



TRUCKERS' TOILETS UK

Campaign to improve the health & wellbeing of lorry drivers

JULY 2014
NEWSLETTER 2-1

HSE: The TTUK Campaign this month has been focusing on driver-related documentation from the Health & Safety Executive website. The aim is to investigate the position of lorry drivers in relation to accessing toilet and hand washing facilities via a wide range of HSE documents. The results of this study will provide a foundation from which to progress drivers' welfare provision with Unite and other relevant organisations.



Articles:: TTUK is delighted that reporter, Chris Tindall, has been writing further articles on drivers and toilet access. By the time you receive this newsletter, one or more Drivers' magazines may have already published a piece on the problems. Do look out for them!



Hertfordshire Chamber of Commerce & Industry: Since our meeting last month, the HCCI Membership Services Officer has kindly begun researching possible companies who might contribute their thoughts to our Campaign and also a Chamber of Commerce



Toilet Map: At the invitation of Jo-Anne Bichard, Leader of The Great British Public Toilet Map project the Ed attended an excellent 'prototyping' workshop run by the web designers of the project. Using cardboard cut outs of the map and on a one-to-one basis, participants had to demonstrate how they would find a particular toilet whilst explaining what they were doing. Group discussions on their findings and possible improvements followed. The problem of toilet access for lorry drivers was raised and hopefully drivers and other mobile workers will eventually benefit from the results.



More toilet closures: With more toilet closures in the papers since the last newsletter, more of us – especially women – may, like many drivers, have to consider the 'bucket and chuck it' approach when going out and about! In spite of the prospect of possible legislation regarding toilets, Councils in Wales - and other parts of the country – are still refusing to appreciate the impact of public toilets closures. At the same time they wonder why people aren't venturing out and express dismay at the costs of healthcare. Providing toilets for women at night in the Maidstone area are apparently considered too costly and the Council is relying on the Community Toilet Scheme to help out!



Hand hygiene: The media continues to report the importance of hand hygiene and the fact that some antibiotics are becoming germ resistant. Associate Professor Thomas Berry and his team at Christopher Newport University, Virginia in the US found that *'members of both genders need more encouragement to wash their hands more diligently....and both genders were well short of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommendation that we should wash our hands for a minimum of 20 seconds to have any meaningful chance of removing harmful germs.* On UK television we see Ministers visiting hospitals carefully using antiseptic cream and tucking in their ties. In the meantime many drivers have to go without proper hand washing facilities in spite of the fact that they can be passing bugs on to the end user. Why aren't Ministers taking note? [Our Ed is still coping with the effects of *clostridium difficile*, one of the 'superbugs' after 14 years!].



David Davies MP: As an ex-lorry driver TTUK thought it appropriate to write to Mr Davies and inform him not only of our Campaign but also suggest some possible solutions he might be able to help with. He is unfortunately unable to support us due to other priorities and stated that he didn't think he was ever refused the use of a toilet whilst driving! Lucky man.



Is this discrimination? An article in The News [22 June] describes how council workers are allowed to use toilets in Portsmouth that were closed to families over a year ago



having told people that they were too costly to run! The good news [?] is that the council workers are responsible for cleaning them. Apparently a Councillor who was Leader at the time of the decision is reported as saying 'We had a responsibility to our workers to make sure that they were able to clean themselves up after doing dirty jobs.' So that's all right then!

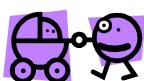
If in doubt, shut 'em out! There is an alley in a Lincolnshire town which is being used as a toilet, even in broad daylight, by both men and women. The solution under consideration is to lock the gates to the entrance. It is unpleasant to find an alley used as a toilet and locking the gates will satisfy those businesses in the area – but where will people go? Does this really solve the problem? What is the real issue?



Stevenage Matalan Customers especially those accompanied by children beware! The Ed was sent a photograph [view it on TTUK] showing a customer toilet entrance blocked by a display rack. Just visible behind the rack is an 'out of order' sign. Is it permanent? Please would any visitors to the store send TTUK an update



Women's issues: With more toilet facilities available for men than women, the difficulties for women continue to cause problems, the latest being the size of cubicles. BBC News South Wales [3 July] carried an article on some train station toilets being too small for 'portly' women, a problem compounded by those carrying luggage or coping with young children. The Ed has certainly had to consider a new career as a contortionist in such circumstances.



The Urgent Run: We would love you to help us make The UK contribution to World Toilet Day 19th November a real success. Whilst the aim is to raise awareness about global sanitation there are all sorts of opportunities to link with local issues as well. If you'd like to get involved [not necessarily running] or if you are part of or have any leads on bigger organisations that might be interested in sponsoring the event in some way please contact Rachel Erickson rachel.ida.erickson@gmail.com. The venue is yet to be confirmed but will probably be in the London area.



Lorry driver family required! Can you help?



The Royal College of Art is looking for drivers families to take part in their project Family Rituals 2.0 <http://familyrituals2-0.org.uk/>. If you might be interested please contact jo-anne.bichard@rca.ac.uk

A chance to get 'Aquaint(ed)' The MD of Opus Innovations Ltd, based near Gatwick, would like feedback from lorry drivers on 'Aquaint', described as *'the UK's safest multipurpose natural sanitiser that cleans/kills 99.9% of bacteria. It is like water and can be used on the hands, any part of the body and on surfaces even food, as it is safe to swallow. It also freshens and deodorises the body and mouth'*. If you would like to try it and provide feedback then please contact Bola Lafe aquaint@opus-innovations.com for your free bottle



The Monkey Closet: www.themonkeycloset.com Very positive responses to date. Do visit if you've not already done so. What would be helpful to you or your organisation? Please let The Monkey Closet team know so it can be included on the site

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



Next issue of the **Truckers' Toilets UK** newsletter will be August

Gillian Kemp

The British Toilet Association www.britloos.co.uk