

Paint the town red in Covent Garden



Visit the pop-up Lipstick and Curls beauty parlour for a free makeover to brighten up your look as part of London Transport Museum's Friday Late

IT'S party time in Covent Garden this Friday with lots of fun, frolics, music and shopping.

London Transport Museum is opening its doors for a special Friday late to celebrate all things bus related and is offering two cocktails for the occasion – the Routemaster and the Night Bus (pictured right).

The event kicks off at 6.45pm and offers an evening packed with activities and entertainment. DJ Bob Stanley of indie-dance-pop band Saint Etienne will be on the decks while people browse the art market for gift ideas.

Be among the first to sample the special edition London Transport Museum gin, made in collaboration with the East London Liquor Company in celebration of the Year of the Bus.

Visitors will also be able to take part in the hands-on activities, meet the voice behind London Buses – and record their own message.

They can join a bus trivia pub quiz or design a bus destination sign, which can be used to personalise a fabric travel card holder or magnet.

Guests can also pick up a signed limited edition print of one of the celebratory Oyster card wallet designs, specially commissioned for the Year of the Bus. Some of the artists will be there on the night.

For art and book lovers, there will also be the opportunity to meet printmaker Paul Catherall who will be launching and selling his latest series of prints featuring the New Routemaster bus and Sandra Bloodworth, director of New York Metro Arts programme and co-author of the newly published New York subway art book – New York's Underground Art Museum.

Throughout the evening shoppers could also get hold of a bargain if they listen out for the announcements alerting them to time-limited discounts.



■ Tickets for the event are £10 (£8 concessions) and last admission is at 10.15pm. For details, visit www.ltmuseum.co.uk

No better time to become an apprentice

LONDON Underground (LU) has unveiled £1million of improvements to its apprentice training facility at its Skills and Training Centre in Acton.

The centre has been modernised with new equipment to help ensure the apprentices have the skills to support the capital's transport network.

There is a skills shortage in the transport industry, particularly in engineering, and LU is investing in the equipment and infrastructure its apprentices use while learning the trade.

In September 2014, TfL welcomed 86 new apprentices in a variety of roles ranging from project planning to highway technicians. It has also created

more than 100 new apprenticeship roles for 2015. Applications for these roles will open on the TfL website from February 2015.

Mike Brown MVO, managing director of London Underground and London Rail, said: 'All our apprentices are helping us to support over 30 million journeys every day as we continue to invest billions of pounds in our transport network to meet the needs of London's growing population to support jobs, homes and economic growth.'

■ Find out more about the schemes available at tfl.gov.uk/apprentices



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