You can see this colourful New Routemaster on route 8, which passes by St Paul's Cathedral and Brick Lane, as it travels between its destinations of Bow Church and Tottenham Court Road. The rainbow bus will be on the road for a year and marks the tenth anniversary of TfL's Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgender staff network group.

Cleaning up the capital

LONDON's first all electric bus route is to run between South Croydon and Norwood Junction on route 312.

Arriva has been awarded the contract and the date for the start of the service will be confirmed later this year.

The bus operator currently runs two electric single-deck buses on the route and these have been used in a trial to test whether the electric technology could stand up to the rigours of operating in London.

Arriva plans to add a further seven electric buses to the route.

Passengers will benefit from less noise and vibration compared with diesel vehicles.

The buses have zero tailpipe emissions resulting in lower carbon emissions and better local air quality.

Mike Weston, TfL's director of buses, said: 'This is an exciting new milestone for our bus fleet, which is already one of the cleanest in Europe. We currently have eight electric buses in our fleet and as this number grows we are learning more about this new technology.

'This, alongside other measures like retrofitting older vehicles with enhanced exhaust systems and continuing the expansion of our hybrid fleet, continues to contribute towards our strategy to further reduce harmful emissions from the capital's bus fleet.'

The trials of the buses will help TfL develop plans to use electric buses more widely in central London.

Irish poems underground

TUBE passengers can now read some of the celebrated works written by W.B. Yeats as the network marks the 150th anniversary of the Irish poet.

The verses are part of the latest selection from Poems on the Underground and feature some of his famous works, including the final stanza of 'Sailing to Byzantium', Yeats' tribute to the timeless power of imagination; and his popular love poem, 'He wishes for the Cloths of Heaven'.

Yeats' poems will be displayed throughout the year and are part of a wider celebration of Irish poetry.

Tube passengers will be able to read a translation of Antoine O Raifteiri's Irish verses by Lady Gregory, and works from Louis MacNeice, Eavan Boland and Paula Meehan will also be featured.

Judith Chernaik, writer, editor and founder of Poems on the Underground, said: 'We're very pleased to be sharing the delights of Irish poetry past and present with four million daily Tube travellers. We hope Londoners will enjoy this very special set of poems.'

■ A free leaflet celebrating Irish poetry will be available at selected Tube stations later this year

Tube improvements – post weekend update

IMPROVEMENTS UNDER WAY

Circle and District lines: More than 300m of drainage work took place between South Kensington and Sloane Square. Stairway and passageway improvements were carried out at Victoria station, and the lighting at St. James's Park station was enhanced.

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