

Nominations for PCC elections in 2004

Nominations for this year's London Regional Transport Pensions Consultative Council (PCC) elections close on Friday 20 August.

Five representatives are to be selected to replace those who have to retire on 30 November 2004 under the PCC's constitution.

They are Chris Miller, John Brewster (representing pensioners and deferred pensioners), Chris Godbold (representing employees of TfL, its subsidiaries or contractors) and Glenn Belton and Peter

Moffatt (representing employees of London Underground, its subsidiaries or contractors).

There are also two casual vacancies on the PCC (representing employees of London Underground, its subsidiaries or contractors) – one arising from the retirement of Alan Taylor, the other from last year's elections where there was only one nomination for the section.

To fill these vacancies, any LRT Pension Fund member may nominate another member

– who may be a retiring Councillor – as a candidate for election or re-election to the section which represents them both. This nomination must be in writing to the PCC Secretary, countersigned by a third Fund member represented by the same section, and accompanied by the nominee's written confirmation that he or she is prepared to serve.

Completed nominations must

be sent to PCC Secretary Jo Chance, TfL Secretariat, 14th Floor, Windsor House, 42-50 Victoria Street, London SW1H 0TL by Friday 20 August 2004. Copies of the PCC constitution are also available from the same address.

If there are more nominations than vacancies, elections will be held by postal ballot among Fund members in the relevant sections.

Fond train times

Pictures show new Chairman of LT John Elliot visiting a station in November 1953, shaking hands with Albert Honey in the photograph top right. Albert is circled in all the photos.



In 1979 Albert Honey finally called it a day after an astonishing 49 years' service.

Albert was born a stone's throw from Neasden station and his father worked on the Metropolitan Railway for many years.

Albert's first job was in the parcels department at Baker Street before he became a Guard on the Piccadilly line. He went on to fill several other roles including Driver, Division Inspector and Station Master.

A quarter of a century has passed since he left, but his memories of a varied career are still vivid: "I worked my way up the ranks and worked at a number of stations. I particularly liked working at Baker Street where often the tips from customers would exceed my wages!"

During his working life he even met some well-known celebrities such as Arthur Askey, Charlie Chester and *Last of the Summer Wine's* hapless pensioner Compo (Bill Owen).

Although he enjoyed every minute, Albert isn't sure if he would enjoy the work so much today: "All this computerisation – they call it progress, but if one bit goes wrong, it all does!"

PENSIONERS' FORUM UPDATE

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 26 APRIL 2004

- The pensioners' representatives reviewed the latest issue of the *otm* digest and suggested articles/improvements for future editions
- The pensioners' representatives were given updates on the Actuarial Valuation of the LRT Pension Fund and the reaction to the move to annual payslips for pensioners
- A suggestion made by the pensioners' representatives for a newsletter to be sent out to pensioners with the *LRTPF Annual Review* was not adopted by management because of the additional cost it would incur.

Steps to take for the big getaway

Tired of England's wintry summers and tempted by thoughts of year-round sunshine, thousands of pensioners have quit the UK to retire abroad.

But if you're salivating at the very idea of swapping Newham for Nice, what practical steps can you take to make that dream a reality?

Extensive planning is key. Before you book your flight and put your house on the market, you must find out about the country you want to move to.

Do it by the book

Find out from ex-patriots already there what it is like to be a year-round resident. Or buy a good book. Cyril Holbrook, a British journalist who has lived in Spain for 20 years, has written

the book *Retiring to Spain* about the pros and cons of such a move.

The money factor

Next step – sort out your finances. While you can draw your state pension from your new location, the amount you receive may be frozen if you live in a country outside the European Economic Area. Similarly, not all the social security benefits you get in England are transferable abroad.

For more information about retiring overseas, contact Age Concern on 020 8765 7200 or at www.ageconcern.co.uk.

To find out about your social security benefits, visit your local Benefits Agency office.



Your contacts at your magazine

Do you have something you'd like to include in the next pensioner edition of *otm*? Let us know! Please remember to include a telephone number with your letter.

Your contacts
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Members: come and be seated

The London Transport Retired Staff Association (LTRSA) needs your help to ensure its survival.

The association needs to see more members at its meetings and events. At the end of last year, three of the LTRSA's venues closed due to lack of support, so please don't let the same happen to the association.

Organiser Doreen Murphy said: "We do get new members (and their fivers are very gratefully received), but we need them to actually attend our meetings as well. I think it's called bums on seats' these days!

"The meetings are once a month and we offer holidays and outings as well as a chance to meet old work friends for a chat over tea and biscuits – we even throw in a raffle and Christmas get-together."



For more information, please contact Doreen Murphy | 020 8888 2793

Transfer of pension activities

As part of the restructuring of Human Resources across all the business units of Transport for London, the Pensioner Liaison Scheme is transferring to the Staff Travel Department of Human Resources Services.

The activities previously managed by Judith Yapp will transfer to Veronica O'Leary, Staff Travel Manager.

The scheme will continue to operate in the same way, with Veronica and her team providing advice and support where it is needed. The contact telephone number has been transferred to the Staff Travel area and calls are already being dealt with by staff in the Staff Travel team.

Pensioner Liaison Representatives' expenses claims and report sheets should now be sent to Veronica O'Leary at 1st Floor, Windsor

House. The claims will be processed in the usual way. Any requests for stationery should also be forwarded to Veronica.

Judith Yapp said: "I'd like to take this opportunity to express my thanks to all of you for your dedication to the PLR scheme. I have thoroughly enjoyed my time as Pensioner Liaison Manager. It has been a wonderful experience for me.

"Veronica will have a dedicated team dealing with PLR and retirement travel issues to ensure the service is not compromised in any way."

Judith will work with Veronica to ensure an effective handover of the duties, and will be taking on a new role within the organisation working in the HR Policy team.

i For more information, please contact Veronica O'Leary | 020 7941 4422

History in the making

Did you work at King's Cross station or on a bus or tram route in the area?

The King's Cross Community Development Trust has launched an oral history programme exploring the history of King's Cross. The Trust would like to hear from anyone with reminiscences and tales to tell of their everyday working life in this vibrant and vital sector of London's transport network. The project will become a record of the working life and community life of the area.

The King's Cross area is already changing rapidly. Your reminiscences will be a vital and valuable record of what it was like to work above or below it.

Please contact Alan Dein or Leslie McCartney at King's Cross Voices, King's Cross Community Development Trust, 82-84 Cromer Street, London WC1H 8DG, phone 020 7713 7959 or email AlanD@kings-cross.org.uk or LeslieM@king's-cross.org.uk

The King's Cross ticket office in the 1970s – if you were there, your memories could be part of history.

Celebrating 50 years of the master

The Routemaster bus is celebrating its 50-year anniversary in style with a two-day event on 24 and 25 July in Finsbury Park.

The Routemaster was introduced nine years after the Second World War when 6,000 new buses replaced trams and trolleybuses.

More than 600 Routemasters are still out on the city streets.

But its future is now in the balance after the introduction of the 1995 Disability Discrimination Act (DDA), which stated that public transport must

be more accessible to the disabled, as the design means the Routemaster will not be able to comply with this Act.

Alan Gregory, from the Routemaster Association, said: "It is without doubt the most successful machine of its kind.

"Routemasters are so durable and adaptable that new generations of engine can be fitted, and they remain among the most technically modern, environmentally-sound, fuel-efficient and quickest buses ever to run on London's streets."

George Stevens, 91, spent 40 years as a busman with London Transport and remembers when Routemasters were first brought in.

"It's fair to say they were nice buses, but when they first came in, we had a problem with the shock absorbers. They were so sensitive that when we went over a bump, the people standing would bang their heads on the ceiling!

"I have fond memories of being an Inspector and saw so many things happen on those buses, from people getting on naked to women giving birth. When *On the Buses* came out, people used to call me Blakie.

"In my opinion, London Transport was easily the best bus company in the world."

i For more information, log on to www.routemaster50.org.uk



Routemaster 50 will provide an exciting array of events and activities for all the family at Finsbury Park.

These include:

- Free bus service operated by Routemasters
- Vehicle procession
- A bus turnover recovery demonstration
- Bus pull – teams of people from bus companies racing against each other to pull a bus along using ropes and sheer brawn
- Pasting of adverts on buses
- Children's painting competition.



One of the king's men



Stanley proudly wears his uniform.

Former Station Master Stanley Kingsnorth would have clocked up 50 years' service by the time he retired – but for the six years he spent serving King and country.

Stanley, who retired to Bournemouth in 1983, started at Baker Street station in the parcels office with the Metropolitan Railway Company in 1933.

"I worked in most railway operating positions, and from 1963 I was a Station Master until my retirement," said Stanley. He held this position at Hendon Central, Putney Bridge, Hounslow West, Mile End and Bethnal Green.

Stanley's break in service was between 1940 and 1946 when he went to serve in His Majesty's Royal Engineers in the Middle East, in Beirut and Cyprus.



ABOVE Stanley and the team at Putney Bridge.



LEFT Stanley (left), presents Ticket Collector Thomas (Monty) Mitchell and his wife May with a clock during his time as Station Master.

Around the world in 40 years

From Stratford to Kuwait, David Freeman enjoyed a globetrottingly good career with London Transport for more than 40 years.

He joined the company's Operational Research team in 1962.

"We looked at operating issues, including methods of controlling bus routes and the speed of ticket machines," he said.

After 13 years, David moved to the Town Planning team – a role which would take him to far-flung places.



Well-travelled: David pictured at Stratford Bus Station during its redevelopment.

"We worked with local authorities on the design of bus stations and interchanges. In those days the company had a subsidiary called London Transport International, where staff would perform consultancy work abroad."

In 1978 David travelled to Kuwait for 18 months.

"Their bus company was in a mess. I dealt with the local authority there on issues such as how buses would fit into their plans for future road development. It was a great experience." In 1982 David visited Singapore for four months to carry out a similar project.

The early 1990s saw him join the project that would be his proudest achievement.

"I started working on the bus stations and interchanges for the Jubilee line extension, in particular the redevelopment of Stratford Bus Station.

"It was my baby and I was thrilled by how fantastic the public reaction was."

David was also a member of the Transport Salaried Staffs Association union and became a Pension Fund trustee.

He retired in 2003 and now dedicates his time to fundraising for the Church of St Giles in Barbican, where he has been Warden for 25 years. He's a keen member of countless charities linked to the church and the community.

The drive of your life

The Gaymer family has been on an extraordinary journey lasting 86 years – a long time even by public transport standards! At least one family representative has been involved with buses or trams for the best part of a century.

Thomas Gaymer worked on the horse-drawn trams and then the motor trams from 1900 to 1916. His son John became a Tram Driver in 1918 after serving in the First World War. He was called up again in 1939 before being discharged in 1944. His service then continued on the trams until his retirement in 1968.

Following the family trend, John's daughter Patricia worked as a Conductor from 1960 to 1964, while her late husband Frederick worked as a Bus Mechanic at West Ham garage from 1946 until his retirement in 1986.

"I'm so proud that my family have provided so much service over such an incredible length of time," said Patricia.

Clocking up the service hours

Three generations of the Watts family have enjoyed employment across London Underground operations.

John served at the Neasden depot for 31 years before retiring in the 1970s. His oldest son, Ray, can boast even longer service, with more than 40 years in the signalling department.

Ray's brother Eric has seen 36 uninterrupted years in the lift and escalator team at Griffith House, Edgware Road. If that wasn't enough, Eric's son Harry has followed in his father's footsteps and is currently completing an apprenticeship in the same department.

Collectively they have amassed more than a century of dedicated service.



Stanley (right) with some of his brothers at West Norwood garage in the 1950s.

Band of brothers

The buses were a family affair for the Greens, with four brothers working in the industry.

Stanley worked as a Painter and Signwriter in the Chief Mechanical Engineer's Office at West Norwood and Stream garages from the 1940s.

He was one of 16 brothers and sisters,

with brothers George, Gilbert and Ted the other bus employees.

Stanley's daughter, Maureen Langridge, added: "The family connection goes back

even further as my grandfather, William Green, also worked at West Norwood garage, the 1940s.

retiring in 1938 after 25 years' service.

"Seven of the brothers, including Stanley, served in the Second World War and came back safely."

"My father died in 1994 aged 84 in Plymouth, Devon, where he had retired after a working life spent in London."

noticeboard

● A new edition of *What to Do When Someone Dies* will soon be available. The book is a practical guide to the administrative and legal requirements that follow someone's death. The book, published by *Which?* and written by Paul Harris, is £10.99. For more information call 0800 252100.

● The Disability Alliance has joined forces with a panel of solicitors to produce an online legal service for the disabled. The service, called The Solicitor's Room, has a secure section useful for those with mobility and hearing problems. For more information, contact the Disability Alliance on 020 7247 8776 and at www.disabilityalliance.org or click on to www.thesolicitorsroom.com

● A guide to help older and disabled people organise building work at home has been published by *Care and Repair England*. The guide provides detailed advice on how to raise money for home repairs and adaptations. *In Good Repair: A Guide for Older and Disabled People about Organising Home Repairs and Adaptations* is available free by calling 0115 982 1527 or clicking on www.careandrepair-england.org.uk

● The Financial Services Authority has published a factsheet about raising money from your home. The factsheet explains the

two main types of equity release schemes – lifetime mortgages and home reversion. To get a free copy of *Raising Money from Your Home*, Ref: CRED62aFP, call the FSA on 0845 608 2372.

● If you would like to create a living will and an enduring power of attorney but don't know how to go about it, the *Pocket Lawyer* series has produced a new guide. The guide explains what a living will is and lists the arguments for and against making one. *Living Wills and Enduring Powers of Attorney*, by Mark Fairweather and Rosy Border, costs £12.95 and is produced by Cavendish Publishing. Call 020 7278 8000 for details.

● Changes to the way pensioners are charged for residential accommodation, care homes for the disabled or infirm, came into force in April 2004. The Department of Health (DoH) has published a circular to explain the situation. For more information, call the DoH on 08701 555455 and ask for the Local Authority Circular – LAC (2004)9: *Charges for Residential Accommodation*.

● The Financial Services Authority has published a new leaflet listing the pros and cons of taking pension benefits before retirement. Called *Unlocking Pensions*, it is aimed at people over 50 who have a pension fund. For a free copy, call the FSA publications orderline on 0845 608 2372.

Obituaries and in memoriam

If you have an obituary notice for inclusion, please send details to *otm* pensioner edition, 24-26 Great Suffolk Street, London SE1 0UE or email onthemove@abcomm.co.uk. Please include a contact telephone number in case we need to clarify any information.

- **Eric Ackley** died on 27 March 2004, aged 82. Eric worked at Lots Road Power Station for more than 38 years.
- **John Joseph Barry** died on 29 July 2003. He worked for London Transport for more than 34 years, mainly as a Driver.
- **Mick Bastin** worked in the booking offices at various stations. He retired in 1999 and died on 14 January 2004.
- **Arthur Denton** passed away on 5 April 2004, aged 92. Arthur worked as a Bus Driver and retired in 1976.
- **Peter Felstead** was a Driver for more than 27 years. He passed away on 24 July 2003 after a short illness.
- **John (Jack) Grant** worked for London Transport for more than 37 years as a Supervisor. He passed away on 27 February 2002, aged 78.
- **Keith Haynes** passed away on 11 April 1999 aged 64. He worked for London Underground for 37 years.
- **Denis Kelly** died suddenly on 12 April 2004, aged 65. Denis was a Bus Conductor for 31 years.
- **Mr Lewis** worked for LT Buses for 41 years as an Engineering Mechanic. He died on 22 March 2004, aged 87.
- **Daniel Moore** joined London Transport in 1947 as a Guard and worked at various stations before retiring in 1989 after 42 years' service. Daniel died in October 2003.
- **John Prior** worked at Upton Park bus garage for 34 years as a Mechanic. He died in June 2003 aged 83.
- In the last issue, we included a notice about **William Shand**, but mis-spelled his surname. Thank you to Mrs Shand for contacting us and we apologise for the error.

- **Arthur Shearing** joined LT Buses in 1963 as a Driver, and later became an Inspector. He was a member of the LT swimming team and retired in 1986. He passed away on 12 August 2002.
- **Thomas Sullivan** worked for LT as an Electrical Maintenance Engineer in several bus garages in east London for 33 years until his retirement in 1984. He passed away on 9 April 2004 after a long battle with cancer.
- **John (Jack) Whittle** died on 2 December 2002 aged 84. John worked for London Underground for almost 27 years.
- **Errol A Worrell** died on 18 May 2001. Errol joined London Underground in 1964 as a Guard before going on to become a Driver and later an Inspector.

In memory of a great worker

We're sad to report the death of Charles (Charlie) Browning, who spent 46 years at London Underground before he retired in January 1985.

Charles was a Signaller at Queen's Park and a Station Master at Elephant and Castle during his time with the tube. Outside work, he could see off any rival on a chessboard and also enjoyed fishing, golf and cricket.

Friend and colleague Frank Miller said: "I worked with Charles for 23 years. As well as being the best worker you could ever have, he was well-liked and never got on the wrong side of anybody. I'm sure a lot of people out there will know him and be sorry to hear this news."

Charles died in April, aged 82, from a tumour.

Eurostar discount for retirees

To make a reservation phone the Eurostar Specialist Sales Section in advance on 0870 6000 789

Fancy a continental sojourn to Paris, Lille or Brussels? Pensioners are entitled to fares at special rates when you book in advance.

Who qualifies?

- All retired staff in possession of a valid retired staff Oyster card and Photocard (both red in colour with the Oyster card and Photocard having a serial number starting '005').

What's on offer?

- Discount travel on Eurostar for the eligible member of retired staff
- Up to three companions, travelling with the retired member of staff, can also benefit from discount travel
- Prices start from as little as £49
- Bookings can also be made for other travelling companions at the same time, including children, but normal Eurostar prices would apply
- All bookings, including discounted travel, are subject to availability.

How do you make a reservation?

- To get the discounted fares, you must

book in advance

- Simply telephone the Eurostar Specialist Sales Section on 0870 6000 789
- Applications should be made 14 days in advance of travel
- The Eurostar Specialist Sales Section will check availability and offer alternative dates/times if your preferred choice is not available
- You may be required to provide your retired number (as shown on your red retired staff Photocard) as confirmation of eligibility. You will also be required to carry your retired staff Oyster card and Photocard with you at all times while travelling as further confirmation
- Once a reservation has been made, you will be provided with a booking reference number.

What happens next?

- Tickets will be posted to you up to one week before the date of travel
- Remember to carry with you your retired staff Oyster card and Photocard as confirmation of eligibility for discounted Eurostar fares while travelling.

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From trucks to trains

Train Operator Derek Marriott is feeling all at sea since retiring last month after 23 years with London Underground.

Derek, a former Lorry Driver, joined as a Guard at Neasden. He became a Train Operator on the Bakerloo line in 1988, where he stayed for the rest of his career.

"I love driving trains – it's like being the captain of your own ship," Derek said.

"I'll miss that feeling of being in charge and being out there on the frontline, ferrying millions of people around London.

"London Underground was good to me, which is why I've stayed so long. It's a good career for anyone."



Bye bye Bakerloo: Derek Marriott waves goodbye to the tube.

Alan's tall tale

Being too tall for a bus job led Plaistow Duty Station Manager Alan Taylor to a career on the Underground.

Alan, who retired in April, was told that at 6ft 2in he couldn't be a Bus Conductor, so he became a Station Foreman instead.

Now he has written a book about his 36 years on the tube.

"I even met my wife on the tube. She was a customer and I just started talking to her one day. We've been married for 30 years.

"I've got my height to thank for this great career," he added.



Height of success: Alan Taylor chose a station career as he was too tall for buses.

Goodbye to Moorgate

It's going to take more than retirement to make two Moorgate staff lose touch with their friends at the station.

Station Assistants PJ Sheehy and Eric Collier both said goodbye in May.

PJ joined in 1980 as a Relief Railman (now known as Station Assistant) at Finsbury Park. He was then rostered to Euston and then in 1994 went to Moorgate as a Station Assistant.

"I will miss the camaraderie more than anything. I loved working on the frontline and having a laugh with staff and customers," said PJ.

Eric clocked up 14 years at Moorgate. He joined as a Leading Railman (Station Assistant) in 1990.

"I didn't want to move stations when I got here. The comradeship was brilliant," he said.

Eric also had stints as a RMT Union Industrial and Health and Safety representative.

"They were the highlights of my career – being able to help my colleagues was a brilliant experience."



Keeping in touch: Eric Collier (left) and PJ Sheehy.

Giving a good account

A passion for numbers inspired Madge Lester to pursue a career with London Underground.

Starting out with London Transport as a Bus Conductress in 1970, Madge switched to the tube as a Booking Clerk four years later, attracted by the paperwork and figures.

"I worked in the ticket office ever since," said Madge. Madge retired in April.

puzzlecorner

Retiree Len Loullis has plenty of time to indulge his passion for puzzles, and he's shared some of them with otm so readers can exercise their little grey cells.

ACROSS

- 1. Principal tree you see on street (5)
- 7. The towns of Plodiv and Varna are in this

- 8. European republic (8)
- 8. What is the next set of letters in the following sequence: LKFLK, MLGML, NMHNM, (5)

- 10. 1974 Rugby League Challenge Cup winners (10)
- 12. Cactus-like leafless African plant with large mottled leaves (8)
- 14. Waldheim, former UN Secretary (4)
- 16. In France I stand before the Queen to taunt (4)
- 17. 1956 Rodgers and Hammerstein musical with Shirley Jones and Gordon MacRae (8)
- 20. King of Spain since 1975 (4,6)
- 23. Capital of Nigeria 1960-82 (5)
- 24. Greek long-necked stringed musical instrument (8)
- 25. The fluid that remains after blood has clotted (5)

- 4. Extreme mental or physical suffering (5)
- 5. Type of small pork sausage, the name taken from the German meat sausage (9)
- 6. Hendon is the headquarters of this London borough (6)
- 9. Ralph, American consumer rights activist (5)
- 11. Obvious, apparent worth (4,5)
- 13. What word is missing from the brackets in each case?: L(...), M(...), NDA, (...), Q (3)
- 15. High-level computer programming language designed for commercial use (5)
- 16. Zizyphus, spiny shrub of the buckthorn family (6)
- 18. Supple, lithe and agile (6)
- 19. Bell, pseudonym of Anne Bronte (5)
- 21. Any of various spirits made in eastern Europe and the Middle East (4)
- 22. A wise man may be ages (4)

DOWN

- 1. Westernmost of the Azores (6)
- 2. Pack your stuff for a Cotswold destination (4)
- 3. Frank, comedian and script writer who died in 1995 (4)