

## FROM THE PAPERS

Items for “From the Papers” should be sent to Ian McKenzie at 24 Thamespoint, Fairways, Teddington, TW11 9PP (or E-Mail [secretary@lurs.org.uk](mailto:secretary@lurs.org.uk)), and not to the Editor of this journal. Please ensure that contributions are identified by date and source publication.

**03.07.17 EVENING STANDARD** – With 150K visitors a day and good transport links this could soon be London’s most popular art gallery. Artist Daniel Buren has transformed the entrances and ticket hall at Tottenham Court Road station into a public art gallery. He said he hoped the work, called *Diamonds and Circles*, would be a “beautiful bubble of oxygen for the spirit” for commuters. He added: “Museums attract only a portion of the population. The public in the Underground station is everyone”. (See also page 614, this issue – Ed.).

**03.07.17 EVENING STANDARD** – London’s 24-hour transport network is expanding again after it was announced that part of the Overground will run through the night on Fridays and Saturdays from December, between New Cross Gate and Dalston Junction, and this will be extended to Highbury & Islington next year. It means passengers will be able to travel across even more of the capital 24 hours a day as the new service will connect with Canada Water station on the Jubilee Line – part of the *Night Tube* network, which has seen 6.5M journeys since it began last year. The new 24-hour Overground services will not call at Whitechapel station until September next year because of Crossrail work. TfL hopes to extend the *Night Tube* to parts of the Metropolitan, Circle, District and Hammersmith & City lines at some point after 2023.

**05.07.17 EVENING STANDARD** – *Letter by Rosie Bedford* – “The mayor’s decision to extend 24-hour services at weekends to the Overground will not only be a boost to the economy but also the south and east London night-time scene. Places such as Hackney and Battersea will go back on London’s night-time map”.

**05.07.17 EVENING STANDARD** – *Letter from David Kaner* – “Your report that the Overground will start running 24-hours on Friday and Saturday nights is welcome for those who use the lines but not for those who live adjacent to them. I am pleased that the Mayor is encouraging an “agent in charge” policy whereby those who, for example, bring noise into a residential area are responsible for making sure it does not harm existing occupiers. He should now require TfL to do the same for the areas around and above lines and stations which are now to be open from early Friday until late Sunday evening”.

**06.07.17 METRO** – Claustrophobic commuters could find their journeys less stressful thanks to a new map showing which stations and sections of the Underground are underground. People may not be aware but more than half of the 270 stations on the Underground network are actually above ground. The map has been created by TfL so that passengers living with anxiety conditions can use routes that avoid long stretches of tunnel. The design also shows which Overground, DLR and TfL rail services are in tunnels. Parts of the lines have been given a grey overlay to illustrate underground areas. Nicky Lidbetter from *Anxiety UK* said: “This new map is an excellent resource for those wishing to avoid journeys where there are tunnels; serving as a great pre-journey planning aid and increasing access to public transport. I sincerely hope that the map will encourage those with claustrophobia and/or panic attacks who have previously avoided this form of public transport out of fear, to reconsider their use of the Underground”.

**06.07.17 EVENING STANDARD** – A man wanted in connection with the violent mugging of a 92-year-old woman in Hackney last week, is evading police by travelling on the Underground and other trains and may commit more offences, police said today. They issued a London-wide alert for the 28-year-old, described as a “violent, dangerous and unpredictable individual” who has absconded from a medium-secure mental health unit in Hackney.

**11.07.17 THE TIMES** – *By columnist Ann Treneman* – “In New York a few months ago, I spied a sign on a Subway train showing a man levitating lengthways beside a pole. “Poles are for your safety, not your latest routine,” it warned. It added: “Hold the pole, not our attention. A Subway car is no place for show time”. It’s all part of a “common courtesy” campaign, targeting the likes of “pole-hogging” and “man-spreading”. The sign for the latter shows a man legs so far apart they are almost in different

carriages, with the words: "Dude .... stop the spread. It's a space issue". Sadly, all countries have to endure man-spreading but I didn't realise the pole problem had made it here until last week. On the Northern Line a young guy was twirling like mad as he performed a hip-hop pole dance, leaving the rest of us cowering. Surely that sort of behaviour should be confined to the Circle Line".

**12.07.17 THE TIMES** – *By columnist Matthew Parris* – "While I'm collecting politically incorrect epithets, would it be racist for me to make an observation about different races' manners on the Underground? I've reached the age when kind younger people start offering you their seats so, using the Underground all the time when in London, I'm able to amass evidence. Without any question it is black and brown men and women (British and foreign) who are quickest to offer an elderly, disabled or pregnant passenger their seat. Next in this league of courtesy come white non-British Europeans. In all groups, younger people are more considerate than middle-aged ones. So at the bottom of the league come older white British people. There! Let's hope Ukippy types brand me a race-traitor – or maybe a leukophobe".

**13.07.17 EVENING STANDARD** – Sometimes rush hour can be the pits. Back in 2013, Geri Horner (née Halliwell), took to the Underground for the first time in 17 years, tweeting tips on how to get a good seat. Evidently she's a convert – last night she and her husband, F1 supremo Christian Horner, took the Northern Line into town for the *F1 Live* celebrations in Trafalgar Square. They were joined by dedicated petrol heads Natalie Pinkham – Sky sports F1 reporter – and Naomi Campbell, who looked the part in white overalls as she posed with Ferrari star duo Kimmi Räikkönen and Sebastian Vettel. Something tells us she didn't get the Underground!

**14.07.17 METRO** – Look out for coded messages displayed on posters on the Northern Line from today. UL artist Emma Smith has walked the length of the Northern Line extension, collecting messages from local residents and businesses about what being a neighbour means to them. The 10-word messages – roughly the length of an old telegram – were translated into Morse Code, and then made into a musical score. The work commissioned by *Art on the Underground* and is the first in a series of commissions in the build-up to the completion of the extension in 2020.

**14.07.17 WATFORD OBSERVER** – While funding for the Metropolitan Line Extension (MLE) appears to have dried up, plans for the new station in Watford are still being amended and updated. Following discussions between LU and Watford Borough Council, plans outlining amendments to the design of the proposed Vicarage Road station were submitted. The proposed changes to the station include the introduction of new "back of the house" and escape routes to the north and south of the station. Under the plans, the planned Vicarage Road bridge deck-span will also be removed and replaced, while new vehicle restraint systems will be installed to "facilitate the interface" with the proposed station. Plans to amend the "urban realm" surrounding the station were also put forward. A planning document on the council's website points to proposals to sell the line to TfL once it is completed, although there are still question marks over whether the scheme will ever come to fruition after the project was left out of the Mayor of London's transport plans for the second time. Despite mentions of improvements on most other Underground lines, including extensions to the Northern and Overground lines – the MLE to Watford was left out of the Mayor's plans. The project received £49M from previous Mayor Boris Johnson, but recent TfL cost projections show that a further £50M will be required before construction can progress. The £284M project will connect Croxley with the two new stations.

**14.07.17 WATFORD OBSERVER** – *Comment by Matt Lennon* – "Ambitious plans for a new train link which could transform Watford into a shining, modern example of progress, seem to have been in the pipeline for an eternity now. At first it seemed as though the project would materialise quickly, opening up the town to a wealth of investment possibilities while at the same time making commuting to and from the capital a breeze. However, a financial wrangle between TfL and the DfT have stopped the scheme dead in its tracks, with neither side willing enough to cough up the additional £50M needed. But all is not lost. Behind the scenes, planning work to make the project a reality is ongoing quietly. Hopefully this will mean that as soon as the funds are made available, we can put spade to earth and make some real headway on construction. If not, we are going to have some very red faced officials. Millions of pounds from the public purse have already been spent on the project. It is now in everyone's interests that we push forward on all fronts, lest that scarce public money be wasted".

**14.07.17 DAILY EXPRESS** – Public transport chiefs faced ridicule last night after banning staff from referring to passengers as "ladies and gentlemen". The "ludicrous" move has been made to avoid upsetting people who define themselves as transgender. TfL has told its employees to use terms such

as “good morning everyone” instead. The change will lead to the revision of pre-recorded announcements. It follows months of campaigning by the LGBT community; but many commuters described the idea as daft. One said: “There are only two genders, male and female, regardless of what you identify as. I would rather they put more effort into providing a clean and punctual and efficient service”. Mayor Sadiq Khan backed the plans and said: “TfL serves a vibrant, diverse and multicultural city and provision of an inclusive transport service is at the heart of TfL’s purpose. I am aware that some passengers may not relate to and feel comfortable with the way that certain station announcements are made. I am keen that TfL addresses those concerns by speaking in a more neutral way when referring to gender. From time to time, well-meaning staff may still use the term “ladies and gentlemen”. If this happens frequently, TfL will issue reminders to staff”. A TfL spokesperson said: “We want everyone to feel welcome on our transport network. We have reviewed the language that we use in announcements and elsewhere and will make sure that it is fully inclusive”. A gender issues campaigner said: “The terms “ladies” or “gentleman” and “sir” or “madam” are intended to be polite but really belong to yesterday. Using them inappropriately can cause great distress and often results in complaints”.

**14.07.17 EVENING STANDARD** – A new poster campaign to help support the thousands of Londoners who suffer from mental illness was launched today. Mayor Sadiq Khan has joined forces with more than 200 experts – including charities, clinicians and academics – to set up the *Thrive LDN* campaign, tackling the stigma of mental health. The posters which ask: “Are we OK London?” are to appear on 200 Underground stations for the next two weeks. Experts estimate that as many as 2M Londoners have suffered a mental health episode in their lives. The *Thrive LDN* campaign aims to improve Londoners’ understanding of mental health – stamping out discrimination by working with schools, youth organisations and employers. It will also use digital technology to boost access to support and services, including new ways of talking about the issue at “Problem Solving Booths” – where people can help each other – a social media campaign and a new website. The booths will be located on the Underground between Acton Town and Hounslow East on the Piccadilly Line today between 13.00 and 15.30.

**18.07.17 METRO** – King’s Cross St. Pancras station was given a stark make-over yesterday to launch the new season of *Game of Thrones*. The North ticket hall was transformed to look like a scene from the TV series, complete with The Iron Throne, where fans could have their picture taken. Frosty imagery was projected on digital screens and escalator panels, and a live band busked the famous theme song. *White Walkers*, *Henchman* and the *Night King* obviously knew the best way to get around London by public transport – in addition to King’s Cross St. Pancras, they were spotted at Waterloo, Paddington and Liverpool Street stations. *Game of Thrones* premiered on Sky Atlantic yesterday. The activity was part of an advertising campaign booked through *Hello London*, the media partnership between TfL and *Exterior Media*, generating funds to invest in transport.

**18.07.17 EVENING STANDARD** – Hundreds of thousands more Londoners will suffer chronic overcrowding on the Underground if Crossrail 2 does not go ahead. TfL released a list of 17 Underground stations that could buckle under the strain of too many commuters within a few years. They include key transport interchanges such as Euston, London Bridge and Victoria used by millions of Londoners every day. Clapham Junction main line station, already one of the busiest in the UK, could also struggle to cope. The TfL document reveals the capital’s transport network will be so overcrowded by the 2030s that Underground stations could be forced to bring in drastic measures such as permanent one-way systems or regular closures. A London Assembly member said: “Planning ahead for Crossrail 2 is not an optional extra for London’s transport network, but of vital importance to keep London moving”. Mayor Sadiq Khan has warned that the capital’s transport network will grind to a halt unless the Government backs the cross-London rail link. The £32B infrastructure project would increase the capital’s rail capacity by 10%. Yet London politicians and businesses remain concerned that ministers could be going cool on the project. It was not mentioned in the Tory manifesto or the Queen’s Speech.

**20.07.17 EVENING STANDARD** – Contractors BAM, Ferrovial and Keir (BFK) on the £15B Crossrail project face heavy fines after admitting failures that led to the death of one worker, and two others suffering serious injuries. The worker was killed on 7 March 2014 when a ton of wet concrete fell on him as he worked in a tunnel at the Fisher Street site in Holborn. His inquest heard no barrier had been erected to stop him and his co-workers entering the dangerous area. The jury returned a narrative

verdict that the definition and supervision of the dangerous zone was unclear and that briefings for workers were only translated on an ad hoc basis. The firms also admitted breaches over the injuries to three other workers.

**21.07.17 EVENING STANDARD** – A proposed ban on smelly food on New York’s subway network has sparked calls among London’s commuters for similar action on the Underground. The Big Apple’s transport boss Joe Lhota has prompted debate by suggesting a clampdown on hot foods on the Subway, after being subjected to a fellow passenger’s spilt Chinese takeaway. More seriously, a fire caused by takeaway wrappers left nine passengers in hospital earlier this week. His recent experience will resonate with many Londoners, who regularly shame fellow commuters on social media for ruining their journey by eating late night burgers or kebabs. These calls have caused controversy between Subway eaters and those who consider such behaviour abhorrent. Bans are already enforced on subway trains in Washington, San Francisco and Chicago. In 2015 peer Lord Sherbourne called for a ban on hot food on the Underground. Today he called for LU to carry out a “comprehensive survey of passenger opinion” to see if there is support for a ban. Londoners gave broad support to such a scheme. Geoff Marshall, a transport expert who twice broke the record for travelling to all Underground stations in the least time said: “Hot food is a mega no-no. Don’t ever get on the Underground with hot food. Its smelly and it makes a mess”. A TfL spokesman said that while people were “encouraged not to eat smelly foods”, no ban was being considered.

**24.07.17 THE TIMES** – Transport Secretary Chris Grayling has been accused of betraying millions of taxpayers after backing a £30B Crossrail 2 line through London, days after scrapping rail projects across England and Wales. He said that there was “no doubt” that London needed new infrastructure to ease pressure on its overcrowded transport system. He said that Crossrail 2 was likely to go ahead, provided the capital paid for half of the project up front. He said, the move would make the line “fair to the UK taxpayer”. However, political leaders in the north of England criticised his comments. Last week the DfT announced that major projects to electrify railway lines in South Wales, East Midlands and Cumbria were no longer needed.

**24.07.17 EVENING STANDARD** – The £30B Crossrail 2 project took a major step forward as Transport Secretary Chris Grayling confirmed that he supported the scheme. The Minister said there was no doubt London needed new infrastructure in order to retain its status as the UK’s economic powerhouse. His remarks will calm fears among London politicians and businesses that the Government had gone cool on the capital’s flagship infrastructure project. There had been concerns the scheme could be derailed by competing pressures from the North after it was left out of the Tory manifesto and Queen’s Speech. Yet despite the Minister’s backing for the major north-south rail link, there remain questions about how it will be funded. He issued a joint statement with the Mayor announcing plans to work together on a financial package before the autumn Budget. TfL was already expecting to pay for at least half of the cost of the project – but much of it in arrears, as with Crossrail 1. However the DfT has now said it wants half of the construction costs paid up-front.

**25.07.17 EVENING STANDARD** – *Letter by William Barklam* – “Why is there an automatic assumption that all hot food on the Underground smells? I don’t find the average burger and chips pungent at all. What next? Commuters complaining that nobody should wear aftershave or perfume? I can understand concerns if people litter train carriages with produce and packaging. But people need to understand that some less privileged members of society may have to work more than 60 hours a week and don’t have time to sit down, let alone eat. Would that not be a forgivable reason for eating a hot meal on the train?”.

**27.07.17 EVENING STANDARD** – Hundreds of thousands of Underground commuters suffered massive disruption today due to industrial action on the Piccadilly Line and a broken-down train on the Victoria Line. Problems could continue if there is no agreement reached over an indefinite overtime ban begun by RMT engineers at the Northfields and Cockfosters depots which service the Piccadilly Line. The dispute is with *Tube Lines*, a wholly owned subsidiary of LU, which wants to hire workers on temporary contracts to carry out repairs to train wheels. TfL confirmed a “shortage of rolling stock” due to industrial action. The union warned it would consider upgrading the dispute to a full strike depending on the result of peace talks in the next few days. RMT said: “The union has made clear that the union will not sit back and watch while *Tube Lines* rip up agreements and look to open the door to wholesale casualisation of the workforce. It was RMT members who raised problems with the brakes and wheel sets on the Piccadilly Line in the first place and it is appalling that the company have seized on these

serious issues to try to threaten long-term job security. The union has put forward a number of practical proposals that would enable us to move forward without creating a two-tier workforce”.

**28.07.17 METRO** – Some 15,000 tickets to ride on the Post Office’s abandoned underground railway have been bought in the first week after they went on sale. Visitors are eager to explore the network, which last carried post beneath London in 2003 and will begin hosting the passenger services on 4 September. It is part of the new Postal Museum opened in the capital on 28 July with exhibits including a sheet of Penny Black stamps and a gold Olympic Post Box. The Museum’s spokesman said the railway, built in 1927, was way ahead of its time with driverless electric trains – “It has that slight *Mary Celeste* quality. Everybody walked out in 2003 and only now people are walking back in”. *Editor’s comment: It was hardly a ‘walk-out’ in 2003 – it was closed by the Royal Mail.*

**28.07.17 METRO** – *Post by HS* – “Why bother to announce all Underground lines are running normally? It is supremely irritating when you have been waiting an abnormal 15 minutes at Earl’s Court for a District Line train to Edgware Road”.

**28.07.17 EVENING STANDARD** – The everyday sagas of the Underground staff are at it again. *Talk Radio* presenter Julia Hartley-Brewer has uploaded a picture of the message written on the whiteboard at her local Underground station. Under the heading “Service Information”, scrawled in pen, it reads: “Some days you can see the light at the end of the tunnel. Other days it’s a train”.