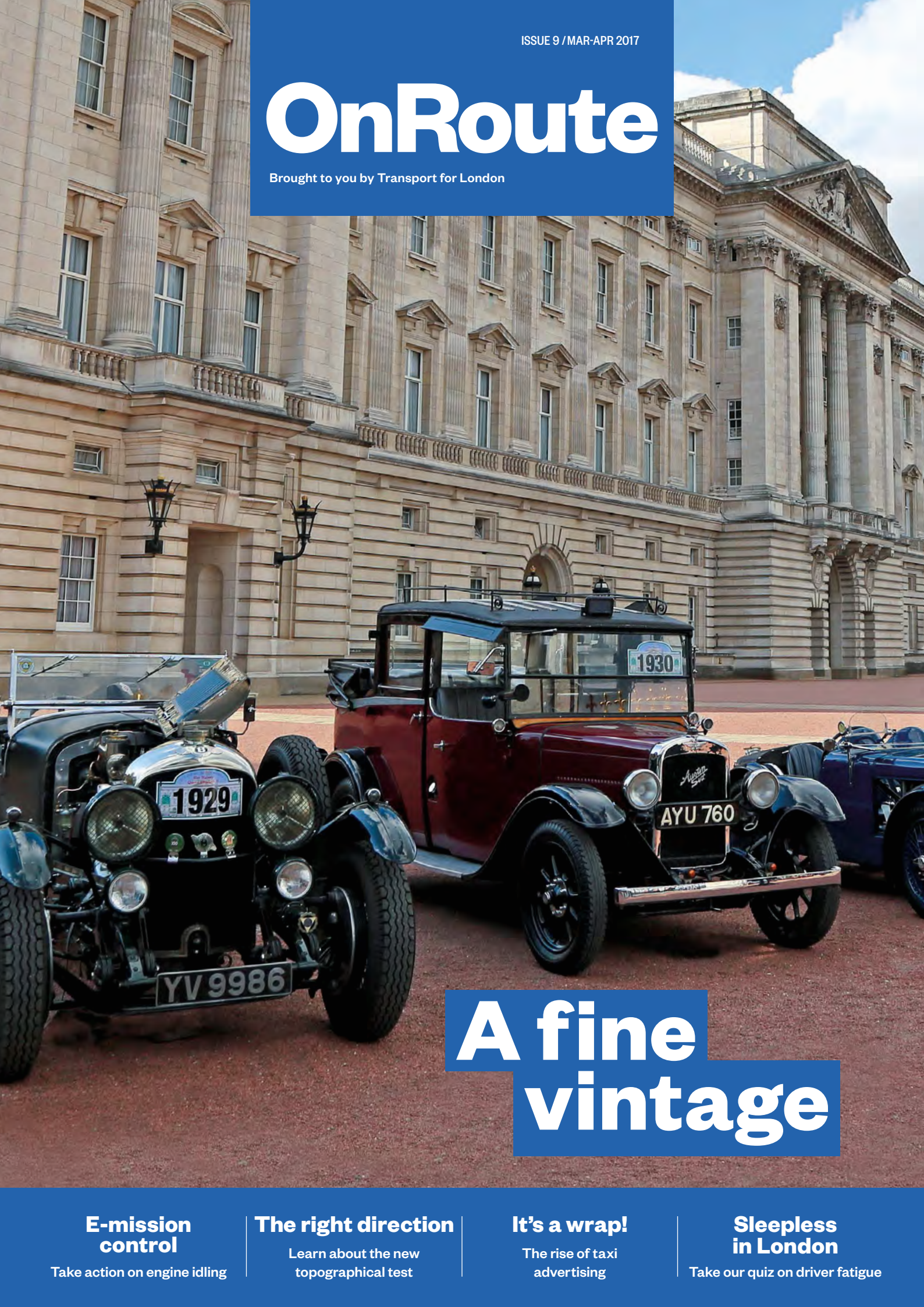


OnRoute

Brought to you by Transport for London



A fine vintage

E-mission control

Take action on engine idling

The right direction

Learn about the new topographical test

It's a wrap!

The rise of taxi advertising

Sleepless in London

Take our quiz on driver fatigue

Idling is fuelish

Switch off for cleaner air



Vehicle idling action days

Did you know that idling your engine while stationary contributes to local air pollution and damages your health? We are running monthly events to educate people about the issues of idling and encouraging motorists to switch off when stationary.

Tweet: #Noidling
Visit: idlingaction.london

SUPPORTED BY

MAYOR OF LONDON

Design: zuma-creative.com

Contents

8

Perfect vision

Keep your windscreen clear of clutter

10

Points and runs

Meet Katie Chennells, the new head of the Knowledge team

14

Ad fab

The story behind advertising on taxis

16

Don't drive drowsy

All you need to know about driver fatigue

20

Park your phone

Increased penalties for using your mobile while driving

21

The way to go

Our guide to taking the new topographical assessment

22

Classic cabs of character

Find out more about the London Vintage Taxi Association

24

Taxi of the future

Ian Beetlestone designs his ideal drive

14



20



22



16

Front cover image Richard Gunn



Contact us at OnRoute@tfl.gov.uk

London Taxi and Private Hire
230 Blackfriars Road, London SE1 8PJ

For general enquiries email: tph.enquiries@tfl.gov.uk

Visit the TfL website: tfl.gov.uk/tph

0343 222 4444 (lines open from 08:00 to 18:00, Monday to Friday)

for operator and driver licensing enquiries and the Knowledge enquiries.

0343 222 5555 for vehicle licensing appointments and enquiries.

TPH news on Twitter: @TfLTPH

For constant updates on diversions, congestion and accidents: @TfLTrafficNews (roads)

TfL produces a weekly email with information on current and forthcoming road closures and diversions. If you would like to receive this, please contact tph.enquiries@tfl.gov.uk

The views expressed in OnRoute are not necessarily those of TfL.



Welcome.

This issue celebrates taxis of the past and also looks to the future. On p22 we feature some glorious vintage vehicles, while driver Ian Beetlestone describes his ideal futuristic taxi on p24.

The Capital's poor air quality is currently a hot topic and on p12 we are asking for your views on what should be done to improve it.

Driving while tired is a factor in 10 per cent of fatal accidents and on p16 we look at how to avoid fatigue. Using your mobile while at the wheel can also have potentially fatal consequences and we highlight the stricter penalties that came in on 1 March on p20. The process for taking the new private hire topographical assessment is explained on p21 while we talk to the new head of the Knowledge team, Katie Chennells, on p10.

We'd love to hear your views so get in contact at OnRoute@tfl.gov.uk.



D Pilgrim
Editor



In our next issue...

- Cycle safety
- ULEZ update
- Drivers with hidden talents

News

Have your say on Heathrow

The Government is consulting on proposals for increasing airport capacity in the South East. The preferred scheme is a new northwest runway at Heathrow. Included in the consultation are details of how road access to the airport will have to be improved to cope with increased demand if the plan goes ahead.

●●●
The consultation closes on 25 May. For more information go to www.gov.uk and search under heathrow-airport-expansion. Alternatively, email RunwayConsultation@dft.gsi.gov.uk or write to Freepost RUNWAY CONSULTATION



Going that extra mile to help

From cabbie to lifesaver

Last month, London taxi driver Steve Teague rushed into action when he saw a woman who was trying to jump off Lambeth Bridge.

Steve, who has been a cabbie for 17 years, was one of three members of the public who clung on to her, putting themselves in danger in the process. They were forced to hold each other steady so they didn't fall until the emergency services arrived five minutes later to take care of the woman.

As a result of his selfless action, Mr Teague has been awarded a commendation by Graham Robinson, head of licensing at Taxi and Private Hire.

Cleaning up the neighbourhood

The Mayor and TfL have announced £1.4m funding for six 'Neighbourhoods of the Future' to help tackle London's poor air quality.

The initiative will include streets with a high concentration of electric vehicle charge points and rapid charging taxi ranks.

Chosen neighbourhoods are:

- Hammersmith and Fulham
- Heathrow
- City fringe (Hackney, Islington and Tower Hamlets)
- Harrow
- Haringey
- Croydon and Sutton

Neighbourhoods of the Future is part of London's £13m Go Ultra Low Cities scheme, the Government-funded drive to encourage people to switch to electric cars and vans.

Caring for the carers

A group of proactive taxi drivers is offering a helping hand to National Health Service (NHS) workers and patients.

The group came up with the idea for 10HS while transporting the NHS choir around town. 10HS gives staff, patients and visitors a 10 per cent discount on fares from hospital ranks. It is currently running as a trial at University College London Hospital (UCLH), while St Mary's Hospital and Moorfields Eye Hospital should be joining the scheme soon. The aim is for every hospital in central and outer London with a taxi rank to have drivers participating in the 10HS scheme.

●●●
Taxi drivers and hospitals should get in touch on Twitter at [@10HS@10HSTAXI](https://twitter.com/10HS)



Top ranking app designs

TfL has released the location of all London taxi ranks and is encouraging software developers to use the data to design innovative customer apps, as one in five taxi journeys starts at a rank. Information is made available in the open data section of TfL's website. Already, more than 10,000 developers use this to power more than 500 apps that are used by 42 per cent of Londoners.

If you are a driver who designs apps, get in touch at OnRoute@tfl.gov.uk

●●●
For more information, go to tfl.gov.uk/info-for/open-data-users/



Ta ta TX4

To mark the final production run of its TX4, London Taxi Company (LTC) is producing 300 limited editions in three new colours – starlight black, lunar silver and night sky blue. Later this year, LTC will launch its zero emission capable range-extended electric taxi.



The professional

Service with a smile is all in a day's work for this chauffeur

Getting to the final three in Pro magazine's 2016 QSI Driver of the year awards is a highlight of chauffeur Paul Bhamra's career.

Paul has been driving professionally since the summer of 2004 and with Tristar Worldwide since 2008. He says: 'When I found out I was a finalist my initial reaction was shock! I was happy of course, but the level of expertise among the chauffeurs here at Tristar is phenomenal. To me, I'm just doing my job, but it was an honour to have been a finalist and I'll remember it for a very long time.'

'Before I was a chauffeur, I worked in the catering industry. Moving from catering to chauffeur was an enormous change, but I've never looked back. At the end of the day, I'm still providing a service to people.'

Catch up on the Knowledge

Watch out for Channel 4's great documentary, *The Knowledge: the toughest taxi test in the world*. Showing what it takes to become a taxi driver in London, it is due to be broadcast later next month (date to be confirmed).

●●●
www.channel4.com/programmes

Topographical assessments

After serious issues were found with the way topographical tests were carried out at independent assessment centres, TfL withdrew accreditation to all assessment centres in September 2016.

Since then, all tests have been managed by TfL staff at a small number of designated sites. Only TfL assessors are allowed in the examination rooms while the assessment is in progress (see p21).

For private hire driver applications received after 6 February, only topographical assessment certificates issued by TfL are being accepted.

For a list of the TfL assessment centres, go to tfl.gov.uk/tp

●●●
If you have any queries, please call the topographical team on 0343 222 4444 or email tphtpo@tfl.gov.uk

TPH licensing in numbers

24,564
Taxi drivers

21,148
Taxi vehicle licences

117,808
Private hire driver licences

86,868
Private hire vehicle licences

2,433
Private hire operators

News

Ranking round-up

Three new taxi ranks have recently been introduced:

- At Hackney Road (Ye Olde Axe), there is a four-space rank operating from 19:00 – 07:00
- There is a 24-hour, two-space rank at Ruislip Station
- Ruislip Gardens Station also now has a 24-hour, two-space rank

The seven-space rank at Charterhouse Street has had its operating time extended from 13:00 to 07:00.

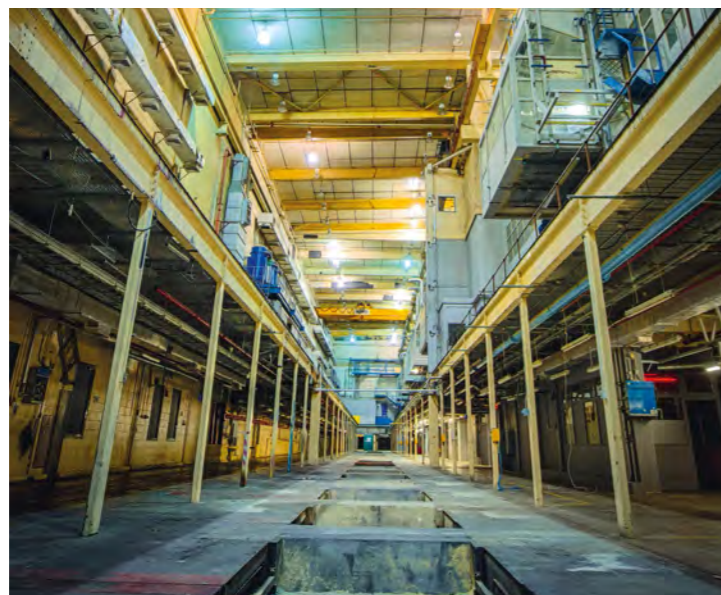
Drivers at the new Ruislip Station rank should not over-rank or obstruct buses at the site.

Complaints have been received of drivers leaving their taxis unattended on the rank at King's College Hospital. Anyone doing this is risking the facility being removed.

More than a third of the 70 million taxi journeys taken in the Capital each year start at a rank.



Report any problems by emailing TPHintel@tfl.gov.uk. Photos can be sent to the same email address.



In Print

Pick up the punters at London's hottest new venue in Southwark

The Printworks is a new entertainment venue on Surrey Quays Road, with designated taxi and private hire facilities.

During events there will be a taxi drop-off area and marshalled rank that can be used by suburban taxi drivers licensed for Lewisham, as well as All London taxi drivers. However, Lewisham drivers must only pick up passengers at the rank and cannot ply for hire around the venue or outside their licence area.

There will also be a drop-off area and marshalled, pre-booked pick-up area for private hire drivers.

TfL's Compliance Team will be on hand during events.



For information on events, go to www.printworkslondon.co.uk

Say something if you see something

Saturday 18 March marks the second National Child Sexual Exploitation Awareness Raising Day, reminding people to speak up if they see anything suspicious. Taxi and private hire drivers are in a unique position to spot this.

The day aims to highlight the issues surrounding this form

of abuse. Detective Inspector Ivon Beer of the Metropolitan Police Service said: 'As part of Operation Makesafe we have been going to taxi organisations and private hire operators, hotels and care homes educating staff about child sexual exploitation and this day will help reinforce our message.'

Call 101 (quoting Operation Makesafe) to report any unusual behaviour. This includes interactions between people travelling together, or young people being picked up and taken to hotels at unusual times.



For more information, go to www.met.police.uk

Latest trend



These are the hot topics trending on @TfLTPH:

A couple of signage changes on bus lanes led to some confusion among followers and ended up a big talking point on the feed.

The increased compliance officer presence at King's Cross St. Pancras and Paddington Stations drew lots of comments.

Taxi driver, badge 63762, was thanked profusely for returning a customer's lost bag.

The police have been tweeting about recent compliance operations using the @MPSRTPC account and the TPH Twitter team has been retweeting these.

The @TfLTPH Twitter feed now has 11,796 followers.

**SAY
SOMETHING
IF YOU
SEE
SOMETHING**

WATCH FOR

- UNUSUAL BEHAVIOUR OF PEOPLE TRAVELLING TOGETHER, ESPECIALLY IF THERE ARE ADULTS WITH YOUNG PEOPLE
- YOUNG PEOPLE BEING PICKED UP AND TAKEN TO HOTELS, PARTICULARLY AT ODD TIMES OF THE DAY AND NIGHT
- ADULTS PUTTING A YOUNG PERSON, WHO MAY BE UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF DRUGS OR ALCOHOL, INTO YOUR CAR

THIS IS ABUSE. DON'T MASK THE PROBLEM.

Report it.

Call 101, quote Operation Makesafe.

www.met.police.uk



**METROPOLITAN
POLICE**

London
safeguarding
children board



**TRANSPORT
FOR LONDON**



Steer clear

Don't be blind to danger – keep your windscreen clear



These illustrations, based on photographs taken by the City of London Police, show just how much your vision is impaired by devices on your windscreen

For many drivers, using smartphones and satnavs is part of the job. And while most know it's illegal to use handheld devices while driving, it's also important to understand the rules about where to keep them.

You shouldn't put or fix anything on your windscreen that will obscure your view of the road ahead. While that may seem like common sense, recent operations by the City of London Police have already seen tickets issued to drivers – including some taxi and private hire drivers – for having mobiles and other devices restricting their vision.

If you place a cradled device on the area on your windscreen that is covered by your wipers (also known as the 'swept area'), you are committing an offence. At present, if you're prosecuted, you face a fine of up to £100 and three points on your licence.

Driving conditions can change rapidly and hazards, such as pedestrians suddenly stepping in front of you, mean you need to have a clear view of the road. Having a cluttered windscreen increases your likelihood of becoming distracted or not spotting potential dangers. To avoid this, you need to make sure you position any devices so that they do not obstruct your vision.

David Clark from the City of London Police says: 'The Highway Code is clear that a person must exercise proper control of their vehicle at all times and drivers should not let distractions reduce their awareness of the road.'

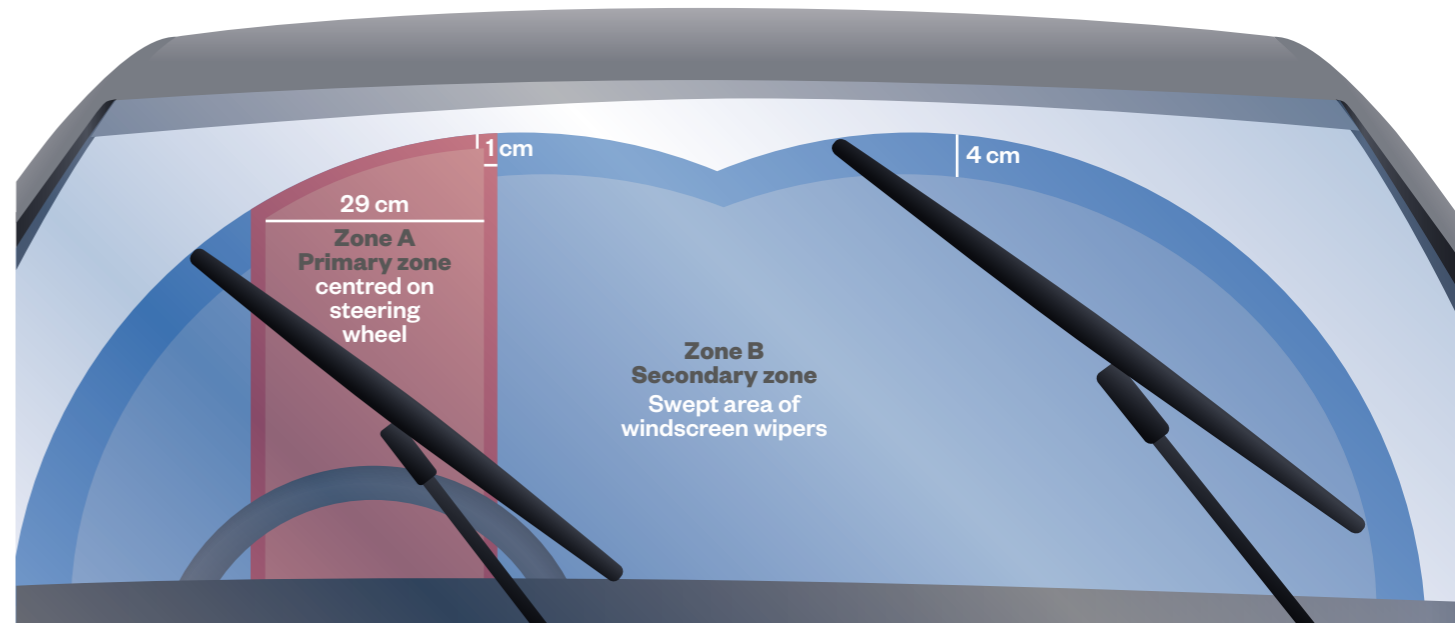
Inspector Neil Billany of the Metropolitan Police Service, says: 'Drivers who have multiple devices in their windscreen reduce their visibility of the road and compromise the safety of themselves, their passengers and other road users. It's vital drivers focus on the road ahead of them and only interact with devices such as GPS systems when it is safe to do so.'

» Swept area of a windscreen

In Great Britain, if you use a suction-mounted cradle that intrudes more than **4cm** into the **secondary** (blue)

wiper clearance zone, or more than **1cm** into the **primary** (red) zone, you are committing a serious

traffic offence. Your vehicle would not be considered roadworthy and would fail an MOT.



“ No person shall drive, or cause or permit any other person to drive, a motor vehicle on a road if they are in such a position that they cannot have proper control of the vehicle or have a full view of the road and traffic ahead ” Construction and Use Regulations 1986

What Katie did next

Katie Chennells is the new head of the Knowledge team at TfL. She answers some quick-fire questions for OnRoute

Q Tell us about yourself.

A I come from a taxi family – my dad's a taxi driver, as are my fiancé, uncles and cousins. I did my degree in TV production but after university I wasn't really sure what I wanted to do, so I thought I'd do the Knowledge as being a taxi driver is nice and flexible.

I drove a cab for 18 months, then went to work for the Knowledge Point School before joining TfL as an examiner in 2015.

Q What shape is the Knowledge in?

A I don't think there's ever been a time when the Knowledge has been more relevant. We need people who know where they're going and what they're doing and who don't need to keep pulling over to consult a map.

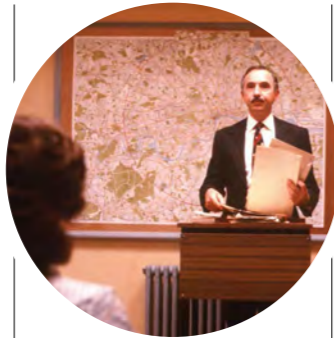
People see becoming a taxi driver as a great career option and our Knowledge students are really enthusiastic about it. We've got lots of young people coming through and private hire drivers who are crossing over to become taxi drivers.

Q What's your favourite run?

A It has to be the 'Batcave', the road tunnel underneath the Savoy Hotel connecting York building and Savoy Place. When you first enter it customers think you might be kidnapping them, but when they see where they come out they give you a round of applause.

Q What's new about the trade?

A Technology and social media. Lots of our students use apps to help them with the Knowledge and all the restaurants and clubs have their own websites now. Twitter is great because some hotels, like the Mondrian just round the corner from 230 Blackfriars Road, will tweet if they need taxis for guests. It's the same with the Royal Albert Hall and the O2 – they will tweet when their shows finish. The TfL traffic feed is also good for road closures and other information.



» Did you know?

The cast of the Knowledge included Nigel Hawthorne and Maureen Lipman, while the music was by War of the Worlds' Jeff Wayne



Q What do you always carry in your cab?

A A lot of float containing £1 coins and £5 notes, a book of receipts and my hands-free set for my phone. I always have a bottle of water and an emergency snack just in case I get really busy and can't stop for lunch.

Q Tell us something people don't know.

A I love the 1979 Thames TV drama about the Knowledge by Jack Rosenthal. My favourite character is 'Dracula', the really strict examiner!

Managing the Knowledge team

In her role, Katie manages 12 Knowledge examiners, making sure TPH provides a fair and transparent examination process for Knowledge of London candidates. She also monitors appearances, communicates with the Knowledge schools and responds to any complaints or queries regarding both Knowledge candidates and taxi drivers who have been accused of using a devious route.

Top left: Nigel Hawthorne in 1979 TV drama The Knowledge.
Bottom left: The Batcave underneath the Savoy Hotel

“ People see becoming a taxi driver as a great career option and our Knowledge students are really enthusiastic. We've got lots of young people coming through ” Katie Chennells



The air we breathe

Last year, Oxford Street was among the top 10 sites in the Capital for air pollution, with diesel vehicles as the main contributors. And just five days into 2017, London breached its air pollution limits for the whole year.

“Safeguarding the health of Londoners from pollution is my number one priority – and we are implementing the boldest policies of any city in the world to get to grips with the awful problems we inherited.

We’re delivering the strongest emission measures to clean-up our bus fleets, charging for the dirtiest, most toxic diesels, and bringing forward and then extending the Ultra Low Emission Zone.”

Mayor Sadiq Khan

Throughout 2017, the Mayor will ask Londoners for their views on his plans to tackle the Capital’s poor air quality. You can read more about this in future issues of OnRoute and can tell us what you think at OnRoute@tfl.gov.uk



It pays to display



Taxi advertising across the Capital is unmissable these days and it's easier than you think to get a piece of the action

In London, there are around 7,000 taxis carrying ads and the largest advertising operator, Ubiquitous, has almost 4,000 among its ranks. For the past five years, it has paid more than £3.5m a year to its cabbies.

'Advertising is equally popular with owner-drivers and fleet owners and many of our drivers have been with us for years. Even now, after more than a decade of trading, new drivers and fleets sign up to carry ads each year,' says managing director Andrew Barnett.

'We find that owner-drivers are often referred to us by friends who have benefited from the extra money that comes from carrying advertising. It is a very real way to offset some of the expenses of running a cab, or indeed a fleet of cabs, in London.'

Different strokes

Along with owner-drivers and fleet owners, Sherbet London has another side to its business model as CEO Asher Moses explains: 'We have our own fleet of 550 taxis we rent to drivers. Our taxi advertising deals help keep the cost of the taxi rental low and boosts their earning potential. Drivers who carry ads on their taxis are offered paid PR work and a range of rewards, from cash to free event tickets.'

A former taxi driver himself, Asher says the company is very picky about who it works with. 'We want drivers who are well presented and professional, see driving as a career and are focused on technological change and excellent customer service.'

The full works

From Aer Lingus to eBay, lots of well-known brands use taxis to promote their products. And there are a number of ways that ads can be displayed.

For instance, there's the full wrap (or livery as it is known) and the supersed, where the ad runs along the four panels on each side of the cab. Inside vehicles, companies can be plugged via posters on tip-up seats and drivers can

» Taxi advertising in numbers

Taxi advertising's potential reach of Londoners aged 15 to 34 is **30% higher** than that of media on the London Underground

10.5 million people saw a taxi ad in the last week

A liveried taxi in London carries **12,000** passengers a year

provide campaign-branded receipts (issued on more than half of all taxi journeys).

Sarah Priseman, director of marketing at Ubiquitous, explains: 'Liveried taxis are favoured by advertisers that want to run a straightforward brand campaign. Our most famous one was for Vodafone: it ran for five years on 1,000 taxis in London – you simply couldn't fail to spot it.'

'Supersides tend to appear in short bursts featuring products or seasonal messages. An airline might use this format to promote a flight offer, or a clothing brand to showcase a new collection.'

Money makers

Usually drivers are paid a fixed fee, but some can earn more by becoming an 'Ambassador Driver'. This involves taking on extra activities, such as VIP journeys and product sampling.

Future reference

Verifone Media is another taxi advertising company, with 3,500 drivers on its books.

The company sees tech as the way to go. Along with traditional bodywork advertising, it has 200 cabs carrying digital taxi tops in London, with more and more brands choosing to sell themselves using this low-cost, low-waste option. It's particularly popular in busy areas.

Jim Cohen, sales and marketing director at Verifone, says: 'There is a nice split between companies that advertise across the whole of London and those who target a particular audience. They do this, for instance, by advertising at a specific time of day, or changing the ad content to display a different message depending on where the taxi is and at what time.'

'Now, the next big step will be to get even more taxis involved to reach an even greater audience.'

For more information, go to www.ubiqtaxi.com, www.verifonetaxi.co.uk and www.sherbettaxirentals.com

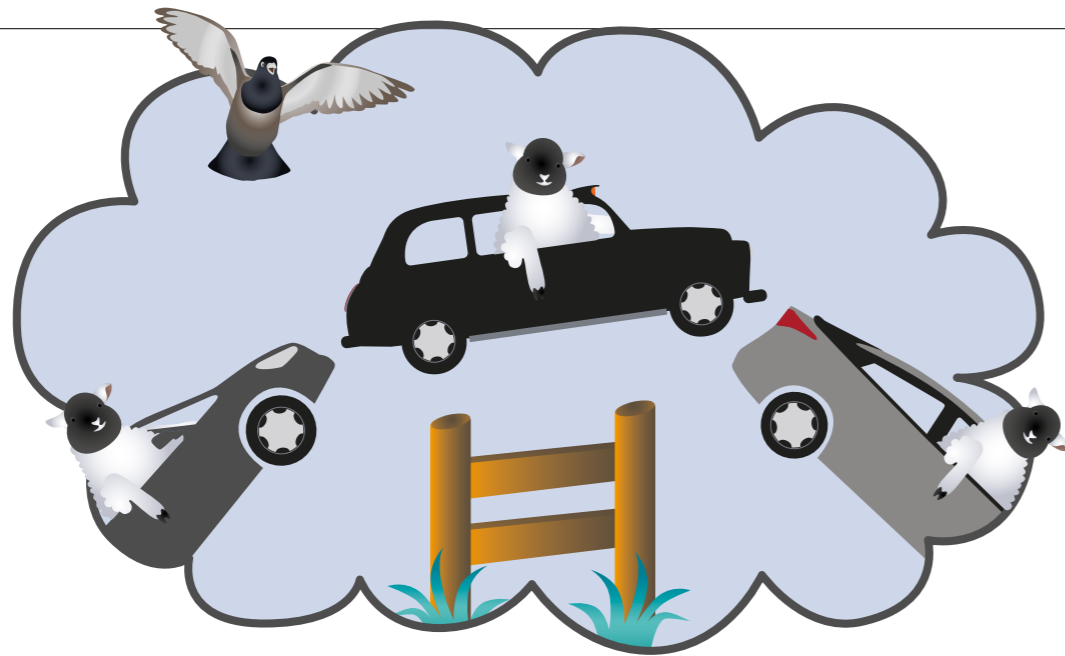
More brands are choosing to sell themselves using the low cost option of digital taxi tops. It's particularly popular in busy areas



» Did you know?

As long as a taxi's bodywork is sound it can be wrapped in a full livery in just a few hours. Vinyl is pre-printed and arrives as 16 separate panels, applied by expert fitters.





Dead tired

For drivers spending long hours on the road, fatigue can have fatal consequences



Tired drivers are thought to be responsible for one in 10 fatal crashes in the UK, with a lack of sleep dramatically affecting their reaction times, attention, awareness and ability to control a vehicle.

Despite this, a survey by charity Brake and insurer Direct Line found that almost half of road users admit to getting behind the wheel after fewer than five hours sleep – the minimum required to combat tiredness.

While taxi and private hire drivers are exempt from the European Working Time Directive, which sets out the hours workers can do, it is still their responsibility to make sure they are in a fit state to drive.

Nodding off

According to the survey, more than a quarter of drivers would rather continue their journey than stop to have a break. Signs of fatigue include:

- Finding it increasingly difficult to concentrate
- Heavy eyelids and eyes starting to roll
- Excessive yawning
- Neck muscles relaxing, which makes the head droop

Drivers who ignore these warning signals risk a 'microsleep', where they nod off for anywhere between two and 30 seconds. In many cases, they are not even aware they have fallen asleep, although one in three admit to having experienced a microsleep at the wheel.

There are a number of factors that contribute to tiredness. For drivers, this includes irregular sleep patterns caused by shift work and modern vehicles with features that make them warm and comfortable.

Alert to the danger

Find out just how much you know about the effects of driver fatigue with this quiz. You can check your answers on the next page.

1 Fatigue is estimated to be a factor in how many road accidents?

A 5 per cent **B** 20 per cent **C** 12 per cent

2 How many tiredness-related collisions involve commercial vehicles?

A 20 per cent **B** 30 per cent **C** 40 per cent

3 On average, for how long can a person drive before they should take a break?

A Three hours **B** Two hours **C** Four hours

4 How far would a vehicle go if the driver has a six-second sleep while travelling at 70mph?

A 200 metres **B** 75 metres **C** 150 metres

5 Fatigue-related accidents are more likely to occur during the early hours and which other time?

A After breakfast **B** After lunch **C** After dinner

6 A driver is how many times more likely to fall asleep at the wheel at 06:00 than at 10:00?

A 20 **B** 10 **C** 5

Hadrian Shutterstock.com



Well rested

The only real cure for tiredness is sleep and having a 15-minute doze can be more effective than pulling over and walking around. Drinking caffeine before a nap also helps as it gives the caffeine time to take effect.

Keep your vehicle well ventilated and at a moderate temperature and set your seat to a comfortable upright position. If you start to feel tired, pull over, open a window, turn up the air conditioning, listen to music or have a chat. But if you start to recognise the warning signs, it's time to call it a day.

Highway Code Rule 91

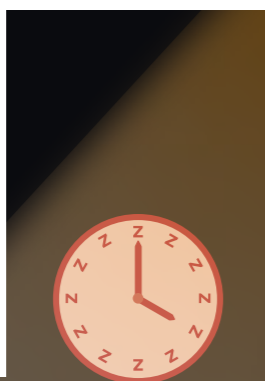
Driving while tired greatly increases your risk of being involved in a collision.

- Make sure you are fit to drive. Do not begin a journey if you are tired and get a good night's sleep before going on a long journey
- Plan your journey to take sufficient breaks
- If you feel sleepy, stop in a safe place. Do not stop on the hard shoulder of a motorway
- The most effective ways to counter tiredness are to drink, for example, two cups of caffeinated coffee and to take a short nap (at least 15 minutes)

●●● For more information and advice on tiredness and driving, visit brake.org.uk

Did you know?

Driving when tired can have the same effect as drink-driving. People who have been awake for **17 hours** will find their ability just as impaired as someone who has had **2 glasses of wine**

**Answers****1 B - 20 per cent**

According to the Department for Transport, fatigue plays a part in a fifth of all road accidents. Up to a quarter (25 per cent) of fatal and serious collisions can be linked to tiredness.

2 C - 40 per cent

Professional drivers, including taxi and private hire drivers, are particularly at risk as they typically spend longer at the wheel. Long working hours, irregular shift patterns, busy schedules and driving at night contribute to the risk of a crash.

3 B - Two hours

Research has found that driving deteriorates after just two hours behind the wheel. After this, people become less able to concentrate and react to hazards. The longer you drive for, the more time you need to recover, so it is recommended you take a 15-minute break every couple of hours.

4 A - 200 metres

Microsleeps can last for just a few seconds, but have severe consequences. Travelling 200 metres while dozing would be enough distance to cross three lanes of traffic.

5 B - After lunch

There is an increased tendency to sleep between midnight and 06:00, and from 14:00 to 16:00. This is because of changes to body rhythm. There is also a natural instinct to feel tired after a large meal, so avoid eating anything too heavy at lunchtime.

6 A - 20 times

The likelihood of falling asleep at the wheel is 20 times greater at 06:00 compared with 10:00. Accidents caused by drivers falling asleep tend to be high-speed collisions because they do not brake, so there is a greater risk of death or serious injury.

Don't be an idler

Switching off your engine can help save lives

Air pollution affects everyone who lives and works in London. Each year, around 9,400 premature deaths in the Capital are attributed to illnesses related to poor air quality. And drivers sitting in stationary vehicles with their engines running are just as affected as those out on the street.

The two pollutants of most concern in London are:

- **Particulate matter (PM)**
Particles with a diameter of 10 microns or less (PM10) can be inhaled deep into the lungs impairing their function and can lead to asthma
- **Nitrogen dioxide (NO₂)**
At high concentrations, NO₂ can inflame and harm the bronchial system. Long-term exposure can affect lung function and breathing

What you need to know and do

Under the Road Traffic (Vehicle Emissions) Regulations 2002, it is illegal to leave your engine running when stationary and you could risk a fixed penalty notice of £20. If you're stationary and waiting more than a couple of minutes for a customer, switch your engine off. This can also save you money on fuel.

Taking action

Since October last year, 12 boroughs across London have been taking part in the vehicle idling action campaign, where drivers have been asked to switch off their engines while parked. Supported by the Mayor's Air Quality Fund, the campaign runs until the end of this month with enforcement officers and volunteers talking to drivers and spreading the word about the effects of idling vehicles.

The campaign will finish at the end of March but there are four more action days planned: on 20 March in Tower Hamlets; 24 March at Great Ormond Street Hospital; 29 March in Clapham; and 30 March at Peckham Rye Station.

When you keep a vehicle's engine idling it can produce nearly twice as much exhaust emissions as it does while moving

Did you know?

Switching off a vehicle's engine when it's stationary for more than **1 minute** could reduce PM10 emissions by around **290g per day** or at least **90kg per year**

This is the equivalent amount of pollution produced by a medium-sized diesel car travelling **2.5 million kilometres** or **62 trips** around the world.

**London's top five air pollution hotspots 2016***

Wandsworth
Putney High Street

Lambeth
Brixton Road

Westminster
Oxford Street

City of London
Walbrook Wharf

Camden
Holborn

*Data from King's College

Pick up your phone, pick up six points

It has been illegal to use a handheld mobile while driving since 2003. But that hasn't stopped some people from reaching for their phones

Between 6 April 2016 and 27 February this year there were 9,560 mobile phone offences in London, while in 2015, 22 people were killed and 99 seriously injured in accidents where a driver was using their phone.

Even careful drivers can be distracted by a call or text on their phone and a split-second lapse in concentration could result in a crash.

Last year, a survey of 1,714 UK drivers by the RAC (see separate box) found 31 per cent admitting to using their mobile while driving. Now the penalties have been increased. Since 1 March, you get six penalty points on your licence and a £200 fine. Having points on your licence could increase the cost of your insurance and you can be banned from driving if you get 12 points in three years.

What the law says:

- It's illegal to use a handheld mobile when driving. This includes using your phone to follow a map, read a text or check social media. This applies even if you're stopped at traffic lights or queuing in traffic
- You can only use a handheld phone if you are safely parked or need to call 999 or 112 in an emergency, and it's unsafe or impractical to stop
- Using hands-free (where the phone is in a cradle or you are using earphones or a Bluetooth connection) is not illegal. However, if this distracts you and affects your ability to drive safely, you can still be prosecuted by the police
- It is illegal to use handheld microphones or to hold your phone out on loudspeaker

Siwan Hayward, TfL's head of transport policing, said: 'The number of people killed or seriously injured on London's roads continues to fall, however distraction remains one of the key sources of road danger.'

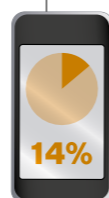
'The rising trend of collisions involving the use of handheld mobile phones is deeply concerning to us. This is why we are stepping up our activity with the Metropolitan Police Service and other partners to address this issue and make our roads safer for everyone.'

The day the new penalties were introduced (1 March) 565 drivers were reported for mobile phone offences.

So don't use your mobile while driving – keep it out of reach or in a cradle and concentrate on the road ahead.

For more information, see the letters page (p25).

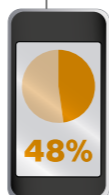
From the RAC's Report on Motoring 2016



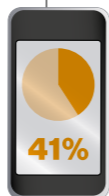
of drivers surveyed admitted using their phone at the wheel to make or receive calls while in stationary traffic



think it is acceptable to check social media while sitting in traffic



said they have used their mobiles to take photos or videos while at the wheel



of motorists say that drivers using handheld mobile phones is one of their top four concerns



said they had been distracted by their mobile ringing



How to... sit the new topographical test

Before being licensed, private hire drivers in London must pass a topographical test held in a TfL-approved centre. Martin Mahoney, one of TfL's 20 topographical skills assessors, talks us through the process



Martin continues: 'On the day of the test we ask them to arrive at the centre an hour before their allotted time to pay any fees and go through a safety briefing.'

'My colleagues and I are responsible for setting up the assessment room ensuring we can move between the desks so we can oversee proceedings. Candidates are invited into the room and are given an atlas of London and a magnifying glass, then we talk them through the process and what our role is. We carry out ID checks against their passport or driver's licence, which they must bring with them on the day. Only TfL's assessors are allowed in the room while the assessment is in progress.'

Where are we going and how do we get there?

'The first five questions all concern how to look up destinations and specific roads with their grid references. Questions two, three and four are all based on how to get from A to B from start to finish, including the postcodes candidates will go through. There are also questions about their general knowledge of London including motorways and airports and they have two hours to complete the assessment.'

Results are sent to candidates by email or letter within 10 working days. If they fail, the team will let them know what to do next.

If candidates do not pass the assessment after two attempts they must make a new licensing application. At present the pass rate is between 35 and 40 per cent.

●●● If you have any queries, please call the topographical team on 0343 222 4444 or email tphpto@tfl.gov.uk

For a list of the assessment centres, go to tfl.gov.uk/tph

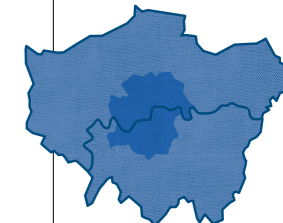
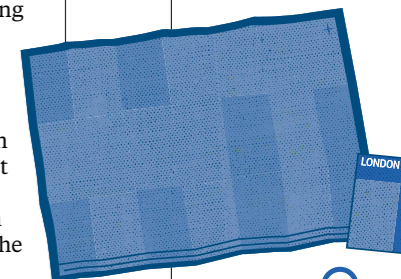
Before you can sit an assessment you must send your private hire driver application through to TfL.

'All the centres are listed on the TfL website and potential licensees should call the topographical team and let them know which one they would like to attend and we will book them in for the assessment.'

The centres are open either mornings or afternoons, Monday to Friday, and host one session per day so candidates should check before booking. Some centres do charge so this should also be checked.

“ Only our assessors are allowed in the room while the assessment is in progress ” Martin Mahoney

A to B



A touch of class



Classic cabs are alive and well thanks to the London Vintage Taxi Association



“When I’m out with the hood down, people pull up alongside me at lights and shout “I bet mine won’t be around at that age!”” Doug Cheshire



» Did you know..?

- Taxis were called Low-Loaders in the 1930s because they were required to have a flat floor
- Before WWII, taxis came in different colours. The name ‘black cab’ arose in the late 1940s when the FX3 model was launched and there was a shortage of paint – except for black
- When the FX4 was launched in the 1950s, it was the first cab not to have an open luggage platform
- The 1966 FX4 was known as the Bunny Ear because the indicators were not on the front and back like a modern car. Instead it had a single indicator on the roof
- Vintage classification is usually anything pre-1930s; after that it is technically post-vintage

Watch any popular period drama and chances are you’ll spot a vehicle belonging to a member of the London Vintage Taxi Association (LVTA).

The oldest, a Unic model dating back to 1912, featured extensively in Downton Abbey and Mr Selfridge, while another member owns PEG 1, the taxi driven by Charles Hawtrey in the 1963 film Carry on Cabby.

Formed in 1978, the association now has around 330 members in the UK, with affiliated members across the globe – from the US and New Zealand to Japan.

» The LVTA by numbers

70 vintage London taxis owned by US members

2011 the year of the youngest TX4 taxi owned by a member

£29 annual membership fee

Enthusiasts come from all walks of life and around five per cent are, or were, taxi drivers, including the current chair, Gary Zylberszac.

Gary is the proud owner of a 1974 Austin FX4, a decommissioned Fairway and a TX1. He also has a 1955 Austin FX3 sitting in the docks in Southampton awaiting collection. ‘I’ve repatriated it after it was exported in 1965,’ he says.

‘I’ve taken my FX4 to our own LVTA rallies, other classic car events and shows around the UK, and even as far as our EU section rally in Holland – and I didn’t cheat using a trailer! Of course, you see other vehicles at these shows and

Vintage cabs on show

9 April London Bus Preservation Trust Spring Gathering, London Bus Museum, Brooklands Road, Weybridge. www.londonbusmuseum.com

7 May Chestnut Sunday Parade, Bushy Park, Hampton Court. www.royalpalaces.org.uk

27-29 May Enfield Pageant of Motoring, Whitewebbs Museum of Transport, Whitewebbs Road, Enfield. www.whitewebbsmuseum.co.uk

Picture caption left: Doug Cheshire’s taxi Thomas outside Buckingham Palace. Above anticlockwise starting top right: Doug driving Thomas; Vintage taxis on Remembrance Sunday on Westminster Bridge and at Waterloo Station; Beardmore taxi in Remembrance Sunday livery; Vintage taxis at Goodwood Revival 2015

they always look better than your cab, so it’s often back into the workshops to try and improve it and make it more authentic.

‘I think we love these vehicles because they recreate happy memories of times gone by.

‘Whenever you watch a movie about the Capital, there is always a taxi in it. It’s an icon that shouts “London”.’

A tale of two taxis

Doug Cheshire, a former design and technology teacher and chair of the association for eight years, owns two 1930s taxis.

‘My first vintage car was a 1934 Austin 12 and I used to drive it to school. I loved it,’ he says. ‘It had the old running boards on it and the kids called me Al Capone.

‘When the chance came up to buy the taxis we have now, I couldn’t resist. My wife and I couldn’t agree on the blue or the maroon one – so we bought both!’

Doug earns money by renting the two taxis, Thomas and Bertie, out for film work and special occasions, such as weddings and fairs. He and his fellow members also do a lot of fundraising for charity including offering their time and taxis for free every Remembrance

Sunday, when they transport veterans from Waterloo Station to the Cenotaph.

Doug explains: ‘People always stop to look at vintage taxis, so it’s a good way to grab a donation.’

As well as being easy on the eye, Doug says these taxis are pretty straightforward to drive and fairly easy to maintain. He can get most engine parts and tyres through the Vintage Austin Register or other Austin clubs, although body parts and radiators have to be hand-made.

••• To find out more, go to www.lvta.co.uk



Dream machine

If he could design his own taxi, Ian Beetlestone would add some rather special features – but it certainly wouldn't be driverless!

“The taxi of my dreams would definitely be able to fly. I couldn't count the number of times someone's told me I'm going the wrong way from Shaftesbury Avenue to Mayfair, as I follow a gyratory that momentarily points us away from their destination.

So yes, there'd definitely be a button I could press that would open up the roof, pop out some rotors, lift me off the road at the bottom of Shaftesbury Avenue and gently drop me back down again on the other side of Piccadilly Circus. Failing that, at least an ejector seat that could just pop the passenger out and let them land over in Mayfair without me.

There would certainly be a button that turned the wheels into jet skis and waterproofed the chassis because it would be marvellous to drive amphibiously across the river.

It would have a sophisticated GPS system that uses some form of telepathy. It could tell me not only which roads are closed or gridlocked like Google does, but when someone is just settling their bill in the Ivy with the intention of stepping outside and finding the most convenient means of transportation to Terminal 5, or Edinburgh.

For comfort, the cab would hover slightly above the road and handle speed bumps like minor turbulence. The seats would be richly upholstered



and luxuriantly stuffed, there'd be WiFi and phone charging and free drinks and treats. And a bin. Oh, and we'd be able to hear each other through the intercom. Also the windscreen wipers wouldn't leave smears, the electric elements in the back window would clear the mist completely, and the meter lightbulb would never, ever blow.

All of this, of course, would be housed in the body of a classic 1960s Fairway, because no vehicle more beautiful has ever graced the streets of London or any other city in the world. And if it wasn't a shiny jet black, it would have a glorious rainbow livery and spread a message of joy and love everywhere it went. Which as it happens, mine already does.

Chris Jenner Shutterstock, Inc; GeorgeHetherington Shutterstock, Inc; Chris Dorney Shutterstock, Inc

Top 5 transport innovations



1 The wheel
It would have to be really, wouldn't it, because without it I couldn't be a taxi driver!



2 The A to Z
The Bible for Londoners, from newcomers to the most experienced cabbie.



3 The elevator
Without it the New York skyline would have been impossible and London would go on all the way to the English Channel.



4 The Channel Tunnel
Its job of turning Paris into somewhere almost as easy to get to as Peckham deserves great credit.



5 The Fairway
Icon of London and the taxi trade the world over, the most beautiful cab a passenger ever hailed.

Letters

Email us at OnRoute@tfl.gov.uk. We will print a selection of emails every issue – and there's a £20 Amazon voucher on offer for the best.

Star letter

Using your mobile while driving



Can you clarify the law regarding the use of mobile phones in taxi and private hire vehicles and their point of position in vehicles please?

@mightyming52

The law regarding using a handheld mobile phone while driving has not changed: it is still illegal. The Government's 'Think' website makes it clear that you can only use a handheld phone if you are safely parked or need to call 999 or 112 in an emergency and it is unsafe or impractical to stop. Hands-free use (eg for navigation) is not illegal. However, if it distracts you and affects your ability to drive safely, you can still be prosecuted by the police.

What has changed is the penalty – from 1 March, motorists using a handheld phone while driving will receive six points on their licence and a £200 fine.

For more advice on using mobile phones, turn to our story on p20. Our article on p8 features advice from the police on positioning cradled mobile phones in your vehicle.



Great Ormond Street Hospital would like to say a huge thank you to all the London taxi drivers who supported our Bad Hair Day fundraising campaign on Friday 10 February. By sporting your best bad hair in the Capital and brightening up the roads of London with your colourful rooftop adverts for our campaign, you have helped to raise vital funds that will help make a real difference to the lives of seriously ill children from across the UK. Thank you so much.

Laura Savory, head of community fundraising at Great Ormond Street Hospital children's charity



For more information on how you can support this charity, please visit www.gosh.org

From our Twitter feed



>> We say...

🚩 If your badge/licence is lost/stolen you can email TPH.Enquiries@tfl.gov.uk to request a replacement or call 0343 222 4444

🚩 Please report touting with full details to the police on 101 and using our form tfl.gov.uk/tph-report

🚩 We're contacting eligible existing drivers out of work due to DBS delays to help them to continue working.

>> You say...

🚩 How many of your compliance officers are PH drivers and how many are licensed taxi drivers?
Glen88cab via Twitter

Any private hire or taxi driver who is successful in an application to become a compliance officer will be required to surrender their badge/licence to avoid a conflict of interest.



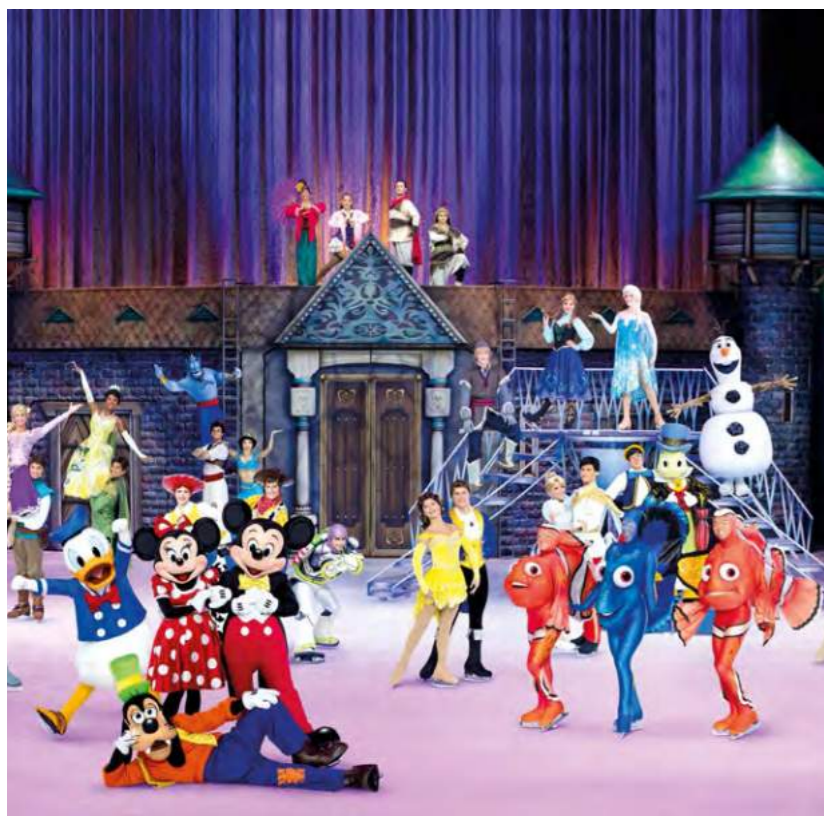
Do you know?

- 1 In what year did the walkway at the top of Tower Bridge close and why?
- 2 Which church in Fleet Street is believed to have been the inspiration for the tiered wedding cake?
- 3 Where did Mayfair get its name from?
- 4 Where is London's shortest road and how long is it?
- 5 How many miles of road does London roughly have?

1. 1910 owing to lack of use 2. St Bride's 3. It's named after a fair that used to be held in the area every May 4. Leigh Hunt Street. It's just 11 metres long before it gets cut off by a park. 5. 9,197 miles

Calendar

March



- 21 March**
Emeli Sandé concert
Brixton Academy
- 24 March**
A. R. Rahman concert
Wembley Arena
- Ideal Home Show 2017**
Olympia (until 9 April)
- The Stranglers concert**
Brixton Academy
- 25 March**
Nicky Jam concert
Wembley Arena
- Craig David concert**
O2 Arena (and 26 March)
- Saracens vs Bath rugby match**
Allianz Park
- Disney on Ice**
Wembley Arena (until 2 April)
- Rugby: Schools Day**
Twickenham
- 30 March**
Olly Murs concert
O2 Arena (until 1 April)
- 31 March**
All Time Low concert
Brixton Academy



April



- 1 April**
Teenage Cancer Trust: The Who concert
Royal Albert Hall
- 2 April**
National and Organic Products event
ExCeL Arena (and 3 April)
- Boat Race 2017**
West London
- 7 April**
London Golf Show
ExCeL Arena (until 9 April)
- 8 April**
World Cup of Gymnastics
O2 Arena
- The Wedding Fair**
ExCeL Arena (and 9 April)
- Parkway Drive concert**
Brixton Academy
- Saracens vs Harlequins rugby match**
Wembley Stadium
- Bath vs Leicester rugby match**
Twickenham
- 9 April**
Craig David concert
Wembley Arena
- Olivier Awards 2017**
Royal Albert Hall
- Islington 10k**
Streets surrounding Emirates Stadium
- Lambeth 10k run**
Kia Oval
- 13 April**
Harlem Globetrotters basketball match
Wembley Arena
- Tall Ships Regatta 2017**
(until 16 April)
- 14 April**
Diversity Genesis Tour 2017
O2 Arena



- 16 April**
The Original Harlem Globetrotters basketball match
O2 Arena
- 19 April**
London Marathon Exhibition
ExCeL Arena, (until 22 April)
- 20 April**
The Stitching, Sewing and Hobbycraft Show
ExCeL Arena (until 22 April)
- 22 April**
Mothers' Summit event
ExCeL Arena
- 23 April**
Alkaline concert
Brixton Academy
- Frankie Valli concert**
O2 Arena
- London Marathon**
Central London
- 27 April**
Middlesex vs Sussex cricket
Royal London One Day Cup, Lord's
- 29 April**
Grand Designs event
ExCeL Arena (until 7 May)
- Army vs Navy rugby match**
Twickenham



May



- 2 May**
Surrey vs Essex cricket
Royal London One Day Cup
Kia Oval
- 5 May**
Surrey vs Middlesex cricket
Royal London One Day Cup
Kia Oval
- 6 May**
London Pet Show
ExCeL Arena (and 7 May)
- Rugby Union Cup finals**
Twickenham
- 7 May**
England vs Ireland cricket,
Lord's
- Hackney Half Marathon 2017**
Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park, Stratford
- 9 May**
Bob Dylan concert
Wembley Arena



Conveniently, all
London taxis now
accept cash, card
and contactless

Search TfL Improvements



MAYOR OF LONDON



**TRANSPORT
FOR LONDON**
EVERY JOURNEY MATTERS