

**HOW THE RAILWAYS SHAPED
CAMDEN** PHIL BROWN Page 16

**15 YEARS OF POPPY CABS
CAN YOU HELP?** Page 22

**ENSO'S PERFORMANCE ENHANCING
TYRES FOR EV TAXIS** Page 24

TAXI

24th September 2024 #572

ALL VEHICLES TO BE BANNED ON OXFORD STREET

**MAYOR GIVEN NEW
POWERS TO PUSH THROUGH
PEDESTRIANISATION**

FREENOW

0% COMMISSION*

FOR YOUR FIRST 6 WEEKS

*Limited time offer, exclusively for London Black Cab drivers new to the FREENOW app.

2

WHY FREENOW



INSURANCE & PARENTAL LEAVE

Get access to sickness and health insurance and parental leave



LOYALTY PROGRAM

Get access to job offer priority



ON-CAB AD OFFER

Earn extra money and bonus loyalty points



PARTNERSHIPS

Save over £200/month on food, fuel, and shopping with our partners



SIGN UP TODAY

CALL 02038352177

Inside... 24.09.24

- 3 | News
- 5 | Steve McNamara
- 6 | Paul Brennan
- 8 | Lloyd Baldwin
- 10 | Paul Kirby
- 12 | Suzanne Sullivan
- 14 | So You Think You Know London?
- 16 | Phil Brown
- 18 | Wim Faber
- 20 | Letters
- 22 | Poppy Cabs
- 24 | ENSO Tyres Update
- 25 | **EXCLUSIVE:**
Taxi Charity
- 27 | Puzzler
- 30 | Musher Meg
Puzzler answers

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

Editor
 Katie Combes
 E: editor@ltada.co.uk

Produced By
 CPL One
 Alban Row, 27-31 Verulam Road,
 St Albans, Hertfordshire AL3 4DG
 T: 01727 893 894
 E: info@cplone.co.uk
 www.cplone.co.uk

Advertising Sales Executive
 James Martin T: 01727 739 185
 E: james.martin@cplone.co.uk

Creative Director
 Peter Davies

Designer
 Sean McNamara

Printed by
 Manson Group, St Albans

Published on behalf of the LTDA by



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.

NYC TAXIS MUST BE WHEELCHAIR ACCESSIBLE

All new yellow cab taxis licensed in New York City must now be wheelchair accessible. This follows a recent court ruling which stated that all new cabs entering the fleet must be wheelchair accessible until the City's Taxi Limousine Commission (TLC) meets the agreements of a 2014 settlement. The 2014 settlement required at least 50 per cent of the fleet to be wheelchair accessible by 2020. The deadline was later extended until 2023 but passed without having been met. According to the TLC, 42 per cent of their active taxis are wheelchair accessible compared to just 2 per cent at the time of the settlement and they remain committed to reaching the target.

This once again shows the superiority of London's fully wheelchair accessible fleet and why London's licensed taxis really are the best in the world.



TRADE LAUNCHES DRIVER RECRUITMENT CAMPAIGN

A new trade-led recruitment campaign is aiming to attract aspiring cabbies to do the Knowledge and join London's iconic taxi trade. The advert outlines the benefits of being a cabbie including the potential earnings and flexibility of the job. The campaign is supported by a number of industry stakeholders in an effort to boost driver numbers.



OXFORD STREET PEDESTRIANISATION BACK ON THE AGENDA

Traffic will be banned from London's Oxford Street under fresh plans announced by Mayor of London, Sadiq Khan. The plans seek to pedestrianise the street between Oxford Circus and Marble Arch, with the potential for further changes towards Tottenham Court Road.

The Mayor will use new powers granted by the new Labour Government to push through his proposals to pedestrianise the street, which he has been seeking to do unsuccessfully since 2017. The original plans were blocked in 2018, by the then Conservative-led Westminster Council due to widespread concern from local residents, businesses and other stakeholders, including the licensed taxi trade.

Mayor Khan claims the plans are vital to restore the street to its former glory so that it can, *"once again become the leading retail destination in the world."* The plans have been met with significant concern by local leaders, residents and other groups, however the Deputy Prime Minister, Angela Rayner, is expected to sign off a proposed mayoral development area, giving the Mayor additional planning powers, which would allow him to push the plans through, overruling local opposition.

The Leader of Westminster's Labour-led council, Adam Hug, has noted that there are *"substantial practical challenges"* for the pedestrianisation of Oxford Street and said that residents, businesses, shoppers and visitors need to be *"properly considered"*. Mr Hug has reportedly written to the Deputy Prime Minister and Mayor of London setting out ten key areas of concern. The Council already had its own £90m *"shovel ready"* plans for developing the street, which included wider footpaths, more seating and trees being planted but no traffic restrictions. The plans had support from local residents and businesses.

The Mayor has confirmed that all vehicles, including cyclists, would be banned from the Street under the plans. He told *The Standard*, *"I'm quite clear: in that part of the street we pedestrianise, I want it to be for people to walk around."* The taxi trade has been assured that licensed taxis will have the same access as buses to the area and that access and ranks will be maintained but we await more details on the plans.

MAYOR'S TAXI AND PHV ACTION PLAN TO BE UNVEILED 'NEXT YEAR'

The Mayor of London, Sadiq Khan, has announced that a new Taxi and Private Hire Action Plan will be unveiled 'early next year'. In a written question, Lib Dem London Assembly Member, Hina Bokhari, asked the Mayor what he was doing to address the 40-year low in the number of licensed taxis operating in the capital. She also asked whether the new Taxi and PHV Action Plan currently being developed would address this decline.

Responding to the question, Khan said, *"Transport for London is in the process of producing a refreshed Taxi and Private Hire Action Plan. This has involved a number of engagement sessions with taxi and private hire representatives and wider stakeholder groups to understand key concerns and issues within the taxi and private hire industries. The new Action Plan will be published early next year."*



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 staged 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
 5a Agar Pl, London, NW1 0RG

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:
See us at:

or:

Email:
Web:

020 8980 7161

**Unit 6, Quebec Wharf
14 Thomas Road
Limehouse
London E14 7AF**

**9 Church Road, Stanmore
Middlesex HA7 4AR**

**info@mcordell.co.uk
www.martin-cordell.co.uk**

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



Speaking Up for The Trade

It's a very different, more challenging world that drivers are trying to make a living in, and despite strong demand, without the right support the future is uncertain.

Steve's comment

It's been a busy few weeks since summer ended. We've been supporting more members who find themselves in difficult situations and facing serious legal action, and I have also been out and about meeting with London Assembly members and others - making it clear that our trade needs more support to meet some of the challenges we currently face.

Be careful out there

Driving any kind of vehicle carries with it a responsibility and a risk that something can go wrong. It may not be your fault, but if the worst happens and somebody is seriously injured or even tragically killed, you will find yourself at the centre of a major police investigation and under a microscope, which is a scary place to be.

Quite rightly, serious road injury or death is now investigated in a similar way to a murder or serious assault. It's a world where repeated interviews under caution and detailed forensic investigations are normal. And it's something that none of us likes to even think about.

We're here

Fortunately, these events are very rare and in recent years we have only had to represent a handful of members facing such an ordeal, and only one where the member was actually prosecuted. In that case, we were able to challenge the police investigation and prove our member's total innocence after someone, who had been drinking heavily, ran out in front of his cab.

Currently another member, despite having done nothing wrong, is being investigated following a fatal accident and is currently being supported and advised by our legal team. Quite what he would have done, or who he would have turned to, had he not been a LTDA member does not bear thinking about.

The stress and worry of just being involved in such an incident, even if you know it was not your fault, must be horrendous, let alone finding yourself under investigation. This worry would be massively exacerbated by not knowing how the system works and without someone to guide and advise you at every stage, as the LTDA's advert says, "We have your back!"

London Assembly

We also have your back with policy and decisionmakers. I've recently met with representatives from the Labour, Liberal

Democrat and Conservative groups on the GLA. I have been talking to them all about the need for more financial support for taxi drivers. I also raised the importance of the Mayor's new Taxi and PHV Action Plan (currently being developed) and how it must create a positive vision for the future of our trade and how the Mayor and TfL can help us achieve it. We need them to step up and take some responsibility for the things that they can do to help, as drivers can't be expected to do it all alone.

I pointed out that when the electric taxi first launched it was £63k, there were various grants available including a scrappage scheme worth up to £10,000, a £7,500 plug-in taxi grant, interest rates were far lower, there were grants to help people install EV home charging points, and charging the cab at a public charging point was a third of the price. Now, the vehicle is £75k, there's no scrappage scheme and many of the other financial incentives are gone, the plug-in grant has been reduced and interest rates have soared. My point is that it's a very different, more challenging world that drivers are trying to make a living in now. Despite strong demand and decent earning, without the right support from our



Metecoban MBE driving a TX.

Mayor and regulator, the future of the trade could begin to look uncertain.

They all recognised the challenges we are facing and are keen to try to help us, so we will be working with them over the next few months to try to put pressure on the Mayor and TfL to do more to support and promote London's licensed taxi trade.

Deputy Mayor visit

We also welcomed the new Deputy Mayor for Environment and Energy, Metecoban MBE, to Taxi House to discuss the fantastic progress being made in our trade, with with 60 per cent of the fleet now made up of green, electric taxis.

Metecoban used to be Hackney Council's Cabinet Member for Climate Change, Environment and Transport. He was appointed to the role of Deputy Mayor by Mayor, Sadiq Khan, in July, following the departure of Shirley Rodrigues who left the post following the Mayoral Election in May 2024.

Metecoban's father is a PHV driver so to a certain extent he gets what we do and why we do it. During his time at Hackney, the LTDA had engaged with him and had been open to discussing the importance of taxis access and seemed to take a common-sense approach to these things. I outlined how drivers need more support to continue this transition to a green fleet and to stop people being forced out of the trade.

Metecoban also took the opportunity to drive a TX and listened to all our concerns. Here's hoping he has a positive influence at City Hall.

My next stop is the Labour Party Conference this week, where I will be speaking with MPs, government ministers and others about some of the most pressing issues facing the trade and what needs to be done to address these.

LTDA





Think Before Your Post

I see drivers asking questions on social media about some very serious subjects and the majority of answers given, on what can be a licence threatening issue, are often far from correct.



Top rank

Other than a bit of TikTok and Instagram, I don't really do social media anymore, I find it way too toxic with multiple fake accounts and nay sayers, with an uncanny knack for turning any positive post into the absolute worst thing possible.

Repercussions

All too frequently now I'm having to deal with repercussions of some social media posts and drivers, who are having sleepless nights because of them.

Drivers on social media, especially on platforms like Facebook where you can't easily hide your real identity, (although it's now not too difficult) are regularly asking questions like 'can I leave my cab here, or 'where can I park to go to insert venue'. Then of course there's then the absolute classic 'do I have to tell TfL about.....' Well guess what, the second you posted that question, you just did.

Wrong answers

More worrying is drivers asking for answers to some really important questions on some very serious subjects where the majority of answers given, on what can be a licence threatening issue, are so far from correct. It's actually quite frightening and

if the wrong advice is followed, it's likely to make a fairly simple matter, much more serious.

If you're a member of an org, call them, that's what we're here for, it's not too much trouble and certainly a lot easier for us to advise you at the start, than trying to put right issues needlessly caused because you believed a random reply on social media. If you're not a member of an org, my advice would obviously be to join the LTDA but failing that, do a bit of your own research using TfL's Taxi/ Private hire website. Reading the information and TPH notices will often answer many questions.

DO NOT rely on answers from someone on a driver's group, or a random Twitter account. They might not even be a driver and could even just be someone who takes pleasure in knowing they've caused you grief. The golden rule is to be mindful that advice on social media is all too often nothing more than just a daft, an outright ridiculous or even dangerous response, so take the advice accordingly.

Serious consequences

Whilst we're on the subject of social media, please, if this applies to you, stop posting about other drivers' misdemeanours. We know TfL keep an eye on these feeds and drivers are being 'reported' and then receiving fitness to be licensed letters for a moment's lack of judgment or often just perceived lack of judgment by the person who wrote the post. If

you have serious concerns about something then obviously raise these through the proper channels of course, but a casual post on social media over something minor could accidentally cost someone their livelihood and that isn't right or fair.

I've even seen one individual who frequently posts, who is also a self-styled trade saver, who often cites the impact that TfL's driver policy or their obliteration of the road network has had on drivers' mental health, who in the next breath felt it fair game to post a video of what he saw as a fellow driver's lapse in judgement, with the other driver's reg and identifier on full display. I can only imagine the impact that could have on the driver in question's mental health, if TfL see it and take action against them. And all because someone was hoping to

get a few likes on social media and didn't think about the potential consequences.

Badge or medallion

Moving away from social media, I must have had more than a dozen phone calls in a 48-hour period from some friends and fellow cabbies all cock-a-hoop that our badges could soon be worth absolute bundles like the New York medallion. "Really! How so?" I asked. Well, apparently they had all read that when taxis go autonomous, they will still be required to be linked to a licensed taxi driver's licence and badge, and as no one will then be doing the Knowledge, there will be no new licences or badges issued, so all the existing ones will be worth a fortune.

Well, I know it's turned a bit chilly lately but I'm pretty sure I haven't jumped through time to April 1st because that's the only time this story would make any sense. First things first, the days of 'Johnny cab' from the film Total Recall are many, many years in the future, if at all. By the way, if you remember that film and most of you will, just to make you feel a little bit older than you already do, let me remind you that film came out 34 years ago! If and when that day comes, if you think TfL, big business or the inept politicians that govern us are going to allow us to earn a few bob from our badge then your more cuckoo land than cock-a-hoop.

For those of you with a good memory, you'll recall (pun intended) that things didn't end too well for Johnny. ■ LTDA



Cabvision

Want to Save Money?

Reduce your costs with the CabPay Card

Earn 1% cash back on all purchases

NOW available to **ALL** drivers



Processing Fees reduced with rebates

(Additional benefits for Cabvision Customers only):

PAYG Plan: ~~1.99% + 10p~~
1.89% + 10p

Contract (Opt 2): ~~2.95% + 16p~~
2.75% + 16p

Sign up for the CabPay Card Today

Email: info@cabvision.com | Call: 02076556970 | Twitter: @CabvisionTaxi

The CabPay, Caxton card is issued by PSI-Pay Ltd pursuant to a license by Mastercard International Incorporated. Mastercard is a registered trademark, and the circles design is a trademark of Mastercard International Incorporated.



Making Amends

Of course, I will admit we have had troubling times, but the truth of it is they failed to wipe us out, and they now want to be all matey and work together. No thanks!

On Point

In my last article, I wrote about one of our member's experience with Browns Hotel after a passenger failed to pay the fare. Interestingly, the hotel got in touch with us shortly after seeking to make amends.

Apology

This should absolutely never have happened in the first place, but it was good to see that these things can make a difference. Senior management sent us the following email after becoming aware of my article the incident in question. They then invited the cab driver in question to go to the hotel, and she received an apology and was offered compensation. A decent result and fair play to the hotel management who took this seriously and did the right thing, whilst reaffirming their respect for the cab trade.

False advertising

On the subject of people apparently seeking to make amends, I did have a little chuckle to myself when I heard The American Mini cab app's latest effort to urge black cab drivers to sign up to their questionable app in a radio advert. In the advert, they claim that 'hundreds' of us have joined up to it already. I have no way of knowing if any cabbies have signed up, but I would be amazed if the true number is

New message

To TAXI

Subject Brown's Hotel

Warm greetings from Brown's Hotel.

Your recent article published on page 8 of the latest issue of Taxi was brought to my attention today, and I wanted to personally reach out to say how sorry I was to learn of the situation reported by one of your members.

It is both concerning and disappointing to hear how this situation was handled, and please allow me to assure you that this will be addressed accordingly.

We at Brown's hold a great respect for the strong relationship we have built with the taxi drivers community over the years, and we deeply value them, not only as our trusted partners, but as an integral part of our extended family. We are all trying to take care of each other.

I would therefore love the opportunity to personally apologise to the member, and rectify this matter by offering a refund of the unpaid fare as a gesture of apology and token of appreciation, and would appreciate it if you could kindly put me in touch with the person if you are able to.

I thank you in advance for your kind assistance and look forward to hearing from you soon.

Kindest regards

Send

A ☺ ∞ 📷 🗑️ ☰

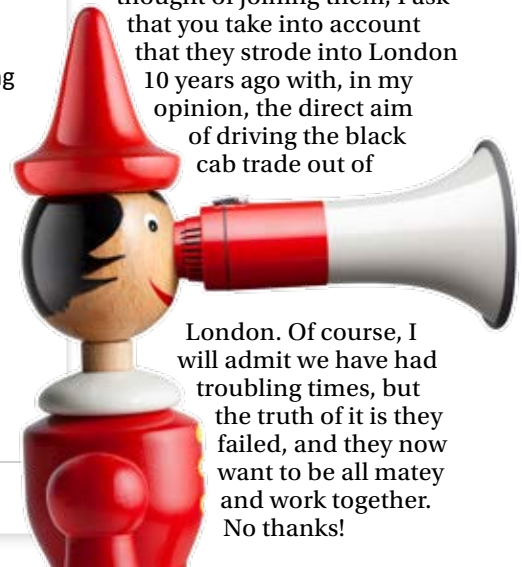
anywhere near a hundred. What makes me laugh is that they started this recruitment campaign many months ago, in fact it is coming up on a year this November, and they are still at it.

I generally only listen to *talkSPORT* and was slightly surprised to hear it on there, but after asking a few members I've been dealing with if they had heard it, it seems they are wasting money with quite a few different radio stations. Hey, if they are willing to throw good money after bad, who am I to question them.

I imagine it is motivated by the fact that they are falling behind other mini cab apps who can genuinely offer both our services, and those a good few levels down from us. They want to be able to say the same.

For those reading this who are even entertaining the thought of joining them, I ask that you take into account that they strode into London 10 years ago with, in my opinion, the direct aim of driving the black cab trade out of

London. Of course, I will admit we have had troubling times, but the truth of it is they failed, and they now want to be all matey and work together. No thanks!



ExCel fines

I have been getting reports that cabbies ranking up at ExCel are receiving private parking tickets from a company called 'Private Parking Solutions'. It happens when a cabbie sees a call on social media that the event is about to finish and there should be plenty of work coming out. The cabbie turns up, jumps on the back of the queue and because they are over the back of the rank, they get a ticket.

I have sent ExCel two emails requesting clarification and pointed out that I would hate to be forced to advise our members not to service the rank. These emails were sent at the end of last week and I will advise of ExCel's response when I receive one. In the meantime, until I can get some answers please be careful when using the rank. **LTDA**



Bespoke and tailored for the trade



INTRODUCING A NEW LEVC EXTENDED WARRANTY

From only £4 per day

- ☒ Comprehensive cover
- ☒ Spread the cost monthly
- ☒ Minimal downtime
- ☒ 1,2 & 3 year plans available
- ☒ Replacement hire taxi available

CALL 0207 377 2182



Supporting Our Members

The LTDA supports members so they can focus on doing what they do best - driving a cab for the world's finest taxi service.



10

Knowledge is power

With summer now behind us and as we head into the colder and darker days, I'd like to remind our members what services we provide for you and also take the opportunity to reassure you that we have your back.

Drivers' wellbeing is very important to each and every team member here at the LTDA. Every week, we receive hundreds of calls and emails from members and deal with all things trade and driver related, from the one-on-one driver issues like licence renewals and sometimes problematic related matter, medicals, various types of legal issues, NSL test centres, members benefits, complaints and the more serious issues related to a driver's fitness to be licensed, as well as PCNs and police forms.

On top of all of this we work on general trade issues like ensuring proper provision of taxi ranks as well as meeting with residents' associations and other interest groups, meeting with TfL, London Boroughs and MPs, and lobbying government and City Hall.

Members get all of this and more all of this for about the price of one fancy coffee a week.

Over the years, the LTDA has built up a hard-earned reputation as the respected and authoritative voice of London's cab trade. We speak up for the trade with a sound common sense and fact-based approach to protect drivers' livelihoods and to make sure taxis continue to play a vital role in London's transport network, not just now but into the future.

This includes the mundane things like responding to countless consultations, but it is not limited to just that, we respond and make representations on any issues that could impact the trade, at both the London and national level. These could be on anything from new traffic schemes proposing to exclude taxis to changes to the conditions of fitness relating to our vehicles.

We also represent drivers interests in a variety of ways, including on Department for Transport working groups, TfL Taxi and Private Hire meetings and the London Chamber of Commerce and the City of London.

We do all this so that you can all focus on doing what you do best - driving a cab for the world's finest taxi service. **LTDA**

Kirby's PCN Hotspots

YELLOW BOX CAMERAS

- Upper Woburn Place/ Endsleigh Gardens
- The Strand O/S Charing Cross Station
- Eversholt Street/Churchway
- All along Piccadilly
- Park Street/Green St W1
- Vauxhall Cross
- Shepherds Bush Green (Westfield)
- Hans Road (rear of Harrods)
- Victoria Street/Palace Street
- Bayswater Road/Westbourne Street
- Bayswater Road/Brook Street
- Bayswater Road/Hyde Park Street

CAMERA PCN ENFORCEMENT

- Harrods (Brompton Road) Over-ranking/Zig-Zags
- Tottenham Court Road
- Sopwith Way (Chelsea Bridge) Do Not Enter
- Cornhill (coming from Leadenhall Street)
- Bath Street EC1 No Motor Vehicles 24/7
- Wilton Road, Victoria Station Over-ranking
- Edgware Road W2 Red Route
- Borough High Street Red Route
- Tower Bridge Road Red Route
- Park Plaza Westminster Bridge Hotel, No Right Turn
- Lower Belgrave Street AM/PM Timed School Restrictions
- Great Suffolk Street (The old Café) When using J V Bright's or the toilets, Private PCNs are being issued for over-staying the short grace period or non-payment of longer stays.

20MPH MOBILE CAMERAS

- Vauxhall Bridge Road/ Neathouse Place
- Harrow Road/Hermitage Street
- Bayswater Road

**** New speed limit. A40 through Acton. Due to ongoing HS2 works the limit has been reduced to 20mph through this section and cameras are live ****

- Aldwych, No U-Turn across the solid white line. This is police enforced and endorsable with 3 points.



Rest in Peace David Chamberlain

6th December 1963 – 10th August 2024

David was a well-known face at Heathrow for 30 years and long-time friend of mine, who sadly passed away in August.

He was a one-of-a-kind character, who was always ready for a chat and had a heart of gold. He will be greatly missed by all who knew him. Another one from our ranks that has gone too soon.

Everyone is welcome to attend the funeral, which will take place at Eltham Crematorium, Crown Woods Way, London SE9 2AZ on Tuesday 1st October at 11.00am.

You can let the family know if you will be attending the funeral and leave a message of condolence at the following link: www.funeralguide.co.uk/obituaries/126631

Cabvision

RENT YOUR TAXI FROM CABVISION.



SMALL RANGE OF VEHICLES AVAILABLE FROM £250.00

020 7655 6970 info@cabvision.com  [@cabvisiontaxi](https://twitter.com/cabvisiontaxi) cabvision.com/taxi-rental



Doing Us Proud

The traffic, speed restrictions and awkward customers in my cab can be a welcome sight after a day answering phones on the LTDA frontline but a recent call brightened my day...

Airports & beyond

I have been helping at Great Suffolk Street over the past few weeks to cover leave on reception. It's been an eye opener to see first-hand the volume of calls that are received on a daily basis. It really is a phenomenal amount.

The reason for these many calls can be anything at all, but a good number are related to speeding notices, Notices of Intended Prosecution, licence renewals or just worried drivers trying to keep up with various policies being implemented by TfL.

Non-stop calls

LTDA receptionist, Paula, deals with as many queries as she can to avoid sending them on to officers who are also inundated. Her 30 years of experience counts for a lot.

The onslaught of calls means she and anyone else on reception would love to chat and ask about your day, but all we can hear in the background are more phones ringing. I am very conscious of this and often feel like I am being rude, but once I've answered your query, I need to move on and help the next caller.

Please bear all of this in mind when you next call or walk-in for help. We are to help you, and all the staff from the executives to officers and receptionists, have the very best intentions and work hard to get you the answers you need, going above and beyond for our members.

I take my hat off to all the ladies that help out on reception, Paula, Kate, Janet and Jemma. After one day, I am usually desperate to go back to work in my cab. The traffic, speed restrictions and awkward customers are a welcome sight after a day on the LTDA frontline.

Not all bad news

Occasionally, it can be a positive call. Last week, I took one that really made me smile and made me feel proud to be part of this trade.



A lady called in to ask if she could nominate a driver for an award. I asked her to explain what had happened. At this point I had no idea if the driver was a member. She was ringing from abroad. She gave me the driver's details and I put them into the system, and found that he was a LTDA member. I explained I couldn't pass any of his information to her, but she went onto say, she had spoken to him, she just wanted to nominate him for a special award.

She then told me the story and shortly after I called our member to ask if he could tell me his side of the story. They both

matched. I then asked if I could share it as the driver went above and beyond the call of duty and should be extremely proud.

A story to be proud of

On Friday 30th August, in the evening, Paul Ludlow picked up a lady and her elderly mother from Selfridges taking them to Harrods. When they arrived the rank was busy, so Paul had to drop a bit before. They paid and got out and Paul pulled away.

When he looked back and noticed a bag on the back seat, so he immediately pulled in front of the rank and got out to see if he could see the pair. Unfortunately, they had gone from sight. He then proceeded to check the bag. He found jewellery and a belt with a receipt for over 700 pounds. He desperately wanted to get this back to his passengers, so he called Selfridges customer services.

Their response was to drop into lost property, but Paul felt uncomfortable with this and didn't trust the expensive jewellery would find its rightful owner.

Paul then tracked down the counter in Selfridges where the

jewellery was bought. 'Monica Vinader.' Luckily, he found a really helpful customer sales assistant, called Layla, who once he explained what had happened, remembered the customer instantly and found she had sent her receipt via e-mail. She contacted her and shared Paul's details.

After seeing the email, the customer then called Paul full of gratitude. She had already arrived back to her home abroad and couldn't believe what Paul had done, going out of his way to return her newly purchased goods. She had been heartbroken when she thought she had lost them.

Paul Ludlow, who has been a cabbie for 12 years, is a shining example of London's Finest. Maybe there should be awards for such acts of kindness. When I spoke to Paul, he said he always tries to do his upmost to return property as it makes him feel good as the joy of the customer receiving it is priceless.

Thank you, Paul, for going above the call of duty. It certainly brightened my day hearing this story.

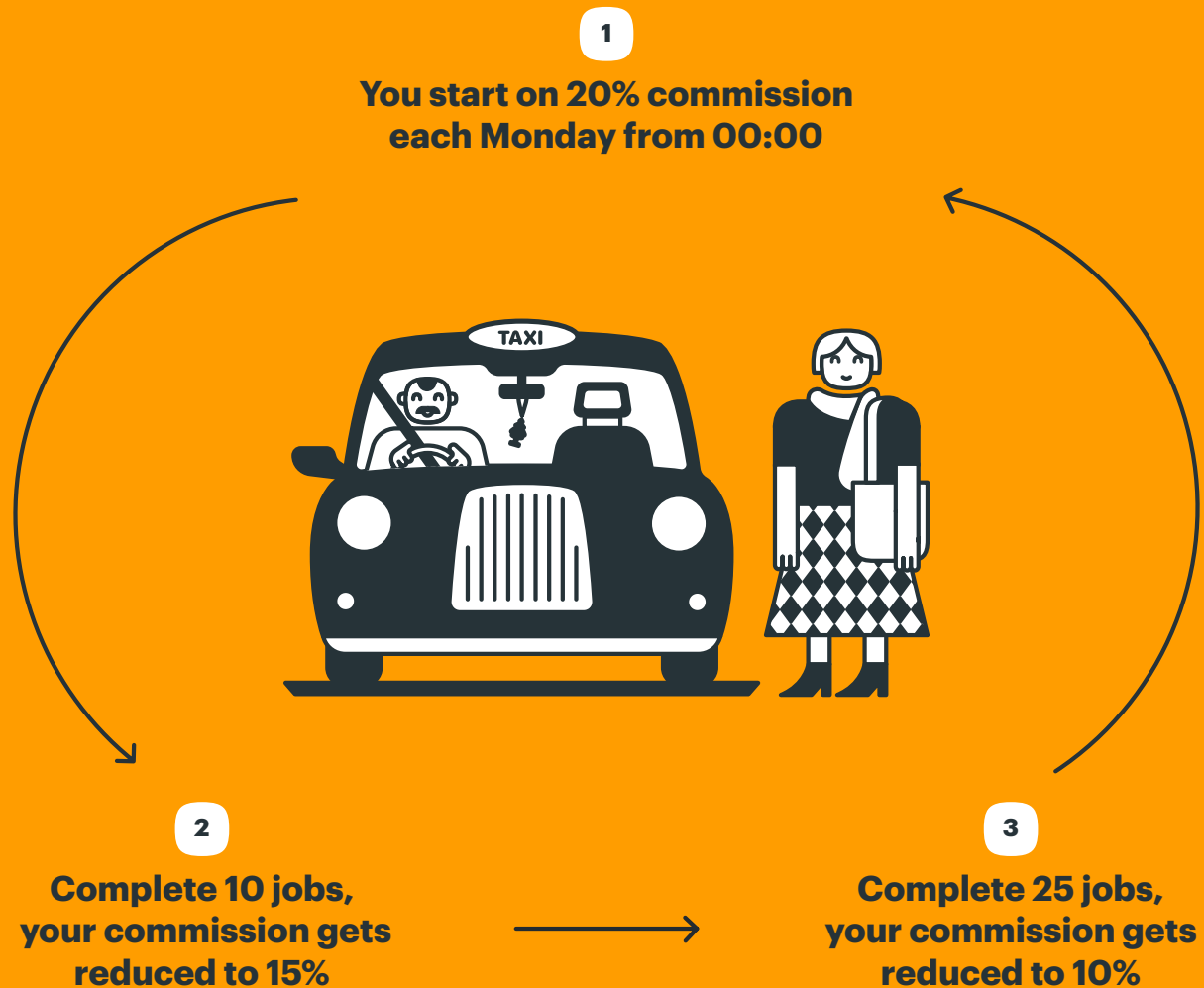
LTDA



Gett.

Gett More Jobs, Pay Less Commission!

How does it work?



13

Need to know



Tiered commission resets every week on Monday at 00:00 and ends on Sunday 23:59



Every order will count towards your weekly target once completed.



Any passenger cancellation won't count towards your weekly target, as our system will only record completed jobs.

SO YOU THINK YOU KNOW

LONDON?

The man who stood alone

Football matches abandoned due to fog are nothing unusual - it happens every season, no matter the size of the clubs involved. However, December 1937, saw a rather embarrassing event occur at Stamford Bridge.

Chelsea were hosting Charlton Athletic in a top flight, Christmas Day match. The first half passed uneventfully, however, the second half was a very different matter. Fog had started rolling in at the start of the second half. Vic Woodall, Chelsea's goalkeeper, was shrouded in mist, and the referee stopped the game. The match then restarted when the fog lifted, but, when the weather deteriorated, visibility became poor and it was clear that the match was to be abandoned - and abandoned it was, in the 61st minute. Unfortunately, nobody had told Charlton's legendary goalkeeper, Sam Bartram. Despite the crowd going silent and no action taking place near his penalty area, Bartram, remained at his post - he waited, and waited, and waited. Fifteen minutes later, he was still waiting, guarding his goal, despite visibility down to zero. Eventually, a policeman located Bartram, on the pitch and informed him that the game had been called off 15 minutes earlier.

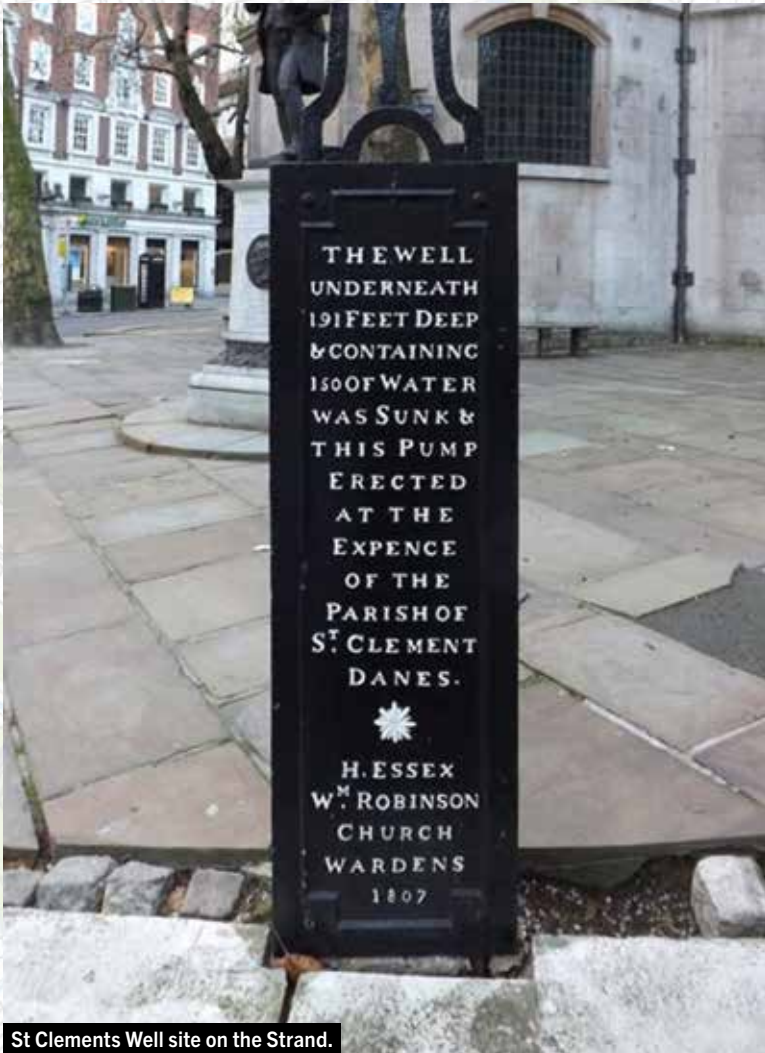
According to Bartram's autobiography, the policeman said to the confused keeper:

"What on earth are you doing here? The game was stopped a quarter of an hour ago. The field's completely empty".

Bartram then described how he groped his way to the dressing-room, where the rest of the Charlton team, already out of the bath and in their civvies, were convulsing with laughter. A forlorn Bartram then said: *"How sad that my friends forgot me when I was guarding their gate."*

With the game abandoned at 1-1, it was eventually replayed on 27th April 1938, when the final result was... another 1-1 draw.





St Clements Well site on the Strand.

London's wells

The concept of the "holy well" or sacred healing spring dates back to pre-Celtic times and before. Given the importance of London, it will be of no surprise that the capital was home to over 20 of these wells. Unfortunately, many of these wells are consigned to the annals of history.

Sometimes, the clue is in the name, and these holy wells are no exception - so if you think Clerkenwell, Rhodeswell and Sadler's Wells, you'd be on the right track as to their location -but where exactly were they?

Starting with St Clement's Well, its site sits near to St Clement's Inn in The Strand. Just up the road from this well, sits Holy Well, although it still exists as a well, it is situated beneath a manhole cover in the basement of Australia House, Aldwych. There is another well called Holy Well and perhaps unsurprisingly, this was situated in Holywell Street EC2. Nothing remains of this well as it has been paved over and built on.

Now we come to Sadler's Wells. Rather than me explaining it, I shall refer to the words telling the story inside the Sadlers Wells Theatre:

"In June 1683 Dick Sadler, surveyor to the King, built a Musick-House near a country footpath leading from Clerkenwell to Islington. By chance, earlier that summer he had discovered a medieval well in the grounds of his house. Believing the waters to have miraculous medicinal powers, people flocked to Sadler's Wells to enjoy musical entertainment and to stroll in the gardens and take the water."

The well can still be seen today and has been incorporated into the new Sadler's Wells Theatre.

St Bride's Well, Fleet Street, is the next offering. This well was located close to the south-east corner of St Bride's Church, which is one of the oldest churches in London. Although the well has been built over, evidence suggests that it was still providing water in the 19th century.

Other wells dotted around London include Clerk's Well in Farringdon Lane, St Agnes Well in Kensington Gardens and another St Agnes Well, located near what was, the roundabout in Old Street. Kilburn Priory, Ladywell Road, Muswell Road and Bagnigge Well Road in King's Cross Road all served London with fresh water. In Bagnigge Well's case, up to 10,000 gallons a day. This is just a small selection of the dozens of wells dotted across London.

The mummified head unearthed near the tower

With 12th February being the anniversary of the executions of Lady Jane Grey and Lord Guildford Dudley at the Tower of London, you would think that enough blood had been spilled by one family in one month. However, just 11 days later, Lady Jane Grey's father, Henry Grey, Duke of Suffolk, 3rd Marquess of Dorset was also executed, by beheading. What a lot of people don't know is the Duke's head and body were buried separately.

This ghoulish discovery wasn't made until the 19th century, when Henry Grey's mummified head was discovered in a vault of a nearby church. In a book written by Reverend Samuel Kinns, published in 1889, the clergyman recounts the story of Henry's body being buried in the Chapel of St Peter, in the grounds of the Tower of London but the head somehow getting smuggled out of the Tower being buried in a vault at the Church of Holy Trinity Minories.

Kinns also stated that Henry's head was allegedly discovered in 1851 by William Legge, 5th Earl of Dartmouth. Legge was inspecting the vaults of his ancestors under the church, and according to various reports recounted by others, he discovered a basket in a small vault near the altar of the chapel. On inspecting it, he noted that the basket was filled with sawdust, and it also contained the decapitated head of a male in a perfect state of preservation.

Further to Kinns book, according to Walter George Bell, writing in 1920 it was suggested that Grey's severed head may to have been preserved by the tannin-rich oak sawdust used to pad the basket on the scaffold on which he had been beheaded. Bell believed the head might have been hidden by the Duke's widow to prevent it from being exposed on a spike on London Bridge. Both of them had worshipped in the chapel at Holy Trinity.

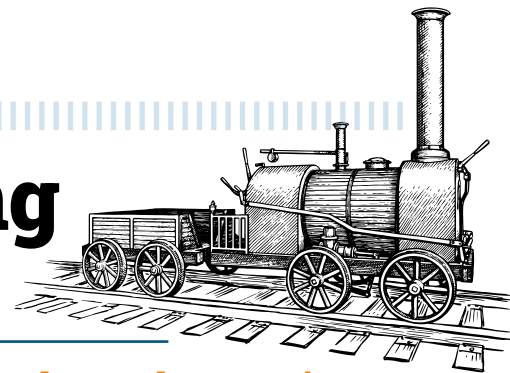
The head was eventually sealed in a vault in the crypt at St Botolph's, until a planned conversion of the space into an office resulted in an archaeological investigation of the site. Archaeologists recovered the head from the vault and the Rector of the church buried it in the churchyard. The Church of Holy Trinity, Minories, was closed in 1899 and deconsecrated.



A gruesome find, the mummified head.



Camden & The Coming of the Railways



In part three of his series on Camden's rich history, Phil looks at how advances in transport shaped its physical and social landscape.

Footprints and Foundations

The movement of people and goods has always preoccupied the imagination of human race since the beginning of time. Today, transportation has embraced new technologies in the form of electric cars, advanced trains and aeroplanes. Through the advent of time, it has always been man's endeavour to travel faster than the horse and carriage.

Horse transport was the sole means of transportation for many centuries. Journey times were excessive, and it took days to travel from one town to another. The development of the canals moved goods around the country at a faster pace than the horse. The Grand Union Canal is still preserved, its legacy formed an integral feature of the Camden landscape. However, greater changes were on the horizon.

The Railway comes to Town

The Industrial Revolution, which began in 1760, was a period that made Britain an advanced industrial and commercial success. Engineers invented the

concept of pistons and steam. The machines were taking over from the slower process of bespoke skills. The factories for mass production were now the driving force of manufacturing into the 19th century.

Britain became the workshop of the world and its goods were sought after across the globe. From this technical advancement, the experiment of a steam train moving across iron tracks in the north of England, travelling from Darlington to Stockton, signalled the start of the railway revolution. Cities would now be connected by rails. A huge construction programme was needed to bring the railways into London. Areas of the capital's topography were about to be demolished to make way for the new railway lines.

Disruption and displacement

The pioneers of the railways were men of power and influence. The railway companies were not only led by engineers but characters of commercial enterprise. Investors and politicians succumbed to their every whim. Huge tracks of land were requisitioned by compulsory purchase orders, to bring the London to Birmingham Railway to town. Estate landlords sold off plots of land for large sums of money to accommodate

the trains. The construction work proceeded at rapid speed. Sunken pathways and overhead bridges blighted the former vistas of the picturesque landscape.

Camden was the epicentre of tracks, sidings and goods yards. Here, neighbourhoods were separated either side of the tracks. An example is the location around Mornington Crescent, the eastern side of Park Village East was demolished to make way for the new iron rails. Primrose Hill and the Regent's Park districts were now completely separate entities, former neighbours were now divided as Primrose Hill and Camden lay either side of the tracks.

The railwaymen were careful not to upset the gentry who lived in fine residences. Where possible high walls were installed to obscure the views of the trains and their passengers. Trees and shrubs were planted inside the walls to provide a rustic ambience. Adelaide Road provides evidence of these grand schemes.

Inequality in the population in Camden has existed since its development. Affluence and decadence have always been undercurrents in this locality. A labyrinth of slums was demolished to make way for the

new tracks. The slum dwellers were thrown out onto the streets by the railway companies, who showed no compassion for the impoverished. Provision to house the displaced was non-existent, they would have to fend for themselves. Desperate, homeless and hungry the purveyors of penury were on the move again.

The Roundhouse

Many of you would have attended a concert at the Roundhouse in Chalk Farm Road. This building played a pivotal role in the early days of the railways. This is where the train engines were serviced. The engines would enter from the west side of the building and would then ride on a turntable in the centre of the depot which could then transfer to any of the three inspection bays around the perimeter of the building. The maintenance building became defunct when the size of the engines was increased, and they could no longer fit on the turntable. A whole warren of tunnels still remain below the Roundhouse, which were put to good use to stable horses.

The edge of the city

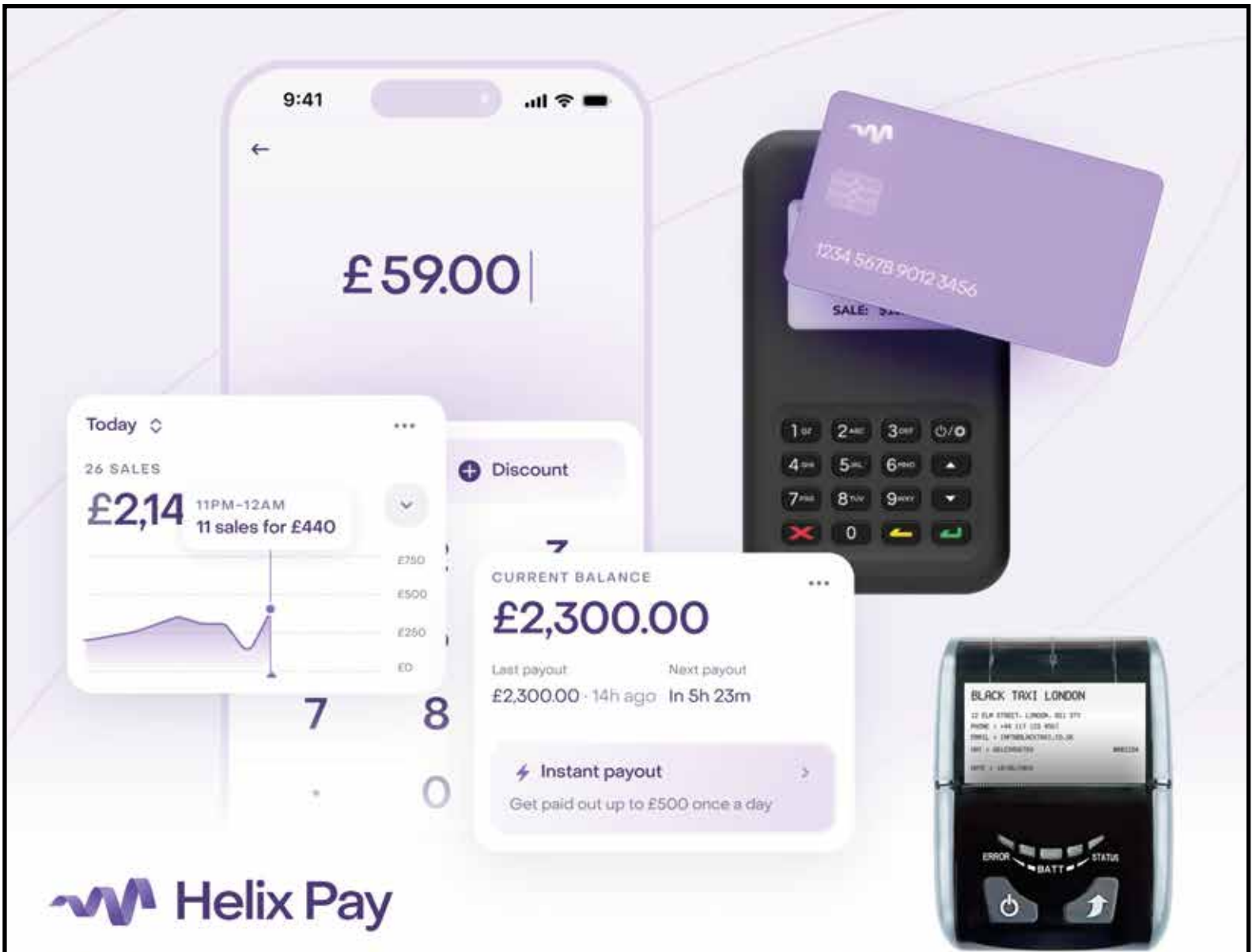
It is no coincidence that the main railway termini are located on the Marylebone and Euston Roads (the A501). They were literally built on the edge of the city. Known earlier as the New Road, this was one of the first road by-pass schemes to be built in central London and was completed in 1761. At the time it was said, 'London would move no further than this location.' Within ten years the urban landscape had moved five miles to the north of the railway termini.

The railways had made a huge impact on the capital. Their presence had changed transportation indefinitely as the passengers could go further and faster on the iron rails. **TAXI**

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

16





Helix Pay

Take card payments with the lowest cost TFL-approved payment system

£ 1.75% per transaction

Transparent pricing with no surprises, just one fee for all card types

Custom tipping setups

Run things how you want to and change the options your passengers see at any time

⚡ Instant access to your money

Next day payouts as standard with instant payouts any time you want

QR Built-in backup

Take payment without hardware with a QR code payment in the app — just select it during checkout.

Book an installation

Done in 20 minutes

📞 0204 577 1011 🌐 helixpay.com

Sign up today

Scan the QR-code with your phone camera or visit helixpay.com and submit your business details





A Stealthy Competitor to Uber and Bolt Outside Europe

Uber, Bolt and others are facing increasing competition from... Yango, an – originally – Russian competitor in mainly non-European markets.

International correspondent
Additional reporting by
Zhanna Aleksandrova



Yandex is Russia's dominant taxi app.

And now for something completely different... John Cleese's famous words linking Monty Python sketches, are still relevant – even in the ride-hailing world. Newcomer, Yango is growing in Africa, Asia and South America.

Although Yango now claims to be independent and working from Dubai, it was an offshoot of the taxi-part of 'Russia's Google': Yandex Taxi, and might still be connected. In Africa, where it's very active, it closely follows Russia's political footprint. *"We have a strategic focus on expanding our presence in Africa, Asia and Latin America due to the high growth market potential and less saturated competitive landscape compared to Europe,"* said a Yango spokesperson.

A paltry £4.2 billion buys Russia's Google

A quick step back into the murky world of strategic and political wheeling and dealing. On 20th August ownership of the whole Yandex Group – formerly a limited company under Dutch law – after preparations which started in 2023 – finally changed hands for a paltry £4.2 billion, including a 'tax'-payment to the Kremlin. Included were Yandex Taxi, Russia's dominant taxi app and Yango, its 'independent' international taxi-app. Yandex



Yango grows in Africa, Asia and South-America Credit: Yango.

was sold to a handpicked group of very wealthy private investors – Russians not 'tainted' by foreign sanctions. The Dutch part, now the Nebius Group, working from Amsterdam Airport, no longer uses Yandex brands. It focuses mainly on developing cloud technologies, autonomous taxi services and artificial intelligence technologies.

Autonomous taxis

It is striking that Yandex has, for several years, successfully been testing autonomous taxis in Russia. Nebius is continuing its own research and tests in that area. Following Western sanctions, after Russia's invasion of Ukraine, Yandex moved a large part of its R&D operations to Belgrade, where it employs over 2,000 staff and is expanding. Nebius is now run by one of the original founders of Yandex, Arkady Volozh, who vehemently criticised Russia's so-called 'special military operation' in Ukraine. Before the takeover, Volozh was cleared of EU-sanctions.



Yango is still active in Norway and Finland.

A bit of a mystery

Although a bit of a mystery and less well-known than platforms such as Uber and Bolt, Russia's Yango has been a major player in the taxi platform world since its 2018 roll-out in Israel, where it became Gett's major competitor. Like Uber, Yango, offers taxi and food delivery services, mainly in African, Asian and South American countries. In Europe, it offers taxi services in Norway and Finland.

After controversy in Finland about the app accessing certain phone functions, the Finnish Communications Regulatory Authority found that Yango's terms of service were the same as Uber's. Last year, the Dutch Data Protection Authority – on behalf of Norway and Finland – launched an investigation into security risks when using the Yango app following the Russian authorities' demand that apps send their customers' ride data directly to the Russian security service, FSB. Yango's taxi activities are therefore prohibited in Estonia and Latvia. User data may be a useful catch from users' phones.

Data to the Russian secret service

Yango states that the transfer of data to the FSB only applies to Russian territory and that the company complies with data protection rules within the EU. Since mid-2023, Yango has been offering services in Algeria,

Angola, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bolivia, Belarus, Cameroon, Chile, Democratic Republic of Congo, Finland, Ghana, Georgia, Israel, Ivory Coast, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Mozambique, Namibia, Norway, Pakistan, Peru, Romania, Russia, Senegal, Serbia, Turkey, United Arab Emirates, Uzbekistan and Zambia. No small feat but moving quietly and stealthily under the radar of major competitors.

'Less saturated market'

Angola, where Yango started in 2022, is an example of the rapid development of Yango in Africa. *"We have a strategic focus on expanding our presence in Africa, Asia and Latin America due to the high growth market potential and less saturated competitive landscape compared to Europe,"* said a Yango spokesperson.

Yango applies a stepped approach: *"We don't own the cabs and do not hire drivers. We work with local companies that partner with local drivers using a range of vehicle brands that suit local preferences and regulations. Globally, we have over 800,000 drivers registered on our platform."*

Paid waiting time

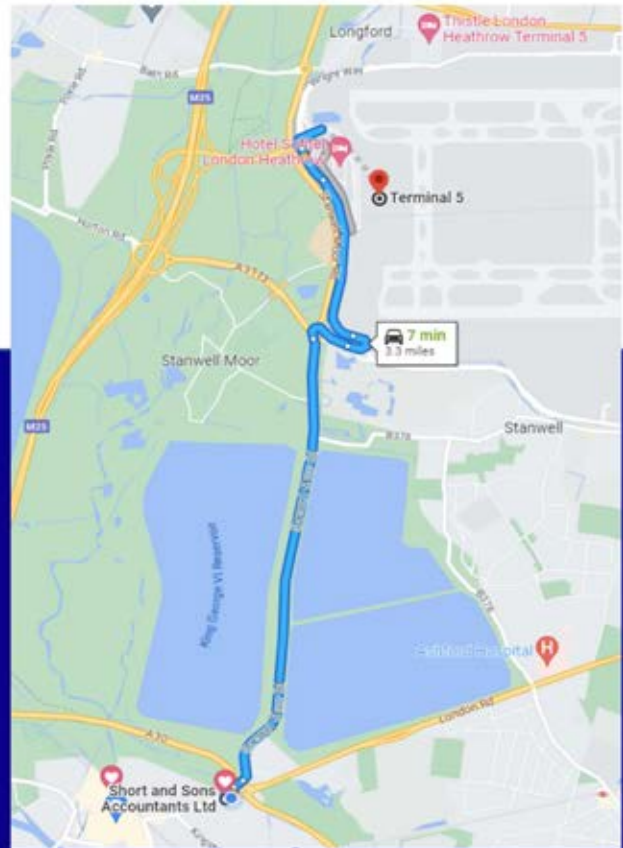
Its driver screening process includes background checks, vehicle inspections and driver evaluations. *"Our partners, who are local companies, are required to conduct their own background checks on drivers as well, in accordance with local laws. We also use feedback mechanisms and partnerships with local companies to screen and manage the quality of drivers."*

Interestingly, in Angola there is an element of paid waiting time and Yango-drivers in Angola can earn up to £829 a month. *"Waiting time is included, but the payment for that only starts when the driver reaches the pick-up point and has to wait longer than 3 minutes"*. Given these rates it doesn't come as a surprise then that drivers from many other countries – even outside Africa – are happy to start driving in Angola. Usually cabs are less than three years old and 50% of the fleet is electric. The most popular brand is Toyota. **TAXI**

SAS

Accountants Ltd

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



- **£299 FEES PER YEAR, INCLUDING VAT!**
- Move accountants in under 5 minutes!
- Excellent service at fair fixed fees
- Established 2017 with over 500 repeat Clients
- 100% Green badge holder owned!
- Offices only 7 Mins from LHR T5 with parking
- 1000s of tax returns filed
- Sign off your return on the mobile
- 185+ 5-star Google reviews with more on FB
- All trades welcome, Electricians to Plumbers!
- We also service Ltd Co's, Payroll, VAT, CGT, CIS

07481 479933

WWW.SHORTANDSONS.CO.UK



FOR A FARE DEAL ON TAXI FINANCE

- New and Used Taxi Finance
- Hire Purchase / HP with Balloon Payment
 - Private Sale (Ltd Co.s only)
 - Credit Lines for Fleets
- Refinance / Refinance of Balloon Payments
- Flexible Terms and Competitive Rates

Call us on **01268 799541**
or email **info@sceptrefinance.co.uk**

Please visit **www.sceptrefinance.co.uk**
for more information

Sceptre Finance Limited is a credit broker and not a lender. Authorised & Regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority (FRN: 673142) Registered in England and Wales with company No. 4247886. We can introduce you to a limited number of carefully selected finance providers and will receive a commission if you take out finance.



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.

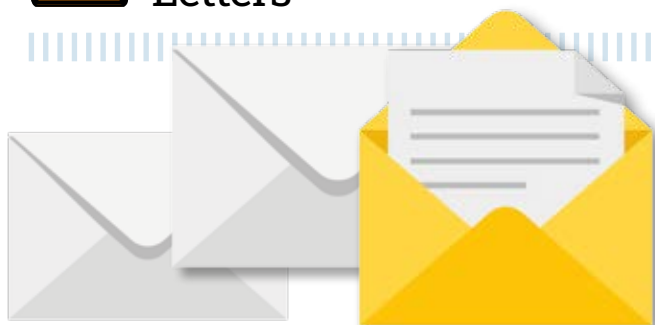


allanreece
ASSOCIATES LLP

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.



TAXI and LTDA Member Mail



Subject: Drivers beware

Dear LTDA,

Please make your members aware of a gang operating by The Ritz side of Green Park Station on the westbound side of Piccadilly. At about 12.45pm I was hailed by an elderly couple so naturally pulled in. While my nearside front window was still open and as the couple were getting in my cab, a guy in his early 20s, approximately 5'6" to 5'9" in height, with very short black or dark brown hair who claimed to be Italian, stuck his head through and spoke in a very exuberant manner. I assumed he was known to them and was seeing them off in a 'look after them' way, as often happens. I chatted briefly with him, even as he shook my hand in an over exuberant way and and thought little of it.

Only after I pulled away and the elderly couple informed me that not only did they not know him but that he'd tried to steal their bag, did the alarm bells begin to ring, and I discovered my wallet (inside a larger bag that I keep by my side) had been taken.

I immediately swung around and went looking for him but, of course, he was nowhere to be seen. Fortunately, I had no cash in my wallet but all my credit and debit cards were in there, as was my driving licence.

I've naturally cancelled these and reordered new ones (though unlikely to arrive before I go on holiday in ten days time) and luckily stopped them all before any were used.

I reported the matter to the police but obviously nothing will happen other than perhaps a warning to other potential victims, hence the purpose of this email.

And all this in a week when a gentleman adjacent to Euston Station was prevented from entering my cab by a TfL 'enforcement officer' who claimed he'd been 'caught on camera' committing the heinous crime of stubbing his cigar out on the pavement. He was threatened with the police (yeah right!) unless he provided personal ID and, no doubt, the acceptance of a fine.

Do you think our wonderful Mayor might have his priorities wrong?!

Keep safe out there.

Gary Palmer

20

Subject: Brilliant driver

Dear TAXI,

I wanted to sing the praises of one of your members, badge number 41520, who went above and beyond his duties to ensure my safety as a passenger.

Having got in his cab at the taxi rank at Wimbledon Station about 11.00pm to go home after an event in London, I discovered when we arrived at my home in New Malden that I didn't have my keys and couldn't get in. During my ensuing panic and attempts to contact people who had a spare key, the driver was so calming and reassuring and, when none of the alternatives worked out, he suggested taking me to the nearest Travelodge in Raynes Park, because as he sensibly pointed out, it was by then too late to do anything else, and I could retrieve my spare house keys in the morning. Not only that, but he said that if it was full he would take me to the next one at no extra charge.

He was an absolute star, accompanying me right into the hotel reception and insisting on staying until I had actually booked a room for the night. He would not accept a tip, saying that kindness is worth more than money. I am overwhelmed at his generosity of spirit and his altruistic concern for a lone female passenger in a difficult situation late at night.

I will never forget how this driver helped me out. He is a treasure and a credit to his profession. I never did ask his name amid my preoccupation, but he gave me his badge number so I hope that's enough to give him the praise he is due. I picked up a spare key from a friend in the morning!

With best wishes to him and to the London cab drivers in general: what a great service.

Ceri



Subject: Thank you LTDA and your fantastic legal team

To whom it may concern,

I am writing this email to you with many thanks and gratitude!

I contacted the LTDA in April after receiving notification from TfL that they intended to suspend my licence for one month for having three points on my DVLA driving licence.

The LTDA put me in touch with Charlotte Collett, who I had two meetings with and who represented me at the TfL hearing. Not only did you put me in touch with Charlotte, one of your in-house legal team, but the LTDA also funded all the work Charlotte did.

I then received notification a few days later from TfL informing me that they had rescinded the suspension and giving me a warning instead.

I would like to thank the LTDA sincerely for all of the help they have provided me, and I can only say that I hold them and speak of them in the highest esteem!

I will continue to encourage any London Taxi driver to become a member!

Thanks again for all of your help and professional attention to this matter.

Dean

Thank you!



50 YEARS
ComCab

0% COMMISSION FOR YOUR FIRST 5 WEEKS

When you join the ComCab London Team

50 years of putting drivers first – Join today and benefit from



Fantastic volumes of **corporate work** –
We have the best customers in the Capital



Secure your future in the trade and access
the largest Public Sector Account in the UK



Refer a Friend Bonus Scheme - **Receive £100**
once the driver has completed just 10 jobs



Best credit card package in the industry. No
minimum usage or fixed term contracts. TFL approved

We can't wait to welcome you on board – Scan the **QR code, email** or **call** to sign up

Sign up today:



Join@comcab.com



0207 432 1600



Poppy Cabs Celebrates 15 Years Supporting Veterans

Drivers sought to provide transport for veterans attending Remembrance Sunday service for the 15th year of the Poppy Cabs service.



Poppy Cabs, the Remembrance Sunday free taxi service, is preparing for the 2024 service on Sunday 10th November. Find out more and how you can help.

15 years

This year celebrating 15 years' service, Poppy Cabs has become an integral part of the decision to attend the annual remembrance Service and Parade in London. Indeed, especially for those wheelchair users, it would be almost impossible to attend without the help provided by London's taxi service.

Poppy Cabs offers more than 1,000 free taxi journeys in just two hours for the veterans going to and from the Cenotaph service with drivers, knowledge students and family members helping to marshal the event. Many drivers give up their day entirely for this service with others providing free service from the normal taxi ranks.

Can you help?

To support the Poppy Cabs initiative taxi drivers are invited to the 'turn up and go' locations:

- Victory Services Club
- Union Jack Club
- Kings Cross (main line)
- Liverpool Street
- Paddington (main line)
- Fenchurch Street
- London Bridge
- Victoria (main line)
- Victoria Coach Station
- Waterloo (main line)
- Euston
- Marylebone

In addition to the 'hub' locations, there are a number of pre-booked special pickups for wheelchair users, those with ambulatory problems and some larger groups.

The majority of veterans are taken to Admiralty Arch for the service and parade but some are taken to other locations such as Westminster Abbey, Hyde Park Corner or Grosvenor Gardens where there are special services.

Return journeys start from Westminster Bridge where taxis are lined up to take the veterans



POPPY CABS REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

YOU CAN HELP

0800 - 1000
all main line stations,
Victoria Coach Station,
Victory Services, Union Jack Clubs

Register for special pick-ups
email mike@mikehughes.org.uk
or PoppyCab@virginmedia.com



Poppy Cabs 2009-2024





back to their various locations with a small pickup point at Admiralty Arch for wheelchair users. The drivers provide their taxis and their time free of charge to the veterans and the Poppy Cabs initiative could not operate without their generosity.

About Poppy Cabs

Poppy Cabs was founded in 2009 by a small group of London taxi drivers to provide free transport in London for veterans on Remembrance Sunday. The initiative relies on the generosity of London's cab drivers who

volunteer their time and taxis and their friends and relatives who help to move veterans from mainline stations and military clubs to the Cenotaph. Enamel Poppy Cab badges have to date raised over £25,000 for the Royal British Legion and the Taxi Charity for Military Veterans.

The independent coordinator is London cab driver, Mike Hughes, who matches drivers with special need users. On Remembrance Sunday there are a number of drivers, Knowledge students and family members who marshal the event, helping veterans into the taxis at each pickup point to ensure a smooth journey for those attending the Remembrance Sunday service and parade.

Mike Hughes, Poppy Cabs Coordinator said, "In 2009 the taxi trade didn't realise just how much our veterans relied upon London's Black Cabs to get to and from the annual Remembrance Sunday service and parade. What started with 15 taxis lined up on Westminster Bridge to mark the 11th hour while waiting for veterans, has grown into something supported by several hundreds of taxi drivers every year. The Poppy Cabs apolitical and non-political ethos is one which encourages all members of the taxi trade – drivers, family members, suppliers and general supporters – to come together to help honour our veterans. The emotional atmosphere is something that you cannot put a price on. It's amazing to think that this is our 15th year. In that time, we've grown to the point where we are considered an essential part of the event for those attending."

Funded entirely by the drivers themselves, this is seen, alongside events organised by The Taxi Charity for Military Veterans, as one of the highlights of the taxi trade year, when taxi drivers make a special effort to pay back part of the debt owed to our military veterans and you can be a part of it.

CABSURANCE

DRIVE CONFIDENTLY WITH LONDON'S LEADING TAXI INSURANCE BROKER

We'll work with you to arrange cover for your cab or fleet, plus:

- Breakdown cover
- GAP cover
- Excess Protection cover
- Vehicle Hire
- Public Liability insurance
- Legal Expenses
- Key Care



Scan to get a quote
or call in and see us to discuss
your business' insurance needs:

86 Dunbridge Street
Bethnal Green
London
E2 6JG

GET IN TOUCH

020 8597 2622
cabsurance.com

Cabsurance is a trading name of Emrose (Insurance Brokers) Limited, which is authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority (FRN: 304324). Registered Address: 6th Floor, One America Square, 17 Crosswall, London, England, EC3N 2LB. Registered in England and Wales. (Company No. 761961). Emrose (Insurance Brokers) Limited is part of the Specialist Risk Group.



SRG A Specialist Risk
Group Company

New Improved Design for Range Extending ENSO Tyres for EV Taxis

ENSO's updated tyre design for LEVC TX taxis is now available across London and the UK.



Prince William recently met with ENSO to learn more about the importance of better tyres for Electric Vehicles.

With a nationwide fitting network and an updated tyre design, ENSO continues to put electric cab drivers first by improving EV performance and reducing costs per mile.

ENSO, the tyre technology company born in London, is now rapidly expanding with more tyre fitting locations than ever across the UK. Their latest development is set to benefit electric cab drivers by offering easier access to improved high-performance taxi tyres that are designed to extend EV range, while reducing costs every mile.

The new ENSOs are specifically engineered for high-mileage commercial EVs like the LEVC electric taxi and are proven to save costs by extending EV range by

up to 10 per cent, whilst reducing particulate pollution by up to 35 per cent. Taxi drivers who have made the switch already benefit from ENSO's double-A rated performance and safety, two levels above the standard-fit tyres.

"Choosing the right tyre for an EV can deliver significant cost savings every mile," explains ENSO's CEO, Gunnlaugur Erlendsson. "Our 'taxi-first'

approach provides drivers with more affordable tyres that last longer and give more EV range. The improved energy efficiency means more cash in cabbies' pockets by lowering energy costs, while the improved durability cuts tyre pollution every mile, directly contributing to cleaner air in our city."

ENSO's 'taxi-first' approach has resulted in improved performance for the LEVC TX taxi, based on direct feedback from London cab drivers. After hearing from drivers, who take great pride in the appearance of their cabs, ENSO has also improved the sidewall design to allow for its tyres to shine. "We consider feedback from London cabbies to be the best in the world, helping us to improve our products at every level" added Erlendsson, highlighting

"We consider feedback from London cabbies to be the best in the world, helping us to improve our products at every level."

the close collaboration with the community.

ENSO's nationwide network rollout now includes access to over 4,000 locations across England, Scotland, Wales, and Northern Ireland. This includes 25 fitting centres in London and the option of mobile fittings, ensuring improved customer access to ENSOs for LEVC cab drivers in all corners of the UK.

LEVC TX taxi drivers interested in upgrading to ENSOs can visit ensotyres.com to book an appointment or call **01202 628282** to find out more.





Credit: PA

Two WWII Veterans Take to the Skies in Spitfires

Taxi Charity gives two heroines, who played important roles during World War II, an unforgettable experience.

25

On 12th September, Dorothea Barron aged 99 and Queenie 'Robbie' Hall aged 101 were taken to the Biggin Hill Heritage hangar by the Taxi Charity for Military Veterans for an unforgettable flight in a Spitfire. Taxi Charity Vice President, Dick Goodwin, writes about this unforgettable day.

A day to remember

Next month, Dorothea will celebrate her 100th birthday and when our Ambassador Johnny Gallagher asked her what she might like as a present from him, she said she would love to fly in a Spitfire. A first attempt to get Dorothea in the sky earlier in the summer, had to be aborted due to unsuitable weather. So, when we were told that two Spitfires would be available on the 12th September, the charity invited Queenie Hall, or Robbie as she prefers to be known, to take to the skies too.

We were delighted that the long range weather forecasts looked promising for our new flight date and having kept my fingers crossed, on the morning of the 12th we were assured by

the team at Biggin Hill that the weather was OK and the Spitfires would be able to take off.

Cab driver Tony Forecast collected the excited ladies and brought them to the Biggin Hill Heritage Hangar; they were like two young girls giggling about what they were about to do. After putting on flying suits, they had a safety briefing from pilot Anna Walker and made their way to the aircraft. Dorothea flew in the Spitfire aptly called 'Dorothy' piloted by Anna and Robbie flew in 'Grey Nurse' with Jason.

The flight over Kent lasted just under an hour, during which both ladies enjoyed spectacular views of the Kent countryside, took control of the Spitfire and enjoyed a victory roll.

Two heroines

Both ladies played important roles during WWII, and this was such a wonderful experience for these two heroines. Dorothea taught troops how to use semaphore and transmit morse code ahead of D-Day and was involved in testing the Mulberry Harbour, a prefabricated port used to bring reinforcements and equipment during the landings. Robbie joined the

Women's Auxiliary Air Force aged 17, having lied about her age. She was one of the plotters based with Bomber Command at High Wycombe which was known as 'Southdown' to preserve its secrecy. Each plotter was responsible for aircraft movements in a particular sector, changing the plots regularly so that the whole picture of a raid could be monitored by the Group controllers who were stationed in a gallery above the plotting table.

The flight was very pertinent for both veterans; Dorothea's husband Andrew, was a navigator during the war and Robbie's airman fiancé was killed.

For me this day epitomises the work the Charity does; giving veterans' wonderful experiences to enrich their lives.

To find out more about the support the Taxi Charity offers to veterans or to donate visit www.taxicharity.org

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, or 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 peopled by enthusiastic volunteers. In 2024, they took a group of veterans to Normandy for the 80th anniversary of D-Day. www.taxicharity.org

The Taxi Charity online shop has some new D-Day 80 commemorative merchandise, as well as pin badges and windscreen stickers, key rings and T-shirts, which are available at: www.taxicharity.org/shop

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
AND OLD TYRE DISPOSAL
ALL PRICES ARE SUBJECT
TO CHANGE WITHOUT
PRIOR NOTICE



AUSTONE
£83.94

TX 175/80R16

⌚ Mon-Fri 8am-6pm Sat 8am-5pm

TAXI TYRES AT COMPETITIVE PRICES



£107.94

MAXXIS

MA919



£77.94

HIFLY

HT 601



£155.94

MICHELIN

CC CLIMATE 2



THE TyreShop.com

☎ **0208 531 2300** thetyreshop.com

📍 **VISIT OUR CENTRE** 2 LOXHAM ROAD | CHINGFORD E4 8SE



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

**GET NOTICED WITH
YOUR ADVERT HERE!**



Get in touch

To see your advertisement in the leading magazine for London taxi drivers, contact us today:

👤 James Martin

✉ james.martin@cplone.co.uk

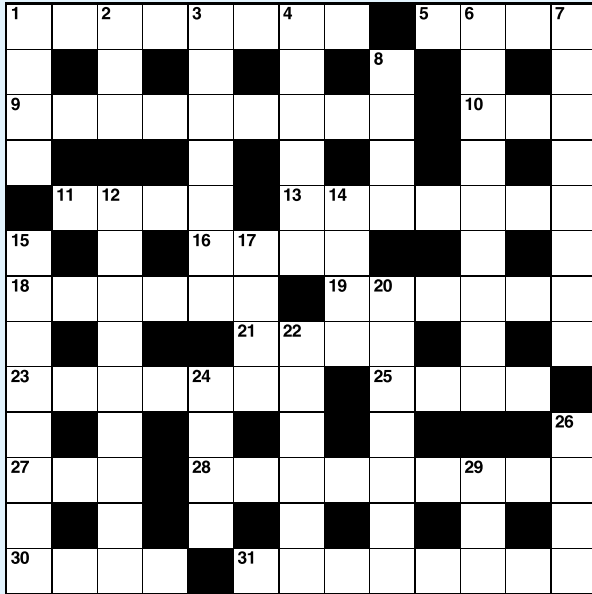
📞 01727 739 185





Puzzler Page

Crossword



ACROSS

- 1 Have misgivings about (8)
- 5 Self-satisfied (4)
- 9 Vividness (9)
- 10 Health hydro (3)
- 11 Row of text (4)
- 13 Short hairstyle (4,3)
- 16 Continued pain (4)
- 18 Arrive at or wake up (4,2)
- 19 Large tropical lizard (6)
- 21 List of food choices (4)
- 23 Early human (7)
- 25 Join by treaty (4)
- 27 Baby's napkin (3)
- 28 Professional text checker (9)
- 30 Peter Pan pirate (4)
- 31 Sound distortion from an amplifier (8)

DOWN

- 1 Milksop (4)
- 2 Result of addition (3)
- 3 Food such as beef and lamb (3,4)
- 4 Sample of cloth (6)
- 6 Popular 19th-century entertainment (5,4)
- 7 Get lost (2,6)
- 8 Ancient Phoenician port (4)
- 12 Impossible to shift (9)
- 14 Strap of a bridle (4)
- 15 Small blocks of frozen water (3,5)
- 17 Deep prolonged unconsciousness (4)
- 20 Wary (7)
- 22 Permit (6)
- 24 Greatest in number (4)
- 26 Hard journey (4)
- 29 ___ Maria, coffee liqueur (3)

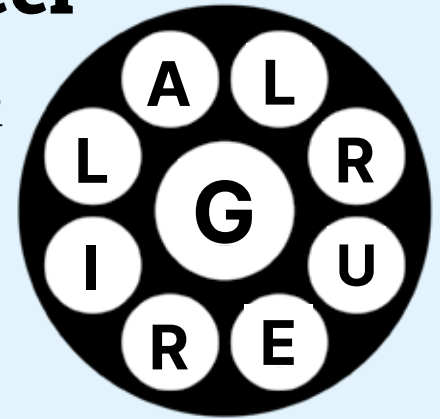
Sudoku

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.

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

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. We found 13 words - can you do better?



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.

^		^	^	
4				<
^	v	v		
		2		
		^		v

All answers to puzzler on p30



07957 465423
e16-taxirentals.co.uk

TX4s TO RENT

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



De-commissioned your TX4's and Euro 5's?

Earn more by selling outside London.

We pay cash, collect and drive away.

John
07702 554934

London taxis to rent

Full back up call for further details

07976 433 465

Get in touch



James Martin



james.martin@cplone.co.uk



01727 739 185

CABS WANTED

- All de-commissioned good quality TX4s wanted. Instant decision, cash paid. We come to you. 07973 335 739

- London Based Buyer, quick collection and payment, call James - 07931 964857

- Euro 5 about to be decommissioned, Cabs wanted, TX4's and Vito's. Top Price paid. Call John 07702 554 934

- All cabs wanted. Tx4, euro 4, 5 & 6 also TXE wanted We come to you, any condition, very quick decision. Cash paid instantly. 07702 554 934

- De-commissioned your tx4's and Euro 5's? Earn more by selling outside

London. We pay cash, collect, and drive away. Definitely still buying.

John 07702 554 934

CABS FOR RENT

- TX4s available for full and part time rentals, full backup and garage, including euro6 based in Herts. Call - 01992445733

- A Better Deal. Euro5&6 vitos for rent, full backup, prices starting from £230 please call - 07956211478

- Vitos 113 & 114, also tx4s for rent 07872 504 604

- TXE Vista Plus, rent from £320 per week long term, pick up from Harrow call Krupali - 07929360081

- TXE's available for rent, from £310

per week. Call 07951 843 663

- 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

- TXEs, TX4s and Vitos available from £260 per week contact Sabri - 07958973944

- Semi retired taxi driver wanting to work Saturdays and Sundays, pref South West London, looking for cab to hire - Call Richard 07581147737

CABS FOR SALE

- Cabs for sale. Main Dealer service history. Non-fleet cabs, trade sales. New stock daily. Cabs also wanted. Finance Paid 07957 465423

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 _____

29

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

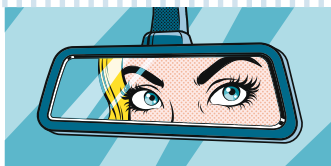
The Direct Debit Guarantee



- 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:





The Horseferry Road Floss

I am not a horny cabbie. My take on sounding the horn is that it should be done only in extreme circumstances like the ones I encountered recently...

A woman of words

Last week, on Horseferry Road, I waited for eleven light changes before I was forced to hoot the fella disco dancing on the crossing and holding up traffic heading toward Lambeth Bridge. His moves included the funky chicken, flossing and the ground moves to 'oops upside your head.'

I like a bit of joie de vivre, and this bloke had plenty of it, but my fare, who was heading to Blackfriars, was not at all entertained. "Beep your horn! And give it some wellie, love! I'm going to be late for my Spanish conversation class!"

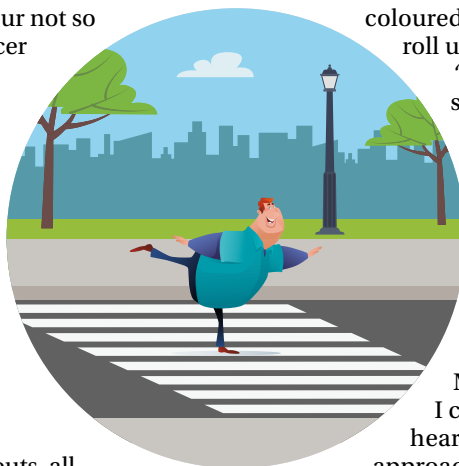
When I hooted my horn all the drivers behind me joined in and suddenly it was like the 1812 Overture blasted out in beeps from cabs, cars, lorries and even a bus.

Of course, our not so tiny road dancer (he was built like a sumo wrestler but very light on his feet) loved that. He stood on his rucksack and used a twig from the side of the road to conduct the cacophony of beeps and shouts, all directed at him.

And then the singing started. He belted out 'Land of Hope and Glory' at the top of his voice, and I must be fair and say he was a great singer.

"This is ridiculous!" shouted my fare, "We're doing how to read a Spanish menu today in class...he needs to get off this road STAT!"

I saw her peel off her lilac-



coloured cardigan and roll up her sleeves.

"Let me out!" she ordered.

Picture Judi Dench confronting the wrestler Big Daddy. When she got to him he was busy dancing the Macarena.

I could hear a siren approaching, which meant someone had already called the police. I had one foot out of the cab in case I needed to go to the rescue.

The top of my fare's curly perm reached just under the dancer's chest. He stopped grooving when she approached, and she used her forefinger to beckon him down so she could whisper in his ear. He bent low to hear what she

was saying and nodded his head in agreement several times.

She reached into her handbag. It was a hard shell one, with a handle like the late Queen used to carry. She produced a packet of fruit pastilles and handed it to him. He shook all of them into his mouth in one go.

Then, she pointed to the side of the road and told him to go and sit there. And he did.

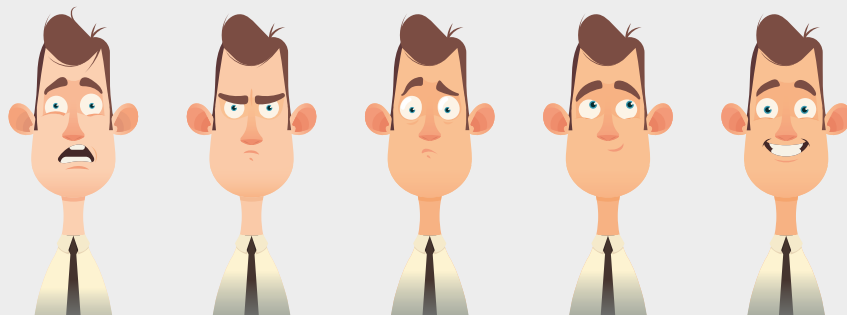
Now the car/bus/lorry horns were all beeping her in congratulation. There was cheering, too. She gave the traffic behind me a smile and wave, climbed back into my cab and put her cardigan back on.

Mr Twinkletoes sat meekly on the side of the road and gave her a thumbs up as we drove off.

"How? What?" I asked, amazed by what I had just seen.

"Secreta" she answered, tapping the side of her nose, "Spanish for secret." **TAXI**

PUZZLER ANSWERS



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

Crossword

Copyright Puzzler Media Ltd - www.puzzler.com



Sudoku

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

Futoshiki

2	3	1	4	5
^		^	^	
3	2	4	5	1
4	5	3	1	< 2
^	v	v		
5	1	2	3	4
		^		v
1	4	5	2	3

Wordwheel

SOLUTION: GUERRILLA

All words: Agile, agree, argue, arguer, auger, gale, gall, gear, gill, girl, glare, glue, grail, grill, grille, gruel, guerilla, guile, gull, lager, large, larger, legal, luge, rage, regal, regular, uglier, urge, GUERRILLA.

Word targets: Excellent: 26, Good: 22, Target: 16, Kids: 11



NEED TO RENT A CAB?

**TX4s
AVAILABLE
TO RENT
FROM £240
PER WEEK**

**TXEs
AVAILABLE
TO RENT
FROM £335
PER WEEK**



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

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 TO MAKE THE MOST OF THESE AMAZING DEALS

0208 807 7931

Blacktaxirentals



www.blacktaxirentals.com

rentaltaxi

info@blacktaxirentals.com

blacktaxirentals

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



ESB
energy

Find out more at
esbenergy.co.uk/ev

Check out our
taxi-only chargers
for reliable rapid
EV charging.



Scan to download our app and find
your nearest ESB Energy charger.