

## FROM THE PAPERS

**27.06.18 THE TIMES** – LU drivers are to strike on the day President Trump's visit to the capital next month in a dispute over working conditions and staffing. RMT members on the Piccadilly Line will stop work from 21.00 on 11 July until 00.01 on 14 July. Mr. Trump visits on 13 July. About half a million passengers a day travel on the line. The union says too few drivers have been employed and that there are problems with the ageing trains. The RMT general secretary said: "the failure of LU management to get a grip has tipped the situation over the edge yet again." LU said they were available for talks to avert the strike.

**29.06.18 WATFORD OBSERVER** – *Mayor Peter Taylor on the Met Line Extension (MLX)* – "Many were disappointed when London Mayor Sadiq Khan pulled the plug on plans to create a link from Croxley to Watford Junction. It has been a long process, but Mayor Taylor met with representatives from TfL. He insists he will get the money it invested back and look at alternative transport measures. He said: "I've not got my heart set on light rail, a tram, or anything in particular. But we do need to look at the costs associated with different schemes and what transport is possible. TfL say they will work with Herts. County Council as well as us to come up with feasibility studies to see what works. They've got the expertise, they are happy to provide support. From the Government's perspective, they were disappointed that MLX won't happen, so we need to use that to our advantage".

**04.07.18 – 17.07.18 RAIL** – For the Rail Live 2018 at Quinton Rail Technology Centre at Long Marston on 20 June, a special train was arranged from Paddington direct to the Long Marston site utilising the LT Museum restored 4-TC Mk1 set top and tailed by a pair of GBRf Class 73/9 locomotives. Unfortunately the return trip to Paddington was curtailed at Evesham due to a failure on the 4-TC unit that required repairs at Eastleigh Works.

**05.07.18 METRO** – TfL is rolling out colourful roundels across the transport network, in celebration of the capital's LGBT+ community. Passengers travelling around London will be able to spot last year's popular rainbow roundels, which have been updated with a new hashtag, *#EveryLoveMatters*. This encourages everyone to be proud of themselves and love who they are, as well as others. There is also new roundel design being displayed for the first time this year in pink, blue and white, inspired by the trans flag. These roundels can be seen at the following Underground stations: Tottenham Court Road, Earl's Court, Charing Cross, Vauxhall; as well as Shoreditch High Street Overground station, which also has been transformed with rainbow and trans flag inspired benches. City Hall and 55 Broadway are flying the rainbow flag all week to celebrate the capital's diversity.

**05.07.18 METRO** – Adverts warning against sexual harassment on the Underground would be a "powerful" way to tackle the problem, Minister for Women Victoria Atkins has said. She told the Woman and Equalities committee that targeted ads in packed carriages saying, "Please don't think this gives you the right to grab someone", would be effective. Police recorded more than 2,000 sexual offences on the Underground in the past year. She also hit out at the "offensive" portrayal of women in music videos and said she was researching the impact of online porn on attitudes to women.

**05.07.18 METRO** – *Letter by Lola* – "Can I please remind commuters not to block the window of the emergency door on the Underground? On some lines it is the only flow of air that exists and if you have your back to it, that may mean there is no air for the rest of the carriage, making it feel like a sweat box in this heat. If you have to be by the emergency door, please stand at least a couple of steps from it so air can get round you and into the carriage. Remember, it is an emergency door so you shouldn't block it up anyway. Thank you".

**06.07.18 WATFORD OBSERVER** – *Letter by Rodney Salter* – "Watford Mayor Peter Taylor claims to be looking for an alternative to the presently defunct Met. Line Extension (MLE). He must eventually realise that there is no real alternative to this project – it should either be built completely or not built at all. He appears to be considering a light rail/tram system or a guided busway. Both of these will be just as expensive as a properly built MLE – and who will pay for it? Certainly not the Mayor of London. It would be nowhere near as useful, necessitating an awkward change of mode at Croxley. I have said before in these pages that the cheapest option would be to use his limited influence to effect the introduction of an extensive bus service between the town centre and Watford Met. station. Another option to be considered is to persuade Mayor Sadiq Khan to extend the Bakerloo Line to Watford Junction. Three Bakerloo trains per hour, alternating with three Overground would bring about a 100% improvement in the local service at stations north of Harrow & Wealdstone; this would be much cheaper the MLE to Watford Junction, although arguably not as useful. There are already plans to extend the

Bakerloo Line southwards towards Lewisham, which will necessitate the construction of extra trains when the dreadful 1972 Stock is eventually scrapped, so at the same time a couple more can be built to serve Watford". *Editor's Note: The Bakerloo Line used to run to Watford Junction!*

**06.07.18 EVENING STANDARD** – A survivor of the 7 July bombings says he still suffers anxiety from reliving the attack 13 years on. On the eve of the anniversary of the atrocity, Michael Henning told how he finds it difficult to cope as images of the aftermath of the blast on an Underground train near Aldgate. He had been sitting yards from where the terrorist detonated his bomb at 08.51 on 7 July 2005. "The images from the day are still there fresh in my head, they feel so real you feel like you can almost reach out and touch them," he said. "It makes you feel very anxious. The images I cannot shake are the ones where I am down on the floor and the emergency lights are on and you can hear people screaming and whimpering. That lives with me every day. Sometimes you can block out the images but not the sounds". 52 people lost their lives on that day in four bomb blasts – on Circle Line trains near Aldgate and Edgware Road, on a Piccadilly Line train near Russell Square, and on a bus in Tavistock Square. Mr. Henning said, "The terrorists think they are getting back at the state, but they are not, they have ripped apart the people. The state is unscathed. That is what makes it so cowardly."

**13.07.18 WATFORD OBSERVER** – TfL bosses are to be asked to reclassify stations in Watford to give commuters a fairer deal. Currently stations across Watford Borough sit in different transport zones – varying the price of fares, particularly for those commuting to London. Watford Met. station is Zone 7, Watford High Street and Bushey are in Zone 8 and Watford Junction is in Zone W. Councillors want all the borough's stations to be placed in the same Zone – and they believe that it should be Zone 6. They argue that Watford is the same distance from Euston – as Epping is from Liverpool Street. However, Epping is classed as Zone 6 – and that means commuters from Epping can pay £1,400-a-year less to travel 16.5 miles from London than commuters from Watford. At a Council Meeting last week, councillors unanimously agreed that the current situation was "unfair" and resolved that Mayor Peter Taylor should write to TfL and London Mayor Sadiq Khan, to ask that all stations within Watford Borough should be reclassified as Zone 6.

**11.07.18 EVENING STANDARD** – The owners of a dachshund viciously attacked by a larger dog on the Underground have called for new laws to hold negligent pet owners "accountable". The owners had to pay more than £1,000 for veterinary surgery after their two-year old Milo was bitten by a pet whose owner had removed its muzzle. They said the incident occurred as Milo sat on her lap between Highbury & Islington and Finsbury Park. She said, "We didn't even know another dog was in carriage – and out of nowhere this big, grey dog jumped across it and bit him. It happened in the space of one station. I stood up with Milo in my arms and my other half could see that he was bleeding. I turned to the dog's owner to say "control your dog" and saw that the owner had a muzzle in her hands". The Dangerous Dogs Act 1991 does not allow for criminal prosecution of dog-on-dog attacks.

**16.07.18 EVENING STANDARD** – An Underground station has been renamed in honour of England manager Gareth Southgate to celebrate the Three Lions' most successful World Cup campaign in a generation. TfL has changed the signs at Southgate station on the Piccadilly Line to *Gareth Southgate* for 48 hours to mark the team's "incredible journey". The tribute comes after England returned from Russia, with marksman Harry Kane carrying the Golden Boot for scoring six goals in six games, and the national team finished fourth – their best result since Italia '90. Mark Wild, the Underground's managing director, said: "The great performance of England brought people together in celebration. We are delighted to be able to show our appreciation to Gareth and the team".

**18.07.18 – 31.07.18 RAIL** – TfL celebrates Oyster milestone. More than 100M passengers have used TfL's Oyster Card in the 15 years since its introduction on 30 June 2013. The system replaced paper tickets and caps the total cost of journeys. Today, more than 90% of all Underground, bus and rail journeys in the capital are made using smart cards. London's Deputy Mayor for Transport said, "Whether it's the Oyster Card or the development of contactless around the world, TfL continues to be a world leader in using the latest technology to improve the experience of everyone using our public transport network". Later this year TfL will introduce "Monday to Sunday" weekly capping. Passengers who regularly travel using an Oyster Card will see their travel capped at the equivalent of a weekly travelcard.

**18.07.18 – 31.07.18 RAIL** – 13 July marks the 150th anniversary of the Midland Railway commencing passenger services over the Metropolitan City Widened Lines. This was before the opening of its main St. Pancras terminus.

**18.07.18 METRO** – London trams have gone cashless with the removal of the 18-year-old ticket machines across the network. The move follows support from a public consultation last year. Fewer than 66 paper tickets a day were brought across the entire tram network last year, with most passengers choosing Oyster or contactless. This low number means the cost of providing and maintaining ticket machines at every stop is not covered by ticket sales. TfL believes the cost could be better spent on improving the tram network.

**23.07.18 THE TIMES** – The British train manufacturing industry and the procurement of rolling stock by the public sector have been thrown into crisis after Bombardier and Hitachi launched a legal battle to prevent TfL awarding a £2.5B Underground contract to a German rival. The lawsuit, triggered by papers filed at the High Court over the weekend, has implications for another separate high-profile train procurement – the £2.75B contract to build 54 high speed trains for HS2, in which Bombardier and Hitachi are also in competition with Siemens. Last month TfL awarded a £1.5B contract to Siemens to design and build 94 state-of-the-art trains for the Piccadilly Line. The contract to replace decades-old Underground trains includes a further £1B deal to manufacture another 150 trains for the Central, Bakerloo and Waterloo & City lines of the same design. The TfL award triggered a pledge from Siemens to build a £200M factory at Goole to assemble the new trains, creating up to 700 jobs and work for another 1,700 people in the local supply chain. At the time of TfL's decision, Bombardier executives expressed "deep disappointed" at the announcement, prompting suggestions that it and Hitachi had reservations over whether TfL had followed a proper procurement process.