



Pensions to increase by 5%

The full pension increase from 1 April 2009 will be five per cent. This is based on the rise in the Retail Price Index over the 12 months to September 2008.

Depending on the period of membership of the TfL Pension Fund, your pension may comprise various components, some of which are not increased by the Fund at the above rate, but may be increased by the State.

If you have been receiving your pension for less than a year, you may receive a pro rata increase. See below for details:

Effective date	Increase
Up to 1 April 2008	5.0 %
2 April 2008 to 1 May 2008	4.58 %
2 May 2008 to 1 June 2008	4.17 %
2 June 2008 to 1 July 2008	3.75 %
2 July 2008 to 1 August 2008	3.33 %
2 August 2008 to 1 September 2008	2.92 %
2 September 2008 to 1 October 2008	2.5 %
2 October 2008 to 1 November 2008	2.08 %
2 November 2008 to 1 December 2008	1.67 %
2 December 2008 to 1 January 2009	1.25 %
2 January 2009 to 1 February 2009	0.83 %
2 February 2009 to 1 March 2009	0.42 %

■ Full details are available on the TfL Pension Fund website at tflpensionfund.co.uk

PCC election results are in

The longest-serving quarter of the TfL Pension Consultative Council (PCC) retire on 30 November each year, although they can stand for re-election.

In Section One (pensioners and deferred pensioners), Christopher Miller and Michael Swiggs were both re-elected following a postal ballot of the Section One members of the TfL Pension Fund.

In Section Two (TfL and its subsidiaries or contractors, excluding London Underground Limited), Chris Godbold retired. Luke Howard was elected following a postal ballot of

the Section Two members of the TfL Pension Fund.

In Section Three (London Underground Limited and its subsidiaries), Peter Moffatt and Brian Valentine retired. Richard Head was elected and Brian Valentine re-elected following a postal ballot of the Section Three members of the TfL Pension Fund.

■ For more information, visit www.tflpensionfund.co.uk or contact Sarah Pascall, PCC Secretary, on 020 7918 3018 or sarahpascall@tflpensionfund.co.uk



Future Farringdon: how the station exterior will look.

Transformation begins

Blackfriars and Farringdon stations are undergoing complete transformations as part of the Thameslink Programme, which will boost overground services running between destinations north and south of the Capital.

Work is already under way at Farringdon to build a new footbridge to ease platform congestion. Extra staff have been drafted in from stations on the King's Cross group to help with customer information.

Customer Service Assistant Hollie Welch said: "We've been fielding many questions from customers. Some locals have asked about the part of Farringdon station that is protected by English Heritage. We can reassure them that this area is being preserved and will enjoy a facelift too."

Blackfriars Tube station closes in March this year for two-and-a-half years while a complete rebuild takes place. The new-look station will boast a glass frontage, bigger, brighter ticket hall and step-free access.

Staff will be moved to nearby stations such as Temple and Mansion House, which are likely to see more customers as a result of the closure. The National Rail station will remain open for most of the project.

Once the Thameslink transformation is complete, the number of through trains per hour will increase from eight to up to 24, running to new destinations such as Cambridge.



Better Blackfriars: the station will be transformed.

Find out more at www.thameslinkprogramme.co.uk

Pensioner Forum update

Items discussed at the latest Pensioner Forum in November included:

■ otm improvements

The Forum was happy with the return of AB Publishing at the helm of *otm* and said the October edition was the best they had seen for a long time. The Forum discussed a new events calendar that has been created to ensure that items such as the PCC elections are included in the relevant edition in future

■ Question time

Stephen Field, Head of Pensions, informed the Forum that a section of Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) is now included on the Pension Fund website. There was discussion about the possibility of some of these being included in future issues of *otm*

■ Annual Meeting

The Annual Members' Meeting was discussed, with a high attendance level reported. Stephen Field said that at this year's meeting, on 13 October, there would be no guest speaker but talks would be provided by more relevant people such as the actuary to the Fund, investment adviser and fund lawyer

■ Pension Fund rules

The pensioners' representatives requested an update on the consolidation of the Pension Fund rules, and Stephen Field explained that this is an administrative exercise to consolidate 11 previously agreed deeds.

55 is 60

The 55 Society – an association for retired London Transport and TfL managers – celebrates its 60th anniversary this year. Members will mark the occasion in style with a meal at the House of Lords on 3 April, sponsored by Lord Tunnicliffe, former managing director of London Underground.

Acton beckons

The next family open weekend at the London Transport Museum's Acton depot is on 7-8 March 2009.

Find out more at www.ltmuseum.co.uk/whatson or call 020 7565 7298.

Upgrade updates

Find out which lines and stations are closed for upgrade work by logging on to www.tfl.gov.uk/check for the latest planned closures. If you don't have internet access, you can call 020 7222 1234, or textphone 020 7918 3015.

Noticeboard

Calling all Hendon colleagues

Conductor Ann Power, who worked out of Hendon bus depot on route 113, organises an annual get-together for former Hendon workers.

Their latest event was in November, but to make sure you don't miss out on the next one, contact Ann on 01425 273512.

Take a starring role

ITV is producing a documentary about the day the Second World War broke out (3 September 1939) and would like to hear from people who were working on the London transport system on that day.

Drop us an email to otm@abcomm.co.uk or write to *otm*, 24-26 Great Suffolk Street, London SE1 0UE as soon as possible.

Eastbourne beckons

The London Transport Superannuitants' Association (LTSA) annual trip to Eastbourne takes place from 8 to 13 March 2009.

The LTSA is open to all retired staff. Anyone interested in becoming a member and going on the trip should contact Joyce Turner on 020 8743 2655.



In the October edition, we incorrectly said that the joining fees for the London Transport Superannuitants' Association and the London Transport Retired Staff Association were £5 per year. In fact, for both associations, the £5 is a one-off payment.

PENSIONER LIAISON NEWS

In response to an enquiry, I looked into the Railway Employees' Privilege Ticket Association (REPTA). Many of you may have been members when you worked for TfL, but I found out you can still be a member even though you are retired.

The benefits are the same, and you could qualify for up to half price travel on European and worldwide trains. Membership secretary Colin Rolle can be contacted on 01623 646789 or rolle@repta.co.uk and REPTA has a website at www.repta.co.uk.

REPTA can offer information on travel insurance for people aged up to 90, and other discounts in high street shops.

Thank you for all the cards received at this office. If you have not received your 2009 calendar, please let me know on UK freephone 0800 015 5074 or 020 7027 0520.

Happy New Year to you all.

Yvonne Kerchhoff
Pensioner Liaison Manager

CONTACT DETAILS FOR PENSIONER ENQUIRIES

TfL Pension Fund
020 7918 3733

Staff Travel
0800 015 5073

Pensioner Liaison
0800 015 5074

Hospital Saturday Fund
020 7928 6662

Hospital Savings Association
01264 353211

Simply Health
0800 072 6719

Transport Benevolent Fund
0870 000 172/3

Transport Friendly Society
020 7240 8886

Tax queries –
HM Inspector of Taxes
0845 300 3939 (quote ref
083/LT7 and your National
Insurance number)

We're always keen to hear from you.
Send your news, story ideas and letters to:

otm pensioners' edition
Lisa Mobley
AB Publishing
24-26 Great Suffolk Street
London SE1 0UE

Email: otm@abcomm.co.uk
Telephone: 020 7922 5670

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Mayor signals the Way to Go

London Mayor Boris Johnson has launched his plan for better transport in London in the *Way To Go!* document.

He pledged to help get Londoners from A to B as efficiently as possible through a range of measures that also put London at the forefront of environmentally friendly transport.

The document discusses solutions for all forms of public transport. It looks at the Tube upgrade programme and projects such as Crossrail that will benefit National Rail services.

Way to Go! includes steps to keep traffic moving quicker, such as a 'war on roadworks' and new traffic calming measures to replace speed humps. The document also features

the new bus that the Mayor would like to introduce in place of bendy buses, due to come into service from 2011.

Plans are outlined for a new cycle hire scheme to be launched in nine London boroughs by 2010, along with measures to encourage walking. There is also a focus on shared spaces for cars, public transport, cyclists and pedestrians.

Way to Go! is a pre-cursor to the Mayor's Transport Strategy, due for publication in winter 2009.

You can read the *Way to Go!* document at www.london.gov.uk > mayor > publications > 2008 > way to go



West is best

Europe's largest urban shopping centre – Westfield London – is now open, and with it two brand new Tube stations and a new bus station.

Wood Lane is a completely new station on the Hammersmith & City line. Its state-of-the-art glass and stainless steel look is contrasted with the original brickwork arches of the railway bridge, incorporated into the design.

Shepherd's Bush (Central line) station reopened on 5 October, having closed for the redevelopment work in February 2008. The ticket hall is brand new, the number of gatelines has doubled and the escalators have been replaced. The station also features new finishes on the ceiling, floor and walls, better customer information provision and extra Help Points.

In the run-up to the opening of Westfield, volunteers played the role of customers so staff could get used to their new facilities and act out scenarios such as a station evacuation.

A new White City bus station also opened in November.

Cannon Street set for revamp

Cannon Street station will be treated to a revamp as part of a project to develop the 14-storey office block above it.

Step-free access will be introduced from the National Rail concourse to the Underground ticket hall and from there

to the western platform. The entrances and ticket hall will also be given a facelift and better public address and CCTV systems will be installed.

Demolition work has already started on the old building and completion is scheduled for early 2012.



View your payslips online

Readers with internet access can take advantage of a new service on the TfL Pension Fund website from this month.

All members can view their payslips and P60s on the website. This will provide reassurance to those of you who would like to see your payslip every month, as paper versions are no longer sent out monthly. In addition,

you have the option to maintain your contact details online.

The service is secure; you need to register first, and the Pension Fund will send you a unique login name and password.

Click on tflpensionfund.co.uk and follow the link from the home page to register.

The batsmen of Barbados

otm spoke to Harold Blackman, stalwart of the Central Road Services (CRS) cricket team from the early 1960s and still going strong today, about the team's tours to Barbados.

Harold joined the Harrow Weald garage as a conductor in 1963 and is still there as a driver with the Metroline bus company.

"The first tour to Barbados took place in about 1975. A CRS team was chosen from across the 48 garages," said Harold. "Erskine Trotman (pictured in the last otm) was captain, and a very dear friend, who has since passed away.

"I went on all six tours. We used to save up our annual leave and take it all in one go, as we'd be there for about five weeks," recalled Harold.

"In the second match of the first tour, I made 103 runs. But we still lost – all the Barbados teams were very good! We went every two or three years until the late 1990s, when LT started to sell off its cricket grounds and we all started to get a little older.

"I won the LT Sportsman of the Year title

Meet the Festival of Britain enquiries team, circa 1951 or 1952.

The team was recruited from other roles around London Transport to cover the enquiries office at 55 Broadway, while more experienced staff from the office worked at information centres around the Capital to help the public during the Festival.

"We went on a six-week course in map reading and timetables, and then took our places in the office," said Pam Foster, one of the team, who previously worked in the payroll team at Chiswick.

"It was an amazing time to be at 55 Broadway. We all



Howzat: the cricket team on tour in 1995.

one year. Before the last three tours, we were allowed to practise in the nets at Lord's. It was an absolutely brilliant time."

Reader Terry Baybutt also wrote in on behalf of his son Paul.

"Paul went on five tours to Barbados between 1989 and 1997. Particular memories were being driven back to his lodgings by Joel Garner and meeting Desmond Haynes – both leading West Indies team cricketers," said Terry.

"Another memory was the Barbados rum crammed into suitcases when the touring party returned to the UK!"

■ Did you, or someone you know, go on one of the tours? Contact us with your memories – our details are on page 2.

Here come the girls



Stepping out: the enquiries team poses for a photo.

went to St James's Park to see the inauguration of Queen Elizabeth II and we watched the rehearsals for the coronation.

"We had this photo taken on the Broadway roof in

response to a challenge placed in the staff magazine by another team that claimed to be the most attractive team in LT. I don't think that would happen nowadays!"



Royal recollection

Prompted by our request for memories from the official opening of the Victoria line by the Queen, Tom Griffiths sent in another royal recollection.

Tom worked at Northfields depot, on the Piccadilly line, from 1975 to 1992 as a coachbuilder/bodymaker. When the Queen opened Heathrow Terminal 4 in 1977 – her Silver Jubilee year – Tom made the plaque displayed on the front of the train (pictured).

LIFE ON THE BUSES



Former rural bus route workers might be interested to read Rod Lucas's *Shades of Green and Red*, which documents his days as a bus operator in Leatherhead in the 1970s.

Rod, now Rolling Stock Liaison Engineer with London Underground, found the travelling public and his inexperience as a bus driver a great source of comedy material.

"There are plenty of characters riding the buses in countryside locations and you see the same people all the time – they always have a tale to tell. But some of the comedy comes from getting lost on the ever-changing routes," said Rod.

The book also tracks the history of Chiswick bus works. It is illustrated with colour photographs and packed with Rod's signature wit.

"My colleagues at Chiswick and Leatherhead were great and very funny," he said. "The book's ideal for anyone who likes buses: passengers, enthusiasts and drivers."

Shades of Red and Green is available from the London Transport Museum for £11.95.

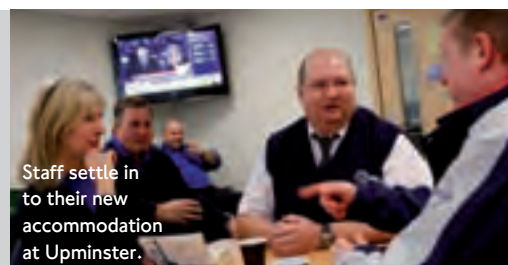
Golden year for Upminster

At the end of 2008, the Upminster train crew depot celebrated its half-century with new staff accommodation.

The depot, which opened in 1958 to house Q and R stock trains, now has refurbished facilities that include new locker rooms, a kitchen and offices for the duty managers trains.

A brand new two-storey accommodation block has also been built to house a quiet room, pool room and training facilities to improve the work environment.

■ If you worked at Upminster depot and have a story to share with other readers, please contact us at otm – our details are on page 2.



Staff settle in to their new accommodation at Upminster.

A New Bus for London

The winners of Mayor Boris Johnson's New Bus for London competition have been announced.

The competition attracted 700 entries across various categories from professionals and non-professionals around the world.

The judges were so impressed with the designs in the 'whole bus' category that they awarded a joint first prize. Capoco Design Ltd and a collaborative entry by Aston Martin and Foster + Partners each won a top prize of £25,000.

Boris Johnson said: "I asked for stylish and imaginative designs that would resonate with Londoners. We now have two stunning designs that allow us to go forward and produce a truly iconic bus for 21st-century London."

Transport Commissioner Peter Hendy added: "The sheer scale of the response shows how much it caught the imagination of Londoners and others worldwide."

The next step is to pass all the winning designs to bus manufacturers to develop into a final proposed design. TfL expects to award the contract to develop and build the bus before the end of this year.

Future icon?
The joint winning designs from Capoco Design Ltd (above right) and Aston Martin and Foster + Partners (right).



SCHEDULING A CAREER CHANGE

When Nigel Pursell had to retire at 50 due to ill-health, he used his 30 years of experience, including time in the schedules offices of London Underground and London Buses, to launch his own business. Called SandOSS (Schedule and Operations Support Services), it offers operational support to bus and coach operators nationwide.

"It may be a much smaller operation, but the basic principles and methods I learned from my time with LT stand me in good stead," said Nigel.

Schedule planning and compilation is Nigel's core business.

He is keen to hear from any readers interested in registering for future contracts. "I hope to draw on the rich vein of talent that exists among retired LT staff," he said.

You can call Nigel on 01709 322235 or email sandosspsv@googlemail.com

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FONDLY REMEMBERED**ERIC BLACK****31 July 2008, aged 86**

Eric worked with London Transport for 39 years, starting in 1946 at Willesden garage as a conductor before becoming a driver on the 46 route, and ending his career in 1985 on the airport buses to Heathrow from Stamford Brook.

DAVID DAGGERS**12 December 2008**

David worked for Railway Mechanical Engineering at Acton until his retirement in 1987.

HARRY DAVISON**24 December 2008, aged 78**

Harry worked for LT from 1964 to 1985 and was a Pensioner Liaison Representative for the Dorking area for many years.

HENRY FOX**28 February 2008, aged 75**

Henry was a manager in the LT Catering department.

PAUL GARBUTT**1 December 2008, aged 89**

Paul retired from LT as chief secretary in the early 1980s and had been a trustee of

the London Transport Museum Friends until recently.

ROBERT HINDES**10 September 2008, aged 96**

Robert retired from the Research Laboratory in Chiswick after 40 years with London Transport as an engineer.

JACK JACKLIN**11 October 2008, aged 95**

Jack worked for the Chief Mechanical Engineer (Rail) at Acton Works and his tasks included preparing revenue and capital budgets.

JAMES LAWRENCE**3 July 2008, aged 69**

James worked at the Works and Building department based at Chiswick Park.

MARJORIE MACDONALD**4 October 2008, aged 85**

Marjorie worked as a bus conductress at Norwood garage, and later at Amersham garage with her husband, driver Gordon MacDonald.

BETTY MCDONNELL NÉE WALKER**April 2008**

Betty worked as a booking clerk at

Liverpool Street.

JOHN RICHARDS**18 November 2008, aged 94**

John was a scientific adviser at the Chiswick Research Laboratory before his retirement in 1976.

GEOFFREY SULLIVAN**26 September 2008, aged 80**

Geoffrey worked in LT Property.

TONY SYMONDS**10 November 2008, aged 80**

Tony spent his career in the Bus Operating department, mainly in the Traffic Office.

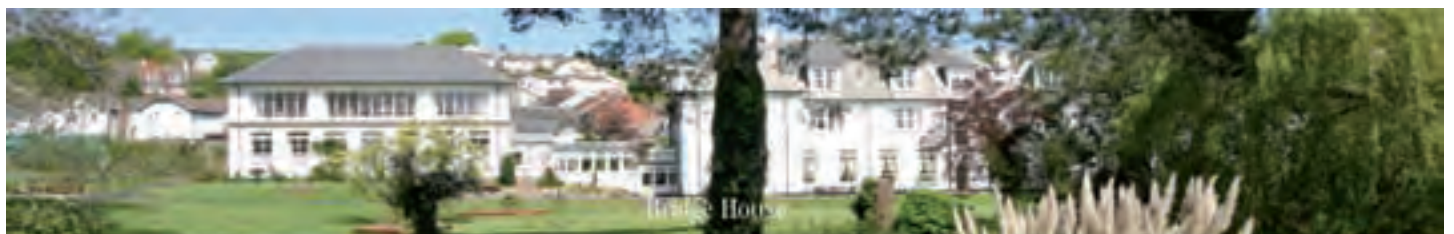
BILL WILKS**18 November 2008**

Bill worked as a chief clerk at Piccadilly Circus and rest day cover chief clerk at Baker Street. He was an active member and chairman of the Metropolitan line branch of the TSSA.

BARRY WILLIAMS**19 June 2008, aged 64**

Barry was a bus driver at Bromley garage and went on to be a gold badge driving instructor. He then became a manager at the Red Arrows and Victoria Bus garage.

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Pots of Success

Sudbury Hill scooped this year's Best Overall Garden title in a keenly contested Underground in Bloom contest.

Station Supervisor Mark Birchenough and Customer Service Assistant Christina Motts (pictured) were behind the winning displays, which also took top prize in the Tubs and Hanging Baskets categories.

Christina said: "I'm really happy for the customers as they feel it's their station and they help us with the garden. Sometimes, they'll come over and sheepishly admit they carried out a spot of weeding."

Other winners included Bollo House (Acton Town train crew accommodation) in the new Trains and Service Control category; Northwood Hills for Best Cultivated Garden; and High Barnet for Best Newcomer.

We received a letter from Veronica Joel Newton, whose late husband William (known as Jack) worked in the vegetation section, where the competition that is now Underground in Bloom first began.

The section cultivated shrubs that were used to plant the embankments alongside the tracks, to stop the banks sliding onto the line in bad weather. It also supplied flowers to offices.

Have Your Say



Thank you to everyone who has sent us a letter. We do read them all, but due to limited space we are only able to publish a selection each time. If you would like to write to us or raise an issue, send your letters to: **otm pensioners' letters, AB Publishing, 24-26 Great Suffolk Street, London SE1 0UE** or email **otm@abcomm.co.uk** marking your email **otm pensioners' edition**. We look forward to hearing from you.

Dear Editor,

With the introduction of the Freedom Pass, the availability is far more reaching for pensioners living in the Greater London area than for those holding an Oyster retired pass.

After 40 years' service, the only advantage to me was using the staff pass before 09.00. I now understand the Freedom Pass will shortly be available for 24 hours a day.

The staff travel pass is therefore completely without value. Would it therefore be more sensible to discontinue issuing the staff pass and channelling the money saved into a scheme that will benefit retired staff and bring back the value the staff pass once held?

A Dixon

Dear Mr Dixon,

Thank you for your letter regarding the differences between a Retired Oyster card and a Freedom Pass.

If you hold a Retired Oyster card, you can also apply for a Nominee Oyster card, which would entitle someone who resides at your address to travel.

This could be for anyone over 16 and therefore not necessarily over 60, as with Freedom Passes.

There is also the usage on limited National Rail links such as Euston to Watford Junction using your Retired Oyster card.

Also, for retired employees who do not wish to have a Nominee Oyster card but are eligible for a Privilege Ticket Authority Card (PTAC), they

Dear Editor,

Nice to see some buses in the latest edition. Sometimes I think you forget part of LT before it was privatised. Every bus driver has their 'party piece' story about when they did the job – why not ask them for it?

*Nick Smith,
former bus driver*

Dear Nick,

Thanks for your kind words. We don't forget about the bus workers among you – and we'd love to hear your stories. Our contact details are on page 2. We can't guarantee to publish them all, but we'll run as many as we can.

otm team

could receive quarter rate on National Rail for their partner and any dependant children. This is not available with a Freedom Pass.

*Elaine Horwood,
Staff Travel Business
Support Manager*

Dear Editor,

I have one question – in the pensioners' otm, why do you have so many adverts? Especially one about funerals – I want to live a few years yet.

DE Montague

Dear Mr Montague,

The pensioners' edition of otm is not funded by the Pension Fund and therefore needs to generate income to help finance its production. Advertising is the most cost-effective way to do this.

We are aware that some readers may wish to plan for future eventualities, hence the inclusion of the advertisement you mention.

We always carefully consider every advertiser in terms of their relevance to the readership, and we

will continue to do so. Your feedback is valuable.

otm team

Dear Editor,

When I joined LT in 1974, I was able to satisfy one of my childhood dreams – driving a passenger bus.

I left on medical grounds in 1992, after nearly 20 years, and enjoyed every minute of it. Indeed now, every time I come to London, I find it very sad without any of the Routemasters – so thank you to James Purvis for the photos in the last issue. RM1 was also on the front page, but RM2 was part of Stockwell's fleet, and personally one of the best to drive as the mechanics seemed to have it in top form.

Victor Correia, former bus driver at Middle Row Garage, Stockwell and Victoria

