

WOMEN... ON THE BUSES

The first many of us will remember about women in transport will have been from the 1970's sitcom 'On the Buses'. As hilarious as it was (certainly back then) to watch Stan Butler chat up the clippies, the attitude to what were deemed 'suitable' jobs for women was already changing, and fast.

In fact, **Jill Viner** (1952–1996) became the first woman to drive a London bus licensed to carry passengers in June 1974, just a year after the final episode of 'On the Buses' aired.

Jill was quoted as saying: "There have been a few surprised looks from passengers at stops who have spotted a woman was driving".

It was said thirty women applied to drive buses within weeks of Jill's first day behind the wheel. After the initial spike, uptake was slow, and women would have to wait until the 80s for London Transport to begin pro-actively recruiting them to become bus drivers.



Jill ©TfL from the London Transport Museum collection

Fast-forward to 2024, and there are many more women at Transport for London, across the board, including at executive and Board level. However, women are still not proportionally represented in public transport and comparatively few are bus drivers.

Were you a woman working on the buses? Share your experiences; we'd love to hear from you.

✉ otmpensioners@tfl.gov.uk



Snap happy: Osaretin

Wonder Women

It was International Women's Day on March 8, so we're taking the time to celebrate some of our very own women, past and present, in this edition. With her mile-wide smile, Waterloo Customer Service Assistant **Osaretin Atohengbe** sets a high bar. While King's Cross St Pancras might have knocked Waterloo off its 'busiest Tube station' perch (at least for now), there's little time between the traffic peaks to get a photo, but she manages to brighten

TfL colleagues' days by sharing snaps on the company's social media tool.

Osaretin's smile offers a warm and friendly welcome to anyone and everyone who crosses her path. When asked what keeps her smiling after three years in one of London's busiest stations, Osaretin tells us: "Choosing to count my blessings, not dwell on bad situations (or difficult customers) and stay on top – life's what you make it. I call it being intentionally happy!"



A LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

Firstly, a big thank you for your letters and emails. As I wrote in January's edition, we're keen to make this mag more about you. Please, get involved and share your stories, memories, and feedback; we really are all ears.

Now that the pandemic is (thankfully) behind us, the world has – once again – become a little 'smaller'. And while flight prices don't seem to have recovered (gone down) from the 'Covid effect', many of us have been able to pick up where we left off, at least to some extent.

On a recent trip to Florida, I was reminded of how much we take London's transport system for granted. As well as the infrastructure (or lack of in places), there's the mindset issue.

Walking – as we would every day – the mile-or-so to the nearest supermarket would elicit quite a reaction from the locals. I swear passing car drivers thought we were bonkers, and a neighbour in our building repeatedly asked us why we'd walk anywhere when we had a perfectly decent [rental] car. Our answer: because we could.

My mum's (60+) Oyster card was "her passport to London". A day didn't go by (even in her 90s) when she didn't trundle off somewhere on a bus (she didn't much like the Tube)... because she could.

We'd love to hear your experiences of public transport (especially as some of you are in far-flung parts of the world), and if you still get out and about using your Oyster card. As ever, there's a prize for the best letter.

Thanks for reading.

Gordon McDonald
Editor

WOMAN UPFRONT



Learning the ropes: Hannah (far right)
©TfL from the London Transport Museum collection

Hannah Dadds (1941–2011) is, rightly, lauded for becoming the first London Underground woman driver. Taking up her position at the front of a train in 1978 – a year in which the Ford Cortina (often with a smart vinyl roof) was the top-selling car – brought many challenges. While women trainees faced verbal abuse and harassment during training, sympathetic training staff often found ways to support them as best they could.

Hannah – no wallflower herself – became big news in London Underground

and a press conference was set up to share her story. After the event, she said: "I did all the press and the television, and anyone else from radio. There was loads of them! And I drove a train out of Acton, drove it from there to Ealing Broadway. And then I had a lot of them [pictures] taken there, and then I had to fetch it back in again. And then we went to the pub."

While it was a sad day when Hannah stabled her last train, she was a trailblazer and paved the way for hundreds of women to take up their rightful place at the front of a train.

MORE TO DO

27,043

people work for TfL*.

25 per cent

are women (compared to 46 per cent of economically active Londoners).

*2023 data



london
transport
museum



Volunteering opportunities

Volunteering is for everyone. It's a great way to develop skills and give back to the community. Whether you are volunteering to keep busy, learn new skills or to meet new people London Transport Museum is a great place to be.

Volunteers make a huge contribution to London Transport Museum. Give some of your time, knowledge or experience and you can gain so much in return:

- Develop transferable skills towards your own career development at any age!
- Experience at London Transport Museum makes a great addition to any CV
- Meet new people, make new friends



MAYOR OF LONDON



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If you're looking to keep active, learn new skills or apply your knowledge, London Transport Museum is a great place to volunteer. Find out more now cutt.ly/ltmvolunteering

KEEP CALM AND VOLUNTEER ON

We dropped in on London Transport Museum's award-winning Volunteer Resource Manager Sam Clift to find out what he won and what he does.

Sam – who's been at the Museum for 13 years – recently won Heritage Volunteering Group's prestigious 'Volunteer Leader of the Year 2023'. The award recognises innovative and outstanding examples of volunteer leadership and management in the heritage sector and celebrates the very essence of excellence in Sam's field.

The Basingstoke-based father of three told us he was "Overwhelmed, shocked, delighted and incredibly proud," to have been crowned winner.

But when it came to what he does, Sam told us it's very much a team effort: "While I was privileged to pick up the award, it's the volunteers who make what we do possible.

"In 2010 we had 100 volunteers. Today, there are 300 women and men who contribute a whopping 18,000 hours to the museum. Their time, experience, effort, and passion for what they do is invaluable, and we're incredibly grateful to call them part of the team."

Museum Director and CEO **Elizabeth McKay** said: "Sam's well-deserved recognition is testament to his hard work, dedication, and focus on being the best. He pioneered our new five-year volunteering strategy alongside introducing buddy schemes, volunteer 'take-over' days, staff coaching, and developing bespoke opportunities for autistic people... and more besides!"



Sam

LETTERS

MIND THE DOORS

Dear otm PE

I used to work for British Transport Advertising on the Central line at West Ruislip. I remember the train guards making sure you got on safely; that was good.

Now all the driver wants is to shut the doors and go – they don't care about the passengers.



Bring back the guard!
I wonder if you will print this message.

Nigel Thomas

.....
Thanks for taking the time to write in, Nigel. We don't 'cherry-pick' from our positive letters, so we're pleased to print yours, and of course provide a response, courtesy of Head of SHE TfL Operations, Rail, **Marian Kelly**.

Dear Nigel

We know driver-only trains are safe and efficient, something that's essential for a high frequency railway like the Underground.

While there may not be a guard to keep an eye on the platform, the train operator remains responsible for ensuring passengers can board and alight safely. Technology, such as CCTV screens, combined with highly skilled and observant train operators, means we're able to run a safe and efficient service for London. Our train operators open and close the doors on our trains thousands of times a day – and sometimes the time is short. My team monitor the safety risk associated with this, and we'll continue to work with our train operator colleagues to remind everyone of the importance of their role in keeping our customers safe.

I hope this puts your mind at ease, Nigel, and confirms we, and our train operators, absolutely do care about passengers.

Thanks for writing in.

Marian

WISH YOU WERE HERE?



Dear otm PE

I would like to know if the holiday offers that are in an enclosed envelope are checked as genuine as they always seem to be too good to be true. I have just looked at some of the reviews on Trustpilot and there are plenty of 1-star reviews for the RSD Travel Croatia & Montenegro tour. Are you getting positive feedback from retired LT staff?

Ian Johnstone

Dear Ian

While we're not associated with any of the companies that advertise in otm PE, I've actually heard good things about these trips (I haven't had any direct negative feedback either). Of course, an unhappy customer is far more likely to post a review, but let's ask otm PE readers what they think. Who knows, we might even get an 'otm PE in unusual places' entry to boot.

Gordon McDonald,
Editor

Send us your memories, transport tales, thoughts or feedback to [✉ otmpensioners@tfl.gov.uk](mailto:otmpensioners@tfl.gov.uk) to be in with a chance of winning a prize. You can also post your letter to us (our address is on the back page). Get writing now – send a photo if you can.



NEW TRICKS

Retired TfL Structural Engineer **Haji Matin** wrote in to let us know he's recently passed a GCSE in higher maths... at the grand old age of 81.

Haji, from Wood Green, told us he sat the exam to help boost the spirits of his 16-year-old granddaughter as her studies had been interrupted due to the pandemic. He also used the learning exercise to delay his own age-related dementia.

Granddaughter Natalia often studied with Haji and said: "We all thought it was a really great thing to do, he's so keen on maths and learning. It's been a passion his whole life, education, he spent a lot of money investing in schools in Bangladesh and encouraging engineering and STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths).

"He said when he did his degree they didn't even have calculators – it was really interesting for him to see how it's all done now."

Haji sat his exam at the Unique Sixth Form in Edmonton and thought it was "so funny" being in a hall around teenagers.

So, when you next hear the phrase 'You can't teach an old dog new tricks', don't believe it; Haji is living proof that there really is no end to education. How do you keep your mind sharp as a pin? Let us know ✉ otmpensioners@tfl.gov.uk



NIFTY 50



Tight tops, flared jeans and mini skirts were big in 1973 – the same year in which women were admitted into the Stock Exchange for the first time. British Leyland launched its swanky new model, the Austin Allegro (for £1,159). And 1.6 million workers went on strike over government pay restraints.

But while many downed tools, Train Operator **Keith Lloyd** began his London Underground career.

Keith, 68, applied because a friend who already worked on the Underground told him it was a good job, and that he should apply too: "In those days, you just went up to Edgware Road, signed your name and did a little test – which was easy. I got through!"

From there, Keith began as a station guard, then a full-time guard before two years as a driver on the Northern line. After that, Keith finally became a driver at Upminster on the District line, where he remains until today.

Keith remembers his early days in the seventies with fondness: "It was great. There was a lot more banter than today, because now there's more technology and everyone's on their phones and computers."

While Keith is quite happy in his job, with no complaints, he tells us he's planning to retire soon.

Did you celebrate 40 or 50 years with the business? We'd love to hear about your time in transport.

✉ otmpensioners@tfl.gov.uk



ECO WARRIORS UNITE

While – at least until relatively recently – climate change and global warming were something somebody else was talking about, and many of us weren't that engaged on the subject. Some of us even argued it wasn't even a 'thing'. Fast-forward to 2024 and it's hard to ignore: there's unequivocal evidence that Earth is warming at an unprecedented rate. And it's down to us humans, mostly.

Most of us – at least to some extent – are already onboard when it comes to reducing our carbon footprint. Recycling what we can has become second nature, swapping out energy-hungry lightbulbs for more efficient ones is a job we're less likely to put off, and using public transport rather than jumping in the car is often just the ticket.

What about paper?

If you're staring at the printed version of this magazine, you might be surprised to learn it can take a whopping 10 litres of water just to produce one page. Paper waste accounts for around 26 per cent of solid landfill waste and 55 per cent of the global paper supply comes from newly cut trees.

While it's not our place to tell you what to do when it comes to your own carbon footprint, or get all eco warrior-ish with you, we can offer you opportunities to reduce it when it comes to how you engage with news from TfL.

otm online

You can now sign up for the electronic copy of otm PE in seconds. Enter your member number, surname and email address at cutt.ly/otmpesubscription (you can also scan the QR code to get there) and, well, that's it! You'll also get the staff magazine – otm – every month too. If that wasn't a sweet enough deal already, we'll also award a prize, courtesy of our friends at London Transport Museum, to a randomly chosen email-only subscriber every quarter.



SCAN ME



Online. anytime



While London Underground's Service Control function was historically dominated by men, things are changing.

When Service Controller **Zoe Wren** first joined the team, there were no other women controllers on the Central line, and it was a surprise for some to hear her responding to radio calls. Today, there are more women in the team than ever before, and Zoe hopes to inspire others to consider a career in her field.

Service controllers manage the trains, timetables and respond to incidents to help return the network to a normal service.

The work can be challenging, but training is provided to help recruits successfully transition into the role.

In the past, control rooms have been considered intimidating environments to work in, but Zoe

thrived despite having little knowledge of the role before joining the business. She was approached with the opportunity while working as an Assistant Operations Manager for the London Fire Brigade, overseeing all emergency fire calls in Greater London.

Zoe's resilience, transferable skills and work ethic – instilled by her mother – pushed her to progress.

She's keen to encourage more women into the role and recommends they ask around to get a better understanding of what it entails: "It's important to understand how different teams collaborate to keep the railway running, knowing the line you work on, its stations and traction current sections, and you must become familiar with timetables."

The Service Control team recognised they needed better representation of women in the function, so they got on with addressing the issue. The Women in Service Control initiative provides TfL colleagues with opportunities to visit control centres to learn more about the department and network, the career paths available and how to apply for vacancies.

Zoe says: "Control rooms can be seen as scary places, but people don't know much about them. Having opportunities for people to learn more about the role will help encourage more women to apply for vacancies."

It's not about statistics; more diverse teams improve our working culture and the quality of service we deliver for London.

Tonight Matthew, I'm going to be...

Remember that catchphrase? Essentially, 'Stars in Their Eyes' saw members of the public impersonate showbiz stars. Of course, there's a far more sinister angle to impersonating someone, and it's better known as fraud.

Fraudsters use people's personal information for all kinds of criminality – from taking control of their bank account, to applying for a loan or credit card in their name.

In 2022, more than 270,000 reports were made to law enforcement agencies, and it's reported identity fraud cases have reached an all-time high as the cost-of-living crisis bites.

It's important to protect your identity... along with your hard-earned cash. Here's how:

- Regularly check your bank statements for unauthorised/unknown transactions
- Monitor your credit reports through a Credit Reference Agency

SCAMS IN THEIR EYES

- Avoid revealing personal information on social media
- Shared letterbox? Keep an eye on your mail and collect it every day
- Keep your National Insurance number to yourself; it's an ideal piece of info for identity fraudsters
- Make sure your documents (passport, driving licence, utility bills, bank statements etc) are safe and accounted for

If you think you're a victim of fraud, do not feel ashamed or embarrassed. Instead, act quickly: report it to the police and Action Fraud

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OPEN HOUSE... AT LONDON TRANSPORT MUSEUM DEPOT



London Transport Museum cares for more than 500,000 historic objects, most of which are housed at its Depot in Acton, west London.

The Depot is a working collection store and only opens to the public for special events. If you haven't visited before, you're in luck! A new season of tour offers is

set to begin in April. Join knowledgeable volunteer guides to explore this transport treasure trove. Discover historic road and rail vehicles, engineering equipment, original artworks, posters, signs and maps. Tickets sell out quick, so be sure to book via the museum's website [ltmuseum.co.uk/whats-on/depot-guided-tours](https://www.ltmuseum.co.uk/whats-on/depot-guided-tours)

HERE COME THE DOUBLE DECKERS

CELEBRATE THE ROUTEMASTER'S 70TH

If you ask a tourist what they're most hoping to see in London, a bright red double-decker will be somewhere near the top of their list. They're a much-loved city icon, up there with Sir Giles Gilbert Scott's telephone box, Big Ben and fish & chips!

Of course, proper double-deckers, as in Routemasters, are extra special, and the very first model – the RMI – is 70 years old.

To celebrate this anniversary, the Routemaster Association will host a free family event at Chiswick Park, London, over the weekend of 20/21 July.

It'll offer a unique opportunity to see (and ride) these beautifully brutish workhorses in the very location trainee drivers were once put through their paces (on the infamous skid pan).

With a line-up of 70 Routemasters, you'll want to get this date in your diary, and sharpish; it's going to be a cracker!




Where: 566 Chiswick High Road, London W4 5YA

When: 10:00, Saturday 20, Sunday 21 July

How much: Free

Getting there: Gunnersbury (District, Overground) 1 min walk, Chiswick Park (District) 10 min walk, Acton Town (District, Piccadilly) 19 min walk

More info:  routemaster.org.uk

Superloop gets loopier



The third all-new express Superloop route, SL5, launched in February.

Operating between Bromley and Croydon, it offers Londoners additional bus connections to busy areas and neighbourhoods in south and southeast London.

Running alongside part of the existing routes 119 and 198 – between Shirley and East Croydon – the Arriva-operated SL5 runs every 12 minutes Monday to Saturday and every 15 minutes during evenings and on Sundays, between 05:00 and midnight.

It connects with SL3 at Bromley North Bus Station and with SL7 at East Croydon Bus Station.

As with the existing Superloop services, the SL5 has distinct branding to help customers identify it as an express service. It's the only Superloop route to operate on single decker vehicles (due to some low hanging trees on South Eden Park Road).

The SL2 and SL3 are hot on its heels!

Have you ridden the Superloop yet? ✉ tflpensioners@tfl.gov.uk

VIDEO STAR

Frank Pick, Chief Executive of London Transport, was a towering figure who had an unrivalled flair for design management. During his 30-year career, he changed the face of London Transport. His vision brought our transport system international acclaim for its architecture, graphic art and design.

Today, his ethos for design, art and flair continues.

Award-winning artist **Douglas Gordon's** new video artwork 'undergroundoverheard' can now be seen at Tottenham Court Road's Dean Street entrance. The artwork, which celebrates Soho's vibrant culture, forms part of the Crossrail Art Programme,



Douglas Gordon, 'undergroundoverheard', 2023

the largest collaborative public art commissioning process in a generation.

The looped video builds on his renowned text-based works: short statements that encourage the viewer or listener to speculate. Now in video format, these texts will be translated into the most-spoken languages of the people who make our capital the dynamic, multicultural city it is.

Thousands are set to see Gordon's work every day as they pass by or through the station's Dean Street entrance.

Many of the Elizabeth line stations are destinations in themselves thanks to their designs. Have you used what's now officially the busiest railway line in the UK and, if so, what do you think? Let us know

✉ otmpensioners@tfl.gov.uk

HE HAS WALKED 500 MILES

Actually, it was probably more but, hair-splitting aside, Tube-loving **Jordan Lynch, 28**, challenged himself to walk to every London Underground station.

Jordan, a pensions advisor with Wandsworth Council, got the idea after delving into the veritable rabbit warren of Underground-related YouTube videos.

"My mum's a big fan of the Tube, and she got me into it too. Geoff Marshall videos came next, and his 'End of the Line' series, something we went on to do ourselves."

A-MAZE-ING

While YouTuber Geoff lets the (Tube) train take the strain, Jordan decided he'd do it on foot after a "crazy idea" that made him question how far he could walk from his Southfields home.

To add a level of complexity (why not, right?), he decided he'd find every station's 'maze' artwork too. The Labyrinths – created by one of the UK's leading contemporary artist Mark Wallinger – were installed to celebrate the Underground's 150th year.

Jordan tells us his visits often created quite a stir: "Everyone I came across wanted to find out what I was up to and loved that I loved the Tube too! They were all so helpful, especially when it came to locating some of the Labyrinths!"

THE LONG AND WINDING ROAD

In just eight months, Jordan's 'ticked' off each of our 272 stations. But what next? "I've been thinking of the DLR, or maybe the Overground..."



Jordan

If you see Jordan out on our network, he's probably going home after a very long walk!

otm

FONDLY REMEMBERED



Ron Jones, 91 years young, passed on 17 December 2023. Ron began his London Transport career as a driver out of Catford Bus Garage. He progressed to inspector and could often be found on the corner of the Greenwich one-way system. He then moved his way into the office.

Loved by drivers and visitors alike, he was always willing to listen and help. Ron is sadly missed by three daughters and loving wife, Doreen.



Rafik 'Ali' Pirmohamed, 73, passed on April 21 2023. Uganda-born Ali began his transport career as a Routemaster conductor out of Alperton and Hanwell garages. After years of hard work, learning and sheer determination, Ali finally got into the driving seat, something he really enjoyed. The hard-working family man leaves a wife of more than 50 years, two children and three grandchildren.



Ex-London Underground (LU) DSM **Art Butler**, 64, passed on 2 December 2023. Art worked on various lines and stations across the network and had a wide knowledge of LU workings, rules, and regulations. Although retired, Art always kept in touch with colleagues and attended any LU gatherings he could.



John Halls, 67, passed unexpectedly in December 2023. Employed in the Signal Engineering department, John's role before retirement was as a Technician Officer at Acton works. Being very fit, he wouldn't let transport issues stop him from getting around, and could be counted on to walk (at a fast pace!) to the depot. John will be sadly missed by family and friends.

Send a paragraph along with a photo of someone who has passed ✉ otmpensioners@tfl.gov.uk

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PENSIONERS' FORUM SUMMARY

Meeting held on Thursday 8 February 2024

We met with senior TfL managers who confirmed there had been no significant developments with the Pensions Review. Reps emphasised the need for a clear comparison between the existing arrangements and any alternative scheme, should one be proposed.

The TfL team reiterated that in our letter to DfT dated 20 July we said it was essential that the benefits members have built up to date are protected and that it

was essential that members' past service benefits built up to date will be protected on a mirror image basis without detriment (including maintaining the final salary link).

With the news that plans to close up to 1,000 ticket offices has been suspended, online booking arrangements for free/Priv National Rail services have slipped down the Rail Delivery Group's priorities. An update will be provided in this magazine when more is known.

The article on pensioners' associations in the January edition of this magazine had generated some interest, including new contacts for the associations. The editor was congratulated on an interesting edition, and he repeated his plea for suggestions for content for future editions.

Our thanks go to former PCC councillor and Forum participant **Joel Kosminsky** for his diligence and many contributions.

CONTACT DETAILS

PENSION FUND

The TfL Pension Fund Office team are always pleased to help with your questions. Choose from the following options to get in touch.

Email

✉ helpdesk@tflpensions.co.uk

Submit an enquiry (if registered) via the Pensions Web Portal

🌐 pensions.tfl.gov.uk

Post

TfL Pension Fund
8G7 Palestra
197 Blackfriars Road
London
SE1 8NJ

Phone

☎ 01737 235298

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☎ 0800 015 5071

✉ I729Helpdesk@tfl.gov.uk



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☎ 0300 200 3300 (quote ref 083/LT7 and your NI number)

OTM PE MAGAZINE

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PENSION PAYMENTS

Payments will be made directly into your bank or building society account on **11 March, 8 April, 7 May, 3 June, 1 July and 29 July 2024**.

More info and future dates: 🌐 cutt.ly/pensionpayments