



## TRUCKERS' TOILETS UK

Campaign to improve the health & wellbeing of lorry drivers

May 2014

### NEWSLETTER 11

**Truckfest:** Truckfest at Peterborough on 4 May was fun and the weather good! The Ed met up with Liz Waters of Professional Lady Drivers Worldwide who's been actively promoting the *Truckers' Toilets UK* campaign from the beginning. *Thanks, Liz!* Information on the TTUK campaign's Facebook page was distributed to lots of drivers – so WELCOME to those who've joined us! The only downside of the day was the state of the loos – not as well maintained as last year! For example: [no loo roll](#) in the Ladies at the entrance at 10 am on the first day! Not a good first impression. A gentle comment has been left on the Truckfest website.



**Hot water:** It's essential to have hot water to wash ones hands after visiting the loo but getting almost boiling water rather defeats the object! [Ouch!](#) With no plug or a cold tap to compensate, people find it easier – and safer for their hands – to avoid washing altogether. A cautionary sign is not the answer. Providers, please take note!



**More free toilets!** Hurray! A city's business area is pushing ahead with a revamp of its toilet procurement and management strategy [*Government News, 8 April 2014*]. The aim is to boost the city's [hygiene](#) after research indicated that people were struggling to find toilets. A community toilet scheme is also being recommended in order to provide even more toilets. Unfortunately it is not a British city; it's Sydney, a place that understands that life includes going to the toilet and visitors and residents alike need easy to find, clean and FREE toilets.



**Access to a toilet denied [2]:** In contrast to the above, once again another pregnant woman has been [refused](#) access to a toilet in the UK [*Lurgan Mail 18 April 2014*]. The woman, accompanied by a child, was told the toilet was for disabled people only. An apology has since been made to the woman and staff given suitable instructions. Apparently there had been problems with vandalism but surely this is about common sense and compassion?



**World Toilet Organisation:** Jack Sim, Founder of the World Toilet Organisation has been in touch with *Truckers' Toilets UK* offering his support which has been gladly accepted. This is [great news](#) indeed. Jack Sim is highly respected throughout the world through his efforts to improve sanitation and hygiene.



**City Growth Commission:** On behalf of the British Toilet Association and *Truckers' Toilets UK*, Gill attended a seminar on the future role of cities having contributed to the Request for Evidence document where she described the need for improved service yard provision. Whilst much of the discussion focused on land acquisition and planning, it was useful in providing a [wider view](#) on developments and how TTUK could possibly translate these views into thinking 'outside of the box'.



**Safety in Lay-bys:** A report by Chris Tindall in a lorry drivers' magazine [*c 24 April 2014*] highlighted the need for safe HGV parking. A driver was stabbed in a Cambridgeshire lay-by when he got out of his cab. Nothing was stolen.



Drivers have told TTUK of the lack of suitable parking for HGV vehicles but even now there is apparently [no parking provision](#) in the current consultation for the new A14 road. Is this true? If so, why?

**Train toilets:** At last a Minister – Norman Lamb – has experienced for himself the dire situation of some of the toilets on trains [*Daily Telegraph 5 May 2014*]. Apparently he wanted to wash his hands after eating a tangerine and said of the poor facilities that *'it's a basic issue of customer service and public health. It may be an issue of maintenance – they are not giving it enough attention'*. Needless to say TTUK followed up on this report and wrote to Mr Lamb. We are [awaiting](#) his reply.



**Automatic toilet:** An all singing and all dancing loo is causing distress in Woking apparently. The door has been opening prematurely thus giving passers by a public performance or the occupant has been getting an unexpected drenching. [*Huffington Post 19 May 2014*]. Not only Woking. A relative of the Ed's has experienced a similar unveiling in another part of the country! The Ed also noticed a little while ago that an automatic facility had been removed from outside a local community centre! They don't appear to be popular with the public but might be useful in service yards perhaps? [What do you think?](#)



**Unite the Union:** Having had a successful meeting with Unite last month *Truckers' Toilets UK* is very pleased to report that discussions with Unite on [progressing](#) the Campaign to access toilet, hand washing and shower facilities are beginning! *Visit TTUK for updates*



**The NEWS you've all been waiting for!** The start of an ever expanding resource for all sorts of sanitation and hygiene topics is due to be launched on **Friday 13<sup>th</sup> June!**

Called **The Monkey Closet** [www.themonkeycloset.com](http://www.themonkeycloset.com) the website will include books, articles, campaigns [including the **Truckers' Toilets UK campaign**], news, history, contacts, places to visit, events and opportunities to get involved



Watch out for a **flyer** which will be landing in your email box soon Friday 13<sup>th</sup> may just be YOUR lucky day!

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 June

*Gillian Kemp*

The British Toilet Association <[www.britloos.co.uk](http://www.britloos.co.uk)>