

REVIEWS

MAP REVIEW

THE MAY 2013 LONDON UNDERGROUND DIAGRAM

The first diagram of 2013 appeared dated for May and was timed to reflect new and recent developments to the system. Crystal Palace London Overground gains a white step-free wheelchair 'blob' as a result of the three MIP lifts commissioned from 25 March, allowing access from street to platforms, whilst Hammersmith (D&P) loses this facility from 12 May until late December (due to lift replacement, though this is not explained). Edgware Road (Bakerloo) is now struck-through in red to indicate its closure from 25 May (for lift replacement, again reason not given) and this also advertises a resumption date of "late December".

The "fourth fold" draws attention to other changes:

- Information regarding Bank is expanded to reflect the Waterloo & City Line's extended operating hours from 2 June (*see note next page – Ed.*), with last trains Mondays to Fridays and Saturdays departing at 00.30 (was 21.41 and 18.31 respectively).
- Cannon Street's opening times have also been extended and now opens 07.30 – 19.30 on Saturdays. (*This in fact took place from 16 March 2013 – Ed.*)
- The Emirates Air-Line introduces its summer "timetable" with "last cars" departing at 21.00 instead of 20.00 and no mention of closure on Christmas Day.
- Waterloo has undergone a similar amendment to Bank with the new Waterloo & City closure times added to those in operation prior to 2 June.
- Entries have been added for Edgware Road (Bakerloo) and Hammersmith (D&P) in reference to the changes mentioned earlier

On the reverse, the spacing of the index has been changed slightly and seemingly due to the installation of bicycle parking facilities at certain London Overground stations.

Finally the traditional change of front cover artwork has occurred and now sports "*London: the world*" by Mona Hatoum (2013). This is easiest described as being a globe in the style of the old *Pan Am* airline logo but with each 'square' within the grid of latitude and longitude lines finished in different colours.

Kim Rennie

Editor's Note: It is a bit surprising that this new issue Underground map includes extended opening hours of the Waterloo & City. After all, it has been known some 2½ months before release (in some LU circles anyway) that the new service hours were being deferred until September. Such must be the time lead in the decision making process of finalising future Underground diagrams

BOOK REVIEWS

"**ABC RAIL GUIDE 2013**" by Colin J Marsden. ISBN 978-0-7110-3739-7, published by Ian Allan, price £20, 147x210mm, hardback, 306pp.

This modestly-sized but surprisingly heavy book, indicating perhaps the high quality paper on which it is printed, may well be regarded as the rail enthusiasts' bible. It begins, appropriately after the author's introduction, with the full text of the safety guidelines issued by National Rail and the Association of Train Operating Companies (ATOC).

The first half of this book lists Train Operating Companies providing passenger services over the national network. With route diagrams and rolling stock fleet lists. London Overground is included in this section. There follows chapters for Freight Operating Companies, Eurotunnel, Infrastructure Companies, Train Engineering Companies, Reconditioned Locomotive Suppliers, Rolling Stock Hire Companies, Private Train Operators, Preserved and Industrial Motive Power, among others.

Light Rail Operators include London Underground, DLR and Croydon Tramlink as well as Blackpool, Manchester Metrolink, Nottingham Express, Midland Metro, Sheffield Super Tram, Tyne & Wear Metro and Glasgow Subway. Again, fleet lists are given except for London Underground (most readers will know where to find this information) which is said, strangely, to have services on ten lines, which are then listed. The Hammersmith & City line appears not to exist. Finally numeric and alpha codes are listed for a variety of purposes.

There are numerous illustrations in colour throughout and this is a very superior product to the earlier well-known *abc* guides from this publisher. With the surprising exception of LUL's H&C Line this small but weighty volume appears to offer all the information a rail enthusiast could wish for on how Britain's railways are used.

Richard Thorogood

"TUBE TRIVIA: An A-Z of fascinating facts about the London Underground" by Andrew Emmerson, ISBN 978-185414-366-2, published by Capital History (a Capital Transport imprint), price £4.95, 110x178mm, paperback, 96pp.

This is not the first book with this theme to be published in recent years, but its pedigree is top notch. Arranged alphabetically, as the subtitle indicates, there is surprising range of facts about the Underground, some well-known, others less so. Altogether there are more than 150 entries, many accompanied by illustrations, most in colour, occasionally the alphabetical placing is a little quirky. This is not an academic or technical treatise, but each item is fully and factually explained. The bibliography at the end would form a good basis for a comprehensive library of Underground interest. This small well laid out book contains a great deal of information, and is surely worth the very modest price. It is therefore recommended.

Richard Thorogood