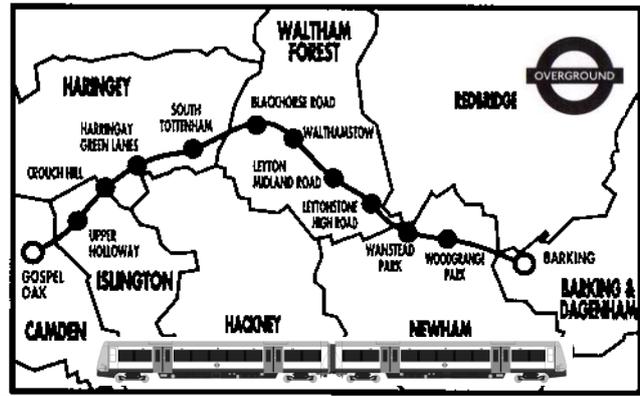


BARKING – GOSPEL OAK RAIL USER GROUP

Chairman: Alderman Frederick Jones,
Barking & Dagenham Council
Vice-Chair: Richard H Pout B.Sc. Econ. MILT,

Secretary: Glenn Wallis
(020) 8529 2361; 07789 791224
www.barking-gospeloak.org.uk
info@barking-gospeloak.org.uk;
@RidingtheGoblin



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NEWS RELEASE

4th July 2014

RAIL USERS MOURN LOSS OF DEDICATED TRANSPORT CAMPAIGNER

The father of the London Overground,
Richard Pout dies of a heart attack

Rail users and transport campaigners are mourning the loss of Richard Pout who died recently at his Crouch Hill home aged 65.

Many tributes and expressions of sympathy have been received by the Barking – Gospel Oak Rail User Group (BGORUG)^[1] for the veteran activist and campaigner who was their Vice-Chair.



BGORUG
Vice-Chair
Richard Pout
spots
Walthamstow
Queen's Road
station while
on a visit to
the 2013
Railtex
exhibition.

His lasting memorial will be the growing London Overground^[2] network. In the mid-1990s he came up with the idea^[3] for an orbital rail network and the need for London suburban rail services to be coordinated and marketed by one body. This was supported by several campaign groups (Transport 2000^[4], Railway Development Society^[5] & ALARM UK) and with the help of Labour's Nicky Gavron, Ken Livingstone was persuaded to adopt the concept as part of his plan to improve London's transport, successfully lobbying government to transfer some rail services to the Mayor on 11th November 2007. Other memorials are two steam locomotives he helped to rescue from the scrap yard for the Severn Valley Railway.



BARKING – GOSPEL OAK RAIL USER GROUP

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RAIL USERS MOURN LOSS OF DEDICATED TRANSPORT CAMPAIGNER



Richard Pout with the Chair of the London Assembly Transport Committee, Caroline Pidgeon, on the 08:47 Barking – Gospel Oak on one of her visits to see the overcrowding on the line on 23rd March 2012.

Richard was involved in many campaigns. Over the years he served on the boards of Transport 2000^[4], *Railfuture*^[5] and Capital Transport Campaign. He was involved in a number of environmental campaigns such as ALARM UK and Friends of the Earth, opposing the proposed East London River Crossing and supporting the related campaign to save Oxleas Wood.

He was the Community and Environment Groups' representative to the London Lea Valley Partnership Transport Group and a director of the London Thames Gateway Forum.

He also helped to reactivate the Chingford Line Users Association and start the campaign to reinstate the Hall Farm Curve so Chingford trains could serve Stratford. The Chingford, Cheshunt (via Seven Sisters) and Enfield Town services transfer to London Overground control on 31st May next year^[6].

Richard's involvement with the Barking – Gospel Oak Line began in 1993 when Waltham Forest Council launched the *GOBLIN*^[7] Campaign along with the other five councils^[8] along the line. Having recently moved to Crouch Hill, Richard duly joined the Barking – Gospel Oak Line Committee, as BGORUG then was, becoming Secretary in 2008 and Vice-Chair in 2013.

Transport Journalist and historian, Christian Wolmar, has suggested that Transport for London should name one of their London Overground trains *Richard H. Pout* as a fitting memorial to Richard's memory and BGORUG wholeheartedly endorses the idea!

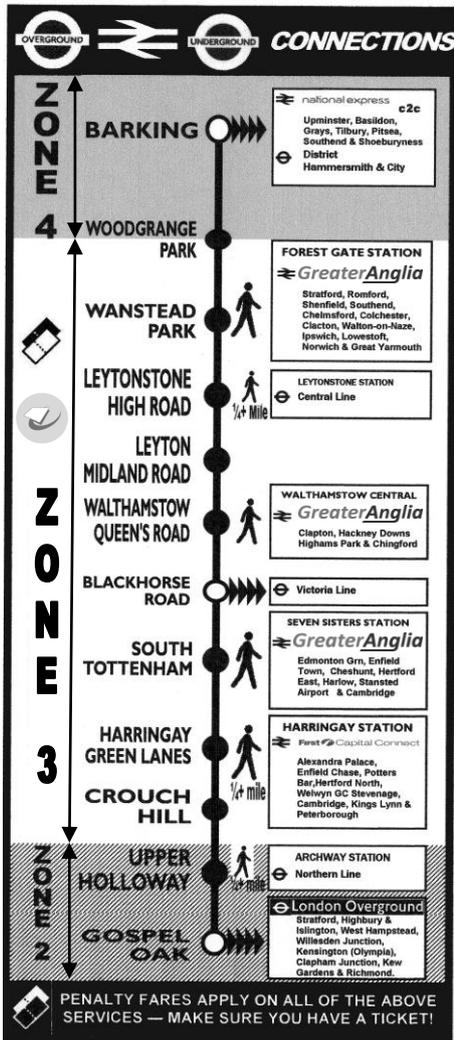
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FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT
GLENN WALLIS ON (020) 8529 2361
OR E-MAIL info@barking-gospel oak.org.uk





RAIL USERS MOURN LOSS OF DEDICATED TRANSPORT CAMPAIGNER



NOTES FOR EDITORS

1. Formed as the Barking – Kentish Town Line Committee to fight Dr. Beeching’s proposed closure of the line in the mid 1960s, the Barking – Gospel Oak Rail User Group has continued to represent the line’s passengers and campaign for improved services and station facilities, and also for the electrification of the only non-electrified railway in North East London, now finally approved by the Government on 26 June 2013.
2. Following the transfer of responsibility for the former Silverlink Metro services from the Department for Transport (DfT) in 2006, Transport for London (TfL), let the London Rail Concession to London Overground Rail Operations Ltd (LOROL), a joint Hong Kong/German owned venture, to operate the London Overground network from November 2007 until March 2014, recently extended by TfL to November 2016.
3. See www.barking-gospeloak.org.uk/documents/199707_Outer_Circle_Network.pdf
4. Transport 2000 is now known as the Campaign for Better Transport.
5. The Railway Development Society is now known as **Railfuture**.
6. See Transport for London Press Release dated 28th May at www.tfl.gov.uk/info-for/media/
7. **Gospel Oak – Barking Line Improvement Now!**
8. London Boroughs of Barking & Dagenham, Camden, Haringey, Newham and Islington.

