

COVER STORY

ANTHONY STREET Page 11

**FEET OVER FLEETS: MORE
PEDESTRIANISATION LOOMS**

PAUL BRENNAN Pages 6 (& 12)

TACKLING COMPLAINTS

STEVE KENTON Pages 18 & 19

TAXI

www.ltda.co.uk

29th July 2025

#591

LIGHTS OUT AND AWAY WE GO!

**LONDON CABBIES PROVE
INVALUABLE AT BRITISH
GRAND PRIX**



50 YEARS
ComCab



GET IT ON
Google Play



DOWNLOAD ON THE
Apple Store

JOIN TODAY



JOIN OUR DRIVER WAITING LIST TODAY!

AFTER AN INCREDIBLE RESPONSE THIS YEAR, WE'RE EXCITED
TO INVITE NEW DRIVERS TO JOIN OUR WAITING LIST!

Don't miss your chance to be part of something great. Secure your spot
now and be the first to know when new opportunities become available!

We can't wait to welcome you on board – **Email** or **call** to register your interest

Register your interest today!:  Join@comcab.com  0207 432 1600

Inside... TAXI 591

- 3 | News
- 5 | Steve McNamara
- 6 | Paul Brennan
- 8 | Sam Houston
- 11 | Anthony Street
- 12 | Taxi & LTDA Letters
Regent Street News
- 15 | Cab You Drive
- 16 | Phil Brown
- 18 | Steve Kenton
- 21 | Entertainment
Corner
- 22 | Musher Meg
- 23 | LTCFC Update
- 24 | Taxi Charity
- 27 | Puzzler
- 30 | Book Review &
Puzzle Answers

LTDA
Taxi House, 133 Great Suffolk
Street, SE1 1PP
020 7286 1046
www.ltada.co.uk
@TheLTDA

Editor
Mike Williams
taxi@ltada.co.uk

Produced By
Fellows Media Ltd
The Gallery
Manor Farm Courtyard
Southern Lane
Cheltenham GL52 3PBE:
hello@fellowsmedia.com
fellowsmedia.com

Advertising Sales
Jacob Holmes:
01242 259244
E: jacob.holmes
@fellowsmedia.co.uk



fellowsmedia
est. 1992

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system or transmitted by any means electronic, mechanical or by photocopying without prior permission of the publishers. The views and opinions expressed in this publication may not necessarily be those of the publishers. Please note that the last day for inclusion of Classified lineage advertisements is five working days prior to publication. No liability is accepted by the publisher should advertisements not appear in the requested issue(s). While the publisher will take every care to ensure accuracy, no liability can be accepted for loss or damage resulting from errors.

TRIAL CCTV FOR CABS

Areas of West Sussex, specifically Crawley, could soon see their black cabs and private hire vehicles fitted with closed circuit television (CCTV) and panic buttons for both drivers and passengers, in an attempt to make the industry a safer place for all.

Crawley Borough Council has opened up a public consultation in regards to the possible upgrades, which will remain open to taxi drivers, the general public and statutory bodies until 11th August.



If the new plans pass, then all licensed taxis will require the installation of cameras, which aim to make the journey safer for all parties. The idea is to have panic buttons available to both driver and passenger/s, who can activate the video and audio equipment to start recording if an incident inside or outside the vehicle occurs. Councillor Yasmin Khan, Cabinet Member for Public Protection, is pushing for safety to be at the core



of the industry. "We want everyone – whether they're a passenger, driver, or operator – to feel confident and secure when using or working in our licensed vehicles," she said.

"This consultation is an important step in ensuring our policies support public safety and reflect the needs of our community."

CABBIE PRAISED FOR RETURNING LOST LAPTOP

A London-based black cab driver has been given a deserved pat on the back for going the extra mile (quite literally), after a passenger accidentally left their backpack and computer in his taxi.

Barney was taking a man named John from Hyde Park to Leicester Square, when the passenger forgot his valuables. Shortly afterwards, John took to social media to share his story on a group for taxi users, revealing he'd been reunited with his possessions within half an hour of the drop off.

Barney had not only noticed the laptop and bag, but quickly remembered when he'd dropped John off – at the nearby Wetherspoons pub. In all his excitement, John wasn't aware he'd forgotten his stuff until the heroic cabbie walked in with it. *'I hadn't even realised I left it behind and the driver Barney turns up in the pub with my laptop with him. Took a walk over to the rank*

with him and had a good chat – what an absolute legend and credit to the trade,' he wrote in the post.

The act of kindness and honesty resonated that little bit deeper, with John sharing how his late father was once part of the taxi trade: *'Lost my Dad last year who was a taxi driver and it's exactly the kind of thing he would have done. Choked me up a bit.'*



Barney. (Credit: John Eager)

LIVERPOOL CRACKS DOWN ON RANK LAW-BREAKERS

Liverpool City Council have come down hard on vehicles illegally parking up in taxi ranks. Licensing Enforcement Officers have teamed up with Parking Services to issue Penalty Charge Notices (PCNs) to those breaking the law.

And authorities are not taking the offences lightly, issuing dozens of PCNs in July alone. Early July saw 37 PCNs issued over a weekend, with an incredible 72 fines handed out during a mid-month weekend, with a recent single evening seeing dozens of drivers slapped with a PCN:

"Liverpool Licensing Enforcement Officers with colleagues from Parking Services last night continued to target inconsiderate motorists parking their vehicles on taxi ranks. A total of 40 Penalty Charge Notices were issued during the evening," a Liverpool City Council Licensing spokesperson shared.

One-to-One Personal Service

Martin Cordell & Co

Accountants & Tax Specialists to the Taxi Trade

Our services include:

- Preparation of accounts
- Bookkeeping
- Tax Returns
- VAT Returns
- Payroll
- Tax enquiries and investigations
- Loss of earnings claims
- Company formation and advice
- One point of contact for ongoing continuity
- Easy payment terms

FREE & SECURE PARKING ON SITE

We understand your business and we're here to help, so let us take the strain of dealing with your accounts and tax obligations.

With over 50 years' experience of the taxi trade and more than 30 expert staff members, we believe that we are the leading taxi drivers' accountancy firm in the UK.

Phone us today on:

020 8980 7161

See us at:

Unit 6, Quebec Wharf

14 Thomas House

Limehouse

London E14 7AF

Or:

9 Church Road, Stanmore

Middlesex HA7 4AR

Email:

info@mcordell.co.uk

Web:

www.martin-cordell.co.uk

CALL US TO ARRANGE A FREE FIRST CONSULTATION - IN PERSON OR OVER THE PHONE



**QUICKMONEY
ONLINE**

TAXI FLEETS, GARAGES AND DRIVERS WELCOME...

to our financial services platform, where we specialise in providing unregulated business loans to limited companies in Greater London. Our flexible loan options range from £5,000 to £25,000, giving your business the financial support it needs to thrive.

With us, you're in control of where you invest, allowing you to tailor your loan to your unique business needs.

WHY CHOOSE QUICK MONEY?

Our business loans can be used for any legitimate business purpose, and the possibilities are endless. You know your business and goals best, so you decide how to utilise the funds. Common uses for our loans include:

- Boosting cash flow
- Covering operating costs and expenses
- Meeting staff wage demands
- Bridging the gap between invoices and payments
- Supplementing seasonal income
- Purchasing materials, inventory, or stock
- Ensuring a steady cash flow during projects with stages customer payments

A BETTER ALTERNATIVE

Our business loans offer a more practical alternative to managed overdrafts or credit cards. When these lines of credit are exhausted, businesses often find themselves without the necessary funds for day-to-day expenses and contingencies.



www.quickmoneyonline.co.uk
stevemardon@qmo.loans | (020) 7487 5755
 36 Albemarle Street, Mayfair,
 London, W1S 4JE



All or Nothing: The UK Government

When it comes to MPs and governing bodies making big statements, more often than not it's a coin toss whether we'll see an actionable result.



Steve's Comment

Government action and consultations are a bit like buses; you wait ages for one and then three come along together. And this is certainly what's happened, following Baroness Casey's audit (report) into the grooming gang scandal, with the developments that have followed.

Further announcements

Firstly, we had a statement from the Secretary of State for Transport, Heidi Alexander, saying that the government, in response to the report findings, is taking things very seriously. Alexander confirmed, "We've committed to legislating this issue."

She continued: "We will work as quickly as possible and consider all options including out-of-area working, national standards and enforcement, seeking the best overall outcome for passenger safety."

Secondly, we got an announcement from the Transport Select Committee, telling us they are launching a new enquiry into licensing

and standards in the taxi and private hire vehicles sector.

And thirdly, another consultation has been launched for the new Automated Passenger Services (APS) permitting scheme, as part of the process towards deployment of self-driving taxis, private hire vehicles and – can you believe it – buses!

All appear to be closely connected causes that, upon first glance, aim to keep the public safer. Exactly what actions will be taken remain to be seen, and how it affects the cab trade is a significant concern.

Work to be done

It goes without saying that we will be very busy in the coming weeks, engaging, meeting with and responding to all of the above to ensure that the views of our members are seriously taken into consideration ahead of any new legislation.

The risk is that these are very complicated and difficult issues to legislate for, and in the past the easiest options (AKA the paths of least resistance) have often been chosen, which is why we are in the mess we are. Now is the time for the legislators to grasp the nettle, put public safety before any commercial considerations and to do the right thing around Cross Border Hiring (CBH) and out-of-area working.

Déjà vu

None of this is new though. Most of the solutions were contained in the recommendations from the

2018 Taxi Task and Finish group report, written by the chair of the industry-wide group, Professor Mohammed Abdel-Haq. Successive governments since have cherry-picked the easier to implement recommendations, whilst ignoring the big-ticket items like CBH. So surely now is the time for action.

Long-distance witness

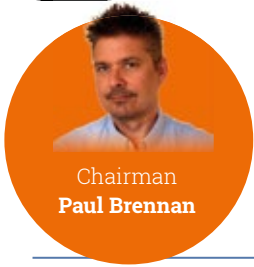
Speaking of taking action, last week I was reminded just how far (quite literally) our

legal eagles go in defence of our members. I got chatting to a member in reception who, back in 2015, was attacked by a cyclist on Southwark Bridge. They then alleged that our member

had driven dangerously and failed to stop after an accident. These are serious charges and almost certainly would have led to a disqualification and the loss of his badge and bill. Fortunately, his passenger had witnessed what had happened and had given our member his contact details. He was a Ukrainian diplomat, now all the way back in Ukraine!

That wasn't a problem for our team. They jumped on a plane, got a full statement from them and presented the testimony via a live video link at the Old Bailey. As a result of this, and other evidence, our member was acquitted on all charges. Now, some 10 years later, he's once again asked me to thank the third floor of Taxi House (that's our legal department) for their efforts and success. Their response? "It's what we do, we defend our members!" ■





Chairman
Paul Brennan

Yet Another Road Scheme in Central London – And Why it Misses the Point

With more chaos for cabbies to endure, with closures and developments to allegedly make city life easier, one has to question how beneficial it is in the first place.



Top Rank

By now, I'm sure most of you will have heard about yet another major road scheme planned for the heart of London, this time a joint project between Westminster City Council and the Crown Estate to fundamentally reshape Regent Street and some of its surrounding roads.

The project team behind the scheme has told me they're keen to hear your views. On page 12, you'll find links to further information and a list of public events where you can get involved and have your say.

The biggest issue, beyond the usual, obvious ones, is that these schemes rarely consider the wider network outside their self-contained bubble. I've met with this team several times now and, to be fair, 90% of them are dedicated and hard-working people, doing their best with the brief they've been given. They do listen, and in this world that's not something to take for granted.

U-turn

When I first heard about the project, the plan was to pedestrianise the entire length of Regent Street. Thankfully, that idea has been shelved. I'd

like to think I played a small part in that decision. But even in its revised form, the scheme still falls far short of being workable, at least from our point of view. If implemented as currently proposed, it's hard to see how it wouldn't result in total chaos.

The ripple effect

Which brings me back to the core problem, the ongoing refusal or inability to look beyond the borders of the individual scheme and at the bigger picture. Sure, the project team couldn't have predicted the mayor's questionable tactics in pushing his Oxford Street 'vanity project', but the broader context isn't exactly a surprise.

By their own admission, this scheme will push more traffic up Shaftesbury Avenue and towards Holborn, precisely the area where Camden Council is planning even more restrictions. This is also the same Shaftesbury Avenue that leads into Holborn, where both Camden and TfL (Transport for London) are now pushing the 'Liveable Holborn' project, a scheme that, predictably, involves more closures and restrictions. The same Holborn that is already at a near constant standstill.

Rules of the road

The justification for these restrictions? Congestion. But let's not forget what helped cause it. It was another 'individual scheme' which removed access from Tottenham Court Road.

Let's also remember what the law says. Under the 2004 Road Traffic Act, local authorities have a legal duty to:

- (a) Secure the expeditious movement of traffic on their own road network, and
- (b) Facilitate the same on roads managed by other authorities.

Yet this duty is constantly

undermined. Councils are quick to cite the bit about having to *"balance this duty with other policies and obligations"* like encouraging walking, cycling and 'wheeling'. But they've been trying to do that for years, and by their own metrics, have maybe shifted 5% of drivers to alternative modes. People don't drive in London for fun. If there were a viable alternative, most would take it.

The role of the mayor, like the Greater London Authority (GLA) before, was meant to be a coordinating one, to stop boroughs working at cross-purposes and creating gridlock. Sadly, our mayor is only adding to the chaos rather than stopping it.



Plan of action

Currently, I am working with other taxi organisations on how we should respond, and I'll be in touch (if I haven't already) with LTDA members shortly, voicing our collective position, along with suggestions you may wish to include in your own responses. For example, this scheme would cut us off from three five-star and three four-star hotels with a combined 877 rooms. If, as stated, the aim is to turn Regent Street into a 'destination', blocking access to six major hotels might not be the best starting point!

So if you only respond to one consultation this year, please make sure it is this one. ■





Sutherland Direct

**The Black Cab
insurance specialists**
with 50 years in the business

**Free Breakdown
Insurance
with code "IU1"**

★★★★★ Rated 4.8 out of 5 on Google

Call now on **0330 124 3890**
sutherland-direct.co.uk



**Need a Mortgage?
We've got the knowledge.**

Equity Release • Mortgage Advice • Protection

At Allan Reece Associates LLP, we work with the country's leading mortgage lenders to find the **right** solution for you.

For over 25 years we have arranged mortgages for licensed London taxi drivers. Call today to speak to one of our specialist team and find out how we can help you.



allanreece
ASSOCIATES LLP

Call now to arrange a **FREE** consultation

0203 935 7999

Capital House, Appleton Way, Hornchurch RM12 4XY • info@arallp.co.uk • www.arallp.co.uk

YOUR HOME IS AT RISK IF YOU DO NOT KEEP UP REPAYMENTS ON A MORTGAGE OR ANY OTHER LOAN SECURED ON IT. Allan Reece Associates LLP is Authorised & Regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority. FCA Number: 798177.

SAS
Accountants Ltd

Short and Sons Accountants Ltd
Centurion House
Staines Upon Thames
TW18 4AX
07481 479933



We can help you!



• **£299 FEES PER YEAR, INCLUDING VAT!**

- Established 2017 & 1000s of returns filed
- 100% Green badge holder owned!
- Offices only 7 mins drive from LHR T5!
- Capital allowances used most efficiently
- Sign off your return using your mobile
- 200+ online reviews
- Join us in 2 minutes! Save £100s in fees.
- All are welcome! Electricians to plumbers!
- Ltd companies, payroll, VAT, property, CGT

Call Jason Short on 07481 479933

WWW.SHORTANDSONS.CO.UK



Senior Rep
Sam Houston

Business is Booming

It seems to me – and drivers I’ve spoken to – that summer has been a pretty busy period. Let’s hope that trend doesn’t die off too much over the holidays.

M4 musings

It’s been a topsy-turvy past 12 months. Summer 2024 didn’t seem too bad and the pre-Christmas season was pretty solid. However, almost everyone agrees that the first four months of 2025 were absolutely dire, so it was a relief when things got going in May.

I can remember some really busy days and the smart drivers will have maximised income at these times.

Peaks and troughs

Our business has always been seasonal. It would be lovely to be able to drive out any time, day or night, at any time of the year and make a steady income, but life isn’t like that. Being self-employed, you start again at zero every day so it’s really important to get a cushion behind you (if possible) for those unexpected events or times when it’s quieter than usual.

However quiet or busy it is, it’s important to remember that the number of licensees is significantly lower than five years ago, so overall turnover is almost certainly reduced.

There’s been a lot of speculation why business was down at the start of the year. It’s traditional to blame the government, of course, and this administration has found some pretty inventive ways of raising tax without appearing to break their manifesto promises.

Tax hike

But it’s an unavoidable fact that taxes are higher than they’ve been for decades: The UK tax burden has risen by 3% of GDP since 2010, and is now at its highest level since 1950, according to the Institute for



Fiscal Studies (IFS). One of the most controversial increases has been on employers’ National Insurance, which makes it harder for businesses, specifically smaller ones, to employ people.

Previous governments have scrapped the ability for overseas shoppers to claim back their VAT, and recently the removal of non-domiciled tax status has led to claims that wealthy people are leaving the UK.

So, while there are still loads of tourists and plenty of locals coming out to the big events, pubs and clubs in the sunshine, business in London could still be doing better.

Unfortunately, I don’t feel this government – and certainly not this Mayor – seems to be very business-minded, so I for one will be making as much hay as I can while the sun is out.

Heathrow’s progress

Meanwhile at Heathrow, work seems to be progressing at the usual pace (aka very slowly) on the new Taxi Feeder Park system (TFP). At time of print, trials that were promised to commence in July have not yet materialised, although at a recent briefing reps were told the system would begin to be implemented by the end of the year.

Drivers should be aware that when it does come in, you will need a working smartphone to get into the TFP and to pay for your credits. Information will be posted around the TFP in good time and printed in this newspaper as we get it.

Heathrow has said that although overall passenger numbers are at record highs, the proportion of business travel is still just 80% of 2019 levels. This is revealing for us, as our numbers have

However quiet or busy it is, it’s important to remember that the number of licensees is significantly lower than five years ago, so overall turnover is almost certainly reduced.

been slightly down since the summer of 2024, although June saw steady demand at the Heathrow ranks.

Heathrow regulars will have noticed that the prices for ‘Fare’s Fair’ journeys have recently increased. I’ve always done these jobs as I think they’re easy money, even at the old prices, so hopefully more will be covered now the price has gone up a bit.

Good Luck out there. ■

CLIMATISED COATINGS

UK LIMITED



Before



After

- ♦ **Robust, flexible, and weatherproof** for enduring protection.
- ♦ Our high-build breathing coatings suit **all external walls** available in many colours.
- ♦ Unaffected by acid rain or salt-laden atmosphere.
- ♦ Expert resurfacing via high-pressure spray, conducted nationwide **by our fully trained staff**.
- ♦ Enjoy a **10-year guarantee** against flaking, peeling, or chipping.

Any queries please contact us on 01244 378488,
info@climatisedcoatingsuk.co.uk
or visit www.climatisedcoatingsuk.co.uk

GAROLLA

★ Trustpilot
10,000
Reviews

TRANSFORM
FULLY FITTED
FROM
£895*



Maximise your space, minimise the mess.
Upgrade to a sleek electric garage door
and unlock 25% more space.

- ✓ FREE 5-year warranty
- ✓ Fitted by a local Garolla engineer
- ✓ Manufactured in the UK

Scan to
explore
our range



BOOK A FREE SURVEY TODAY

020 8168 9985
GAROLLA.CO.UK

*Terms & conditions apply, see website for details.



FREE LEGAL COVER WHEN YOU INSURE WITH US

**For London's hardest-working
taxi drivers**



GET A QUOTE

Scan the QR code or call our team
on 020 8597 2622 to discuss your
business' insurance needs.

emrose.co.uk

**86 Dunbridge Street
Bethnal Green
London
E2 6JG**

Cabsurance is a trading name of Emrose (Insurance Brokers) Limited which is registered in England and Wales. Registered office: One America Square, 17 Crosswall, London, EC3N 2LB Company No. 00761961. Emrose (Insurance Brokers) Limited is authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority FRN 304324. Emrose (Insurance Brokers) Limited is part of the Specialist Risk Group.

CABSURANCE



SRG A Specialist Risk
Group Company

COLTS CABS LTD

96/99 DUNBRIDGE STREET LONDON, E2 6J6



**CENTRAL LONDON
LOCATION**

BACK UP AND SUPPORT

—— TXE TAXIS TO RENT ——

WE ARE STILL RENTING A LIMITED AMOUNT OF DIESEL TAXIS

TELEPHONE

020 7613 0684 | 020 7613 0630



Executive
Anthony
Street

Black Cabs, Gold Standard: London Taxis Shine at Silverstone 2025

It's that time of year again, where London's finest cabbies take to the track on one of the biggest sporting days of the year – and it did not disappoint.

Streets ahead

Each summer, as the engines roar and crowds descend on the legendary Silverstone circuit for the British Grand Prix, a quieter but equally iconic tradition takes place: the arrival of London's black cabs.

Providing VIP transport at one of the world's most prestigious sporting events, these legendary vehicles and their drivers are delivering far more than just rides – they're showcasing the very best of British service to a global audience.

For the fourth consecutive year, the Licensed Taxi Drivers' Association (LTDA) was proud to lead the charge, ensuring the capital's world-famous taxis played a central role in supporting the massive logistical demands of Formula 1's British home. From ferrying elite guests to escorting global superstars, this was no ordinary fare.

Bigger, better, bolder

What began in 2022 with just 25 taxis shuttling passengers to and from the helipad has grown into a full-scale transport operation. In 2025, an impressive 63 highly skilled and immaculately presented drivers covered the entire site; operating in 12-hour shifts to provide transport for media, performers, F1 teams, VIPs, and individuals with accessibility needs.

Many of this year's drivers were returning veterans of the event, selected through a ballot system based on their experience and commitment. A second round of ballots ensured fairness and gave more LTDA members the



opportunity to participate in this high-profile showcase.

Four days of excellence

Across the Grand Prix weekend, drivers clocked up long hours in sometimes challenging conditions, including heavy rain on race day but maintained impeccable service throughout.

TX electric taxis played a crucial role, not just in comfort and accessibility, but in aligning with F1's environmental goals. Their use underscores Silverstone's push toward carbon neutrality by 2030 and highlights the trade's own green transition, proof that heritage and innovation can ride side by side.

Moments on the global stage

This year, the iconic image of black cabs lined up beside the podium or helipad captured imaginations worldwide. Whether transporting

British stars Lando Norris and George Russell, retired legends or celebrities arriving by helicopter, London taxis once again became part of the Grand Prix spectacle beamed live on international TV and shared across social media.

A thank you to the team behind the wheel

The LTDA extends heartfelt thanks to every driver who took part, earning admiration from passengers and event organisers alike, with over 1,500 individual transport jobs completed during the event, each one executed with professionalism and pride. You are, without question, the gold standard of global taxi services.

Special thanks goes to Anthony Street, Kate Hawkins, LTDA Membership Lead, and Frank O'Beirne, who headed up operations on the ground. Their tireless behind-the-scenes efforts

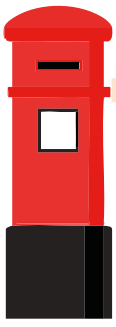
ensured everything ran like clockwork, from logistics to morale, setting the tone for another unforgettable year at Silverstone.

Looking ahead to 2026

And the momentum continues as plans start to form for 2026. Next year, we're aiming to grow our presence even further. Keep an eye on *TAXI Newspaper* and LTDA member communications for your chance to take part. With each year, this initiative doesn't just grow, it grows in impact!

At Silverstone, the message couldn't be clearer: when it comes to delivering premium transport to the world's biggest events, nobody does it better than London's licensed taxi drivers.

I would personally like to offer a huge thank you to Kate, Frank and all the drivers for delivering a top quality service. ■



TAXI & LTDA Mail

Subject: TfL mistreatment

Dear Paul and Lloyd
I have received at last my renewed cab licence.
I am only say how helpful and understanding you
have both been in assisting me in dealing with this.
Thank you.
May I say how appalling this renewal process from
TfL has been. Traumatic and frustrating, also
a shame on our wonderful and enviable worldwide
cab trade.
If you could I would like this to be published in
the Taxi Magazine.
A cab driver of 51 years with no criminal record, or
traffic violations, the way I was treated is disgraceful.
Regards
Alan B. Martin
Bobby No. 22208

Subject: Traffic nightmares

Dear Editor,
For 15 years, I have repeatedly told my fares and friends that today was the worst traffic I have ever seen... only to find it much worse a few days or weeks later! All of this, however, was nothing compared to what I encountered last week, with Piccadilly Underpass shut, roadworks on Park Lane and a demo in the West End!

The queue to travel east was back past the Natural History. Park Lane southbound was almost back to the Marylebone flyover. Belgrave Square and the whole of Victoria was at a total standstill. Who designs and plans the roadworks when the underpass and Park Lane are being worked on at the same time?

I had a lady in a wheelchair going to Victoria from Harrowby Street, a journey that, at worst, should have taken 30 minutes... after 90 minutes, she gave up and I had to spend another 45 minutes getting her back home. That was two hours and 15 minutes to go nowhere. At one point I considered going along the Marylebone Road and down through Kingsway, Waterloo and trying to get to Victoria from the bottom, only to see on the traffic map that Waterloo and Westminster bridges were shut too.

Surely this must be my ultimate worst traffic ever. But the way this city is run, I suspect there will be worse to come.

Best regards,
Sheena Sullivan.

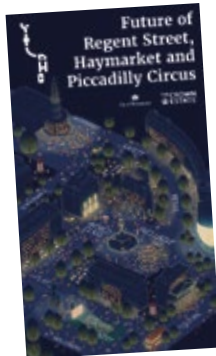
The Future of Regent Street, Haymarket and Piccadilly Circus

While project leaders see environmentally-friendly, safer spaces in London as a positive, they appear oblivious to the adverse impact on the taxi trade.

'Help shape the future of Regent Street, Haymarket and Piccadilly Circus' is the rallying call from the project team behind The Regent Street Scheme, an initiative (as discussed on page 6) to encourage people to come together and support the major pedestrianisation of key areas in Central London.

Impending chaos

Traffic looks set to become a logistical nightmare during its renovation, not least in the aftermath.



Hosted events include community and business workshops, as well as pop-up locations, in the hope of getting people on board. This is a great opportunity for like-minded sceptics to voice their opinions and ask vital questions directly to them – specifically the impacts it'll have on the cab trade and thousands of people's livelihoods.

The aim

Organisers say it wants to create a 'new public space in the heart of the West End', with better accessibility for

people by foot, which will be transformed into green areas. The scheme is focused on the environment and pedestrians but doesn't take into account the city's taxi trade.

Organisers say feedback will 'help shape the future of these areas – making them more inclusive, people-friendly spaces for everyone', so be sure to express how you feel as a musher making a living around these parts of London, so our voices don't go unheard!

Make sure you have your say by 10th August, either by attending one of the events or completing this online survey here: ■



Events

By the time this goes to print, you can still attend the following, taking place at 5 Vigo Street, W1S 3HB:

- Tuesday, 29th July 2025 (lunchtime)
- Tuesday, 29th July 2025 (evening)
- Walkabout for Women and Girls – Wednesday, 30th July 2025
- Monday, 4th August 2025 (lunchtime)
- Monday, 4th August 2025 (evening)
- Walkabout for Women and Girls – Wednesday, 6th August 2025

Pop up locations

- Vigo Street – Tuesday, 29th July 2025 (11am-7pm)
- Berwick Street Market – Friday, 1st August 2025 (11am-3pm)
- Regent Street St James's – Saturday, 2nd August 2025 (11am-3pm)
- Vigo Street – Monday, 4th August 2025 (11am-7pm)



SKINNY LAGER HAS 35% FEWER CALORIES THAN OTHER
PREMIUM LAGERS AT ONLY 89 CALORIES PER BOTTLE



SKINNYBRANDS.COM



THE BEST TAXI ALIGNMENT

Our **HUNTER** Wheel Alignment, we believe is one of the very **BEST** around! Alignments include a full 'Before and After' report



MERCEDES VITO

VITO & BLACK CAB ALIGNMENT FROM £48

195/65R16 TYRES

ECONOMY £59.94

Continental £125.94

MASSIMO £71.94

TYRE PRICES INC VAT, FITTING, TUBELESS VALVE, WHEEL BALANCING & OLD TYRE DISPOSAL. ALL PRICES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

TAXI TYRES AT COMPETITIVE PRICES



AUSTONE £83.94

TX 175/80R16

Mon-Fri 8am-6pm Sat 8am-5pm

TXE ELECTRIC 215/65R17 TYRES



£107.94

MAXXIS

MA919



£77.94

HIFLY

HT 601



£143.94

MICHELIN

C CLIMATE 2



TRADE ENQUIRIES WELCOME

THE TyreShop .com **0208 531 2300** thetyreshop.com

VISIT OUR CENTRE 2 LOXHAM ROAD | CHINGFORD E4 8SE

Fleetwood Assessors can be of assistance with all your accident circumstances regardless of whether they are fault or non fault and discounts offered to LTDA Members

- Accident Damage Assessments
- Consistency Reports
- Desktop Reports
- Low-Velocity Impact Inspections
- Repair Costing
- Salvage Valuation
- Total Loss Negotiation
- Vehicle Valuation
- Total Loss Post Inspection Report
- Mechanical faults



FLEETWOOD

Consulting Automotive Engineers & Assessors Ltd

info@fleetwoodassessors.co.uk [01702 597370](tel:01702597370) www.fleetwoodassessors.co.uk

We provide consultancy and deal with resolutions of disputes that occur within the industry, this being not only London Taxis but the automotive industry

We are proud of our association with the Black Cab Trade, with over 20 years experience. We have excellent knowledge of the TFL (Transport for London) and outer London Councils procedures, conditions of fitness, which is extremely important when involved in an accident or vehicle dispute. Over the years we have built up a good relationship within the industry, which is beneficial when dealing with these types of incidents.

We have regular contact with recovery agents / fleet owners / body shops / mechanical repairers / taxi finance companies



EV Demand Increases But Not Without a Bump in the Road

While we are seeing more drivers buying new electric cars, there remains plenty of confusion over EUV to VI conversions, thanks to TfL's lack of clarity.

Industry update

For those of you who read my last article, about it being a good time to buy a second-hand electric vehicle, will remember the main reason that prices are so low is because of a much lower demand for EVs outside of London and the southeast area.

EV on the rise

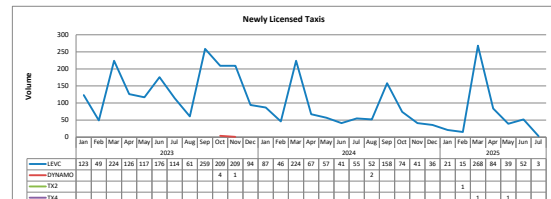
And whilst this is still the case, the landscape is changing rapidly. In fact, the latest figures from the DVLA show that over 25% of new car registrations are now EV. What's more, driving around town looking at the sheer number of 25 plate EVs on the roads confirms that most of these new cars are still being sold in London.

The reasons for this are, in my view, pretty self-explanatory. Most obvious is that London and the southeast has the most chargers, the highest proportion of company cars, or cars bought through a workplace salary sacrifice scheme, and historically London has always bought a high percentage of brand-new cars.

Count of Vehicle Number		Model corrected				
Years (Vehicle Licence Start Date)	Months (Vehicle Licence Start Date)	LEVVC	DYNAMO	TX2	TX4	Grand Total
2023	Jan	123				123
	Feb	49				49
	Mar	224				224
	Apr	128				128
	May	117				117
	Jun	176				176
	Jul	114				114
	Aug	61				61
	Sep	259				259
	Oct	209	4			213
	Nov	209	1			210
	Dec	94				94
2023 Total		1761	5			1766
2024	Jan	87				87
	Feb	46				46
	Mar	224				224
	Apr	67				67
	May	57				57
	Jun	41				41
	Jul	55				55
	Aug	52	2			54
	Sep	158				158
	Oct	74				74
	Nov	41				41
	Dec	36				36
2024 Total		938	2			940
2025	Jan	21				21
	Feb	15				15
	Mar	268		1		269
	Apr	84				84
	May	39				39
	Jun	52				52
	Jul	3				3
2025 Total		482		1	2	485
Grand Total		3181	7	1	2	3191

2023	A/L	Sub
Jan	16540	1997
Feb	16416	1997
Mar	16335	1977
Apr	16267	1961
May	16239	1954
Jun	16160	1927
Jul	16097	1915
Aug	16051	1901
Sep	16029	1884
Oct	15971	1871
Nov	15903	1857
Dec	15872	1855
2024	A/L	Sub
Jan	15736	1841
Feb	15674	1823
Mar	15676	1808
Apr	15554	1802
May	15315	1797
Jun	15427	1786
Jul	15451	1772
Aug	15335	1765
Sep	15270	1755
Oct	15239	1755
Nov	15220	1745
Dec	15178	1741
2025	A/L	Sub
Jan	15124	1732
Feb	15113	1625
Mar	15058	1618
Apr	15029	1628
May	14994	1623
Jun	14981	1621

The latest figures from the DVLA show that over 25% of new car registrations are now EV.



TfL RESTRICTED

On the up

52 new cabs joined the ranks this month, which means the fleet numbers are holding steady at about 14,600, which is still about 1,000 cabs below where it should be. But hopefully once the last of the 12-year limited Euro Vs have gone and the 15-year limit on Euro VIs is in place, and we have more new cabs coming on than falling away, we can get back to those sorts of stronger numbers.

Popular preowned

What's interesting to see is that demand is up for pre-owned TXEs and down for TX4s. With the Euro VIs losing quite a bit in recent weeks, so much so that I have no stock of TXEs, and with some of the unbelievable scrappage and finance packages being offered at LEVC Brewery

Road, I am particularly glad, mainly because I could not match any of these deals at the moment.

I have been asked by quite a few drivers about the progress with the EUV to EUVI conversion (something that was discussed in the last edition of TAXI) on the TX4, which was recently approved by TfL (Transport for London).

Despite the news entering the public domain, several key questions have been left unanswered. Will they or will they not give the converted cabs a 15-year age limit? What is the cost of the conversion? And where are they with the Vito? My understanding is that TfL's jury is still out on the age limit extension, HJS (the converters) will be announcing the pricing soon and, unsurprisingly, there is still no news on the Vito! ■





Columnist
Phil Brown

A Passage Through Time:

A Final Chapter in Hampstead's Colourful Past

This time, we explore the rich history and 20th century accounts of the Hampstead area, including its post-WWII rebuild, high-rise builds, combining the old and new.

Footprints and foundations

I have been associated with the London cab trade for the past 46 years and it is said that time flies. There is a certain truth in this sentiment. I was once a butter boy and now I'm a mature cab driver of longevity.

On a personal note...

On 20th June, I made the decision to retire from driving a cab on the streets of London. That's 46 years of plying my trade and I have enjoyed every moment. However, time moves on, and the next chapter awaits.

My entire career in the cab trade has been a journey of exploration. I have learned so much about human life and its idiosyncrasies. I value the friends I have made down the years, the characters I have met and their captivating stories along with it. I am grateful to the many garage proprietors who nurtured me on the finer workings of a cab – particularly Horace Tapper who was a gentleman of the cab trade. Writing my historical articles in cab trade publications over the past 30 years has given me the opportunity to inspire cab drivers to learn more about the city they drive in. And many have taken the leap of faith and enrolled onto tourist guide courses.

Even though I will be giving up cab driving, I will still continue my work in the cab trade and I will still be writing my articles here in *TAXI*. I'll also be continuing to train prospective cab guides in the art of presentation. In the future, I will do my utmost to represent the cab industry

and question those who seek its demise. For the past 20 years, I have been fundraising for Great Ormonde Street Children's Hospital, and this shall continue.

The book I recommend this month is called *The London Blue Plaque Guide* by Nick Renison. It's an informative lexicon of the capital's great and the good.

We now continue a concluding chapter on Hampstead and reveal its last 60 years.

Post-war years

World War II was devastating for the capital. The landscape of London was turned into

a sea of rubble and dust. A huge amount of fatalities and injured Londoners succumbed to the heavy bombardment of the German Luftwaffe. In 1945, the war ended and the reality of six years of hostilities had taken the nation to the brink. It would take another 15 years for the country to rise from the ashes and recover its *joie de vivre*.

With building materials difficult to acquire, the rebuilding of the capital continued at a snail's

pace. Residents who had been bombed out of their homes were in temporary accommodation. Private and public developers were urged on by the Conservative government to move with haste with the rebuilding programme.

In 1949, Hampstead opened its first council housing estate in Well Walk. Wells House was built in the Queen Ann style, with amenities including a toilet and bathroom. Most pre-war accommodation had an outside toilet and no bathroom. The huge debris that had been created by the bombs, became prime land to build upon.

World War II was devastating for the capital. The landscape of London was turned into a sea of rubble and dust.



The Blitz.

High-rise blocks

Adelaide Road was mostly obliterated in the war. This thoroughfare became a major target for the German Airforce because of its proximity to the nearby railway. This area was formally owned by the Eaton Estates. High-rise blocks of flats started to emerge on the Hampstead skyline. Between 1965 and 1970, a succession of council tower blocks were built along the northside of Adelaide Road. They were named Dorney, Bray, Taplow and Burham, all named after villages near Eaton. The blocks contained 23 floors. This was a new innovation for the council tenants. Once domiciled in the flats, the new tenants at times felt uncomfortable with their new high-rise surroundings. Even though they had come from austere housing consisting of two-up, two-down residences, they missed their next-door neighbour and sense of community spirit. The tower blocks may have improved living conditions, but residents were sceptical in their newfound homes.

Terraced housing on Fleet Road, which had been hit by bombs during the war, was demolished to make way for a new housing development. Low-rise council flats were constructed, whose names commemorate three esteemed former Hampstead residents: Palgrave, Stephenson and Siddons. Sir Francis Palgrave, (a historian) Robert Stephenson (a writer) and Sarah Siddons (an actress).



Terraced housing on Fleet Road, which had been hit by bombs during the war, was demolished to make way for a new housing development.

The villages prevail

Much of old Hampstead remains: its shops, eateries and public houses are buildings from the past. Today, these facilities provide exclusive shopping outlets for upmarket clients. As I walk through the thoroughfares of Hampstead, I can still feel a



village ambiance where the urban town feels far in the distance.

One is always climbing the steep inclines of this neighbourhood, then you realise that this is the Northern Heights in Hampstead. Estate agents are here in abundance, property prices are in the higher bracket. This area is most sought after by prospective clients. If you are driving through the area I recommend you stop the cab in the oldest location of Hampstead; the area between Heath Street and Frognal Rise contains a plethora of 17th century houses.

A tangible presence will transport you back in time.

This rural backdrop is a reminder of Hampstead's rich heritage. I encourage you to walk around the streets of London, for it is here you will gain knowledge of this illustrious city.

I hope you have enjoyed this series on Hampstead. Next month, I will descend to the location of Mayfair and reveal its very unique rich tapestry of history. ■

If you have any questions on London or are contemplating a tourist guide course, please contact me via journeythroughtime@hotmail.com





Columnist
Steve Kenton

The Art of Complaining (and Reading the Room)

With today's world ranting, rating and reviewing everything we seem to do (or not do in some instances), misunderstanding can be commonplace before escalation.

Man in black

Like most taxi drivers, I love listening to the radio. It breaks up the banality of the day. Hearing the dulcet tones of Rush or Halestorm blasting out of my speakers is fine in moderation, while the sounds of Planet Rock gives me an enormous sense of well-being – and far more pleasure than some overbearing conspiracy theorist calling in to expound their view whether Elvis faked his own death.

I do, however, find the adverts on commercial radio more than a little irksome. One radio ad which has grabbed my attention recently in the most negative way possible, is the *Amazon* one, featuring a female narrator with an overtly eager but softly spoken voice. She pontificates on an individual's purchase and how the product was awarded five stars, reciting her script as though it had come from a Mills and Boon novel. But it did get me thinking about what determines whether a product is worthy of a five-star rating.

Rate-A-Cab

With the ratings system, something which is prevalent within the taxi industry across the UK, specifically when using work apps, the same question raises its head: what determines a five-star journey as opposed to a four-star one? Where is that division point? How do you begin to quantify it?



Let's face it, the ratings system across many industries is a superficial beast. Certainly within the taxi industry, unless a customer actually qualifies their choice of rating and the taxi driver is then given a right of reply, it becomes a meaningless entity which is open to abuse.

Admittedly some cabbies do, on occasion, provide a less than satisfactory service. But the flipside to that coin is that they can also find themselves down-rated for simply getting caught in traffic or encountering road closures.

It is also a fact that sometimes they can fall victim to the whims of a self-entitled or miserable individual who's having a bad day and feels like taking their ire out on others. This can (in rare cases) potentially lead to a driver's income being adversely affected and find a driver



facing a suspension from any given app. A customer's rating should never be solely relied upon as conclusive evidence of driver wrongdoing. Conversely, there is no point in a driver rating a customer without qualification. It feels meaningless given they are unlikely to ever encounter each other again.

A flawed system

While app companies across the UK do need their checks and balances in place, the sole arbiter of anything involving the complaints process should be TfL (Transport for London). Although the system is by no means perfect, at least a driver does have the opportunity to represent themselves and offer context to a complaint.

Even with this process, you are again at the whim of a customer and their temperament. There is the view by a minority of customers that because they are paying the taxi driver, they have carte blanche to abuse and dehumanise a driver. Unfortunately, the worker has no real recourse of action against the customer. It must be noted that all taxi drivers have the absolute right to work free from abuse and fear in the workplace, and that includes malicious or vexatious complaints. Frankly, the customer isn't always right.

The right to complain

I've seen a few complaints over the years, some of which are absolutely laughable. To give TfL some credit, they tend to only log the more outlandish ones rather than follow them up. It's a common complaint from within the taxi industry that TfL lacks common sense when engaging with drivers about complaints. However, from their perspective, once a complaint is made, they do have a duty to investigate.

They have to ascertain whether there has been an issue with a driver, received



What determines a five-star journey as opposed to a four-star one? Where is that division point?

a vexatious complaint, or establish whether there has been a simple misunderstanding. There will always be problems when a course of action is taken when it's one person's word against another. After all, who is to say who's telling the truth?

You'll notice that I'm concentrating solely on the welfare of the cabbie and not focusing on the customer here. This is only because there seems to be a sense of abandonment where driver protection is concerned.

Of course customer safety is paramount, yet it's often overlooked that taxi drivers have to deal with all manner of people and are in a highly vulnerable position.

Self-preservation

In today's world, the only protection that taxi drivers have is the video or voice note function on their mobile phone. Using it can be the difference between facing a suspension or clearing their name. Obviously you must not hold any handheld device with the ignition switched on, so do not remove the phone from its cradle unless you have pulled into the kerbside safely and your ignition is turned off.

This now opens up a whole new can of worms, specifically internal CCTV. Other than cost, it shouldn't be an issue for the driver; it protects both them and the customer. In

fact, if a passenger knows that internal CCTV is a feature within the taxi, it may well minimise the danger of a cabbie being attacked by an irate customer, or finding oneself on the receiving end of a vexatious complaint. There is even an argument to be able to use bodycams (subject to data protection legislation), which could be switched on when under threat. Whatever the solution is, drivers are entitled to protection.

Always assume the worst when a passenger starts to become irate, say nothing that will exacerbate the situation and keep your cool. Remember the saying: act in haste, repent at leisure.

The right type of complaint

It's worth logging any form of threatening or abusive behaviour from a customer with the police. It takes 10 minutes when reporting online. Make sure you obtain a crime reference number, even if you don't follow up the complaint. The crime reference number is important because it can then be used as supporting evidence should a complaint be made.

It's important to reiterate that it's only a minority of customers who're willing to engage in behaviour which could be described as nefarious, but we all need to be mindful of the erratic few who may be an issue. ■



**WITH 6 DVLA PENALTY
POINTS YOUR TAXI
LICENCE CAN NOW
BE **REVOKED****



The LTDA goes to bat for its members

Our expert officers and dedicated, in-house legal team will help keep you in the game. Don't get knocked out, scan here to join the LTDA today or call 0207 286 1046 to request an application form.



www.ltda.co.uk



Columnist
Mike Williams

Entertainment Corner

Here's your round-up of the best entertainment to get stuck into on your mobile, tablet, or in the comfort of your own home, this month.

Lights, Camera, Action!

PODCAST: The Mel Robbins Podcast

With all the self-help podcasts and self-proclaimed experts out there, finding the reliable ones can be a slog. New York Times bestselling author and motivational speaker Mel Robbins is the host of her self-titled show that avoids dishing out your typical or clichéd portions of advice and instead opts for more radical, outside-the-box thinking to approach emotional situations rationally and with a strong degree of logic.

Known for offering sterling advice such as the Let Them Theory, which is an approach whereby she encourages you to stop trying to control the behaviours and actions of others and to simply let them be; instead shifting the focus to yourself when it comes to tolerance and boundaries.

Mel's work focuses more on what you can do for yourself and to stop trying to control external factors, especially other people's behaviour, because all it leads to is stress and frustration. Her aim is to reduce the bad stuff in your life and increase feelings of self-worth, inner peace and emotional freedom.

New and past episodes of *The Mel Robbins Podcast* are available on Apple Podcasts, Spotify and more.



MOVIE: Superman

James Gunn's efforts to build a new DC Comics universe, where movies (*The Suicide Squad*) and television shows (*Peacemaker*) are concerned, look like they're going to plan. His latest silver screen title is the iconic *Superman*, previously portrayed by popular Brit Henry Cavill. This time the new-look DCU hero is played by David Corenswet, with Rachel Brosnahan as Lois Lane and Nicholas Hoult as the villainous Lex Luthor.

Gunn refuses to give us the origin story again because, much like Batman or Spider-Man, we've seen it time and time again and don't need to be fed that sort of exposition. Instead, we follow the life of Superman as he tries to balance his Kryptonian



heritage while being part of the human race, and while also a symbol of hope for an entire planet once he dons the cape and spandex.

What's interesting about this incarnation is how the script throws out narrative conventionality and tackles our protagonist's struggle in an ever-changing world where his popularity is growing with the moral and ethical conflicts he encounters.

Superman is in cinemas now.

Also catch...

Acclaimed British director Alex Garland teams up with former Navy SEAL Ray Mendoza for *Warfare*, one of the grittiest conflict films in years. Now streaming on Amazon Prime.

TV SHOW: Ballard

Maggie Q stars as LAPD Detective Renee Ballard, as she's assigned the role of overseeing a new cold case division within her department. 10 episodes set up an intriguing crime drama series that sets a distinctly dark mood with a visual style akin to *Bosch* and *Bosch: Legacy*, which this is a spin-off from.

But don't worry because coming into this without any prior knowledge of its predecessor is perfectly fine – in fact, I actively encourage it.

Ballard is a highly accessible police procedural drama with a central protagonist that is flawed but authentic enough to properly engage you with what's happening on-screen. The castings are perfect, especially Q as its lead, with tight, well-written episodes, making the debut season extremely bingeable.

Ballard is available to stream on Amazon Prime now.

Also catch...

The second season of highly-rated dark fantasy show *The Sandman* has just landed on Netflix, starring Tom Sturridge as Dream.

Amazon Studios





We're All Going on a Summer Holiday

It's officially summer, so we're travelling in style and taking a cab to the airport for a five-day break on the west coast of Ireland.



A woman of words

The mini-Megs clubbed together and treated us to flights and a stay in a fabulous beach front hotel to celebrate our anniversary.

It's a milestone occasion that needs no number to describe it. We refer to it as the 'I don't bloomin' believe that we've made it this far without choking one another' anniversary. So romantic.

Just the essentials

I am excited and have already filled my big wheelee suitcase. Mr Meg's carrier bag is next to it on the spare bed. He'll put the carrier bag into a rucksack to travel because there's a tear in the bottom of the plastic one, and the one and only pair of boxers he's bringing (the ones with a giraffe print) are sticking out of said hole.

In it is also his circa 1984 polo shirt, stiff as cardboard from four decades of washing, a pair of socks

with a hole in the big toe and a pair of lawdy lawdy help me please, Speedos that belong in a museum.

Mr Meg believes an item of clothing ranks as new if it's 30 years old. In case you are thinking he deserves a slap on the back for being a pioneer of sustainable clothing, please stop right there. There are reasons he is dressed in rags: the man detests shopping, loathes spending money and never looks in a mirror.

Failing to prepare

I have packed tops and trousers, all different, for our five day stay. Plus, walking shoes, heeled shoes for sitting with my legs crossed and sipping cocktails in the lounge bar (which has sea views) of the hotel. Also, a couple of fancy outfits and sparkly sandals to wear for the two



inclusive fancy dinners included in our package. Thanks again, Mini Megs.

Bare necessities

I suppose I should be grateful that Mr Meg wears clothes at all. A few years back, a chap known locally around North West London as 'naked man' hailed my cab. You don't need to be a genius to work out that he was fully unclothed. As in wearing absolutely nothing, nadda, zilch. He carried a bag and from it produced cash

and a towel to sit on. So, I took him to Mill Hill Broadway as he requested.

Interesting fella. He claimed, in a previous fully-clothed life, that he had been a surgeon and that he hated the way clothing

had become a status symbol of wealth and position in society. He lamented that he was dismissed when he tried to see patients without wearing his clothes. His hospital bosses didn't accept his view that nudity was a great leveller. Was this fella a liar, a lunatic or a free thinker? Hard to judge.

He paid, tipped and folded up the cloth he had sat on neatly before waving goodbye. I wish he hadn't done any of that so I could make a gag about the bare-faced (or should that be arsed) cheek of him.

So, whilst Mr Meg in his 40-year-old polo shirt and vintage XXL C&A shorts is a raggedy man, at least he isn't a naked man. Always look on the bright side, not the back side. ■



LTCFC: London Cabbies Deliver Joy for Over 200 Children at Hertfordshire Zoo

65 volunteer taxi drivers created a convoy of kindness for a heartwarming annual tradition, accompanying dozens of disadvantaged children on an unforgettable day out.



LTCFC update

On 9th July, in a spectacular display of community spirit, 65 iconic London black cabs formed a convoy of compassion, transporting over 200 special needs and disadvantaged children to Hertfordshire Zoo for an unforgettable day out.

The heartwarming annual outing, organised by the London Taxi Drivers' Charity for Children (LTCFC), transformed an ordinary Wednesday into an extraordinary adventure for children who often face significant daily challenges. Accompanied by their parents, carers, and teachers, these

young adventurers experienced the magic that has been the charity's hallmark since 1928.

A Legacy of love in motion

The sight of dozens of London's famous black cabs departing the capital on the morning created a moving testament to the power of community generosity. For many participating children, this represents far more than a simple day out – it's a gateway to experiences that might otherwise remain beyond reach.

"Today exemplifies the incredible generosity of our volunteer London taxi drivers and the pure delight radiating from these wonderful children," said Louise, LTCFC committee member. *"These outings form the cornerstone of our mission, offering precious escapes and creating cherished memories for children navigating significant challenges. We're immensely grateful to every driver, carer, and the team at Hertfordshire Zoo for making today's magic possible."*

Beyond the journey

The LTCFC, proudly supported by Her Majesty Queen Camilla as patron, extends its impact far beyond memorable outings. The charity provides

vital funding for essential recreational, technology, and mobility equipment, directly improving young lives across London and beyond.

Operating entirely through donations, the LTCFC's success stems from the extraordinary dedication of volunteer taxi drivers who freely give their time and vehicles. This selfless commitment ensures that children who need it most can access experiences that bring joy, wonder, and hope. ■

About the London Taxi Drivers' Charity for Children

Founded in 1928, the London Taxi Drivers' Charity for Children stands as a beacon of community compassion. This registered charity specialises in supporting special needs and disadvantaged children through:

- Annual outings creating lasting memories for children and their carers
- Funding appeals for recreational, technology, and mobility equipment
- Volunteer-driven initiatives powered by London's taxi driving community
- 97 years of unwavering commitment to improving young lives

Visit www.ltcfc.org.uk for more information.



Celebrating Our Annual Visit to Worthing Coast: Sun, Sea and Memories



Guests enjoying Worthing.

On 1st July, the Taxi Charity made its annual visit to Worthing, with fun at the seaside enjoyed by some 90 veterans and 50 London cabs that made it possible.



“This year felt extra special,” says London cab driver and Taxi Charity Social Media Officer Daren Parr.

Daren takes up the story...

Since 1948, The Taxi Charity for Military Veterans has been

taking veterans to Worthing for a day out by the sea with some entertainment. But it's much more than that, and this year's event was a great success. With 50 London Taxis and 90 veterans participating, the first stop is always the village of South Holmwood, where a fantastic welcome awaits with sandwiches, homemade cakes, and refreshments.

Fully refreshed and with everyone ready for the hour-long journey down to Worthing Pavilion, the convoy of cabs sets off – waved on their way

by villagers. It's always a warm welcome in Worthing. This year the cabs were met by the Town Crier and the Mayor of Worthing, Cllr Cathy Glynn-Davis. Then it's into the Pavillion Theatre for a slap-up fish and chip lunch.

The Mayor welcomed guests, and during her speech praised and thanked London's finest taxi drivers for giving up their time to be with veterans. Our chairman, Colin Mills, then addressed the crowd, talking about the transition the charity is going through as the number of WWII veterans sadly declines,

and adding the important reminder that the charity welcomes all veterans.

Then, I think someone pushed the fun button, because the entertainment started and so did the dancing. Our guests were entertained by vocalists Annie Riley, Lloyd Ellery and Jason Allen. It was great to see so many smiling faces. Even a few conga lines were formed, with the catering staff joining in too. With a quick stop on the way home at South



WWII veterans Dorothea and Mervyn enjoy ice cream at Worthing.



Lloyd Ellery and Annie Riley.

Image Credits: Dean Euesden and Dick Goodwin.



About the Taxi Charity for Military Veterans

The Taxi Charity is run by volunteer London black taxi drivers and has been supporting thousands of veterans since 1948. It is the only Forces charity that focuses on providing fun and entertainment and arranges free trips (for veterans from all conflicts) to the Netherlands and France for acts of commemoration and days out to museums, concerts, and social events across the UK.

The charity received the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service in 2021 and celebrated its 75th anniversary in 2023, a remarkable milestone for a small, niche charity operated by enthusiastic volunteers.

In 2024, the charity took veterans to Normandy for the 80th anniversary of D-Day and commemorated the 80th anniversary of Operation Market Garden in the Netherlands in September.

In May 2025, the charity returned to the Netherlands for the 80th anniversary of Dutch Liberation and in June they will take a group of veterans to Normandy for the 81st anniversary of D-Day.



Pit stop in South Holmwood.

Holmwood Village for a cup of tea and delicious homemade cake, it was goodbye until next year, and the taxis headed off to take the veterans home.

London cab driver and Vice Chairman of the Taxi Charity, Paul Cook, summed up this year's trip: "People were coming up to me at the end to say this was one of the best Worthing trips in many a year."

Retired cab driver Paul Davis, who has been planning the popular Worthing trip for the charity for many years said, "We'd like to say a big thank you to all the taxi drivers, South Holmwood Village, and Worthing Borough Council for their continued support."

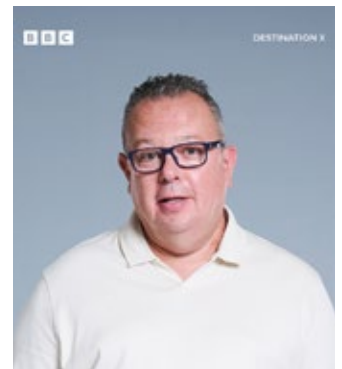
Retired cab driver Terry 'Barking Bill' Ward, who has served on the charity committee for over 25 years and coordinates the cab drivers for all Taxi Charity outings, including Worthing,

said, "The Worthing drivers are like one big family. When two drivers had to pull out, we suddenly had four veterans at home, ready and waiting with their medals on—panic stations! But thanks to some quick juggling, we sorted out replacement drivers and got the veterans on their way to Worthing. I honestly think we may need a reserve list of drivers for the 2026 trip. We

really can't praise our amazing drivers enough!"

London cab driver and Chairman of the Taxi Charity, Colin Mills, concluded: "The Worthing trip is part of our history. It's the very essence of this charity. The first trip to the coast was in 1948 and, other than during the pandemic, we have visited Worthing every year. The reception from the people of South Holmwood and Worthing is always amazing and we have made some wonderful friends. This year, 240 people – including veterans, supporters, friends and fundraisers – attended the lunch in the Pavillion Theatre, and we are already thinking about next year's trip."

Cab drivers who might like to volunteer with the charity should contact Terry 'Barking Bill' Ward, by emailing barkingbill@tiscali.co.uk ■

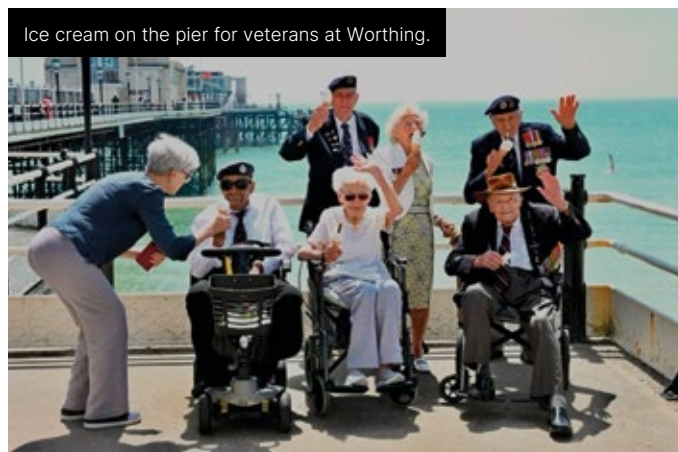


In other news, Daren is also set to appear in the BBC One adventure series *Destination X*, hosted by Rob Brydon.

Daren has already conquered Mount Kilimanjaro and Mount Meru and even rowed across the Atlantic Ocean. Now, he'll take on his next big challenge as one of the contestants in this new travel competition that sees participants journey across spectacular and mysterious locations while competing in tests of endurance, navigation, and teamwork.

The first episode is scheduled to air on BBC 1 at 9pm on 30th July.

"This was unlike anything I've ever done before and that's saying something!" he said.



Ice cream on the pier for veterans at Worthing.



ON YOUR OWN...

...OR WITH THE LTDA



Make sure the trade's best legal team has your back. Join the LTDA today!

Even the most experienced London taxi drivers can find themselves in legal trouble, and with the law constantly changing, it's easy to get caught out.

The LTDA has **the taxi trade's only dedicated, in-house legal team**, defending members for all alleged offences (traffic, hackney or criminal) with a track record second to none.

- **Free legal cover for all LTDA members**
- **Experienced, specialist team on call and here to help 24/7**
- **Four times more likely than the national average to get an acquittal***

*Based on percentage of successful outcomes out of total number of cases, compared to national average.

Scan here
to join

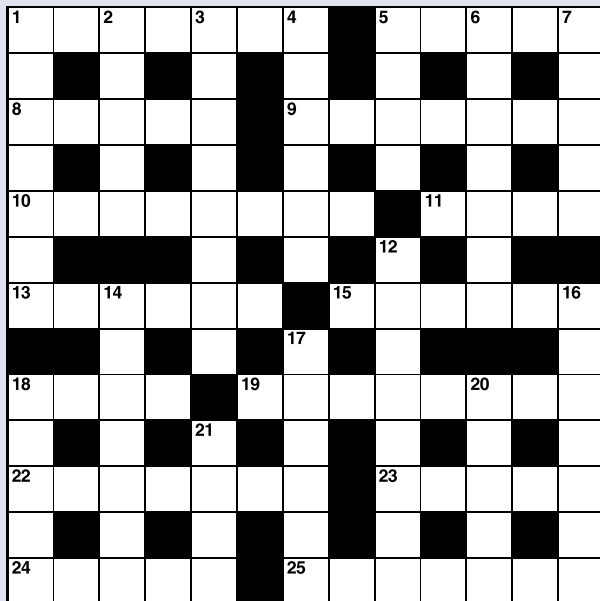


www.ltda.co.uk

Crossword



Puzzler Page



ACROSS

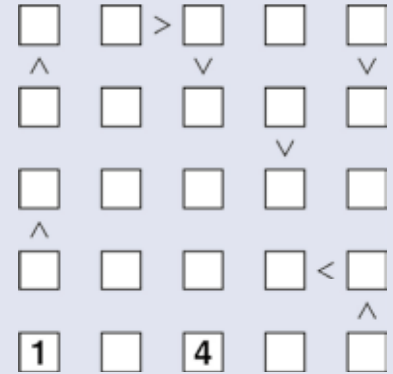
- 1 First glimpse (7)
- 5 Vapours (5)
- 8 Dark fur (5)
- 9 Vessel for clearing watercourses (7)
- 10 Discreditable (8)
- 11 Portray (4)
- 13 Narrow river (6)
- 15 Manage, deal with (6)
- 18 Ms Simone, singer of My Baby Just Cares for Me (4)
- 19 Piped (8)
- 22 Fresh lunar aspect (3,4)
- 23 Startlingly colourful (5)
- 24 Toys that go up and down on strings (2-3)
- 25 Part of a hat that hangs down (3-4)

DOWN

- 1 Show-offs (7)
- 2 Funny bone's location (5)
- 3 Sweet frozen confection (3,5)
- 4 Distances across a swimming pool (6)
- 5 Impish enjoyment (4)
- 6 Candied (7)
- 7 Drinking tube (5)
- 12 Disregard (4,4)
- 14 Fled (3,4)
- 16 Became eventually (5,2)
- 17 Small coins (6)
- 18 Bill Sikes' girlfriend in Oliver Twist (5)
- 20 Of scores, identical (5)
- 21 Deficit (4)

Futoshiki

Fill in the blank squares so that each row and column contains all the numbers 1 – 5. Use any given numbers and the symbols that tell you if the number in the square is larger (>) or smaller (<) than the number next to it.



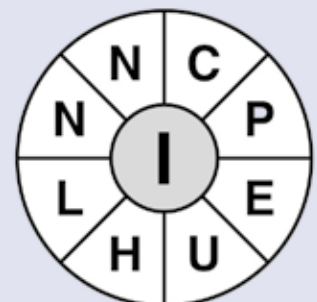
Sudoku

Have a go at this medium level Sudoku puzzle. Fill the grid so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the numbers 1-9 just once.

			4	5	
				2	7
5		1	2	7	8
		6	9	1	
6			1	7	8
9	5		8	3	
4		7			
5		8	1	9	
2	9				

Wordwheel

How many words of four letters or more can you make from this Wordwheel? Each word must use the central letter, and each letter may be used once only. At least one nine-letter word can be found.



For answers go to page 30



07957 465423
e16-taxirentals.co.uk

TX4s TO RENT

- Ascott's maintained.
- Pay by cash/bank/online.
- Mercs also available



**Have to sell your cab?
Too old for London?**

Buying TX4's & Vitos

**London Buyer,
same day collection**

Call James - 07931 964857



One of London's Largest and Finest Electric Fleets

TXEs TO RENT



Eclipse Rent A Taxi
0203 633 6070
07976 281 737
info@rentataxi.co.uk
www.rentataxi.co.uk
"Be a part of our journey"

London's Finest
Black Taxis for Discerning Drivers
Black Taxi Rental Service to London Black Taxi Drivers

- Prices from £320pw
- Payment holidays
- Ads / no ads
- Full back up
- Breakdown cover
- Best rates



JDTAXI
www.jdntaxico.com | info@jdntaxico.com | 0207 383 8383 | 07956 399 369

LINAGE

CABS WANTED

■ **All de-commissioned TX4s wanted.** We collect, immediate payment, call 07973 335 739.

■ **Cabs wanted.** London based buyer, same day collection, cash or bank transfer, sell + rent back also available. Call 07877 093 866.

CABS FOR RENT

■ **Taxis available to hire.** Contact Sabri 0795 897 3944.

■ **One of London's largest and finest**

fleets. Rent anywhere in London, full back up. Contact Eclipse Rent A Taxi on 0203 633 6070 or 07976 281737.

■ **TX4's for rent.** Full back up, garage facilities, rent from £240 per week. Call 07932 740 902.

■ **TX4s for hire.** Full back up, loan cab available, no ads 07980 288 333.

■ **Rent Taxis, Euro 6 and also LEVC Cabs from £250 - £335.** We also do repairs on cabs, call Nick 020 7700 1045 / 07951 661 430.

CABS FOR SALE

■ **Main Dealer service history.** Non-fleet cabs, trade sales. New stock daily. Cabs also wanted. Finance Paid 07957 465 423.

ABBAY CAB SERVICES LIMITED

Electric Taxis to rent from £320 a week based in Brentford, West London

CALL LIAM ON 07736 743159

AKA TAXI RENTALS LTD

TXE'S AVAILABLE FOR RENT, FROM £310 PER WEEK.

CALL 07951 843663

To advertise here please contact Fellows Media:

Jacob Holmes jacob.holmes@fellowsmedia.com or 01242 259244

LTDA APPLICATION FORM

Name _____

Address _____

Postcode _____

Telephone _____ Mobile _____

Email _____ X _____

Date of Birth _____ Badge No. _____

Badge colour (please state whether green or yellow) _____ Year badge obtained _____

Suburban badge sector numbers _____

Have you ever been a member of the LTDA before? (please tick) Yes ☐ No ☐

Do you currently have points on your DVLA driving license? (please tick) Yes ☐ No ☐

If Yes how many points do you have?

Do you have any motoring or other prosecutions pending? Yes ☐ No ☐

Please note: We do not provide assistance for any matters that have occurred prior to you joining the LTDA.

Please tick if you **DO NOT** wish to receive information from the LTDA and other related organisations in the future ☐

I understand that my application for membership of the Association must be approved by the Council of Management and that until this is confirmed I am not eligible to vote in relation to any form of Association matters. I agree that all benefits prior to approval of membership shall be at the discretion of the Council of Management.

Please note: We do not provide assistance for any matters that have occurred prior to you joining LTDA.

Signed _____ Date _____

LTDA Basic Direct Debit Instructions Instructions to your Bank/Building Society to pay Direct Debits:

Please complete parts 1 to 5 to instruct your branch to make direct payments from your account. Then return the form to LTDA, FREEPOST, London, SE1 1PP

To the Manager of _____

Bank/Building Society Address _____

Service User Number

9 1 4 4 2 8

For Office use only

1. Please write the name and full postal address of your branch in the box (left)

2. Name of account holder _____

3. Account Number

4. Bank Sort Code

Banks/Building Societies may not accept instructions to pay Direct Debit from some types of account.

5. Signature _____

Date _____

This guarantee should be detached and retained by the payer

The Direct Debit Guarantee



- This Guarantee is offered by all banks and building societies that accept instructions to pay Direct Debits.
- If there are any changes to the amount, date or frequency of your Direct Debit LTDA will notify you (10 working days) in advance of your account being debited or as otherwise agreed. If you request LTDA to collect a payment, confirmation of the amount and date will be given to you at the time of the request.
- If an error is made in the payment of your Direct Debit, by LTDA, or your bank or building society, you are entitled to a full and immediate refund of the amount paid from your bank or building society.
 - If you receive a refund you are not entitled to, you must pay it back when LTDA asks you to.
- You can cancel a Direct Debit at any time by simply contacting your bank or building society. Written confirmation may be required. Please also notify us.

You can now also apply to join the LTDA online, simply scan here to complete an online application:





Book Review

The Fouling of the Ranks: London Taxi Drivers and World War Two

London Taxi Drivers and World War Two, written by Sean Farrell, highlights the bravery and dangers of the time when Britain was at war.

A brand-new release in 2025, the actual title of the book is *The Fouling of the Ranks: London taxi drivers and World War Two*, but the subheading sums up the content of the 218 fascinating pages perfectly.

This is an amazingly well researched and brilliantly written book. It covers every aspect of the Second World War and the part played by London cabbies and its entire trade, from the Munich Crisis and the death of the first cabbie at Dunkirk, all the way through to the final one after VJ Day, as a liberated Japanese Prisoner of War.

The book details not only the victims who died but those who survived and lost loved ones, either as civilians or serving in the armed forces. It tells the story of those who drove a cab through The Blitz, dodging falling German bombs and avoiding collapsing buildings. It reveals all sorts of interesting accounts of those who signed up as firefighters and converted their cabs into trailer

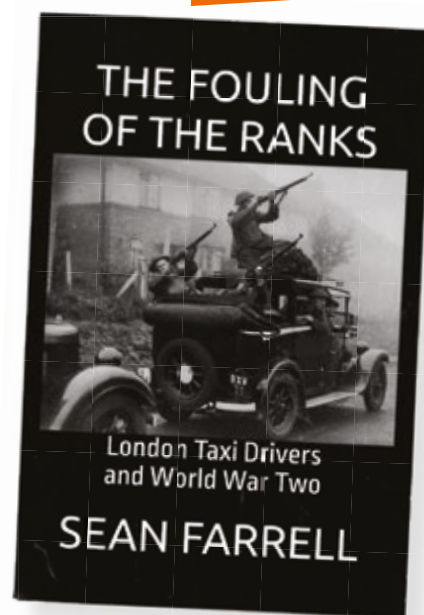
It covers every aspect of the Second World War and the part played by London cabbies and the entire trade.

pumps and who sadly died fighting the devastating blazes.

It's a story not just about the cabbies themselves but also of the city of London and its people that were at war. It's as interesting as it is informative and a must-add to any cabbie's bookshelf.

It's currently available on Amazon, with the paperback edition priced at £16.

Sean advocates that there should be a memorial erected in honour of the taxi drivers who died during WWII. We have two copies of the book to give away to the best two suggestions as to where a memorial should be erected. So send your suggestions to taxi@ltda.co.uk to be in with a chance of winning. ■



Puzzler Answers

All puzzles © Puzzler Media Ltd - puzzler.com

Puzzler

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

Sudoku

8	7	2	9	4	3	6	5	1
9	4	1	5	8	6	2	3	7
6	5	3	1	2	7	4	8	9
3	8	7	6	9	4	1	2	5
2	6	4	3	5	1	7	9	8
1	9	5	2	7	8	3	4	6
4	1	8	7	3	9	5	6	2
5	3	6	8	1	2	9	7	4
7	2	9	4	6	5	8	1	3

Futoshiki

2	5	>	3	1	4	
∧			∨		∨	
4	3		2	5	1	
				∨		
3	1		5	4	2	
∧						
5	4		1	2	<	3
					∧	
1	2		4	3		5

Wordwheel

Solution: PUNCHLINE

All words: Chin, chip, cine, clip, ennui, epic, inch, lice, lichen, lien, lieu, line, linen, lupin, nice, niche, nine, pencil, pile, pinch, pine, unpin, PUNCHLINE.

Word targets: Excellent: 20, Good: 17, Target: 12, Kids: 7

NEED TO RENT A CAB?

**TX4s
AVAILABLE
TO RENT
FROM £265
PER WEEK**



**TXEs
AVAILABLE
TO RENT
FROM £345
PER WEEK**

LOOK NO FURTHER

**CONTACT US TODAY OR CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE TO SEE HOW WE
CAN DELIVER YOU THE BEST DRIVING EXPERIENCE IN LONDON TODAY**

HOLIDAY SCHEMES AVAILABLE

LIMITED STOCK **SO HURRY AND MAKE THE MOST
OF THESE AMAZING DEALS**

**FACING A
NASTY BALLOON
PAYMENT?
WE CAN HELP.
CALL US FOR AN
INSTANT QUOTE
AND GET CASH
NOW!**
ON ALL TXEs

 **0208 807 7931**



 www.blacktaxirentals.com

 info@blacktaxirentals.com

 Unit 7, Dominion Business Park, Goodwin Road, Edmonton N9 0BG

 Blacktaxirentals

 rentalstaxi

 blacktaxirentals

0%

Commission

for your first 4 weeks!*

Unlock your full earning potential by signing up today!

- ✓ Daily payments**
- ✓ 24/7 driver support
- ✓ Easy- to-use driver app designed for cab drivers
- ✓ Driver office in Zone 1
- ✓ High-paying corporate work, including Premium Hospitality and VIP Meet-and-Greet services
- ✓ Year-round perks & promotions - exclusive bonuses, discounts, and more!

Join Gett →



Gett.

*Must be new to Gett or inactive in the last 6 months / ** Weekdays, Monday to Friday. Earnings from Friday will be credited to the account on Monday the following week.