

# Back to the future for the Tube



A book about London Underground's history is placed in the time capsule

A TIME capsule that will give Londoners in 2063 a glimpse of life on the Tube today was sealed this morning at Tottenham Court Road station.

Made from a salvaged District line signalling box, the contents were drawn together by young Londoners working with the London Transport Museum's Youth programme. The items include:

- A specially-made short film showing a 'day in the life' on the Tube in 2013

- A letter from Mike Brown MVO, London Underground's managing director, to his future successor
- Copies of the Evening Standard and Metro newspapers
- A special edition 150th anniversary Oyster Card
- A baby on board badge similar to the one presented to the Duchess of Cambridge at a Tube anniversary event
- A book charting the first 150 years of London Underground's history
- Signalling equipment in use today

The event marks the end of the 150th anniversary celebrations and an extraordinary

year for the Tube, during which the sights and smells of steam train travel were returned to the network. The year also saw London Underground host a royal visit from HM the Queen, HRH the Duke of Edinburgh and HRH the Duchess of Cambridge at Baker Street station where, as well as meeting operations and engineering staff, they saw a beautifully restored 19th century Underground train carriage.

Mike Brown said: 'London Underground's 150th anniversary year has been truly extraordinary – reminding Londoners of the amazing engineering achievement of the pioneers who built the network and the enduring vital importance of the network to the London of today and the future.'

## Tube improvements continue

OVER the next 20 years the capital's population is expected to grow by more than a million people, underlining the crucial importance of continuing to improve and upgrade the Tube network.

Journeys on the Jubilee and Victoria lines have already been improved through massively boosted capacity and faster journeys, with a train frequency among the highest in Europe.

A fleet of new, air-conditioned trains has been introduced on the Metropolitan line, and similar new carriages are now arriving on the Circle and Hammersmith & City lines, with the District line to follow soon.

New signalling will be fully operational on the Northern line this year, with higher-frequency services. Shortly afterwards key stations in central London, such as Victoria and

Tottenham Court Road, will have been rebuilt.

The number of step-free stations is being expanded, alongside the use of ramps, platform humps and other accessibility improvements, an extension of the Northern line to Battersea is also being planned. In addition, Crossrail is being constructed, which will transform travel across London when service begins in 2018.

## Baby on board?

MUMS-to-be travelling by Tube can get a baby on board badge so passengers know they may need a seat.

The badges, available from TfL, overcome the awkwardness often felt by pregnant women of having to ask someone to give up their place.

It also means passengers in priority seats can see when they should give up their seat.

Research undertaken before the

scheme was launched in 2006 showed that pregnant women often felt uncomfortable – even intimidated – having to ask if they could sit down. And while some people said they were happy to offer their seats to expectant mums, they felt embarrassed if their offer was rejected.

■ For a badge, call TfL's Customer Service Centre on 0343 222 1234 or email [babyonboard@tfl.gov.uk](mailto:babyonboard@tfl.gov.uk)



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London's transport watchdog  
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[www.londontravelwatch.org.uk](http://www.londontravelwatch.org.uk)

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 Newspapers left on the Tube can jam doors and cause delays to your journey. Take your newspaper with you or put it in a recycling bin.