

Royal seal of approval for Tube



HER Majesty The Queen, HRH Duke of Edinburgh and HRH Duchess of Cambridge visited Baker Street station yesterday to mark the 150th anniversary of the first Tube journey.

The Royal Party met Underground staff from all parts of the organisation including those who work at stations and on trains.

They were also shown examples of London Underground's (LU's) past and future including Metropolitan Railway Jubilee Carriage No 353, the oldest operational Underground carriage in existence. It was used recently on a steam train trip to commemorate the anniversary.

In addition, they took a closer look at one of the new walk-through, air-conditioned trains, which are being introduced on the Tube network, before Her Majesty unveiled a plaque naming the train 'Queen Elizabeth II'.

Mike Brown, managing director of LU & London Rail, said: 'Today's visit was a huge privilege, helping us mark the 150th anniversary of London Underground as well as recognising some of the staff who work tirelessly to keep London moving. It not only acknowledged our illustrious past but also the need to look to the future.'

'We are continually improving the network and our passengers are seeing the benefits including more frequent and reliable services on the Jubilee and Victoria lines and new trains now serving the Metropolitan line, which will be rolled out to 40 per cent of our network. The key to continuing this success, and supporting the economy of London and the UK, is sustained investment to enable us to provide a network fit for the next 150 years.'

Transport at a glance

New lifts for Edgware Rd

FROM Saturday until April 6, the Bakerloo line station will open later, at 6.30am, and close earlier, at 10pm. This is to prepare for new, more reliable lifts.

From May 25 until December, the station will be closed for safety reasons as the only alternative access to the platforms will be via a 125-step staircase.

Passengers should use nearby Edgware Road (Circle/Hammersmith & City line) station which is a short walk away and change for the Bakerloo line at Baker Street or Paddington. Marylebone station is seven minutes away.

■ To check before you travel, visit tfl.gov.uk

'Pocket parks' work starts

A 150m² area of unused space behind a bus stop in Stockwell will be among the first of the Mayor's 100 new 'pocket parks'.

There is £2million funding for these small green spaces – around the size of a tennis court – which aim to reinvent some of London's forgotten areas.

The projects will transform underused urban spaces into mini oases and allow local

residents to grow vegetables, herbs and fruit. Anyone can take part in the gardening.

Later this year work will begin on a similar 'edible bus stop' in Norwood. All 100 'pocket parks' are due to be created by March 2015.

Trees and plants provide a range of benefits including helping to improve local air quality and reduce flood risk, as well as providing shade and a haven for wildlife.

Enhanced river services



RIVER Bus services between Putney and Blackfriars will more than double from April 2, following the appointment of KPMG Thames Clippers as the new operator of the route.

There will be faster and more frequent journeys, rising to two-thirds more services on weekdays, on the modern and

accessible catamarans. Real-time boat arrival information – iBoat – will also be rolled out at piers on this part of the river, and on mobile phone apps, making travelling even more convenient.

■ For up-to-date travel information on the move, go to tfl.gov.uk

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London Travelwatch London's transport watchdog call 020 3176 2999, or visit www.londontravelwatch.org.uk

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