3 and 6 in this issue) useful to you?

Yes No No opinion

4. Please rank the following topics from 1 to 3 (where 1 is most interesting) to indicate the sort of topics you'd like included in your magazine:

- LT Pension Fund status
- Updates on general pension/financial matters affecting all pensioners
- How the organisation is changing
- Whatever happened to? People/departments/projects
- Comparing performance of buses, trains etc then and now
- Old photographs
- Personal reminiscences/reunions

- How to save money – discounts for LT pensioners
- Life after LT – enjoying retirement in different ways
- Problems faced solved – exchanging helpful experiences/advice

5. Which article did you like best in this issue and why?

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6. And which did you like least and why?

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7. Any other comments or ideas

.....

.....

.....

Your name and contact details (optional)

.....

.....

.....

Which sector did you work in? (eg London Underground, London Buses)

.....

Changing the record

We are currently updating our LISA membership records.

It would help us a great deal if you could send in a postcard including your name, address, postcode and current membership number to: Joyce Turner, LISA Membership Secretary, 85 Becklow Road, Shepherds Bush, London W12 9HU.

The following changes have taken place to the LISA committee:

Don Castle – Chairman
48 Eastleigh Avenue, South Harrow, Middlesex HA2 0UG

Barbara Castle – Editor,
Newslink, address above

Joyce Turner – Membership Secretary, address detailed left

Lend your ears

Are you a good listener, feel comfortable talking over the telephone and have an hour a week to spare between 09.00 and 17.00, Monday to Friday?

Why not volunteer over the telephone with the RNIB Talk and Support service (in association with Barclays).

You could make a real difference to the lives of blind and partially-sighted people by volunteering to help run telephone social groups. Full training and ongoing support from the RNIB will be provided.

For more information, please contact:
Janey Sweet | 020 7395 2295

A rich career

I'd do it all over again if I had the chance.



ABOVE Harry (right) with his brother Paul and sister Gladys.

When work becomes a pleasure, it's not really work.

That is how Pensioner Liaison Representative Harry Oliver views his 34 years' service as a Shop Steward with London Transport (LT).

Harry joined LT as a General Hand working at Finchley Trolleybus Depot and trained as a Bus Mechanic.

When he retired in 1984, he wanted to give something back and thought becoming a representative was the perfect way.

He said: "I was on the Staff Negotiating

Committee for about 10 years. During my union days, I also sat on social security tribunals and this helps me in my visits.

"There are 105 pensioners in my area of Norfolk. I enjoy meeting them and helping out in any way I can."

Harry boasts quite a family history with London Transport. His uncle Jim was District General Manager of Watling District. His oldest daughter Josephine started out in the pensions office and his son Eric has served most time in the company than he has!

Harry's younger daughter Christine was also the first female apprentice to qualify as a Trolley Driver at Aldenham works. Harry says: "I'd do it all over again if I had the chance. My favourite memory is going on a staff trip to the USSR in 1964 – that was a real experience."

LEFT When Harry met... from left: Graeme Grace, Michael Wood, Fred Edwards, Bill Crane, Harry Vickers and George Jesson with Harry (top left in doorway) on the staff trip to the USSR in 1964.

Pensioner liaison

Do you fancy following in Harry Oliver's footsteps and helping your local pensioners? Do you have spare time on your hands? Are you interested in becoming a Pensioner Liaison Representative?

What's the scheme about?

The scheme came into being following an enquiry regarding what we, as a company do for our retired employees. We felt we should continue to keep in contact with our pensioners to enhance the feeling of remaining part of the LT family.

The scheme started in 1991 with Pensioner Liaison Representatives periodically contacting pensioners on an informal basis, to find out how they are keeping, whether there are any concerns the scheme can assist with and to offer advice or referral to other agencies where appropriate.

Objective of the scheme:

To have local volunteer Pensioner Liaison Representatives, who are normally LT pensioners, in various areas within the United Kingdom. The PLR visits and acts as the link between the pensioner and the Pensioner Liaison Manager. A small reimbursement is paid for each successful visit.

The cost to you?

Nil. All stationery is provided by the Pensioner Liaison Manager.

Some of the duties:

- To inform the Pensioner Liaison Manager of any problems or concerns which are affecting members' well-being
- To keep records of members and make quarterly returns to the Pensioner Liaison Manager on visits made.

If you would like to know more about becoming a representative, please contact Jurd Yapp, Pensioner Liaison Manager, 15th Floor, Windsor House, 42-50 Victoria Street, London SW1V 0TL. Tel: 020 7941 4418.

News in brief

• A trio of newly-qualified Drivers have made London Underground History by going straight onto the Metropolitan line.

Direct recruits Steve Eldridge, Nigel Rowick and Eamonn Gifford started their new jobs last month after completing the 22-week Train Operators' course.

Martin Brown, Duty Manager Trains at Neasden, said: "It's a fantastic achievement and testament to the hard work they've put in."

• A new family-friendly work-life roster pilot for Train Operators is bringing a real boost to morale.

The rosters, introduced initially at Acton Town and Earl's Court, help give Drivers more control over their lives outside the cab by replacing the traditional round the clock rosters with a permanent single shift for each driver.

• The first Northern line Operation Clean Sweep took place across six stations from Golders Green to Edgware at the end of July.

The operation showed how we can cut down on fraudulent travel and capture lost revenue, as well as crack down on crime on the tube.

A number of offenders were arrested by police for crime and disorder-related offences. There were 145 reported fare evasions and 89 penalty fare notices were issued.

Celebrating 44 years working on the line

1959 saw Fidel Castro seize power in Cuba, Buddy Holly die in a plane crash, Ben Hur hit cinema screens across the country – and Keith Tibbles start work at London Underground.

The 55-year-old is one of the longest-serving London Underground workers, with 44 years under his belt, all on the Metropolitan line.

Coming from a railway family, Keith started work as a boy Porter earning just £5 a week. He now spends his days driving Metropolitan line trains based at Rickmansworth.



Keith Tibbles is one of London Underground's longest-serving workers.

He said: "The Metropolitan line was always popular – everybody wanted to

work here and never wanted to go.

"Things have changed over the years – I think

the biggest changes have been to do with safety.

"It was a far more dangerous job in the early days, working with steam trains. The new technology has made it much easier."

Keith is looking forward to his retirement next year and is thinking of taking up bereavement counselling.

He said: "My wife died three years ago and it gave me a new perspective on things.

"At the time, I went through bereavement counselling and I've realised it's something I'd like to try myself."

Our community hero

Neighbours, everybody needs good neighbours.

And you can't get much better than retired London Underground colleague Sam Domun, who has been nominated for the South London Press Our Heroes Awards 2003.

Sam, 64, was named as a community champion by his neighbour after helping him recover from a burglary.

Since his retirement in 1994, Sam has dedicated his time to voluntary work, serving as a school governor and on his local community health council for eight years, and as a special constable for two.

Sam said: "I spent 29 years working for London Underground – including 15 based at Deal station and three as a relief covering the Northern line.

"I had to take early retirement through ill health but I wanted to keep busy and I enjoy working for the community.

"I think that's something you get from working on the



3887 helping Sam Domun's days on the tube have helped him become a community champion.

Underground; you like helping people, and it's good for workers here now to see someone rewarded for community work."

The awards were set up to honour people just like Sam who put others before themselves.

The category 'community champion' is for someone who has made their neighbourhood a better place to live in.

"I was over the moon to be nominated," added Sam.

"It was lovely to feel appreciated, and to see my name and picture in print."

Quick actions save life

Quick-thinking staff at Belsize Park saved a retired tube worker's life after he collapsed at the station.

Five London Underground staff were on hand to help Ronald Brown when he collapsed with breathing difficulties during a Monday morning peak.

Station Assistant Jim Byrne said: "The man approached the Supervisor on duty and asked to use the toilet. He came out and just collapsed, and that was when we leapt into action. The Supervisor is a first aider, so he attended to the patient while another Station Assistant went to call for an ambulance.

"The paramedics told us we'd saved his life by acting so quickly."

Teamwork is an important aspect for all staff on the tube. Jim was pleased with the way everyone pulled together so swiftly.

He said: "We really worked as a team and no-one panicked. It went very smoothly.

"It was one Station Assistant's first day at London Underground but he wasn't fazed at all.

"We received a thank-you card from Ronald, who is well again now, and it turned out he's a former London Transport worker too.

"It was nice to hear from him and we're glad he has recovered."

Meet the Metro Mastermind



What Brian Hardy doesn't know about London Underground isn't worth knowing

The Network Control Centre Manager, who celebrated 38 years' service last month, has had several books published on the Underground and its counterparts in Paris and Berlin.

Brian said: "My fascination with the Underground stems from when my father used to take me out on the network as a young child.

"I joined at 16 as a Booking Office Apprentice and I've been in the Control Centre since 1973."

Brian's first book, a statistical account of rolling stock, was published in 1976.

In the late 1970s, Brian visited the

Paris Metro and has since written the Paris Metro Handbook, set questions on it for *Mastermind* and published books on the Berlin U-Bahn and S-Bahn.

He said: "I also produce a monthly magazine, *Underground News*, for the London Underground Railway Society.

"I'm passionate about underground transport and, when I retire, I'll probably devote even more time to my hobby."

For more information, please contact Brian Hardy | 020 7933 7300

Mural models

A photogenic pair of Station Assistants really are part of the furniture at Westminster.

Danny Molloy and Adeleyn Dyedje were captured on camera for a mural celebrating the partnership between London Underground and warship HMS Westminster. The mural, in the Westminster booking hall, was funded by the Royal Navy.

Danny said: "It's flattering to be chosen to represent the tube and the mural will be a good PR tool."

Adeleyn's starring role wasn't her first brush with fame: "I was photographed for some library shots of staff at work. One of them was used as the

company's screensaver too."

The mural was unveiled to press and passengers by Chief Operating Officer Mike Brown, Commanding Officer Mike McCartan from HMS Westminster, Deputy Mayor of Westminster Cllr Frances Blois and some of HMS Westminster's crew.

Mike McCartan said: "Our relationship goes back several years. The main parallel is that we both have a lot of people pulling together to run an effective organisation.

"The mural is a permanent reminder of the close links between HMS Westminster and Westminster."

For more information, please contact Victor Oduemegie | 020 7933 4039

BELOW Picture perfect partners Danny and Adeleyn admire their starring role with HMS Westminster's Commanding Officer Mike McCartan.



Life at the tube really 'worked out' for George, who recently retired after 25 years with us.



Leaving Baker Street for sunny Barbados

The team at Baker Street waved a fond farewell to resident muscle man George Hins, who retired after a fantastic 35 years with London Underground.

George's tube life began in 1968, as a direct recruit from his homeland of Barbados.

His first role was Railman (now as Platform Staff these days) at Farrow-on-the-Hill station. After a stint at Ruslip Manor, he joined the trains first as a Guard and then a Driver.

He spent 17 years in the cab on the Metropolitan and Circle lines, before qualifying as an Inspector at King's Cross. He moved to Baker Street, where he completed his career as a Station Supervisor.

George still found time to become a national sporting champion and ran the staff gym at White City and then Baker Street.

In 1973 he entered the South East London Body Building Championships - and won! He came second in the national championships and competed in Mr Universe in 1975 - the same year as Arnold Schwarzenegger.

After hanging up his hat, George is heading back to Barbados, but insists his colleagues haven't seen the last of him.

"I've had a great career, and have met some fantastic people who I'll keep in touch with," he said.

Fellow Baker Street Station Supervisor Mushtaq Kitabi worked with George for 10 years: "George was marvellous with the customers. The staff here love him and we'll all really miss him - he's irreplaceable."

Former TSSA President will be greatly missed

Former London Transport employee and President of the Transport and Salaried Staffs Association (TSSA) Walter Johnson has died aged 85.

Walter, known to everyone as Johnny, joined London Transport after the Second World War and served in the recruitment division of the staff department.

He was actively involved in the TSSA. He was Executive Committee Member

from 1954 to 1960, was elected National Treasurer in 1965 and President in 1977.

In 1970, Johnny won the Derby South parliamentary seat for Labour and held it for 13 years, with several years as an Assistant Government Whip.

He took a lifelong interest in local affairs in Sussex where he lived for more than 40 years, played village cricket and bowls and was a pub pianist.

From the next pensioner edition in January, we'll be running general obituaries of former employees. If you would like us to include an obituary in memory of a loved one or former colleague, please send us the information you'd like to include. Maximum of 50 words. Our contact details are on page 2.

Taking a shot at a new hobby

Taking up a hobby when you retire is something most people do, but Ian Miller is a little different.

After gaining international honours in the hammer and shot more than 30 years ago, the former Bus Driver and Inspector decided to rekindle his field event passion.

Since retiring in 1999, Ian has won 17 golds, six silvers and four bronzes in the hammer, shot, discus and javelin at events across the county, including the British Indoor Championships.



Hammering it home: multi-medal winner Ian Miller

I For more information, please contact Ian Miller | 01438 716491

Calling for an 'A' class reunion

Calling all former staff of W Division Bus Engineering!

Due to popular demand, the annual reunion is soon to be revived after a break of two years.

Anyone interested should call Peter Hedges for an information pack as soon as possible on 01689 830712.

noticeboard

• The winter fuel bonus has gone up by £100 for households where the single householder, or at least one of a couple, reaches 80 by the qualifying date on 21 September 2003.

• Bereaved relatives and executors of wills can now call a one-stop helpline on 0845 302 0900 between 09.00 and 17.00 Monday to Friday. Calls are charged at local rates. The helpline can offer guidance on applying for probate and whether a property incurs inheritance tax (currently 40 per cent on assets over £255,000).

• The earnings limit to qualify for the Carer's Allowance has gone up from £75 a week to £77 (not including an occupational pension).

• People who retired early, took a career break or were unable to work may face a shortfall in their state pensions if they do not make up the difference in their National Insurance Contributions by 2008. If this could apply to you, you can request a pension forecast from the Department for Work and Pensions by calling 0845 3000 166 or

filling in form BR19 from your local Benefits Agency office, which will tell you if you need to make extra contributions.

• For long-stay hospital patients, certain social security benefits will now not be reduced until the claimant has been in hospital for 52 weeks (previously it was six weeks). The new rule does not apply to Attendance Allowance, Disability Living Allowance or Carer's Allowance.

• The BBC has launched a 'Friends Reunited' style website for Second World War veterans. Visitors to the site are invited to recount their experiences as a memorial to Britain's war heroes. Log on at www.bbc.co.uk/iwv2

• Did you take out an insurance policy during your employment, with premiums automatically deducted from your salary? Please remember that to maintain cover after retirement, you must change the regular payments so they come out of your own account, otherwise you could face a hefty bill for several months' premiums at a later date.

Joe's in the driving seat

Meet the District line's youngest Train Operator!

The team at Upminster turned Jim'll Fix it for the day to make a little boy's dream come true.

10-year-old Joe Ross from Shoeburyness, Essex, who has special needs, wrote to the station to ask if he could travel with a Driver in a tube train.

'Train Operations Managers' Assistant Anna-Marie Bridges was happy to help: "The letter was so lovely and I thought

this was something we could easily do, to make a youngster happy."

As an extra surprise, the uniform department produced a mini uniform for Joe to wear.

Joe was escorted by Instructor Operator Paul Tozer and Competence Assurance Manager Angie Nicklin to Earl's Court. After a quick tour of the

control room, they boarded a train to Wimbledon and then back to Upminster, where Anna-Marie gave Joe a bag of tube goodies.

Joe's dad Colin said: "He's always loved trains. I think he's sent off his application to be a Driver already!

"He's usually shy but I think he sees tube people as his

Driver for a day: Joe fell right at home in the District line cab.

friend. It's been a fantastic day for him."

Joe gave the day a big thumbs-up: "I'm going to work hard at school so I can become a Driver because it's a cool job."

I For more information, please contact Anna-Marie Bridges | 020 1918 7480

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otm meets two former colleagues celebrating landmark birthdays

100 and still going strong

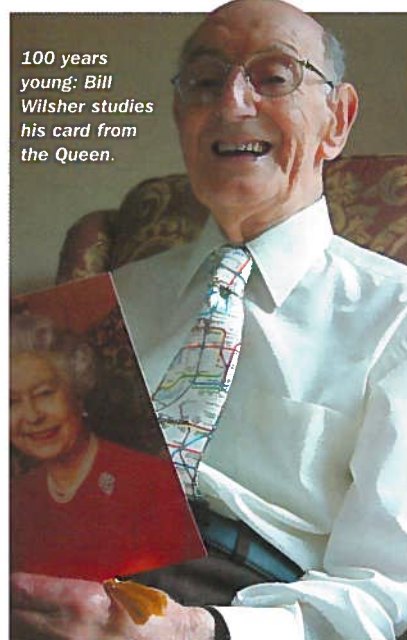
Retired District line worker Bill Wilsher has spent half his life working for London Underground.

Tube life obviously agreed with him – he has just celebrated his 100th birthday.

Bill said: "I started in 1918 and I had the choice of being a Booking Clerk or a Porter – I chose Porter.

"I worked up to Station Master and retired in 1968.

"There were a lot of changes in those 50 years. The biggest for me was watching the District line shrink away as all the other lines grew."



100 years young: Bill Wilsher studies his card from the Queen.

“I started in 1918. There were a lot of changes in those 50 years.”

During his career, Bill was awarded the London Underground prize for politeness and good service.

He also received an award for helping to catch two burglars at Stepney Green station, when he followed them back to their hideout and called the police.

Bill spent his centenary celebrating with family and friends, including many of his former colleagues.

He added: "I had a lovely time and was pleased to receive my cards from the Queen and the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions."



Charles McRae enjoys his 100th birthday celebrations with his great-grandson Ralph.

He may have spent his best years as a train Driver, but Charles McRae opted for a different mode of transport for his 100th birthday celebrations – a stretch limo!

Charles was treated to a special party with his family and friends and was ferried to the event in a car hired for the occasion.

Charles started his career as a Signal Box Boy in 1917 on the City and South London Railway, but his passion was for driving trains, an ambition he realised at the age of 27.

Charles's son Barry said: "He really loved his years on the Underground, especially when he was a Driver.

"Unfortunately, towards the end of his career he failed an eyesight test because he was slightly colourblind. He became a Ticket Collector after that.

"My father still enjoys getting about though – he's just swapped his 4mph scooter for a 6mph one!"

Train trio get a send-off in style

Rickmansworth depot said goodbye to a familiar face last month, when Train Operator John Madden retired.



John hung up his hat after 37 years and a day's service on the Metropolitan line. He started out in September 1966 as a direct recruit Guard.

He said: "I always wanted to work on the sub-surface trains. There's nothing nicer than driving through the countryside on a warm summer afternoon, seeing the foxes, deer and even pheasants.

"I've been based at Rickmansworth for the last 32 years and I've built up some great relationships with my colleagues here.

"I've got mixed feelings about retirement – I'm looking forward to it, but I know I'm going to miss Rickmansworth."

Fellow Train Operators Jim Stanworth and Andrew Stoker were also retiring from the depot and the three enjoyed a party thrown in their honour.

John said: "The party was fantastic because a lot of former staff came along – some of them in their eighties.

"One of those was Bill Perry, the first Driver I worked with as a Guard. The memories really came flooding back."



Train Operations Manager Ian Williams presents John Madden (left), Andrew Stoker (above) and Jim Stanworth (below) with their retirement gifts.

