



penfriend:

the newsletter for railway pensioners



2018 pension
increase

Staff Travel
update

Win £60
shopping
vouchers with
our wordsearch

Photo album

Your
letters

Trustee's message...

Hello and welcome to Penfriend's spring/summer edition.

In this rapidly evolving digital age, people are increasingly protective about their personal data security and privacy, and rightly so.

Never before has so much information about so many been so freely available, viewable and shareable. It's no wonder that people want to know how their personal details are being used – and, unfortunately, in some instances misused.

So you'll be happy to hear that a very important law change comes into force in May, giving us all much more control over our privacy rights. It's called the General Data Protection Regulation (or GDPR for short).

GDPR means that companies must be much clearer about what data is held about us, and how it is being used.

A short leaflet is enclosed with this newsletter, detailing how your pension administrator RPMI handles your information and your rights. I hope you find it useful and reassuring.

With very best wishes,



JOHN CHILMAN
Trustee Chairman

Contents

Your 2018 pension increase	4-5
Investing in your pension	6
Pension news	7
Money matters	8
Staff travel updates from Rail Staff Travel	10-11
Photo album	12-13
Your letters	14-15
Out and about	16
Competition - wordsearch	20

Front cover



Pictured on the front cover is engine number 48278 which made its last journey on the Copy Pitt line on 3 August 1968 – the day before the national end of steam.

The driver Desmond Melia is pictured with fireman Jimmy Walker. Desmond was a driver out of Rosegrove Shed, Burnley, who joined the railways in 1937-38. Thanks to his daughter Marjorie for supplying this atmospheric image of a lost era – it's a picture which has taken pride of place on her wall for years.

How to contact us



Write to:

Customer Services Team,
RPMI, PO Box 300,
Darlington, DL3 6YJ



Email:

csu@rpmi.co.uk



Websites:

www.railwayspensions.co.uk
www.btpensions.co.uk

Tell us what you think! Complete our short survey in the Retired section/ Penfriend newsletter.



Helpline

0800 012 1117

Open Mon to Fri 8am - 5pm.

Helpline for non UK residents

+44 1325 340 188

Please note: some calls may be recorded.



An important update for you

You will see that your pension increase letter is not included with Penfriend this year.

Instead, your P60 is enclosed with this newsletter so you can keep it for your records.

In place of the pension increase letter, you will shortly receive a payslip from the railway pension schemes which will include your revised pension (if you are eligible for an increase). This payslip will be sent in line with your first pension payment due after 9 April 2018.

Please be assured that your pension payments will not be affected in any way.

Our annual article showing the pension increases for the upcoming tax year (2018/19) is available as usual on pages 4 and 5. The article shows the % increase, depending on your membership category, and how the increase will be paid.

1994 Pensioners... don't forget!

If you're in the 1994 Pensioners Section and have been retired for less than five years, you can nominate people – or causes – close to your heart to get a death-benefit lump sum.



This means that if you die within the five-year time span, the Trustee will know who you would like to get the lump sum. This is typically five times your basic annual pension (your pension before you used any retirement options).

Any pension and lump-sum payments you have already received will be deducted from this lump sum before it is paid.

Why tell the Trustee?

The lump sum will be tax-free, because it is paid at the Trustee's discretion. A decision on who gets the money is usually speeded up, avoiding extra heartache and worry.

Tell the Trustee now

Download a Nomination form at railwayspensions.co.uk/resources/forms. Complete and return the form to RPMI.



Your 2018 pension increase

For the 2018/19 tax year, your railways pension will increase by up to 3%. This will be effective from 9 April 2018.

What is the increase based on?

Your railways pension is reviewed each year and increases according to orders published by the government. In recent years, the increases have been in line with the Consumer Prices Index (CPI) figure from the previous September.

So, for example, the increase for the 2018/19 tax year is based on the CPI figure from September 2017 (3%).

Will everyone get the full 3% increase?

Only those who took their railways pension benefits – or became a preserved pensioner – on or before 24 April 2017 will get the full 3%.

If you took your benefits – or became a preserved pensioner – on or after 25 April 2017, you won't get the full amount because you've been retired – or preserved – for less than a year. Spouses' pensions increase in the same way.

You can check the increase you'll receive using the information in Table A.

Table A

Date you started claiming your railway pension (or your benefits became preserved)	% increase to your pension
24 April 2017 or before	3
25 April - 24 May 2017	2.75
25 May - 24 June 2017	2.5
25 June - 24 July 2017	2.25
25 July - 24 August 2017	2
25 August - 24 September 2017	1.75
25 September - 24 October 2017	1.5
25 October - 24 November 2017	1.25
25 November - 24 December 2017	1
25 December - 24 January 2018	0.75
25 January - 24 February 2018	0.5
25 February - 24 March 2018	0.25
On or after 25 March 2018	0

How will my first pension payment in the 2018/19 tax year be worked out?

Depending on when your pension is paid, you may receive part of your pension at the new four-weekly rate and part at the old rate. Table B shows how many weeks of your pension payment will be at each rate.

Table B

Date of pension payment	Weeks at: Old rate	New rate
13/04/2018	3	1
20/04/2018	2	2
27/04/2018	1	3
04/05/2018	0	4

Where does the increase come from?

If you're under age 65 on 9 April 2018 (the date the increase becomes effective), you'll receive all of the increase from your railways pension.

If you're 65 or older on 9 April 2018, you may receive a lower increase from your railway pension.

This is because your pension may include some 'guaranteed minimum pension' (GMP), which may increase at a lower rate than your railways pension.

If you reached State Pension age before 6 April 2016, the government may top up your State Pension to reflect the lower level of increases provided on the GMP (although some exceptions apply to married women who paid reduced National Insurance contributions and certain pensioners who worked or live abroad).

This top up does not apply if you reached State Pension age on or after 6 April 2016.

What is GMP?

If you were a member of the railways pension schemes between 6 April 1978 and 5 April 1997, you may have been 'contracted-out' of the State Earnings Related Pension Scheme (SERPS), which existed at that time and was later abolished.

This means that, if you were a member of a railways pension scheme during this period, you paid a lower rate of National Insurance contributions. In return, your railways pension scheme had to provide you with a 'guaranteed minimum pension' (GMP) which was roughly the same as the pension you would have received in SERPS.

How is my GMP increased?

For membership up to 5 April 1988, the part of your pension which is GMP is not increased by your railways pension scheme, in line with the Rules of the Scheme.

If you reached State Pension age before 6 April 2016, the government pays all of the increase for your pre-April 1988 GMP with your State Pension.

For membership after 5 April 1988, increases of up to 3% are paid by your railways pension scheme on the part of your pension which is GMP. If inflation is more than 3% and you reached State Pension age before 6 April 2016, any surplus would be paid to you by the government.

Who should I contact if I have questions about GMP?

If you have questions about your GMP, or the increase on it, you should contact your local pension centre. You can find details at www.gov.uk/find-pension-centre.

You should have already received details about your GMP from the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP).



Check your website out

Take a minute to browse through your Railways pension website – there's lots of helpful information on hand.



- Got a question? You'll find answers to Frequently Asked Questions in the Resources section.
- Need to change your bank account details? Download and complete a form directly from the website.

You can also:

- check your pension payment dates
- learn the tax implications if you're thinking of returning to work, and
- make sure you're getting the most out of your pension.

Railways Pension Scheme pensioners: www.railwayspensions.co.uk
 BTPFSF pensioners: www.btpensions.co.uk

Investing in your pension

RPMI Railpen (Railpen) is responsible for investing the railways pension schemes' assets. Our long-term mission is to help pay your pensions securely, affordably and sustainably. So the team, which is based in London, invests the schemes' assets carefully in a range of different ways.

Of course much of this investment involves buying shares in companies, or the purchase of government bonds and other investments that we hear a lot about in the financial news.

But as one of the largest UK pension investors we can also look at different types of investment that are well suited to the schemes' long-term investment objectives. Here are some examples that you might find interesting:

- In May 2017, Railpen invested in Gigaclear, a leading provider of ultrafast broadband to rural areas in Britain. This investment will generate strong returns over time and help achieve the schemes' long-term investment goals. The team was pleased to be able to invest in a business focused on providing broadband to rural businesses and communities that have traditionally experienced poor connectivity.
- The team also invests in royalties as they offer just the type of long-term returns that schemes like ours are looking for to pay pensions. Last year, Railpen was the lead investor, alongside some other large investors, in a new music royalties fund.

The fund includes investments in the work of current artists like X-Factor winner Leona Lewis and some old favourites such as Earth, Wind & Fire. It enables investors to make payments to artists and songwriters in exchange for the right to collect some of the income from royalties on their music in the future.

- Also, in January 2018, Railpen acquired the freehold interest in Thames Wharf Studios in Hammersmith, London. Thames Wharf is a one-acre site by the River Thames. Most of the property is office accommodation

but it's also home to the famous River Café restaurant. In addition, the site has permission for further development which should increase its value even more over time.

You can read more online about Railpen's investments in the annual report and accounts for the railways pension schemes at railwayspensions.co.uk/resources.

Did you know?



approx
£66m
was paid out in benefits to our retired members every month
as at 31 December 2017

the Scheme managed
approx
£27.5bn
in assets in
2017



Pension news: in summary

This regular feature looks at developments in pensions which may affect you or your pension.

Scottish Budget 2018/19

The draft Scottish Budget for 2018/19 was delivered on 14 December 2017. It contained changes to the income tax structure for Scottish taxpayers which result in a greater difference between rates paid between those pensioners who live in Scotland and those who live elsewhere in the UK.

The following changes were set by the Scottish Parliament on 20 February 2018 and apply to income tax rates for Scottish taxpayers for the tax year commencing from 6 April 2018:

Bands	Band name	Rate
Over £11,850* to £13,850	Starter Rate	19%
Over £13,850 to £24,000	Basic Rate	20%
Over £24,000 to £43,430	Intermediate Rate	21%
Over £43,430 to £150,000**	Higher Rate	41%
Above £150,000**	Top Rate	46%

If you are a Scottish taxpayer you will have a tax code which has a prefix of "S". You will be a Scottish taxpayer if you live – or have your main home – in Scotland, so you should keep HM Revenue & Customs (HMRC) informed of where your main home is for this purpose.

As a comparison to the above rates of Scottish income tax, the rates in the UK are:

Bands	Band name	Rate
£11,850* to £46,350	UK basic tax rate	20%
£46,350 to £150,000**	Higher Rate	40%
Above £150,000**	Additional tax rate	45%

* The tables assume you are in receipt of the Standard UK Personal Allowance

** The Personal Allowance is reduced by £1 for every £2 earned over £100,000

If you are unsure about whether or not you are a Scottish taxpayer, please look at the tax code on your latest pension payslip or contact HMRC.

Autumn Budget 2017

The Autumn Budget was held on 22 November 2017. As with many other recent Budgets, there had been rumours of pension-related changes in the run up to the Budget, but no significant pension-related announcements were made.

However, there were confirmations on Budget day that the basic State Pension and new State Pension will be increased by 3% in April 2018, in line with the triple lock. As a result, the full basic State Pension from April 2018 will be £125.95 per week and the full new State Pension will be £164.35 per week.

Money Purchase Annual Allowance

A development just before the Autumn Budget was the finalisation of legislation to reduce the Money Purchase Annual Allowance (or MPAA for short) from £10,000 to £4,000 from 6 April 2017. This change had been announced in the first Budget of the year, in March 2017.

The MPAA will not affect many pensioners but may apply if you are continuing to pay contributions to a pension arrangement and have taken other pension savings already, such as cashing in a personal pension plan. If this applies to you then please read on.

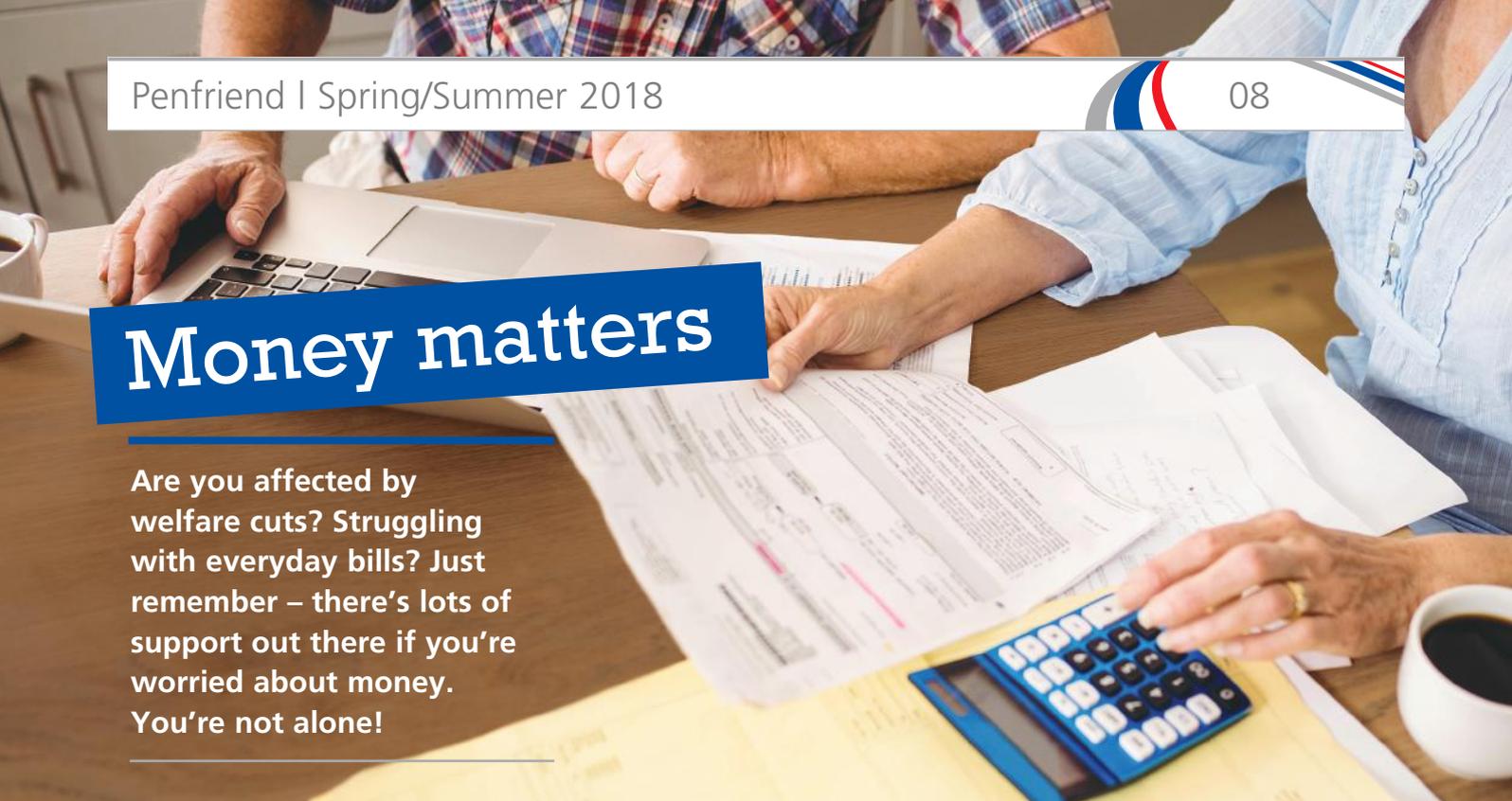
The MPAA will only apply to you if you are continuing to make pension savings, such as if you have taken your railways pension and have carried on working. It also only applies if you have already taken some of your pension savings and used one of the following type of payment options:

- A full cash payment of more than £10,000 was taken;
- A drawdown arrangement (i.e. a series of cash lump sums) is being used; or
- An annuity where the income can be reduced has been bought.

For the above purpose, taking your BRASS funds as a cash sum does not classify as a full cash payment.

If you have triggered the MPAA, the scheme in which this was done should have written to you to tell you about this.

Further details about the MPAA are also available in the Annual Allowance Read as you Need guide on the railwayspensions.co.uk and btppensions.co.uk websites.



Money matters

Are you affected by welfare cuts? Struggling with everyday bills? Just remember – there's lots of support out there if you're worried about money. You're not alone!

Age UK

This is the UK's largest charity for older people, and has lots of local services. You can freephone **0800 055 6112** between 8am and 7pm on any day of the year. There's also lots of information online at ageuk.org.uk

Pension Credit

If you're on a low income, you may be able to claim Pension Credit. This is means-tested, and can be claimed if you're over your State Pension age.

If you get Pension Credit and don't live in a care home, you can get help with fuel costs during very cold weather.

If you're looking for work and over State Pension age, you may be able to claim Pension Credit.

If you've been bereaved, you may be able to get extra State Pension or a one-off lump sum payment based on your late partner's National Insurance contributions. To find out more – including information for people living overseas – go to gov.uk/death-spouse-benefits-tax-pensions or telephone the Pension Service on **0800 731 7898**.

Citizens Advice can offer lots of useful support and information, including what to do if your bereavement/tax credit claim has been rejected. Visit citizensadvice.org.uk for details or telephone **03444 111 444**.

Debt – don't be ashamed

Get free impartial advice at The Money Advice Service. If you have money worries, the last thing you might want to do is talk to a stranger, but all advice

is confidential. Telephone: **0800 138 7777** or go to moneyadvice.service.org.uk.

Grants and benefits

Energy savers

If you're on a low income, you *may* be eligible for a free boiler. You are not eligible if you live in a housing association property or are a council tenant.

Home insulation

Energy firms offer free cavity wall and loft insulation if you meet certain criteria, and they can advise you what type of insulation would be best for your home.

To check if you qualify, call the Energy Saving Trust on **0300 123 1234** (England, Wales and Northern Ireland) or **0808 808 2282** (Scotland).

Struggling with bills?

You might be able to get a grant if you're in arrears with your utility bills. Get in touch with your energy supplier to find out if they run an energy fund scheme.

Home improvements

If you need to improve safety or do essential repairs in your home, you could get a grant towards the cost. Citizens Advice can point you in the right direction.

Age UK runs local handyman services – using vetted tradesmen – to carry out small repairs etc. Call their advice line on **0800 055 6112**.



Watch out for scams

Bank details

Always contact your bank if you receive an email saying that their details have changed, and you have to make payments into a new account – this is almost always a scam.

Cold callers

If anyone cold calls you claiming to be from the government and asks for your personal or financial details, don't reveal them. Hang up if you need to.

Speak to The Pensions Advisory Service if you've been unexpectedly contacted by someone about your pension, and you're not sure if it's genuine. Telephone **0300 123 1047**. It's better to be safe than sorry!

If you think you've been the victim of a pension scam – where you get an unsolicited call offering you investment opportunities – **call Action Fraud on 0300 123 2040 or report online at actionfraud.police.uk**.



Registered charity no. 1120447

Here at Woking Homes, the warmth of our welcome is matched only by the highest standards of care



Woking Homes is a railway charity providing residential and respite care primarily for former railway employees and their close family members.

We provide a secure, relaxed and homely environment in which the care, wellbeing, comfort, safety and individuality of our residents is of prime importance.

Prospective residents are encouraged to visit the home to sample the atmosphere and level of service. Overnight or short stays can be arranged for you to try us out.



Get in touch today for a brochure or visit the website to find out more:

Telephone: 01483 763558

Woking Homes, Oriental Road, Woking, Surrey, GU22 7BE

Email: administration@woking-homes.co.uk

Web: www.woking-homes.co.uk





Staff travel updates:

for retired safeguarded staff – from Rail Staff Travel

Online forms and our website

RST now have many forms that can be completed and submitted online via our website www.raildeliverygroup.com/rst/forms to save time and postage. This includes applying for a Privilege Oyster card as well as international facilities. The website also has a Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) section which can assist with any general queries.

Travelling abroad?

Eurostar have announced fares on their new routes to Amsterdam/Rotterdam. Please see <https://www.raildeliverygroup.com/rst/offers.html> for more information.

If you're using Eurostar you can benefit from safeguarded fares if your Staff Travel Card does not have endorsement 5, 6, 9, 10 or 11 on the front. Tickets at this fare are only available from Eurostar at St Pancras International or Ashford International, or via International Rail.

International Rail's number is 0333 003 0423. If your proposed journey has more than two 'legs' or elements to it, please use their online enquiry form at www.bookmyrst.co.uk rather than the phone line.

Photo ID cards for retired staff

If your card indicates that you are retired or a widow/er, you do not need to carry a photo ID card when using your Staff Travel Card. However if you would like one, you can get one free of charge from any National Rail Ticket Office. Just take along a passport office-compatible photo and ask for a photo ID card.

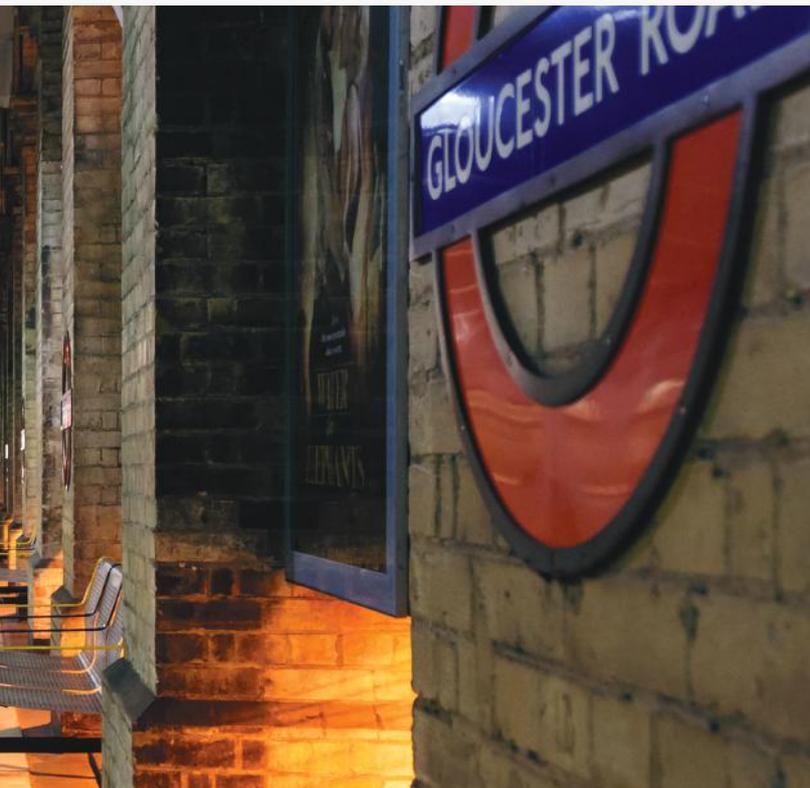
London Underground travel

If you hold a Staff Travel Card that does not have Endorsement 9, 10 or 11 on the front, you can use it to purchase either a single or return privilege ticket on London Underground.

These tickets can only be purchased at National Rail Ticket Offices, not at TfL/London Underground stations.

If you're buying a ticket for travel between two stations across Zone 1, for example, you should ask for a London Terminals to Zone U1* London ticket at the National Rail Ticket Office. They should then be able to sell you the privilege rate.

It's easier and cheaper to use a Privilege Oyster card. Apply for one using our form xx19 on our website



Contacting Rail Staff Travel

Telephone:

0800 652 1700

(Monday to Friday 9:00 - 4:30
excluding Bank Holidays)

Email:

rst@raildeliverygroup.com

Website:

www.raildeliverygroup.com/rst

Post:

RST, P.O Box 72071, LONDON, EC1P 1JD

(see above). The cost is £5.00 for the card (refundable if you surrender the card in the future) and then a minimum of £5.00 pay as you go credit to be loaded on to the card. Fares will then be deducted at the privilege rate. When your new Staff Travel Card arrives each year, just take it to a TfL station to have the privilege flag updated for a further year.

Travel in retirement

If you didn't keep your travel facilities when you originally left your rail employer and haven't had them since, then it is highly unlikely that you are eligible for travel facilities when you retire. The rules regarding retention of your travel facilities are complex and you are subject to those which applied at the time you left, so if you were eligible at that time, then you would already be receiving travel. The fact you are claiming your pension does not affect your travel eligibility: the rules for pensions and for travel facilities are completely different and you can be in receipt of one and not the other.

Status pass acceptance

Gold and Silver Status Passes are now issued as SmartCards, and operate the gates at Smart-enabled stations. To check which stations are Smart-enabled visit our website at <https://www.raildeliverygroup.com/rst/stop-press.html>. We'll update the information here as more come on stream.

Dates for your diary

Staff Travel Cards are sent out to eligible staff in March every year. The cards can be used from 1 April.

If they haven't arrived by Friday 13 April 2018, you must let RST know in writing as soon as possible thereafter but not earlier (by post or email).

Until 30 June 2018 we can replace cards because of postal non-delivery free of charge, but after that date a replacement fee must be paid.

Status Passes are due for renewal in December. If you wish to have a new photo on your pass please send it to RST by 31 October 2018. This can be uploaded securely via our website <https://www.raildeliverygroup.com/rst/photo-upload.html>

Change of address or circumstances

If you change address or have any change of circumstances **both** RPMI and RST must be notified, **separately**. This can be done by telephone, email or our website. This will help ensure that your Rail Staff Travel facilities are issued in time and to the correct person/people. RPMI and RST are not allowed to share information about you.

Photo album

Sri Lankan special

Mick Voss writes: This photograph was taken at the request of Tom Astley, Chief Engineer of traction mechanical in the locomotive design office for Brush Electrical Machines Ltd, Loughborough. It shows the Bo-Bo locomotive for Sri Lanka State Railways at Brush Traction test track, Falcon Works, Loughborough, circa 1982.

I was a senior design draughtsman, responsible for drawing Bogie and associated equipment. Steve Chenery and I worked for Mick Roe, mechanical design engineer.

I left Brush in 1989 to work for British Railways Board (BRB) in Derby. 1995 saw many redundancies when BRB was privatised, and I was a casualty. I did contract work after that, and my last job was for my old BRB boss, Colin Morris, at Toton Depot.

Things have changed so much now, but in British Rail days, the whole network was like one big family.



Pictured with the Bo-Bo locomotive are left to right: Dave Noble, Peter ?, Mick Roe, Ian Hughes, Andrew Howarth, Tom Astley (chief engineer), Steve Chenery, Jim Buchanan, Mick Voss, Albert (Rocky) Rockley, Harry Warren (group leader), Jon Flower, Phil Hutchinson.

Sarajevo tennis update

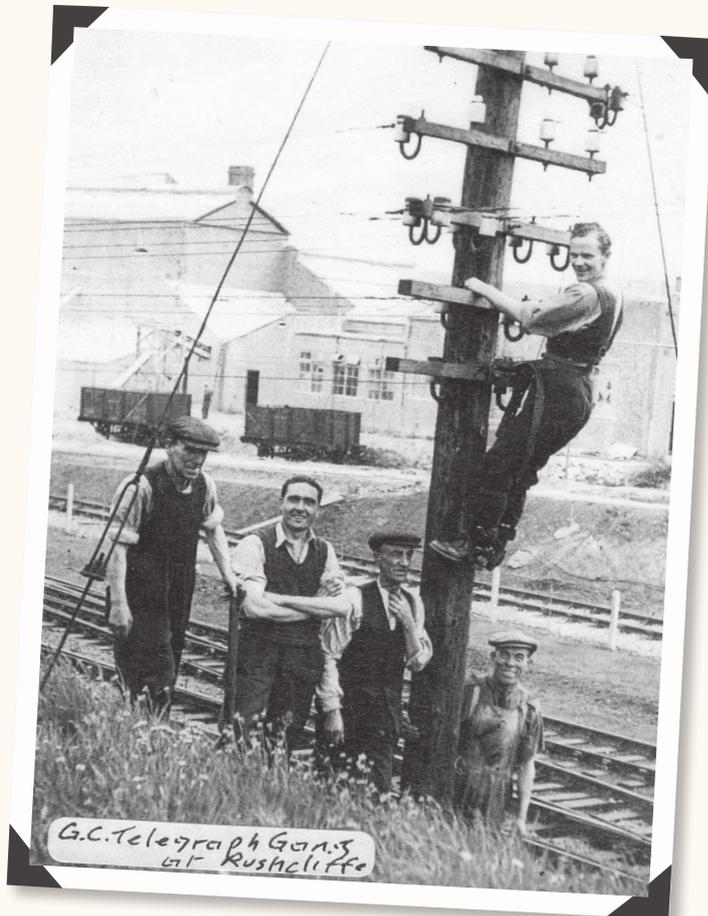
Jan Thorpe replied to the appeal for information (Winter 2017) about the BR table tennis team competing in Sarajevo, saying 'I represented the London Midland region at table tennis in the 1970s, and played against Ian on many occasions.

I recognise Lou Moran (4th from last) and Audrey Moran (6th from last) who I believe worked at Old Webb House in Crewe'.



Gang work

Back in 1946, in LNER days, the Nottingham S&T Telegraph Gang were working on signalling for a new plasterboard factory, on the GC mainline. During works, a problem occurred with a low-quality connection on the Sheffield to Liverpool Street teleprinter trunk lines.



Here the gang is pictured above removing the Bobbin Pot insulators one by one. Arthur Wybrew, who sent the picture in, is on the ground scrubbing them clean over a bucket of hot water. Robin, on the left, was in charge of the fire bucket.

Right royal time

The Prince of Wales locomotive is pictured below after its restoration for Prince Charles's investiture in 1969.



The day after this photo was taken in the Swindon Works erecting shop, the loco was fired up and trialled on a short narrow gauge track before being returned to the Vale of Rheidd BR, in Aberystwyth. Don Keene, who sent the picture in, is second from right.

Remember Robert?

Marilyn Johnson is hoping to find out more about this picture, featuring her late husband Robert Green Johnson, in the middle of the back row. It's dated 22 August 1968, and she thinks it might have been taken at the York HQ of the British Railway Board. If you have any more information, please email marilynlesley@outlook.com.



Harborne Chad Valley Line

John Williams writes: I thought your readers would like to see a photo taken on the Harborne Chad Valley Line.



This was a single line staff operated from Harborne Junction Signal Box, off the Stour Valley Line from Birmingham New Street to Wolverhampton. The photo shows me leaning out of the cab with our shunter John Austin, deciding that the number was not clean enough to see.

On the return trip there were some houses with gardens which backed onto the line. In one garden, a small boy had put up a wooden stop signal on a string. If we had time, we would stop and blow the whistle, the boy would come running down the garden and pull the signal clear for us to go - this would make his day. Sadly the line closed in 1963 and I believe it was made into a walkway.



War hero honour

Retired DBS driver Mel Thorley writes: As a spotter in the 1950s/ 1960s, along with my chums, I knew all about 45536 & 45537. What I didn't know in 1962 when the steam locos were scrapped that I would have a hand in getting the names back on the main line.

When the two Patriot Class locos had their nameplates removed and sent to Alnwick Museum, we eagerly awaited to see which new diesel or electric engine would be honoured.....nothing. So a group of us in the Railway Club, at Stockport Grammar School, started a campaign which has taken 55 years to come to fruition.

First TransPennine Express have now unveiled their Poppy Train with a vinyl wrap containing the names of two Victorian Cross heroes, Privates Ernest Sykes and Wilfred Wood. They will be "back together" as mates on the railways, having worked the York-South Wales night mail together many times, Wilf as driver, Ernie as guard.

The inscription on the nameplate above reads:
9 April 1917: Under intense fire, Ernest made five separate journeys out under conditions which appeared to be certain death. He then rescued and treated those too badly injured to move.

28 October 1918: While under intense rifle and machine-gun fire, Wilfred used his own initiative and bravery to cause over 300 enemy to surrender.



Neath GWT invitation

My name is Steve Paterson and I am chairman of the Neath Great Western Retired Staff Club.

We meet every Wednesday afternoon in Neath Workingmen's Club, with members coming from Swansea, Port Talbot, the valleys and surrounding areas, and we know there are many retired railwaymen in the area who may be interested in joining us.

Our club ethos is that anyone can join, whether they are retired rail staff or not - indeed we have many members who are keen rail enthusiasts but have not worked on the railway. The emphasis is to enjoy ourselves. We organise slide shows, talks and presentations, as well as trips to heritage railways.

If you're interested in coming along, telephone me on 07540 722424 or email paterson129@btinternet.com.



Uncle Harry Thompson

I am writing to ask if any railway pensioners can remember my uncle Harry, who retired as a driver at Watford Junction in 1964.

He was born Henry David Thompson on 26th March 1904 at Kensal Green in north-west London. When

he retired, he received a watch in recognition of 45 years' railway service, so he would have started work in 1919 with London & North Western Railway, probably as a cleaner. He passed away at the Shrodells Hospital, Watford, in January 1965.

I know that he worked on the St Albans branch and the Harrow & Wealdstone to Belmont branch, and I believe he was popular and respected. I would be delighted to hear from anyone who remembers him. - **Richard Thompson, 23 Parc Derwen, Glan Conwy, Colwyn Bay, LL28 5BZ. Email: rthompson239@btinternet.com**

Carnforth crash puzzle

I wonder if any readers can help me find a date for an accident which happened at Carnforth Midland Bottom End Yard, in which an engineer's train was propelled over the buffer stop, fouling the Furness line, and derailing an approaching passenger train on the Up Furness in the process.

I estimate from other photos in my collection that the incident may been c.1987/8 (?) as Class 90 Electrics were still being run on WCML Test Trains from Crewe. - **Andrew Pilkington (email roo63@talktalk.net)**



Calling all Saltley workmates

Dennis Herbert writes: I retired in 1993 from Saltley Motive Power Depot, Birmingham, after a lifetime on the footplate. During the last two years of service, I took a video camera to work and filmed many of my work colleagues. These included supervisory staff, drivers, guards, storemen and cleaners at what was a huge depot, along with shots at Tyseley, New Street and Snow Hill.

I also recorded the A.S.L.E.F. retirement presentation for 40 drivers at Highfield Road Social Club, Birmingham, the Saltley Welfare Fund Dinner at Villa Park, and footage of the 1997 Great Western M.A.S. Reunion at the B.R. Tyseley Staff Association Club.

To me, the recordings are priceless nostalgia and I was concerned that at my age all may well have been lost. So I have uploaded short videos onto Facebook and made the page open to public views (please search for Dennis Herbert Saltley to find the page). As time allows, hopefully more will be added, as the footage includes so many friends who are no longer with us.

One of the videos has already had over 8,000 views and I've had lovely comments from families seeing their lost loved ones again.

Rainhill Memorial appeal

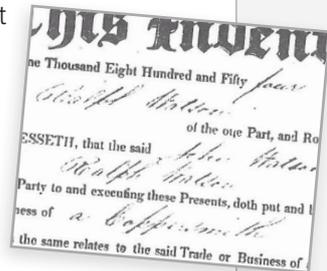
Having read 'Rocket is revived' (Winter 2017), readers may be interested to know that at the Rainhill Trials of 1829, in Lancashire (now Merseyside), a Mr Huskinson died from his injuries after being run over by the Rocket locomotive.

There is a memorial commemorating this tragedy on the embankment. At a recent visit it was difficult to view owing to a recently raised bridge wall, a locked field gate and overgrown vegetation. Can anyone suggest a remedy? A safe concrete viewing base on the upside, maybe? - **Mr W Potter, Liverpool**

Stephenson family ties

Graham Watson was prompted to tell Penfriend about his ancestral links to the Boiler Room at Forth Banks, after reading 'Birthplace of the Rocket is Revived' (Winter 2017).

He writes: Way, way back, my great-great grandfather, great grandfather and grandfather served under Robert Stephenson & Co Ltd Locomotive Works.



The 1854 indenture of my grandfather James was signed by Robert Stephenson; he was a coppersmith, as was my great grandfather John. My father – also called John – was a draughtsman at the Darlington Works, starting in 1919.

James's indenture makes interesting reading, stating that, as an apprentice *'at cards, dice or other unlawful games he shall not play; taverns, inns or alehouse he shall not haunt or frequent, unless it be about his master's business.'*

And while holidays were limited, they included the Monday and Thursday in Newcastle Race Week!



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Out and about

2018 looks set to be another action-packed year for the UK's heritage railways, so get ready to reserve your seat for an exciting day out.

May

5-7: Nene Valley Railway celebrates the 10th birthday of the A1 No 60163 Tornado. This iconic locomotive was the first to reach 100mph in 50 years in 2017, and is to feature on the big screen in Paddington 2.

June

1-3: It's the Diesel Gala at The Watercress Line, in Alresford, mid-Hants.

15-17: The Model Event model railway and engineering exhibition is held at Great Central Railway, in Loughborough, with life-sized exhibits across all four stations.

30 June to 1 July: Victorian characters and steam workings take centre stage at the Victorian Weekend, at Epping Ongar Railway, in Essex.



From 9 June: Welshpool & Llanfair Light Railway, in Powys, mid-Wales. Weekends. Travel on replicas of the railway's original 1903 Great Western carriages and enjoy other historical activities.

From 24 June: Keighley & Worth Valley Railway, in Haworth, goes full steam ahead with an 8-day gala for its 50th anniversary, featuring steam, diesel, old and new.

August

3-5: The Summer Diesel Gala is back at Spa Valley Railway, in Tunbridge Wells, from August. Star of the show is the Class 55 55019 Royal Highland Fusilier.



September

22-23: Step back to the 1940s with the world's oldest railway, at Tanfield in Gateshead, Tyneside, and experience the Home Front in wartime Britain.

Make sure to check that the special events are still going ahead nearer the date, to avoid disappointment.

Lost your payment calendar?



Your annual pension payment calendar is mailed out with your autumn/winter Penfriend. But you can also check your pension payment dates quickly and easily online.

Find the calendar in the Retired section at railwayspensions.co.uk or btppensions.co.uk. You can also download a copy and print it out.

Exercise – it’s not as hard as you think!

As we get a bit older, the social norm may be to ‘slow down and take it easy’. But feeling fitter doesn’t just have physical benefits, it can really boost your mood too.

Here at Penfriend, we already know that you’re an active bunch – but if you fancy doing a bit more, exercising doesn’t have to mean a hard workout.

In fact, just **2 1/2 hours** of gentle exercise a **week** could be the key to better fitness (although if you have health problems or haven’t done much physical activity for a while, you should speak to your doctor first).

Put simply, if you want to stay well, reduce any aches and pains, and feel mentally fit – keep moving!

If you’ve had a fall or been poorly lately...

Please remember not to push yourself too hard. If you feel up to it, you may be able to do some ‘chair aerobics’ to build up strength and flexibility, but you should seek medical advice first. If you start to feel unwell, you should contact your doctor immediately.

Very easy exercise

If you need to build up your fitness levels with care, you can break

activity down into 5 or 10-minute slots – it can be as simple as walking or climbing the stairs, or doing things standing up like drinking coffee or talking on the phone.

You can find some very easy exercise tips for older people at www.nhs.uk. ‘Chair marching’, for example, is designed to strengthen hips and thighs, and improve flexibility. While you’re sitting down, simply lift your leg with your knee bent as far as is comfortable. Place your foot down steadily. Repeat with your other leg, doing five lifts per leg.

Moderate exercise

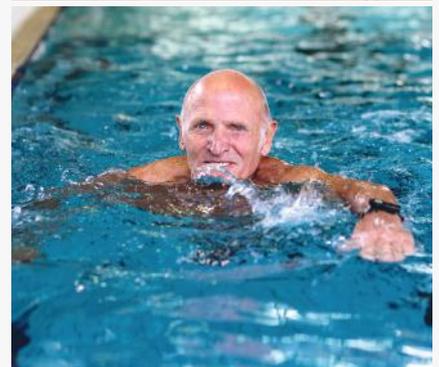
Walking, line dancing, mowing the grass, riding a bike.

Vigorous exercise

Jogging or running, football, walking uphill, martial arts.

Age UK classes

Age UK runs exercise classes. These focus on – among other things – walking football, Tai Chi and seated exercises, ideal for people with limited mobility. Not all classes are available



in your area, but you can find out more at www.ageuk.org.uk or telephone **0800 055 6112**.

100 years young

The Rolling Stock Maintenance Supervisors’ Association celebrates its 100th birthday this year, and is inviting former members and newcomers to join in the fun.

The Association was originally known as The Carriage & Wagon Department District Foreman & Inspectors Association, and held its first ever meeting in the Midland Railway Institute, Derby.

The centenary event is being held at the Institute – now known as The Waterfall – on Friday 28 September 2018 from noon, and the organisers are keen to welcome new faces and old!

While there have been a series of name changes to keep up with the ever-changing face of the industry, the Association’s original objectives have never changed, and are still embedded in its ethics, beliefs and values.



Please contact Adrian Heaton by email at **adrian.heaton@btpenworld.com** if you’re interested in attending. He is looking forward to hearing from you.

St Christopher's revisited

Edward (Ted) Scarfe writes: I was so surprised, but very pleased to see the article (Winter 2017) about St Christopher's Orphanage for Railway Children in Derby.

I had no personal connection with the orphanage, but came to know about it through my late wife Beryl (nee Crossley), whose family lived nearby. She made friends with some of the girls who attended school with her.

However, there was no communication out of school as the orphanage children had to use numbers instead of names and were not allowed to talk. Daily life was indeed very regimental for them!

Beryl acquired a book printed in 1996 called 'A Real Railway Child', written by Barbara Blandford Musson. Barbara went to the orphanage in 1947 at the age of six. She was known as 'Number 7'. It was a very upsetting time for her after losing her mother and being split up from family.



Ted is pictured being presented with his gold watch for 35 years' service in September 1982, watched by his wife Beryl.

The matron at that time still insisted on using rules and regulations which had been laid down in the Victorian era. For example, the children were up, washed, dressed and out cleaning brass door fittings and scrubbing floors before breakfast! Also, the menu included bread and dripping for tea almost daily.



Ted is pictured standing on a chair by the window, left, at a retirement presentation in the Costing Office c.1950.

I was married to Beryl in 1946, and began working for Rail at the Locomotive Works, Derby, in September 1947. After 17 years, in 1964, I moved with the Wages department to the Carriage and Wagon Works until my retirement in June 1984. I shall be 93 years in July 2018. I lost Beryl in 2009, aged 86 years, but have three daughters. They all take good care of me. I am well blessed.

Book corner

Highland journeys

Retired British Rail worker David Spaven and old friend David Fasken have written a series of 'Insider Rail Guide' pocket books on Highland rail journeys.

The first two – Inverness to Kyle of Lochalsh and Aberdeen to Elgin & Inverness – are available now, and

provide an informative companion to two quite different journeys, illustrated with photographs, hand-drawn maps and sketches.

Cost is £7.99 each, or £15 for the two (incl. p&p) from David Fasken, St. Margaret's Rectory, Forgue, Huntly, AB54 6DQ. Cheques should be made payable to 'David R. Fasken'.

Shovelling to success

Shovelling to Success, by Peter Mee, covers his 45 years on the

footplate, from when he left school in 1957 to start work as an engine cleaner, through to becoming a driver on steam and diesel engines at depots including Toton, Willesden, Camden and Rugby.

Priced at £6 plus £1.50 p&p, the book is full of amusing anecdotes from the steam and diesel age. Email christinemee15@gmail.com to place an order.

Bacon on the shovel and a bat in the eye...

Memories on the footplate, from Shropshire to Bristol

My name is Brian Davies and I was a steam engine driver with the Great Western Railway. I am now aged 93 and wonder if anyone is still around who remembers me!

I joined the railway at age 16, calling up (waking) railwaymen at home – this could be from 10pm until 6am. In some cases, the recipient wasn't happy, with the response being a chamber pot and its contents emptied from a bedroom window!

I would then go back to the railway shed to clean the engines ready for their journeys; sometimes this was even the Royal Train for the Queen Mother and family.

I was promoted to fireman in Tyseley, Birmingham, during the Second World War, then returned to Shrewsbury after passing my exams and a medical. Men were not accepted if they had flat feet or were colour blind.

As a fully fledged driver, I was one of the youngest on the Great Western Railway. Among the names I recall are drivers Bert Nudds, Harry Williams, Charlie Higgins, Bill Frances and Fred Bray.

I helped Fred with his pigs when I wasn't working, as this is where we got our bacon to cook on the shovel for our full English breakfast. We did this while waiting for other trains to come back, and passengers used to come up to the footplate hoping for some breakfast too.

There was never a dull moment in my railway life. On one occasion, when coming back from London at midnight, I got hit in the eye by a flying bat in the pitch black. I ended up on the floor with the bat dead beside me, and was off work for a while as it nearly blinded me. Luckily it wasn't permanent.

I also fell off the top of the tender one icy morning when filling the tank with water, ending up in hospital again. Plus, at Chester one Sunday morning, a passenger asked me if we were stopping at Wrexham. Even though I said no, she still got on the train and

ended up miles away. She alighted and came at me pointing an umbrella, but luckily I ducked the blow.

I bought my own hotel in Scarborough when I left the railway at age 36, and then a B&B in Plymouth.

I retired at age 75 and am lucky to be still around at 93. I live with my young wife (who I've known for 52 years) in a beautiful village overlooking the River Yealm, and I still have a model railway which I spend many hours working on.

I would love more than anything to get in touch with anyone who knows me, including the families of men I worked with. I know the names I have given may not be as lucky as me and still living, so I'm crossing my fingers and toes. You can contact me on trishdavies@uwclub.net.



Brian is pictured on the engine travelling from Shrewsbury to Newton Abbot and inset, with his model railway.

Competition



Test your knowledge of locomotives, trains and services with our wordsearch. The 10 answers can be found up, down, diagonally and even back to front! Find them all and you could win £60 in shopping vouchers. The winning entry will be drawn at random on 29 June 2018.

1. World's oldest surviving steam locomotive, constructed in Wylam, Tyneside (7,5)

2. Australian passenger train service on the Adelaide to Darwin route (3,4)

3. World-famous luxury train service, most famously associated with Paris and Constantinople (6,7)

4. This rail service operates between Wellington and Auckland, New Zealand (10)

5. The USA's premier freight hauling railroad (5,7)

6. Early steam locomotive built for the Rainhill Trials (6)

7. Holder of the steam locomotive world speed record at 126 mph (7)

8. Colloquial name for this high-speed rail network, known as The Shinkansen in Japanese (6,5)

9. High-speed service traversing the Channel Tunnel (8)

10. Passenger intercity service operating in the USA and Canada, also known as the National Railroad Passenger Corporation (6)

P	E	R	Z	A	N	M	W	M	A	E	P	G	A
B	U	L	L	E	T	T	R	A	I	N	O	T	B
U	M	F	A	O	V	E	R	L	A	N	D	E	R
W	I	O	F	R	M	A	J	J	R	Q	I	K	U
V	F	U	N	I	Z	U	A	Q	S	O	M	C	N
R	P	A	S	E	N	M	P	A	S	O	P	O	I
E	B	I	M	N	E	G	J	B	M	W	M	R	O
Z	J	Q	A	T	P	T	B	Z	A	A	B	H	N
Q	A	R	N	E	R	L	O	I	L	P	R	Q	P
B	L	A	A	X	Z	A	I	T	L	E	L	V	A
M	U	N	H	P	E	H	K	E	A	L	A	X	C
O	V	Q	G	R	E	J	W	A	R	V	Y	U	I
Y	R	E	E	E	D	W	A	R	D	O	C	P	F
M	L	N	H	S	I	I	O	C	Q	J	E	P	I
W	R	A	T	S	O	R	U	E	G	H	M	A	C

Send your answers, together with your full name and address, to: **Penfriend Competition, Room W27, RPMI, Stooperdale Offices, Brinkburn Road, Darlington, DL3 6EH.**
Alternatively, email your answers to: **penfriend2@rpmi.co.uk** with Competition in the subject line. Please remember to tell us your name and address.

The competition closes on **29 June 2018**. The winner will be the first correct entry drawn at random.

Name:

Address:

.....

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Congratulations to...

Congratulations to Frank Dowthwaite, from Dorset, who won our Fictional Favourites quiz. The answers were: 1. Harry Potter 2. Hercule Poirot 3. Thomas The Tank Engine 4. Rachel Watson 5. Roberta (Bobbie) and Phyllis Waterbury 6. Sherlock Holmes and Dr John Watson 7. Guy Haines 8. Arthur Kipps 9. Anna Karenina 10. The Signalman



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