

## FROM THE PAPERS

Items for "From the Papers should be sent to Ian McKenzie at 24 Thamespoint, Fairways, Teddington, TW11 9PP, and not to the Editor of this journal. Please ensure that contributions are identified by date and source publication".

**02.06.11 THE TIMES** – A reader's letter from Keith Virgo suggested the Underground roundel introduced by Frank Pick was actually modelled on the symbol introduced by Samuel Plimsoll in the 1870s to indicate the safe loading level for ships ("the Plimsoll Line"). The same symbol was also adopted by Indian Railways.

**02.06.11 THE WHARF** – The skeleton Canary Wharf station is nearly complete, with ticket halls and platform levels excavated and waiting the arrival of the TBNs next summer. Rail Minister Teresa Villiers visited the site the previous Thursday to see the progress made by the construction team.

**03.06.11 EVENING STANDARD** – Serious Underground delays of 15 minutes or longer, have soared in frequency, with passengers on the five lines all suffering more major disruption in March compared with the same month last year, according to TfL figures. The Bakerloo Line saw serious delays rise from 4 to 14, the Jubilee Line from 10 to 22, the Central Line from 11 to 21, the District Line from 21 to 24 and the Victoria Line from 5 to 8. The figures indicate that there were 123 delays in March, up from 103 in the same month last year. A TfL spokesman claimed Underground performance had improved significantly after "some operating issues over the winter", with 97.5% of services running to schedule. The Jubilee Line has suffered repeated delays due to failures of the new signalling system, but delays on this line had been cut by a third in recent months.

**03.06.11 EVENING STANDARD** – Underground and union bosses today clashed over the £250,000 of public money allegedly spent on sacking Northern Line train driver Arwyn Thomas. The sum, calculated by RMT's lawyers, includes "six-figure" legal costs and bosses' time involving tribunals. LU refused to reveal the bill but said, "the union figures are entirely wrong". The dismissal of Mr. Thomas partly led to the RMT ordering 10 days of strikes, later called off.

**03.06.11 WATFORD OBSERVER** – Hundreds of residents and commuters had the chance to examine advanced plans for the long-awaited Croxley Rail Link this week. This project has been on the drawing board in a number of guises for the past 20 years, will, if funding and planning consent is agreed will link Croxley Green with Watford Junction. It is being promoted by Hertfordshire County Council, in partnership with Network Rail and LU. At a projected cost of £120million, the project will see the development of two new stations, in Ascot Road and at Watford General Hospital. The project is in competition with 22 other major infrastructure projects across the UK. A final outline design application will be submitted this autumn. If all goes to plan a public inquiry will be held in 2012, before a Transport and Works Act Order can be signed and the project given the final go-ahead, with construction commencing in 2014.

**06.06.11 EVENING NEWS** – Commuters suffered Monday morning Underground misery today – after a "transport hell" weekend with disruption on all but two lines. Thousands of rush-hour commuters were hit by a part-suspension of the Metropolitan Line due to a signal failure at Neasden. Jubilee Line services were also disrupted by a broken down train at Canary Wharf. It followed a weekend of closures and delays caused by engineering works, signal failures and power supply problems. The Jubilee Line broke down on Saturday, stranding thousands of football fans leaving Wembley after England's 2-2 tie with Switzerland. For part of Sunday only the Central and Northern lines reported a good service.

**06.06.11 METRO** – Crime on the Underground and DLR went down by 7% last year, and offences on the London bus network dropped by 4%. The new figures released by BT and Met Police reveal that in 2010/11 – violent crime on the bus network was cut by 5%, public disorder offences on the Underground and DLR were down by 11%, vandalism was reduced by 20% for the Underground and DLR and 12% for the buses, theft on the bus network is down 6%. Safer Transport Teams were introduced in all London boroughs. Providing more than 400 Met. officers, and a cycle task force of 40 officers has been created. There are also plans to put another 412 police officers on the transport network next year.

**07.06.11 METRO** – A conceptual artist, Daniel Buren, has been chosen to create a permanent installation for Tottenham Court Road station. It will complement the now iconic 1984 mosaic designs by the late Eduardo Paolozzi. The majority of the Paolozzi mosaics are being preserved in

the upgraded station, while some smaller sections will be carefully removed and displayed elsewhere. Buren will create a colourful series of large scale diamond and circle shapes that will be fixed to the station's internal glass walls.

**07.06.11 METRO** – At Tottenham Court Road station, with the arrival of Crossrail in 2018, at least 200,000 people are expected to pass through daily. When the station fully reopens in 2016 it will boast a new ticket hall nearly six times the current size, step free access from street to platform, new escalators serving the Northern Line, an interchange ready for Crossrail, improved external areas including new station entrances from a pedestrianised plaza outside the landmark Centre Point building.

**08.06.11 METRO** – Of all the things you could leave on the Underground, an invitation to the royal wedding is probably among the most frustrating. It was part of the record amount of lost property left on public transport and taxis in London over the past year. More than 207,000 items were handed in to TfL lost property office. Books were the most common items left behind, with 41,000 handed in, as well as 31,000 bags and 28,000 items of clothing. About a third of the goods were returned to their owners. TfL stores the property for 3 months and after that it is donated to charity, sold or recycled.

**08.06.11 METRO** – Finalists in this year's Rhythm of London Busking Underground competition are being given the chance to perform in a live "busk off" on 30 July as part of Wayne Hemingway's Vintage Festival at Southbank Centre. Mayor Boris Johnson, is asking people to vote online for their favourite young musician. Footage of more than 70 musicians and singers aged between 16 and 25 has been uploaded to the official website. The busker with the highest public vote will join ten others selected by a panel of judges to take part in the final. The winner will receive the coveted prize of a year's licence to busk on the Underground.

**09.06.11 EVENING NEWS** – Commuters are facing the prospect of a wave of Underground strikes set to bring the rush-hour chaos after the row over a sacked driver escalated. Union bosses announced four new strikes that threaten to severely disrupt services over seven days. It marks the latest stage in a dispute between LU chiefs and RMT union over the dismissal of driver Arwyn Thomas. It comes as a fresh blow to Mayor Boris Johnson, whose pledge to "fix" the Underground has been thrown into doubt by continuing delays and industrial disputes.

**09.06.11 METRO** – Millions of Underground users are being tricked into taking longer journeys, because LU's iconic map sends them "all round the houses". It is considered a design classic but the topological map, designed by Harry Beck in 1931, greatly distorts the distance between stations. Using data collected by LU, the New York University academic and Professor of Urban Planning Zhan Guo, compared the actual journeys made by passengers with routes the travel time data showed they "should" have made. Examples given are: Paddington to Lancaster Gate (4 stations and one change or 6 minutes walk), Charing Cross to Embankment (3 minutes walk for 126 metres), Chancery Lane to Farringdon (4 stations and 2 changes or 10 minutes walk), Great Portland Street to Regent's Park (3 stations and one change or 3 minutes walk). In his paper *Mind the Map*, Professor Guo writes, "Passengers often trust the map more than their own travel experience on deciding the 'best' travel path. That is even true for the most experienced passengers".

**09.06.11 METRO** – The number of litter bins on the Underground network has increased by 25% as part of a new campaign encouraging passengers to dispose of their litter. LU launched the litter campaign in partnership with the Mayor, Metro newspapers and Keep Britain Tidy. The aim is to create a tidier and more pleasant environment for passengers, and for more waste to be recycled. Currently more than two thirds of rubbish left on the network is recycled.

**10.06.11 METRO** – Tennis fans face travel misery this summer after series of Underground strikes were scheduled during Wimbledon. Supporters heading for the tournament will be hit as drivers stage a series of walkouts, starting on the opening day. News of the walkouts, which will last between 6 and 24 hours, sparked fears of similar problems during the Olympic Games next year. Up to 1,500 Underground drivers are expected to join the action, called in a long running row over the sacking of a colleague. Apart from the 37,000 or so fans likely to head to Wimbledon each day, the strikes will mean misery for 4 million commuters who use the network.

**13.06.11 EVENING STANDARD** – Culture Secretary Jeremy Hunt accused Underground union bosses of "blackmail plans" for threatening strike action during Wimbledon. He said, "The RMT's plans to strike during Wimbledon looks like nothing more than a cynical attempt to ruin one of our great sporting events. Thousands of fans will be left disappointed if these blackmail plans go ahead". It emerged that LU bosses offered to buy off sacked driver Arwyn Jones, who is at the centre of four

strikes due to start on 19 June. He turned down the cash, insisting he is reinstated. An Employment Tribunal has been adjourned until the end of the month. A spokesman for the RMT, said of the disrupt-Wimbledon claim, “Absolutely not – our dispute is with LU, not tennis fans”.

**13.06.11 EVENING STANDARD** – The Northern Line is to close for at least 2 days at a time on 22 occasions when a major upgrade starts this Autumn. TfL has vowed to learn lessons from the chaotic Jubilee Line upgrade, which has taken 18 months longer than promised. The upgrade, to install a signalling system so that 20% more trains can run, starts in October and includes 5 weekend closures in 2013 and 3 in 2014, and 8 additional weekends during which shorter sections of the line will be closed. Contractors will be told to work more efficiently at night and to do more signalling testing off-site.

**13.06.11 METRO** – The latest figures from TfL show there has been a 35% drop in delays and a 17% increase in journeys since LU became part of TfL in 2003/04. There has been a 12% improvement in reliability of scheduled services. In 2010/11 passengers made more than 1.1 billion journeys. While there was a dip in performance last autumn and winter, due in part to the introduction of new systems on the Jubilee and Victoria lines and industrial action, performance has improved over recent months, returning to previous levels. According to independent surveys, passenger satisfaction has also increased with scores at a 5 year high. (*See also 03.06.11 !! – Ed.*)

**13.06.11 METRO** – A rail union has been accused of ‘blackmail’ over proposed strikes during the Wimbledon championships. Cultural Secretary Jeremy Hunt tweeted, “it seems like an utterly cynical attempt at blackmail at expense of thousands of fans”. RMT leader Bob Crow said workers were simply ‘standing shoulder to shoulder’ with a member who was ‘victimised’.

**14.06.11 METRO** – Essential work to prepare Whitechapel station for Crossrail include changing the current 4-platform layout to a more simple ‘island’ 2-platform layout, installing new lifts for step-free access, remodelling and renewing track, upgrading a replacing drainage, signalling and power assets, building a new wider platform to give passengers more space. LU said, “Some platforms will have to close temporarily and there will be weekend closures”.

**15.06.11 EVENING STANDARD** – (see E.S. entry for 13.06.11 above). There will be almost twice as many shutdowns on the Northern Line as were announced by TfL on Monday. The London Assembly’s transport committee said that 19 closures to replace track and sleepers had been hidden in the small print. The Mayor’s deputy mayor for transport said the new work schedule no longer included the early closure of the lines during weekdays.

**15.06.11 EVENING STANDARD** – Today Andy Murray pleaded with union leaders and Underground bosses to avert a strike for the sake of thousand of tennis fans. He voiced his concerns over walkouts due to start on the eve of Wimbledon. He said, “I am hoping it all gets sorted out before Wimbledon starts. I know lots of fans have bought their tickets and can’t wait for the action to start”. RMT’s Bob Crow said, “This trade union would not be worth its salt if we didn’t stand up and fight injustice. It’s not too late to make amends rather than plunging London into a series of Underground-wide actions. There is still time to put right this wrong”. Mayor Boris Johnson has called the strike “pointless” and said they would only damage the enjoyment of Wimbledon for fans.

**15.06.11 METRO** – Bombardier Transportation has been awarded the signalling upgrade contract for the Circle, District, Hammersmith & City and Metropolitan lines. The Company has committed to install and test the new signalling system without the need for additional weekend closures. The full upgrade is due to be completed by 2018.

**16.06.11 THE TIMES** – Rush hour on the Underground – hundreds of strangers squashed up against each other, avoiding eye contact, all enduring more stress and less air than they would like. To the artist Michael Landy, Underground travel reveals human kindness in its most spontaneous form, and he is making a work of art that depicts this. His project, which begins tomorrow, will be an inescapable part of travel on the Central Line for at least the next 18 months. *Acts of Kindness* is the result. Posters and leaflets will appear all over the Central Line inviting people who have experienced or witnessed altruistic gestures on the Underground, to submit their stories. Landy will make poster artworks and stickers from the submissions, and these will begin to appear on trains and station platforms from 23 July. Depending on their popularity, they could spread to the rest of the Underground network and become permanent installations. The hope is that the works will brighten travellers’ journeys by making them more aware of other people’s generosity as well as inspiring more people to behave better.

**16.06.11 METRO** – Poems by Polish authors are now on display across the transport network. The latest commission for *Poems on the Underground* marks the centenary of the internationally renowned poet Czeslaw Milosz. Poems featured include Milosz's Blacksmith Shop, Nothing Special by Zbigniew Herbert, and Star by Adam Zagajewski. The poets were close friends and wrote during World War II. Leaflets of the poems are available at South Kensington, Embankment, Covent Garden, Russell Square and Moorgate stations.

**16.06.11 HENDON & FINCHLEY PRESS** – (see E.S. 13 & 15.06.11 above) From October, the northern branches of the Northern Line will, in turn, start up slightly late on Sundays to allow for extensive work during Saturday's engineering hours to be completed. LU staff will carry out more work at night and more testing off site, including on a test track at Highgate. The upgrade will take place in phases beginning with the High Barnet area before rolled out to the rest of the line.

**17.06.11 EVENING STANDARD** – Almost 300 RMT officials involved in next week's strike are paid thousands of pounds from public funds for their union activities. Figures released under Freedom of Information disclosed that salaries for staff who work full or part time for Bob Crow's union cost TfL a fortune each year. The disclosure came as Mayor Boris Johnson issued an appeal to the union to "think again" over the weekend. The cost to taxpayers and passengers of salaries going to union officials runs to well of £1m a year.

**20.06.11 EVENING STANDARD** – Underground union bosses have been accused of staging a "pointless" strike simply so they could stage more industrial action. The strange timing of the strike was to enable the RMT to comply with legislation requiring any union to begin industrial action within 28 days of having announced it. Had the union delayed last night's strike, they would have fallen outside the deadline, prompting an immediate High Court challenge from LU to have the strike declared illegal and preventing any more next week.

**21.06.11 MAIL ON SUNDAY** – A plan to rename London's Oxford Circus underground station as Oxford Landing has been dropped. Australian wine firm Oxford Landing Estates proposed a temporary rebranding over the summer but TfL said its stations were not 'for sale',

**23.06.11 EVENING STANDARD** – iPhone app "Nearest Tube" was one of the first Augmented Reality apps and it's still useful, fun and a great way to show off your iPhone. It uses the phone's camera so if you hold it flat a circle of arrows appears on the image of the floor showing where the Underground stations are. Hold it up and the arrows, colour-coded for each Underground line, float in the air showing the direction distance.

**23.06.11 METRO** – The Underground driver whose dismissal sparked the campaign of strike action, was sacked unfairly, a tribunal has found. Arwyn Thomas was abusive towards other members of staff but the punishment was too harsh and his bosses should have explored other options, the hearing concluded. The RMT claimed Mr. Thomas was victimised because of his trade union activities – a theory dismissed by the tribunal, which also did not recommend he be reinstated.

**24.06.11 THE TIMES** – Ever wondered what life would be like if Germans had won the war? An enterprising academic, Horst Prillinger, enlightens us with his inspired take on the London Tube map. The full map is obtainable by subscription online at [thetimes.co.uk/life](http://thetimes.co.uk/life). (*Compiler's comment: The station names on the Underground, North London (pre-Overground) and DLR lines have been directly translated into German, without any political or ideological renamings.*)

**27.06.11 EVENING STANDARD** – Jubilee Line passengers face more weekend closures after the delayed upgrade is finally completed at the end of July. A section of the line between Stanmore and Willesden Green will close during 3/4 September. Underground chiefs have not ruled out further closures along that section.

**28.06.11 METRO** – Escalator replacement work at Oxford Circus is now complete which means passengers can use the station as normal. Diversions had been in place and people were advised to use alternate routes while work to replace 3 of the 14 escalators took place. Passenger journeys are now simpler, smoother and easier – especially during the evening peak.

**28.06.11 METRO** – The number of staff at TfL earning £100,000 or more, has risen by a half in 12 months. There are now 379 workers picking up six-figure salaries or above, up from 251 in 2009/10. TfL said the jump happened because the figure included workers at Tube Lines, which it has taken over, and greater numbers of staff earning six-figure salaries at the Crossrail project.