

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.

OCTOBER 2012 MODERN RAILWAYS – *Further to the entry in From the Papers in Underground News No.608, a letter from John R. Toynbee* – "Regarding the Beck tube map in Franglais, surely that well known south London terminus would be better known as *Eau de Toilette*".

OCTOBER 2012 MODERN RAILWAYS – The long term future of third (*and fourth*) rail electrification in the UK has been regularly discussed in recent years after a series of severe winters have proved its inherent weakness when covered with snow and ice. The situation has become more severe with the use of lighter current collector shoes, and newer designs of trains are less happy to run when the current supply is arcing and fluctuating through poor contact between shoe and electric rails. Arrowvale has developed solutions to combat this problem, and has designed on-train systems which are able to remove ice from the top of the conductor rails. One Arrowvale system activates a spray mechanism which dispenses de-icing fluid onto the rail surface, creating a good contact surface for the current collector shoes, or alternatively dispenses the fluid through special collector shoes. Clearly, where the spray mechanism is employed it is important to ensure the fluid is only applied to the correct side of the rail vehicle. Thus the position of the live rail is continually sensed using a laser, and a manifold diverts the fluid accordingly, at a recommended rate of 1.2ml per metre. Initially the de-icing fluid was a mixture of ethylene glycol and water, however recent enhancements now allows the use of "greener" proprietary branded anti-icing fluids which provide a greater degree of adherence to the conductor rails. The system is being fitted to the 191 new S7 and S8 trains for the Underground SSR lines.

01.10.12 METRO – Underground passengers pining for all things Olympian, can enjoy specially commissioned Games-related art at Piccadilly Circus and Southwark stations until December. 12 of the UK's leading artists, including Tracey Emin, Sarah Morris and Bridget Riley, were asked to design posters celebrating London hosting the Olympic and Paralympic Games.

01.10.12 METRO – All the capital's over-60s will be able to use TfL services for free when a new Oyster travel concession launches at the start of November. The new scheme fulfils the Mayor's pledge to bridge the gap for London's 60-year olds since the age of eligibility for London Councils' Freedom Pass was raised from 60 to 61 by the Government in 2010. More than 100,000 applications are expected before the 60+ London Oyster photocard goes live, with a further 10,000 Londoners expected to join the scheme each month. The Mayor said: "Londoners who have grafted all their lives and expected to receive free travel on retirement just as those before them quite rightly felt cheated when the age escalator removed the Freedom Pass from their grasp. I promised to restore this right to travel for free on the capital's network for every Londoner from their 60th birthday".

01.10.12 EVENING STANDARD – *Letter from Mick Whelan of ASLEF* – "Your interview with new Transport Minister Patrick McLoughlin quoted him as being "relaxed about bonuses for transport workers to avoid strikes during the Olympics". This is misleading. A "bonus" sounds like a freebie handout. We negotiated compensation for working longer hours with more flexibility. We earned it – which is more than many of Mr McLoughlin's boardroom banking friends can say".

01.10.12 EVENING STANDARD – *Text from Fiona Weir* – "One thing that could be done to reduce the crush on Oxford Street is to try to persuade pedestrians to keep left, the same way as traffic does. It is very disappointing how "keep left" signs have disappeared from Underground stations across most of the network".

01.10.12 EVENING STANDARD – *Text from Chris Rogers* – "Last week, in a busy Underground carriage, two policemen on duty wearing full uniform sat down, leaving paying customers standing, including a man with his foot in a cast. Who were the plebs then?"

02.10.12 METRO – LT Museum's online archive features one of the greatest poster collections in the world. This is largely down to the vision of one man, Frank Pick. In 1908, in an effort to increase passenger numbers, the six independent underground railway operators in London, agreed to promote their services jointly as "the Underground". Pick was responsible for branding and initiated a

modern poster campaign to encourage off-peak travel. Pick commissioned the best designers of the day to promote everything from leisure trips, seasonal sales and sporting fixtures, to the reliability of the trains themselves. Around 150 prints of each poster were made available to purchase for £8-20 in today's money. By the 1920s, the status of winning an Underground commission became one of the most highly coveted prizes in the design world.

03.10.12 METRO – A girl of 12 lay screaming under an Underground train after apparently jumping in front of it. She is thought to have broken her back and lost several fingers and her injuries were described as 'life threatening'. Realising how young she was, horrified passengers were unable to go to her aid because of the risk from the live rail. The train driver slammed on his brakes when he spotted the girl at Brixton station at about 08.30 yesterday. After the power was turned off, the youngster was treated on the platform by paramedics and taken to King's College Hospital. LU staff said they thought she had jumped as the train pulled in. The police said there was no reason to believe she was pushed. The Victoria Line was shut between Brixton and Victoria for about an hour after the incident.

03.10.12 EVENING STANDARD – Commuters have been set a cryptic challenge: To find 75 Underground stations that feature in visual puns in a poster. So for example, Barbie and Ken in the left hand corner is Barbican. Geddit? The campaign, devised by poster advertising company CBS Outdoor, and called "Look for Longer", is meant to encourage commuters to indulge in lateral thinking as they travel around the capital. The poster has been installed at 30 Underground stations, including Canary Wharf, Euston and Oxford Circus. With WiFi now available on Underground platforms, the idea is people will enter their answers on a website or a Twitter account in the hope of winning an array of prizes including a Virgin Media VIP entertainment package and iPads.

03.10.12 EVENING STANDARD – A pervert who secretly filmed "up-skirt" footage of women on the Underground has avoided jail by claiming he is addicted to sex. Nicholas Holt, 41, was caught using his mobile phone camera to film up the skirt of a woman commuter at Tottenham Court Road station. Suspicious passengers reported him to LT staff and he was arrested. Police found 2 up-skirt videos on his mobile, while a raid on his house found a further 128 videos stored on hard disks. He admitted one count of outraging public decency in Westminster magistrate's court. His solicitor told the court his client had been seeing a counsellor to help deal with his sex addiction. Holt was ordered to take a course for sexual offenders and given a 12-month supervision order.

03.10.12 EVENING STANDARD – An 8 year old boy was snatched to safety from the Underground tracks by a station cleaner who reached from the platform and grabbed him as a train approached. The driver of the Jubilee Line train slammed on the emergency brakes and stopped 20 feet away. The boy who was trespassing on the track at Stanmore was unhurt. Station staff were praised by LU for their quick response. The cleaner lifted him back onto the platform without injury, where the station and train staff stayed with him until police arrived. LU claimed the distance from the boy to the train was "not very close". Meanwhile, a 12 year old girl who jumped in front of an Underground train during the morning rush hour is fighting for her life. The girl, from Clapham, was hit by a Victoria Line train at Brixton. BT Police said: "The incident was not an accident and is not being treated as suspicious".

04.10.12 EVENING STANDARD – *Letter from RMT's Janine Booth (see above)* – "The Standard's report on the rescue of an 8 year old boy from the Jubilee Line tracks reminds us how important it is to have staff on Underground stations. It also reminds us of the important role of the train driver, whose swift action in applying the emergency brakes prevented a tragedy. In light of this incident, Boris Johnson and LU should drop their lethal plans to further reduce station staffing and introduce "driverless trains". If they don't, London's passengers and workers must unite to stop them".

04.10.12 METRO – If your local Underground station has looked a little brighter over the past few months, staff there may have been taking part in the *Underground in Bloom* competition. Now in its tenth year, the competition recognises staff who put in hours on their own time to brighten up the capital's stations. There were 141 entries this year with 10 categories including hanging baskets, fruit and vegetables, and best newcomer. Displays ranged from the Olympic rings and herb gardens, to Japanese meditation-style spaces and beehives. The impressive garden at Finchley Central was even entered into the Chelsea Flower Show. TfL's Howard Collins said: "Our staff have shown a level of dedication that has taken the judges' breath away. These gardens have helped to improve the local environment and made travel a lot more pleasant for commuters".

04.10.12 EVENING STANDARD – The England football manager today apologised to Rio Ferdinand after revealing to an Underground passenger, the Manchester United defender was not in the latest England squad and insisted the 33 year old still had an international future. The England boss was travelling to the Champions League match between Arsenal and Olympiakos at the Emirates Stadium on the Underground, when he let slip that Ferdinand would not feature in this month's World Cup qualifiers against San Marino and Poland.

05.10.12 EVENING STANDARD – *Tweet from Terry* – “Next time Roy Hodgson is on the Tube maybe he should bury his head in the Evening Standard. But if we see Roy standing, should we offer him a seat?”

05.10.12 WATFORD OBSERVER – A Public Inquiry into the Croxley Rail Link is due to start on 9 October. It will take place at Watford FC's Vicarage Road ground, and will also feature statements from those opposed to the scheme, including councillors, residents and businesses. They range from concerns over cost and traffic increases to the argument for keeping Watford Met. station open. The £117M project was announced last year and will connect Croxley station with the currently disused track between Croxley Green and Watford High Street stations, including two new stations at Ascot Road and Vicarage Road.

05.10.12 WATFORD OBSERVER – *Letter from J Taylor* – “I live close to the Metropolitan Line and I have to say that the sound of the trains can be quite loud, particularly on a Sunday morning when I'm trying to have a lie-in. Having read your story about the church bells being silenced in Croxley Green, I was wondering if I should now get in touch with Three Rivers District Council to ask if it could politely ask London Underground to keep the noise down a bit. I, for one, would be most grateful”.

08.10.12 METRO – TfL is to recruit up to 100 graduate trainees in engineering, project management, technical and corporate roles next year. The new roles have been made available as TfL continues its multi-billion pound plan to upgrade the 100 year old Underground network, which will result in faster, more reliable journeys for passengers. The ambitious plan requires a highly skilled workforce and the graduates will also get the opportunity to be involved in major transport projects such as the Victoria Station upgrades and the new Northern Line extension. Depending on their subject, the trainees will spend up to 3 years with TfL where they will be able to gain valuable hands-on experience and learn practical skills while they earn. TfL has been consistently in The Times Graduate Top 100 for best companies to work for.

08.10.12 METRO – Opportunities are not just for graduates. TfL creates more than 500 apprenticeship roles open to school leavers aged 18 and over. Apprenticeships include roles in civil engineering, building services, engineering, quantity surveying, and vehicle maintenance and repair. TfL is recognised by the National Apprenticeship Service as one of the Top 100 Apprenticeship Employers.

08.10.12 EVENING STANDARD – Underground bosses have ruled out driverless trains for at least a decade. Proposal to test two driverless trains this month between Waterloo and Stratford on the Jubilee Line, while the network is closed at night have been dropped, and the new stock of 191 S Stock trains now being delivered to the SSL, will all have conventional driving cabs. There are no current plans to buy new trains without driver cabs, said LU. Although some aspects of trains on the Victoria, Jubilee, Central and Northern lines are fully automated, the trains will continue to be driver operated. A company spokesperson said: “From the 2020s new trains could be operated without the need for conventional drivers – perhaps being staffed instead by something more like the DLR “train captains”. Underground bosses will face questions on driverless trains when they appear before the London Assembly's transport committee. RMT union leaders last week ordered a strike ballot among its drivers involved with testing driverless trains. It threatened a major industrial dispute with Mayor Boris Johnson, who has campaigned for driverless trains. RMT's Bob Crow said: “Until we get that, our battle for both jobs and public safety will continue.”

09.10.12 METRO – *Text from Anon* – “Thank you to the kind stranger on the Underground for handing me and my boyfriend a bouquet of roses after she decided to give them to the cutest couple she could find. Londoners are lovely”.

10.10.12 METRO – Improvements on the Central Line, which form part of TfL's multi-billion pound Underground upgrade plan, will ensure smoother and more reliable journeys for passengers. Work

has also been undertaken to refresh the line's fleet of 85 trains and renew the track. The line will close between 24 October and 4 November between Grange Hill and Newbury Park, and Woodford and Leytonstone. By closing the line for a longer period (instead of multiple weekend works) the overall time needed for the work will be cut from 19 to 12 days and save more than £2M. Normal services will continue between Epping and central London during the works.

10.10.12 METRO – A film looking at artists commissioned to design new Tube map covers has been created by the LT Museum and Art on the Underground. For 12 years, the Underground has promoted contemporary art at stations and on Tube maps, working with artists including Tracey Emin, Sarah Morris and Richard Long.

10.10.12 EVENING STANDARD – A boy of 12 escaped death on the Underground after he was accidentally carried into sidings on a train, then jumped on to the track – narrowly missing the live rail. He failed to respond to three on-board announcements and a flash of lights that the Bakerloo Line train was being taken out of service at Queen's Park. Rail unions said physical checks to ensure trains are empty have ceased and demanded a change to the "dangerous" practice.

11.10.11 EVENING STANDARD – Weary commuters are being cheered up by a spate of "guerrilla sticker attacks" that have turned Underground train notices into comedy material. Travellers have spotted several changes to the traditional signs, including priority seating notices indicating they are for "*people who are overweight, conjoined or charming snakes*", and warnings saying "*don't acknowledge fellow passengers or sustain eye contact beyond two seconds*". Central Line maps turned Shepherd's Bush into "*Shepherd's Pie*", and Oxford Circus became "*Nightmare on Elm Street*". One sign says: "*Pull lever to pour gravy on sausages located in driver's compartment*". A few websites are selling stickers online and the BBC spoke to a man called James, who claimed he had sold more than 200 fake notices this year at around £2 a go. James said he wanted commuters to "take back power" over their journeys. He said: "It's a form of rebellion, whether it be due to the current climate of doom and gloom, or people wanting to brighten their day. This is a bit of escapism and freedom that people can express relatively easily." But LU bosses are not amused. A spokesman for BTP said the stickers were graffiti and "unwanted vandalism that causes damage and will not be tolerated".

12.10.12 METRO – There were full line closures on the Victoria Line on the weekends of 13-14 and 20-21 October to carry out track work. The line's GM John Doyle explained why: "We have installed a state-of-the-art signalling system to allow trains to run faster and more reliably. With more trains and increased frequency this causes more wear and tear on our track. So for the next two weekends we will remove any irregularities from the line's track to extend its life and to improve your journey quality".

12.10.12 METRO – The pervert who spent 10 months taking upskirt pictures of women on the Underground has been given a supervision order. Bryan Dean repeatedly rode up and down the escalator while pointing his mobile phone up skirts.

12.10.12 WATFORD OBSERVER – The public inquiry into the Croxley Rail Link project, start in Watford this week, in the Elton John Conference Centre, giving the Scheme's promoters and opposers a chance to air their views. Top of the bill was the controversial closure of the Watford Met station in Cassiobury. LU's head of transport planning argued that keeping the station open would result in the reversing trains starting their return journeys late. Various arguments were submitted on the increase/decrease in travelling times to/from the new Metropolitan stations, as well as the additional residents have access to the line. One local businessman, the part owner of *Croxley Cars*, stated the construction of the new viaduct between Croxley and Ascot Road stations would put him out of business, unless one of the piers were to be relocated. A consultant said: "the planned pier locations were critical in minimising the length of the closure of the Watford Met. branch. If relocated the opposite way it would result in a 200 metre radius curve, sharper than LU will permit, as well as producing rail wheel squeal, which due to the height of the viaduct, would be heard over half of Watford".

15.10.12 METRO – *Text from Hungry Tube Passenger* – "The refurbished Blackfriars Underground station smells like roast chicken. Can anyone explain why?"

16.10.12 METRO – *Text from Anon (see above)* – "Blackfriars smells like roast chicken because the construction workers' canteen is right above the platforms".

17.10.12 THE TIMES – *by columnist Laura Craik* – “In an effort to do more high-quality parenting, like good mothers who don’t have jobs, I volunteered to accompany my daughters Year 2 class on a school trip. Shepherding 30 six-year-olds on to the Northern Line is a life skill that everyone should acquire, though possibly not without liberal access to Valium”.

19.10.12 WATFORD OBSERVER – (*see 12/10/12 above*) – At the Croxley Rail Link public inquiry, a local businessman, the director of *Cinnamond* of Croxley Green stated he will be unable to maintain his business if a planned viaduct pier is built on the access to his property. He had commissioned a traffic study which indicated the replacement entrance would present problems to traffic. In addition, a sea cadets club also used by a pre-school located opposite *Cinnamond*, would be adversely effected by construction noise as well as restricted access.

19.10.12 WATFORD OBSERVER – A rare 100 year old LU poster, by Edward McKnight Kauffer, advertising Watford was sold at auction at Christies for £2,750 – £750 more than estimate.

19.10.12 THE TIMES – The planned extension of LU’s Northern Line will be the key to the Battersea transformation. Plans include the creation of two new Underground stations at Nine Elms and Battersea which would cut journeys into the City and the West End to just under 15 minutes, and is planned to open by 2019. Until then the nearest Underground station is Vauxhall. Overground (*sic!*) trains go to Vauxhall, Battersea Park and Queenstown Road. Buses go from Vauxhall’s shiny terminus.

24.10.12 THE TIMES – The writer and academic Judith Chernaik founded *Poems on the Underground* 26 years ago. It now has imitators across the world. She is publishing her latest collection to celebrate the 160th (*sic!*) anniversary of the Underground.

24.10.12 THE TIMES – LU has a dirty secret – fresh soot on the tunnel roofs near Baker Street. One night last January, a steam locomotive ran underground for the first time in more than a century in a test for an event to mark the 150th anniversary of the Metropolitan Railway, the world’s first underground line, on 13 January 2013. The anniversary train from Paddington to Farringdon will be headed by 1989 Metropolitan Railway E Class 0-4-4T No.1, which served until 1963 when it took part in the Centenary celebrations that year, hauling 5 carriages from the 1890s.

25.10.12 THE TIMES – *Letter from Professor Tony Atkins(see above)* – “It is incorrect to state that the preserved Metropolitan Railway steam locomotive that ran underground in January was the first to do so for more than a century. The GWR had a depot beneath Smithfield meat market and ran as many as 15 steam-hauled goods trains per day, from Paddington to Farringdon/Aldersgate. The last was in 1962”.

25.10.12 METRO – Look out for special liveries across the capital’s transport network ahead of London Poppy Day on 1 November. A Circle Line train, an Overground train and two London buses have been wrapped in an eye-catching poppy design. The distinctive red flowers will also be displayed on the front and back of all Underground, DLR and Overground trains.

26.10.12 EVENING STANDARD – People over 60 may be able to enjoy free public transport outside London with council taxpayers picking up the multi-million-pound bill when Crossrail opens in 2018. The free travel zone for Freedom Pass holders will be extended beyond central London to Berkshire and Essex. London boroughs are legally obliged to offer the benefit on all trains and buses operated by TfL. As TfL will operate Crossrail, the boroughs will have no alternative but cover the costs.

30.10.12 CITY A.M. – During the expected five years disruption caused by the regeneration of London Bridge NR station, Southern’s services between the station and Victoria via Denmark Hill will be withdrawn on 9 December and passengers could use the London Overground connection between Clapham Junction and Surrey Quays.

30.10.12 TIME OUT LONDON – Tram Power has put in a planning application to Southwark Council to introduce a tramline running from London Bridge via Elephant & Castle to Denmark Hill. There are concerns that the Southwark Supertram could cause more congestion on this already busy route. It could also cost as much as £50M. But surely it’s well worth the price tag if it means south Londoners get to glide about like their tram-endowed Croydonite neighbours?

30.10.12 THE TIMES – Which is the Underground station where James Bond chased the baddie, Silva in *Skyfall*? The old Jubilee Line platforms at Charing Cross. A disused platform with still-

useable line, it is popular with film crews and was also used on *The Bourne Ultimatum*. Look even more carefully, say TfL, and you can see entrances to the old platform in Charing Cross. Though, ever conscious of real baddies, they refuse to be drawn on precisely where these are. “Can I ask why you are asking?” says the TfL press office, somewhat suspiciously – “We do have security concerns!”

31.10.12 METRO – More than 450 cast and crew filmed scenes in disused platforms at Charing Cross over several weeks earlier this year, taking advantage of a site that mirrors a busy Underground station without disrupting the running of the railway. LU said the Underground has been a much-used movie location for more than 80 years. It is not the first time the Underground has featured in a James Bond film. In the 2002’s *Die Another Day*, Q’s gadget laboratory is attached to a fictional “Vauxhall Cross” station. Other films featuring the Underground include:- *Passport to Pimlico* (1949); *An American Werewolf in London* (1981); *Sliding Doors* (1998); *Billy Elliot* (2000); *Bridget Jones’s Diary* (2001); *Harry Potter and the Order of the Pheonix* (2007); *Atonement* (2007); *The Bourne Ultimatum* (2007).