

2014 is the Year of the Bus

MAYOR Boris Johnson has declared 2014 the 'Year of the Bus' to celebrate the vital part buses play in keeping the capital moving.

- This year marks three important anniversaries for London's buses:
- 60 years since the creation of the original iconic Routemaster
 - 75 years since the launch of its predecessor, the RT-Type bus
 - 100 years since London buses were sent to the Western Front to play a crucial role during the First World War, when they became known as Battle Buses

Launching the initiative yesterday, Boris Johnson said: 'London buses are the pulsing red arteries of the capital, 24-hours a day, 364 days of

the year and they play an undeniably important role in the city's economy.

'The history of London's bus network is a fascinating one, from George Shillibeer's early horse-drawn omnibuses to today's world leading New Routemaster, and this year we will celebrate the central role the bus has played, and will continue to play, in the life of our capital.'

A calendar of events and activities is planned, a new 'Year of the Bus' roundel logo has been designed, and a limited edition Oyster card will go on sale shortly. A specially-painted silver New Routemaster bus will also enter service.

London's buses carry around 6.5million passengers a day – more than half of all bus journeys made in England. One of the most extensive networks in the world, the 8,600-strong bus fleet operates across 700 routes, serves 19,000 bus stops and all vehicles are fitted with ramps.

Around 600 of the fleet are hybrid buses – the largest hybrid fleet in

Europe – and the number will rise to 1,700 by 2016, helping to reduce emissions in the capital.

Events

Forthcoming celebratory events include:

- An exhibition at Covent Garden's London Transport Museum – 'Goodbye Piccadilly - from the home front to the Western Front' – to commemorate the contribution that buses and their drivers made during the First World War
- The restoration of a B-Type Bus, which will be converted into a 'Battle Bus', painted khaki and restored into its original livery. It will take part in events to commemorate the centenary of the outbreak of the war
- A bus cavalcade will take place in the summer which will see historic vehicles from the last century back on London's roads



DLR strike talks

TALKS between Serco, the Docklands Light Railway (DLR) operator, and the RMT are continuing in a bid to resolve strike action without disruption to customers.

Strike action has been called by the RMT:

- From 4.30am tomorrow until 4.30am Friday
- From midday February 4 until midday February 6

If the strike goes ahead, there will be limited services on the DLR.

■ For the latest information, customers are urged to check tfl.gov.uk/dlr



Tube improvement plan – post weekend update



ON the Piccadilly and Metropolitan lines:

- More than 320metres of drainage were installed between Hillingdon and Ickenham
- Over 710metres of track were replaced between West Harrow and Rayners Lane, and 270metres in the Ruislip area

Also, a closure on the Richmond branch of the District line, and between Tooting Broadway and Morden on the Northern line, allowed line improvement work to take place.

■ For details about how closures may affect your journey this weekend, see Friday's MetroTravel page

Keep up with the improvement plan and how it might affect you at tfl.gov.uk

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London Travelwatch
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call 020 3176 2999, or visit
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