

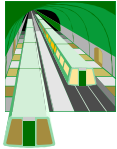


TRUCKERS' TOILETS UK

Campaign to improve the health & wellbeing of lorry drivers

March 2014
NEWSLETTER 9

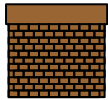
Bob Crowe: Whatever you may have thought of him, Bob Crowe was the man to have on your side when it came to improving working conditions. We should learn from his success and be a driving force in improving the working conditions of lorry drivers. Drivers are not asking for anything special, just access to well maintained toilets, hand washing facilities and showers where appropriate. Is that really a lot to ask?



AirPnP: A possible convenience? Would you pay to use someone's home toilet? Would you allow someone in to your home to use your loo if you could charge? Apparently there's a new APP which allows you to find the nearest loo available for hire – mainly in the US at present, but it could catch on here.



Pop ups for Brick Lane? There is a campaign to introduce pop up urinals in Brick Lane. Apparently there is a problem with street urination. Whether, if the project goes ahead, there will be loos catering for women's needs remains to be seen.



Blue Badge? Does having a medical condition such as colitis entitle you to have a blue badge so that you can park near a toilet? That is a discussion taking place at Sunderland City Council as the result of a lady with Inflammatory Bowel Disease not being allowed to renew her badge. Government guidelines suggest not.



Toilet paper in the news! As an article by Mark Reyland in the *Inventor Education Blog* suggests, toilet paper may be boring but it is a product used by people several times a day, every year. A writer in *iPolitics* argues that inhibiting imports such as toilet paper - and yogurt – to Russia could be an effective way of 'punishing Putin!' By the way did you know that a 'pure white loo roll can still be a vehicle of snobbery'? [*Daily Telegraph* 22 Feb14]. What colour is yours?



Taxi drivers in London: The problem of finding a loo is becoming increasingly difficult for cab drivers. Public toilets are closing, many hotels are now refusing drivers access to their facilities and drivers cannot leave their taxi unattended on the ranks. Who is caring about the bladder and bowel health of our cabbies? Women taxi drivers have even more of a problem. It seems London is keen to punish drivers who urinate in the street but not so keen to provide a proper alternative! What other options do they have? Going to the loo is a need, not a choice! Let TTUK know your ideas!



School children: Cabbies are not the only ones who have problems! In the news recently there have been reports of a primary school where children have to wear a sign around their neck if they visit the toilet! If this is true, it beggars belief! What is it about this country and its attitude to going to the loo? What century are we in?

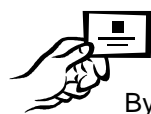


Disabled people: It was reported recently in a Scottish newspaper that a disabled person had had problems gaining access to the locked 'disabled' toilet at a Tesco's store because neither he nor the staff had a key. A similar embarrassing situation occurred in the Editor's local Marks & Spencers store some years ago and this month a local



Wetherspoons was reported as using the toilet for disabled people as a store room for beer kegs! Not surprisingly the disabled person who wished to use the facility was not best pleased!

Campaign latest [1]: A lorry driver has made an excellent suggestion that could take effect almost immediately if companies agree. When a driver wishes to use the facilities at a company s/he swaps the cab keys with a card giving permission to use the toilet, wash hands and perhaps even take a shower if one is available.



By doing so the driver takes on the responsibility of leaving the facilities as s/he would wish to find them. Any problems could then be sorted on the spot. A win-win situation? Do let TTUK know what you think.

Campaign latest [2]: What do you consider to be the minimum standards necessary in a toilet facility offered to drivers? TTUK is currently making suggestions for comment. Visit TTUK and make sure your voice is heard!



Everything you wanted to know about Sanitation! A new information website is under construction even as you read this! Watch out for more details about this exciting new resource.



Toilets on the telly! Paul Martin [of *Flog It!* fame] discussed the history of toilets with our very own loo historian Rachel Erickson [www.lootours.com] in *I Never Knew That About Britain!* A very interesting programme on ITV



Hand Hygiene Event: Our Editor will be speaking at a conference about the problems lorry drivers – and other mobile workers - have of finding a loo and keeping clean. *The science and behaviour behind hand washing at home, at work and on the move* will take place on Thursday 3 April at the Royal Society of Public Health in London. See the April newsletter for a summary of the day.



Urinetown has had excellent reviews! It continues at the St James Theatre, Palace Street, London until 3 May. Do check it out www.urinetown.co.uk. [It took TTUK's ed a little while to realise the play on words of the title! Say it out loud!]



Action Day Reminder! *Truckers' Toilets UK* reminds everyone that lorry drivers will be protesting for better working conditions from *Monday 14 April to Thursday 17 April. Between 0630 to 0930 and 1530 to 1730.* During these times lorry drivers will be reducing their speed to 35mph on single and dual carriageways and to 40mph on motorways. Unions have been contacted in order to discuss the issues but drivers representatives have received no response to date



Don't forget to visit our Truckers Toilets UK Facebook page and make your comments.
<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Truckers-Toilets-UK/520313554691335>



Next issue of **Truckers' Toilets UK** newsletter will be April

Gillian Kemp

The British Toilet Association <www.britloos.co.uk>