

**COVER STORY**

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**HOW TO GET THE MOST FROM YOUR SAVINGS**

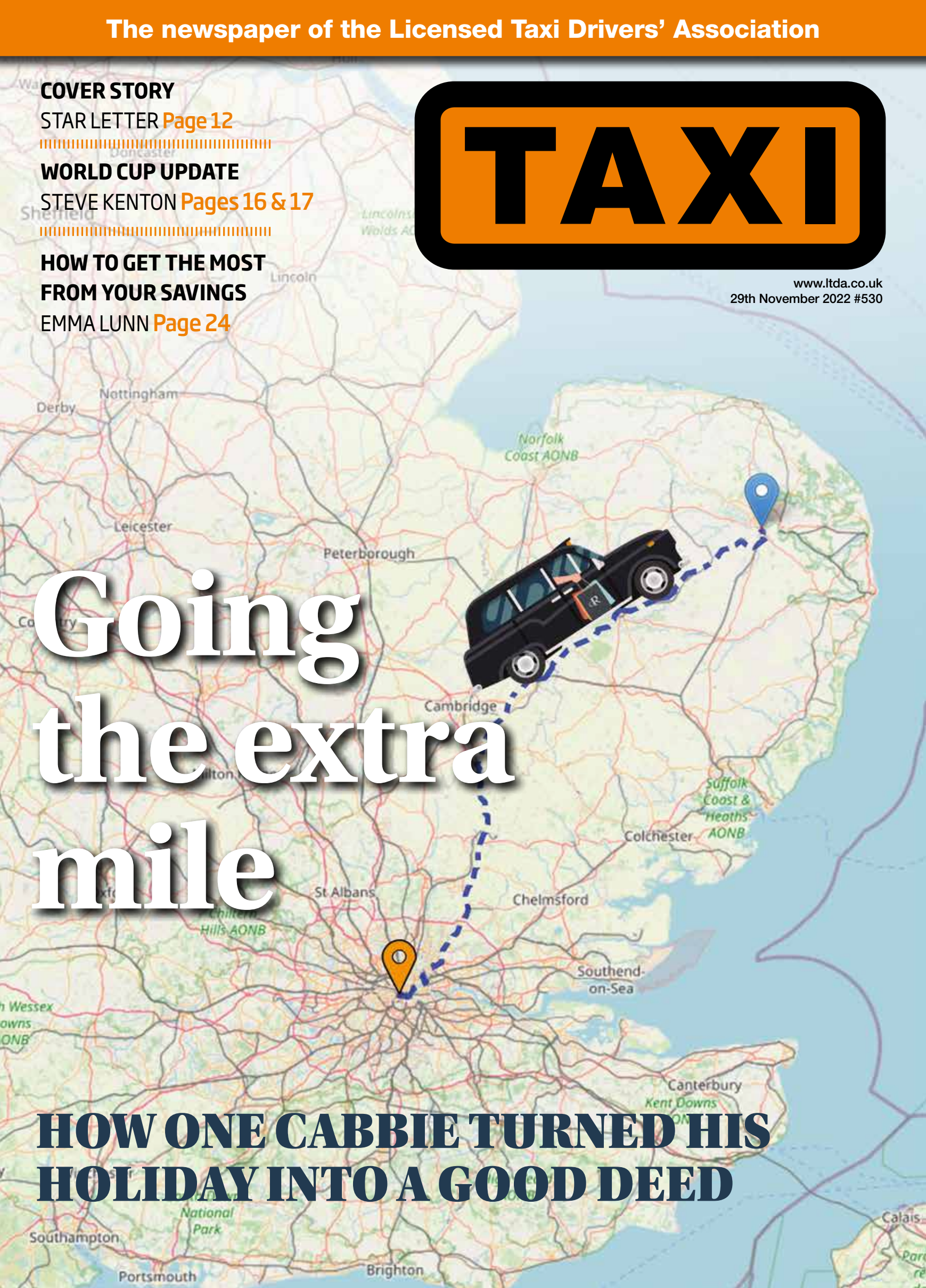
EMMA LUNN **Page 24**



www.ltda.co.uk  
29th November 2022 #530

# Going the extra mile

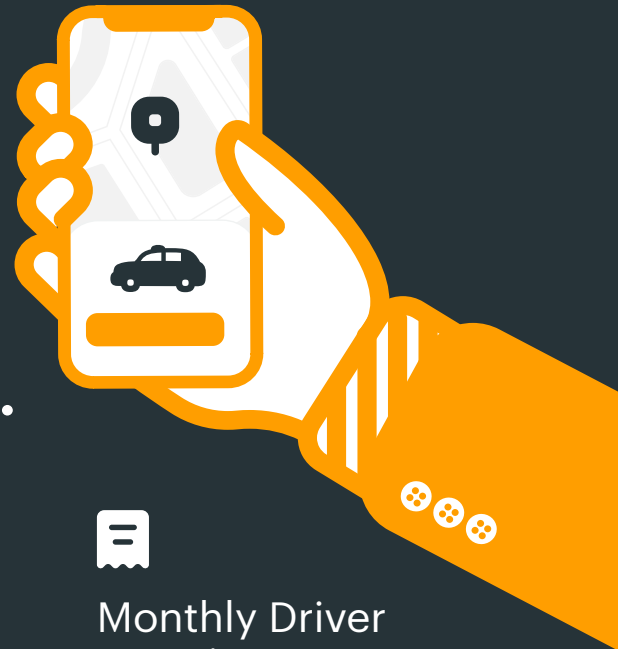
**HOW ONE CABBIE TURNED HIS HOLIDAY INTO A GOOD DEED**



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## ELECTRIC TAXIS ON DISPLAY AT COP27

A fleet of LEVC electric TX taxis provided transport for visitors attending the 2022 United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP27), held earlier this month in Sharm El Sheikh. The fantastic clean, green cabs attracted the attention of people attending the event from all over the world, who were impressed with the design, zero emission credentials and the level of comfort provided.

## TFL CONSULTING ON TAXI TARIFFS AND FARES

TfL is seeking drivers and passengers' views on whether, and if so, how it should increase taxi fares to help taxi drivers cover their operating costs. There are five different options set out as part of the regulator's review of Taxi fares and tariffs in London. The options being consulted on are:

- Increase tariffs 1,2,3 and 4 by the total Cost Index figure (11.64%) and freeze the minimum fare at £3.80
- Use the total Cost Index figure, but spread the increases across the minimum fare and the four tariffs, meaning the minimum fare would increase by 40 pence to £4.20 and Tariffs 1,2,3 and 4 would all increase by 8.80%.
- Increase Tariffs 1 and 2 by the drivers' operating costs part of the Cost Index (7.61%), freeze the minimum fare and Tariffs 3 and 4.
- Increase Tariffs 1 and 2 by the average national earnings part of the Cost Index (4.02%), freeze the minimum fare and Tariffs 3 and 4.
- No change, minimum fare and tariffs 1,2,3 and 4 stay as they are currently.

TfL is also proposing changes to the extra charge for booked taxis and the fixed-fare shared-taxi scheme that operates during the Wimbledon Tennis Championships. The consultation is open online here until 22 December 2022. You can find it here: <https://haveyoursay.tfl.gov.uk/taxi-fares-review-2022>.



## CHRISTMAS FAIR AT CABMEN'S SHELTER IN AID OF GREAT ORMOND STREET



IN AID OF  
**GREAT ORMOND STREET HOSPITAL CHARITY**

Cab drivers and the general public are invited to a Christmas Fair at the Cabmen's Shelter in Wellington Place, in aid of Great Ormond Street, formerly the Hospital for Sick Children. There

will be Christmas gifts available to buy, a raffle and a musician performing. Complimentary refreshments will be served. A donation to the charity would be appreciated. TAXI columnist and London historian, Phil Brown, will also give lectures on the heritage of the cab shelters in London throughout the day. The cabmen's shelter in St John's Wood has been a supporter of Great Ormond Street for the past 15 years and hopes to make this event the most successful yet! Do pop along and support them if you can.

The charity Christmas fair will run from 10am to 4pm at the Cabmen's Shelter in Wellington Place, St John's Wood, NW8 7PE.

## ISLINGTON LTN MEETING ENDS IN CHAOS

Police were called to a disturbance at an Islington Council meeting earlier this month to discuss proposals for a new 'Liveable Neighbourhood' scheme in Barnsbury. The meeting, held at Islington West Library, was to be the first in a series of public events providing a forum to discuss the proposals. Things went wrong when large numbers of interested residents turned up, only to find that they could not gain access to the meeting as the room was too small to hold them, leading to clashes between supporters and critics of the scheme.



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# Forewarned is Forearmed

The new legislation placed duties on taxi and PHV drivers and operators to ensure disabled people receive assistance without being charged extra.



**“You must not start the meter until the wheelchair is in the cab, secured, the ramps stowed away, and you are ready to start the actual journey.”**

meter until the wheelchair user is in the cab, the wheelchair is secured, the ramps stowed away, and you are ready to start the actual journey. Similarly, the meter must be stopped when you reach your destination, and not left running until the passenger is safely out of the cab and the ramps stowed.

There are still lots of cabbies, who aren't aware of this and who believe that the meter is set from the moment you are hired and ended when the passenger has alighted the cab. This practice in relation to disabled passengers and their carers, and specifically wheelchair users, has been ruled as 'over charging' by the High Court. TFL now actively consider prosecutions against drivers in these situations, and we understand they are encouraging wheelchair users to record and upload footage of drivers, who do otherwise.

So far, we have seen only a handful of these complaints against LTDA members, and we have successfully responded to all of them, but they do seem to be on the increase and forewarned is forearmed. **LTDA**

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## Steve's comment

**A**t the risk of being boring, I am going to say it again, please be careful out there. There are more and more ways to get caught out and make a mistake. I was talking to a member and cabbie of more than 30 years earlier this week. He was having sleepless nights worrying about all the new speed limits, cycling vigilantes and their cameras, the new rules of the road and making sure he didn't break any of them by mistake.

Luckily, we were able to help that member with some matters relating to PCNs. After meeting with our legal team, he said he thought that he would probably get a decent night's sleep, for the first time in months. The best way to protect yourself is, as always, to have the LTDA in your corner, to help you avoid making mistakes and to support you when you do.

## Taxi and PHV (Disabled Persons) Act 2022

In June of this year, the new Taxis and Private Hire Vehicles (Disabled Persons) Act 2022

came into force. This important legislation gave disabled passengers more rights and protections when travelling by taxi or PHV. It was introduced in large part in response to the poor service being provided by a growing number of private hire drivers, including refusing to carry assistance dogs. However, it is important to be familiar with the new rules, as we've recently become aware of wheelchair users being advised to film and report drivers, who they believe are not meeting their obligations.

## Know the rules

The 2022 Act amends the 2010 Equality Act to place duties on taxi drivers and PHV drivers and operators, and to give disabled people specific rights and protections to be transported and receive assistance without, being charged extra. The requirement not to charge a disabled person extra means that a meter should not be activated before, or left running, whilst the driver performs duties required by the Equality Act 2010, which would include helping a passenger into the vehicle, deploying the ramp etc.

This was also upheld in a now stated case, which confirmed that you must not start the

## Park Lane attack

Many of you will have seen the shocking footage of the cabbie being attacked in Park Lane by a delivery driver on a bike, wielding a heavy metal chain and padlock, like it was some sort of medieval mace.

Fortunately, the cabbie

was not seriously hurt, but thousands of pounds worth of damage was done to the cab. In response to this news, we have received numerous calls and emails from members asking what they can and can't do, if attacked.

The best advice is always to try to escape, if you can, and immediately call 999. Unfortunately, this is not always possible. If that's the case, the law is clear, you are allowed to defend yourself and your property by using reasonable and proportionate force. Of course, what appears reasonable and proportionate at 3am in a dark backstreet, when you are on your own and scared witless, might not be viewed in the same light by a judge and jury in a court room nine months later, so be careful.

There are two things you can do to mitigate any risk to you and your livelihood. Firstly, consider taking one of our free self-defence and conflict management courses. The next one starts in January, call us on **0207 286 1046** to sign up. Secondly, ensure you are an LTDA member and have the backing of the trade's best legal team, so we have your back when no one else does.





# Spots of Bother

Drivers do what they do every other day and suddenly find that they have racked up lots of fines, sometimes in just a few hours...

## Streets ahead

As most readers know, at the LTDA we take many calls from members daily, who need help with an issue which could potentially affect their taxi licence and take away their livelihood. The LTDA team can support with anything from licence renewals and medicals to PCNs. From completing statutory declarations to more complex legal matters. Whatever the issue, our team go the extra mile to get the answers our members need or to resolve an issue on their behalf.

In TAXI, we also try to keep cabbies informed about the latest developments out on the roads, the dos and don'ts, what to watch out for and how to avoid getting caught out. Here are the latest updates.

### St Thomas' Hospital

Most readers would have been aware that a private parking company was recently instructed to issue PCNs for taxis setting down passengers at St Thomas' Hospital, especially those who received one. I know some drivers got multiple tickets. We appealed the tickets in the normal way, but they were refused by the parking company. At the time, the LTDA arranged a meeting with the Hospital to get this resolved, which resulted in all our members' tickets being rescinded.

During the visit we also identified a location for a set down area for taxis to drop off or pick up wheelchair users within the hospital grounds. There wasn't one available and this was causing problems. A bay has now been marked out. Taxis can now wait in this new area for up to 20-minutes, with no charge.

### Yearly NSL – Failures, dos and don'ts

When drivers need to attend a NSL test centre for their yearly inspection, they generally follow the same procedure as the year before. We all know the drill. Book a date in, arrange for a garage to give the cab a once over



to rectify all the parts that appear to be faulty, then get a MOT. Next, it is a question of hoping the cab passes the inspection. If all goes according to plan it will receive a new cab licence and be plated for

another year.

In most cases, this will be a simple procedure, but recently I have been receiving calls from drivers who have failed their yearly test. For those who've been

around for a while – yes, this old devil is raising its ugly head once again! For the rest of you, it used to be the case that they could fail you for just about anything they didn't like the look of. Please make sure your cab is in tip top shape when you go along, it will hopefully save you a lot of time and effort.

Please also remember that if your plate has run out, your vehicle isn't licensed. This means you can't use bus lanes and also won't be exempt from the ULEZ and the Congestion Charge. It's a common mistake. Drivers do what they do every other day and find that they have racked up lots of fines, sometimes in just a few hours - even just driving to and from the NSL centre.

This is a problem you do not want to be faced with. These fines can easily mount up to hundreds, in some cases thousands of pounds. I have spoken with many stressed drivers, who don't realise they've done anything wrong. "I shouldn't be receiving these PCNs, I am licensed!" they tell me. When I explain that their cab was unfortunately not licensed at the time the taxi entered the zones or used the bus lanes and that the PCNs were issued correctly, they just hold their heads hopelessly.

In most cases like this, the LTDA can help explain the situation to TfL and these PCNs will likely be cancelled, but it's better not to have to go through all of that, if you can avoid it.



## HOT SPOTS

I am sure there are many more locations, but the places listed below are the ones we are hearing about most often when dealing with PCN related issues for members.

### Speed limit changes

- Elevated A40 Westway Westbound - 30mph speed limit
- A40 slip road to Paddington Station - 30mph speed limit
- Finchley Road/Queens Grove - 20mph speed limit
- Park Lane/ Mount Street Northbound – 20mph speed limit
- Millbank - 20mph speed limit
- Albert Embankment - 20mph speed limit
- Bayswater – 20mph speed limit

### Access restrictions

- Cornhill coming from Leadenhall Street - No access 7am to 7pm, Monday to Friday.
- Lansdowne Drive Hackney – No access 7-10am and 3-7pm, Monday to Saturday.
- Camden Square - LTN no access for motor vehicles including taxis.
- Garnault Place Islington – School street no access between 8.20am-9.15am and 3.00pm – 3.45pm (term time only).
- Stoke Newington/Church Street - Bus gate 7am-7pm, Monday to Sunday.
- Waiting to get onto rank outside Harrods, Brompton Road SW3 - Caught on Zig Zags or waiting on a red route.
- Charterhouse Square – School street no access Monday to Friday 8.15am-9.15am and 3pm-4pm (term time only).
- Tottenham Court Road – Camden now issuing PCNs.



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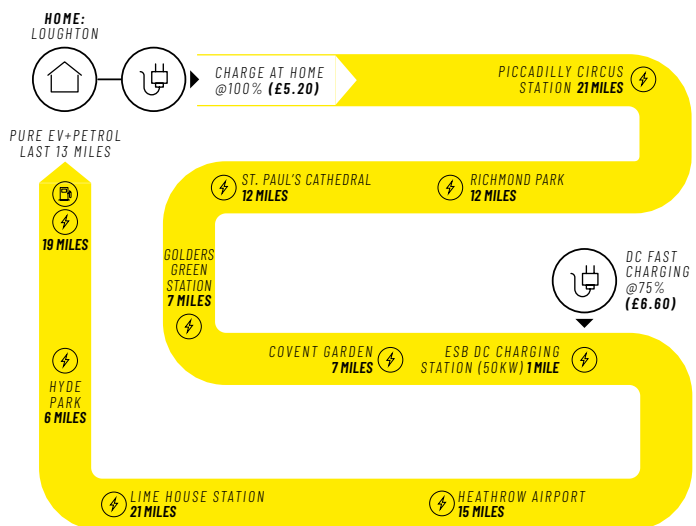
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\*\*Based on a 5-day working week, covering 121 miles per day. Cost savings figure based on comparative diesel fuel costs (TX4 Euro 6) covering the same distance. Fuel costs based on national average prices as of June 2022: diesel @ 194.87 ppl, home charge @ 21.8 p/kwh, 22kw fast charge @ 28 p/kwh, petrol @ 186.85 ppl.



# A New Low

The vet was full of praise and appreciation for what the cabbies' were doing that day. Moments later, a Lambeth employee popped up to ruin everyone's day.



## Lloyd's Top Tips

### DBS common mistakes

I am still seeing members encountering issues with the DBS check. Using shortened names when filling in the form is a common fault i.e. putting Steve instead of Stephen and Tom instead of Thomas. This can lead to the applications being denied.

Another issue sometimes arises when you sign up to the yearly DBS update service. This is a great service, which can save you time and money and makes it much easier to renew in three years' time. You must register for this service within 30 days of the date of issue of your DBS certificate. When you sign up, you also arrange a standing order for £13 a year to pay for it.

The golden rule is that you must keep the original DBS certificate issued to you before you signed up to the Update Service. If you are using the update service you won't be given a new certificate every three years. Instead you will have to supply a copy of the original. If you have mislaid or lost that certificate, you will have to apply from scratch for a fresh one and got through the whole lengthy process again, despite having paid for the Update Service.

Another problem arises when the bank card you used to register and pay the fee expires in the three-year period, so please keep an eye on that.

I am more than happy to help you sign up for the Update Service, you only need to call me or if you need any further advice on any of this, please get in touch.

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## On Point

**W**e've all seen how councils seem to be constantly coming up with new ways to fine us and to make money from Joe Public, but now they seem to have stooped to a new low. Our member, John, gave up his Sunday, as many other cabbies did, to be part of the fabulous Poppy Cabs on Remembrance Sunday. He volunteered his time willingly and like the other people involved, he welcomed the opportunity to do so. Little did he know that there were people lurking in the shadows waiting to penalise him unfairly.

Picture the scene, John was in a queue of cabs on the foot of Westminster Bridge. Whilst stretching his legs, he was approached by one of the veterans, who asked if he had a light for his cigarette. Our member of course gave him one from his own packet and the two of them chatted away for five minutes or so. The vet was full of

praise and appreciation for what the cabbies' were doing that day. He told John he would not have been making the trip, without the knowledge that cabs would be waiting at the station for him. After their chat, the two parted ways with a handshake.

### Gotcha

Our member was then immediately approached by an employee of Lambeth Council, clutching a Fixed Penalty Notice (FPN), which he had already printed off. He handed it to John. It was a fine of £100 for a cigarette butt put out on the floor. John was quite naturally taken aback. He asked the man if he had any video evidence to back up his accusation and how he could confirm it was his cigarette butt, not someone else's? He even offered to pick it up and place it in a bin. There is of course a lack of bins in that area because of concerns around terrorism, but after John pointed that out, he was met with a blank stare from the enforcement officer. He didn't get a reply from this delightful chap to any of his questions,

but he didn't want to push it with him further, as it would have meant dragging the veteran into it.

### No decency

John, quite rightly upset about this, came in to see me. He watched as my face went redder and redder, as he described the events. I immediately wrote to Lambeth Council, saying all the things you would imagine I would say and demanded that this Fixed Penalty be cancelled immediately. As I expected, we've received no answer to that letter as of the time of writing.

On hearing the member's story, I spoke with Steve McNamara, who immediately tell him that the LTDA would cover the cost of this penalty.

I am still shocked that Lambeth Council are quite happy to send out their operatives to target cab drivers, on a day when they are fully aware that all involved are giving their time for free. As the late Bob Hoskins said in the film *The Long Good Friday*, is there no decency left in this disgusting world? **LTDA**



# CurbLite

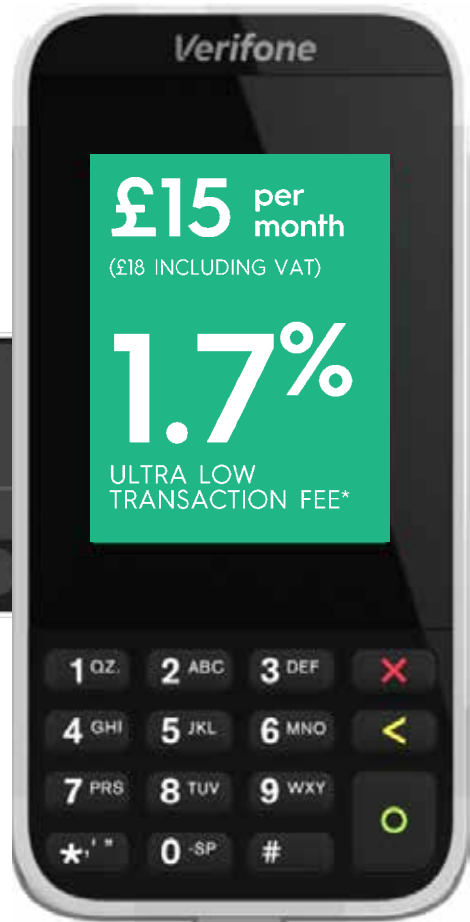
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# Taxi Etiquette, Airport Extras and Appeals

**Heathrow has proposed we charge the customer for all the drop off charges...To me, that is just the easy way out for them and not a solution for our business.**

## Airports & beyond

**H**eathrow's Taxi Drop Off Charge is still causing problems for our drivers. The automated system doesn't seem to cope with drivers dropping off, paying their charge and then entering the Feeder Park. It is quite often wrongly allocating drivers payments. For example, they might log on to pay the charge for a job on Sunday, but the system incorrectly allocates the payment to a journey they made on Friday when they were actually exempt from the charge because they were coming from the South Feeder Park. Then because that payment is incorrectly allocated, they will receive a PCN for an unpaid charge for Sunday.

10 There was also an issue with the cameras on T3 and PCNs were be issued incorrectly. That's now been addressed, however drivers are still receiving unjustified tickets. We have brought this issue up with Heathrow on numerous occasions and they insist they are looking into it.

## Appealing

I have now had many cases where the driver appeals to APCOA and the appeal gets rejected, so as is advised, they then write to the people at Parking on Private Land Appeals (POPLA). In my experience, writing to them is a waste of time. They rarely support the driver, even when it is clear



**"I mean, can you imagine how many times your finger would have to keep pressing the extras button!"**

from the evidence that they had paid and done nothing wrong. If your appeal is rejected, please do not write to POPLA, instead use the APCOA complaints e-mail:

**complaints.heathrowdropoff@apcoa.com** and make sure you attach all your evidence. I have had many successful results via that route.

If you need help with a PCN or want to speak to an LTDA rep about anything, the Heathrow Office is open Monday, Wednesday and Friday 10am to 2pm, feel free to call in during those hours or contact Taxi House in Great Suffolk St, outside of these.

## Extra, extra!

Heathrow has proposed that we charge the customer for all the drop off charges, inter-terminal or not. To me, this is just the easy way out for them and not a solution for our business. If we do this, it is likely we will lose customers, as the added costs would deter people from using a taxi. I mean, can you imagine how many times your finger would have to keep pressing the extras button! £3.60 plus £5.20 is £8.80, that's 22 times. Scandalous!

## Wardens

The wardens have returned to the feeder park to try to keep

## Tags

The latest update on tags is that 70 percent of the 253 damaged tags have now been replaced. Once all are given out, Heathrow will review the situation in early December and decide how many new tags will be released. We will update you as we know more.

things moving efficiently. Some drivers are holding up the chute on a regular basis, with cabs blocking the road, instead of using the North Park. The long vehicle that carries the trollies to the garage area is being blocked as a result and there have been complaints. Often the South Park is half empty, but there is still a queue of cabs on the road. This can be caused by drivers not having credits, a collection or just a general enquiry. Blockages and delays also happen early morning, if drivers are not back to their cabs when flights start landing and the terminals get busy.

The wardens are there to help and to ensure drivers do not receive any penalties or bans. The last thing we want as drivers is for our colleagues to be penalised in any way for not following the by-laws. They are on your side and only interested in doing their best by the trade. They also help to ensure members of the public are not waiting on the terminals for a taxi and so don't decide to take another form of transport. I would be grateful if you could bear all of this in mind when you see wardens manning the park.

I have in the past had to deal with drivers who are 'anti-warden'. These people are probably just anti-anything. Funnily enough, those same drivers were also 'anti-anyone else having a tag at Heathrow' and 'anti-marshals on the terminals to avoid touts' (even though this is also a huge problem). I've also heard people make up stories of the wardens 'milking it' and taking advantage, but I can assure you this isn't the case. If you have any queries about their role, please come to see me and I can explain how it works.

## Heathrow Etiquette

When you are out working it is important to uphold taxi etiquette. It's a way of showing respect to each other and it keeps everything fair.

For example, when approaching the spur road off the M4, where we need to follow the unwritten rule of not overtaking another cabbie and arriving at the Feeder Park in sync.

Also if you are on a local journey and you aren't running out of time, try to join the queue of taxis coming from the Park. There are occasions when the time limit of an hour is about to expire, so understandably a driver will need to overtake. When this happens to me, I get through to the reader as soon as possible and then explain my reasons to the driver I've just overtaken.

ETIQUETTE





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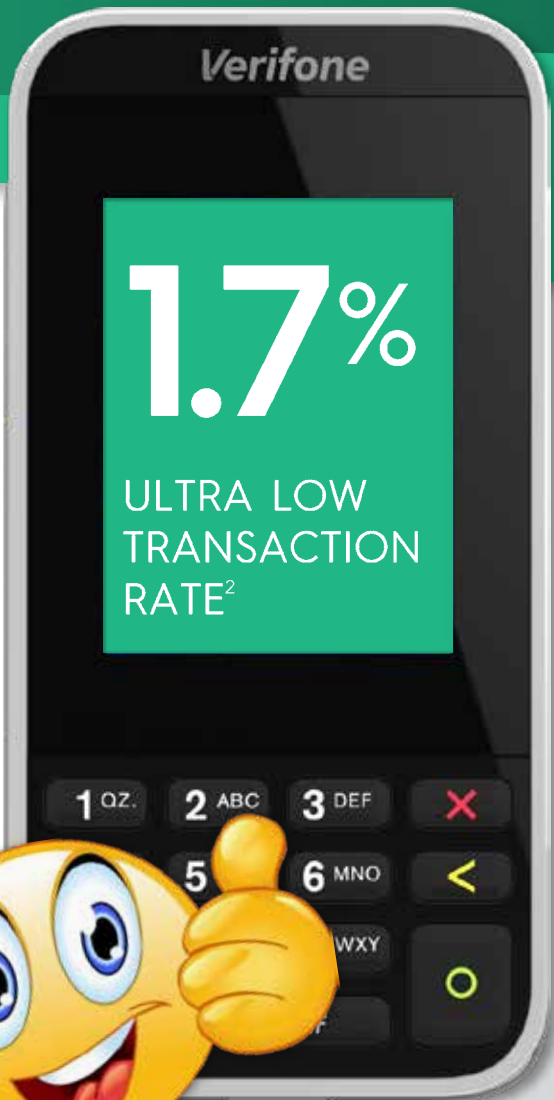
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# TAXI and LTDA Member Mail

**Cabbie goes the extra mile (120 of them) to reunite customer with his belongings.**

**W**hen LTDA member Michael, couldn't return a bag left in the back of his cab before the owner was due to leave London, he found another way...

Michael was in a hurry to get home and to an event he was going to that evening. As he was heading out of town, he realised someone had left a bag in the back. When he saw it and the contents, he realised it must belong to a group he had dropped at Claridge's an hour before.

Here is the letter Michael wrote to us about his efforts, which shows cabbies really do go over and above what is expected, to provide the best cab service in the world. Well done, Michael!



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## Star letter



**Subject: It's what we London cabbies do!**

I was on a mission, running late, light definitely off, pegging it home.

After a few turns here and there, and in between the songs on my newly found great radio station 'BOOM RADIO', I think I hear something in the back. I look over my shoulder but can't see anything. Few more turns here and there and now it's annoying me. At a set of red lights, I jump out to check the back. Low and behold...a bloody bag.

Now I know it wasn't my last customer. He definitely had only his phone and a diary in his hands when he was showing me his requested destination on his map. Had to be a group I had some banter with, when I was taking them to Claridge's as a surprise.

So on closer inspection into the high-end looking bag, I see two shirts and some other garment. I find a receipt and think right that's a start, phew. Nope, no personal info on it. Then I see the price, wow, oh my god!!! How much? Right, I've got to find this owner.

I call Claridge's and ask to speak to the bar manager. Conversation is something like this:

**Me: I'm a London cabbie think someone's in the bar who left a bag in cab, it would really be great to reunite them with it.**

**Bar manager:** (Amazed) Can you tell me what's in the bag?

**Me:** No I can't, I'd need them to tell me what's in it.

**Manager:** OK, give me a description of the party again and I'll have a look around and call you back.

Sure enough, she calls me back within five minutes

**Manager:** I think I've found the customer do I have your permission to give him your number?

**Me: Yes, bloody yes! (said in a nice way of course, I just want to give 'em their stuff back!)**

In a breath, the phone goes again....

**Customer:** Hi, Michael? The cabbie?

**Me: Yes**

**Customer:** name here, think you might have something belonging to me.

**Me: Possibly, can you tell me what it is?**

He went on to explain the contents etc. and circumstances as to how they left it behind. They actually thought they might have left it in a previous pub. Yay, I was almost there as Roberta Flack & Donny Hathaway sang 'Back Together Again'.

**Customer:** Can you bring it back, we are going to be here for an hour then off to

The Lanesborough for dinner?

**Me: No, so sorry, I'm the other side of London on my way to a function**

**Customer:** OK, no problem, I'm in London every few weeks or so. I have your details, I'll catch up with you then.

Feeling bad that I can't get back that evening, I ask if they are staying over, but the answer is no. Then I ask if they are local, (thinking I would drop it off the next day). Again, the answer is no.

**Customer:** We're from Norfolk.

**Me: NO WAY! Well you're not going to believe this, but we are going to be in Norfolk this very weekend and could possibly bring your bag with us?**

We agreed that this would work out perfectly for everyone and decided to meet where I would be having lunch in Norwich on the Saturday. Sure enough, he calls me on the Saturday, we meet up and I hand the goods over.

He attempted to pass me a reward for my efforts, but I of course refused saying "I am just relieved you've got the items back."

Open mouthed, jaw dropping he says, "I can't believe this." "It's what we London cabbies do," I say in return.

We parted in opposite directions. Me, with a sense of achievement and warm feelings and him, possibly thinking, "Wow."

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## Big Ben: Clock or Not?

Big Ben is one of the most famous and iconic landmarks in the world. Designed by architect Augustus Pugin, this horological and structural masterpiece took 16 years to complete, with the first chimes heard across London in 1859, but did you know that Big Ben is not a clock or even the name of the tower? Big Ben is, in fact, the nickname of the clock's largest bell, while its real title is the Great Bell.

Weighing in at a hefty 13.7 tons, Big Ben has four smaller brothers: all 'quarter' bells are tuned to play different musical notes, signifying the different quarters of the hour, with Big Ben itself is tuned to the musical note E.

The clock tower is called Elizabeth Tower. Its name was changed in 2012 to commemorate the Diamond Jubilee of the late Queen Elizabeth II. Previously, it was known as either The Clock Tower or St Stephen's Tower. At a height of 96 metres, the tower features 334 steps from ground floor to belfry.

During a test in 1857, the original bell cracked. A replacement was cast shortly after; however, this bell also fractured. The problem of the breaking bell was solved by rotating the bell a quarter of the way clockwise and using a lighter hammer to chime it.

Big Ben's chimes were first heard over the radio airwaves on 1<sup>st</sup> January, 1924. Interestingly, if you stand at the foot of Big Ben with the Great Bell's chimes coming through the FM airwaves you will actually hear the clock chime through the radio before you hear it from the clock tower. This is because radio waves travel at the speed of light, which is faster than the speed of sound.



## The Pineapples of St Paul's

St Paul's Cathedral's dome is an instantly recognisable landmark when travelling through the City of London, it really is unmistakable. However, had Sir Christopher Wren had his way, this magnificent house of worship would be sporting a pineapple as a pinnacle rather than a dome.

Wren had an obsession with the exotic fruit. In the 17<sup>th</sup> century, the humble pineapple became a symbol of wealth and status. In fact, it could cost up to £5,000 to buy just one. As a result of the exorbitant cost, people used to rent them and display the fruit at dinner parties and soirees.

Wren, in the meantime, was so besotted with the fruit that he wanted to build a 60-foot pineapple to sit where St Paul's dome is sited. This idea was subsequently dismissed, however, there are actually two golden pineapples on the north towers of the cathedral.

There are many pineapples dotted across London, including the obelisks at Lambeth Bridge, as well as Kentish Town, where there are numerous effigies of the exotic fruit. There is even one on the family tomb of Sir John Soanes.



**SO YOU THINK  
YOU KNOW**

**LONDON?**

## Arsenal Station

There are a handful of football clubs across London who share a name with their local tube or overground station. Crystal Palace, Charlton and West Ham are but three. However, did you know that there is only one football club in London which has a tube station directly named after it?

Serving the Piccadilly Line, Arsenal Tube Station, originally known as Gillespie Road Station, opened in 1906. Seven years later, Arsenal moved from Woolwich to the site of college playing fields in Avenell Road. It is there where the legendary Highbury stadium was built.

After Arsenal won their first top flight title in 1931, manager Herbert Chapman lobbied for the Gillespie Road Tube Station to be renamed Arsenal Station. On 31<sup>st</sup> October, 1932, the station was renamed Arsenal (Highbury Hill). Later, it was subsequently demolished and rebuilt in a bid to increase capacity. In the 1960s, the suffix Highbury Hill was dropped, leaving just the football club's name.

Arsenal no longer playing at Highbury, the old ground has now been turned into luxury apartments. The new football stadium, which opened in 2006, is sited a few hundred metres along the road at Ashburton Grove, but the station name has remained. In commemoration of Arsenal's move to their new home, a temporary mural was placed along the walls of the station passageways. This was part of London Underground's Art on the Underground scheme. It was unveiled in February of 2006 and removed in September that same year.



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# The Qatar World Cup: Football,

A look at the opening of one of the most controversial sporting events in recent history.

**T**o quote the words of Alex Ferguson, *“Football, eh? Bloody hell!”*

In the space of 48 hours - So far, the 2022 World Cup in Qatar really has had everything, from the prohibition of the sale of alcohol inside and around the perimeter of grounds, to Gianni Infantino, performing a surprisingly good impersonation of *The Office’s* David Brent, to some shock results. This tournament really is the gift that keeps on giving, but often for all the wrong reasons.

Despite the controversy surrounding football’s first Middle Eastern World Cup, the event kicked off with a slick opening ceremony at Al-Bayt Stadium, ahead of the tournament’s first match between hosts Qatar and Ecuador.

Hollywood actor Morgan Freeman was the highlight of the ceremony, featuring alongside Qatari YouTuber Ghanim Al-Muftah. The award-winning actor was greeted by cheers as he appeared in the stadium alongside Al Muftah, who was born with the rare Caudal Regression Syndrome. Extending a yellow-gloved hand to the FIFA World Cup ambassador, Freeman then declared, *“Everyone is welcome”*, in an image which was meant to represent inclusion.

## Art imitating life

As if art were imitating life, this became a more subtle, more engaging and less alarming mimicry of Infantino’s, ham-fisted attempt at proclaiming that the Qatar event was an inclusive one. Thankfully, Freeman didn’t claim to feel gay, disabled nor a migrant worker; although it could be argued that he would be more convincing than Infantino if he had made a series of such outrageous statements.

South Korean pop star Jung Kook then took to the stage to sing *Dreamers*, the official tournament song, alongside Qatari music artist, Al Kubaisi. The ceremony then switched back to Freeman who narrated a video about football’s ability to unite.

Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani then delivered the opening speech in Arabic, before the 30-minute ceremony ended with a fireworks display. The Qatar and Ecuador teams then took to the pitch to start their warm-ups. It could be argued that this was the Qatar national side’s finest moment on the pitch as Ecuador put Qatar to the sword, beating them 2-0 with a brace from veteran striker Enner Valencia.

## Rabbit in the headlights

The former West Ham and Everton striker scored an early penalty after initially having a third-minute goal chalked off. A VAR decision deemed Michael Estrada offside by the tightest of margins. A free-kick led to Valencia putting the ball in the back of the net after Qatar goalkeeper Saad Al Sheeb’s fumble while trying to punch the ball clear.

Al Sheeb, who had seemed to be engaging in his own personal world cup nightmare, was then caught out again. The hapless keeper brought down Valencia in the penalty area in the 16<sup>th</sup> minute, as the striker converted the resulting penalty.

The game was effectively over in the 31<sup>st</sup> minute when Valencia planted a well-taken header into the bottom left-hand corner, giving Al Sheeb no chance. Despite Qatar looking like a rabbit caught in the headlights during the first-half, the match didn’t go all Ecuador’s way. In the final minutes of the opening 45 minutes, the South Americans were carved open by a brilliant cross from the right, when Almoez Ali inexplicably glanced wide of the Ecuadorian post, despite being a mere five yards from goal in a central position, completely unmarked.

The second half offered absolutely nothing apart from a speculative 90<sup>th</sup> minute shot from Qatar’s Muntari, which landed on the roof of the net. However, in what could be a worrying few days for the Ecuadorians, Valencia was substituted early in the second





# eh? Bloody hell!

half after receiving a knock.

Qatar coach Felix Sanchez said after the game: *“Obviously this was not what we were hoping for. There is no excuse, I want to congratulate our opponents, Ecuador. There is a lot of room for improvement.”*

In what was yet another first for the 2022 World Cup, Qatar became the first host country to lose their opening match.

Despite a convincing win for Ecuador, it cannot be understated as to how bad Qatar played. Had they played either Senegal or the Netherlands, it is highly likely that the Qataris could have been thrashed by six or seven goals.

## The casualty list

The winners and runners-up of England and Wales’ group will face their counterparts in group A, so both sides will have been watching the opening match very closely. However, both have injury problems.

Despite being included in England’s 26-man squad, full-back Kyle Walker still isn’t fit after surgery on a groin injury from October. England’s problems have been compounded by defender Reece James’ knee injury, negating him from squad selection, meaning Southgate’s first and second choice right-backs are both out. Injuries aside, England eased past Iran 6-2 and Wales nicked a 1-1 draw with the United States, in their opening games.

Wales have been plagued by injuries too. 17 players have been carrying knocks in the run up to the World Cup. Swansea’s Joe Allen was a major concern and was not fit to start their opener, after picking up a hamstring injury in September, but has been declared fit and since featured.

Although it’s anticipated Wales will be battling with the USA for the runners-up spot in group B, the Americans and Iranians have recorded no major injury woes, meaning Wales could find themselves struggling to make it out of the group with a depleted squad. **■ TAXI**

<p><b>GROUP A</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li> QATAR (46)</li> <li> ECUADOR (55)</li> <li> SENEGAL (20)</li> <li> NETHERLANDS (11)</li> </ul>	<p><b>GROUP B</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li> ENGLAND (5)</li> <li> IRAN (22)</li> <li> USA (13)</li> <li> WALES (19)</li> </ul>
<p><b>GROUP C</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li> ARGENTINA (6)</li> <li> SAUDI ARABIA (49)</li> <li> MEXICO (9)</li> <li> POLAND (23)</li> </ul>	<p><b>GROUP D</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li> FRANCE (3)</li> <li> AUSTRALIA (34)</li> <li> DENMARK (10)</li> <li> TUNISIA (27)</li> </ul>
<p><b>GROUP E</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li> SPAIN (7)</li> <li> COSTA RICA (45)</li> <li> GERMANY (12)</li> <li> JAPAN (28)</li> </ul>	<p><b>GROUP F</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li> BELGIUM (1)</li> <li> CANADA (48)</li> <li> MOROCCO (29)</li> <li> CROATIA (18)</li> </ul>
<p><b>GROUP G</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li> BRAZIL (2)</li> <li> SERBIA (25)</li> <li> SWITZERLAND (14)</li> <li> CAMEROON (54)</li> </ul>	<p><b>GROUP H</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li> PORTUGAL (8)</li> <li> GHANA (52)</li> <li> URUGUAY (15)</li> <li> KOREA REPUBLIC (35)</li> </ul>





# The Londoner Avenged by Billy the Kid

Delving into the Wild West reveals an interesting link to one of the most infamous outlaws in history.



## Rob's history tips

**I**n American history, Henry McCarty, aka Billy the Kid, is widely regarded as a legend of the Old West; an outlaw and gunslinger, who achieved notoriety in the space of a few short years prior to his untimely death at the age of 21.

McCarty's violent life was a world away from Victorian London yet, in a curious way, he shared a link with the city. A good friend of his, John Henry Tunstall, was a Londoner and the fate he suffered would impact McCarty's own destiny.

Tunstall was born in Hackney in 1853. His father was also called John, and his mother was named Emily.

Tunstall senior enjoyed a successful career as a commercial traveller and, at the time his son was born, worked for a firm named Copestake, Crampton & Co., who were located on the corner of Bow Churchyard and Cheapside.

The Tunstalls were an upper-middle class family and, in the 1850s, lived on Queen's Road, Dalston.

In 1863, they moved to 212 Richmond Road. Then, in 1869, to an even grander property at 7 Belsize Terrace.

Tunstall junior, meanwhile, was educated at the Royal Polytechnic Institution (now the University of Westminster) on Regent Street, and was initially expected to become an accountant.

However, his father was now looking to build his own business in British Columbia and, in partnership with his brother-in-law, set up a company which was also based in Bow Churchyard.

This enterprise drew the young Tunstall in and, in August of 1872, he left Belsize Terrace and headed to Euston station, from where he caught a train to Liverpool, before sailing on to Canada via New York.

John worked in Canada for four years, before a sense of adventure persuaded him to go it alone.



wit and good nature, and so offered him a job instead.

Close in age, the two men quickly became good friends, and McCarty developed a fierce loyalty towards his employer. This was helped by the fact that he had gifted McCarty a horse and Winchester rifle, during a time when cowboys were expected to pay for their own gear.

## Underhanded tactics

The dispute between Tunstall, Dolan and Murphy came to a head in February of 1878, when the two Irishmen obtained a court order permitting them to seize a number of his horses as payment for an alleged outstanding debt.

Unsurprisingly, Tunstall refused. This led the Lincoln County Sheriff, William Brady, to form a posse in order to seize the horses by force.

When the gang arrived at the ranch however, they promptly shot him in the head, killing him instantly. He was just 24 years-old.

Tunstall's murder, which was rumoured to have been directly ordered by Dolan and Murphy, affected McCarty greatly.

He'd later say that Tunstall was "the only man that ever treated me like I was free-born", and at the funeral, reputedly vowed to "get every son of a b\*tch who helped kill John, if it's the last thing I do."

Tunstall's death sparked the Lincoln County War in which, true to his word, McCarty fought with a group known as 'The Regulators', killing several men in the process.

In the wake of this bloody conflict, circumstances transformed McCarty, aka Billy the Kid, into a true outlaw, and he himself would later be shot dead by Sheriff Pat Garrett in 1881. **TAXI**

## Living in America

Now aged 23, he harboured ambitions of setting up a ranch, so moved to America and settled in New Mexico, where land was cheap.

The area he sought to establish himself in was Lincoln County; a large territory consisting of over 1,000 square miles.

Although space should've seemed plentiful, John soon discovered that Lincoln County was controlled by two tough Irishmen: Lawrence Murphy and James Dolan. They held great influence, including a number of bought and paid-for politicians, and when he set up a rival cattle

ranch close to their territory, the pair became infuriated at the young Englishman's nerve.

As such, they applied pressure by drawing up phoney legal disputes, and when that didn't work they tried to lure Tunstall into a gunfight; something he refused to react to.

With violence now on the cards, he decided to recruit some hired-guns: one of whom was Billy the Kid. And, according to legend, the pair had first met in 1877, when McCarty attempted to rustle horses from Tunstall's ranch. However, rather than press charges, he recognised the gunslinger's skills, along with his

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# A Short-Lived Choice

Anyone worried about the loss of their warranty on the non-Nissan parts will be pleased to learn that City Electrical Vehicle Engineering (CEVE) is about to launch a warranty package.

## Electric Dreams

**W**ell, that was short lived! To think that after five years with no choice of vehicle, just as we cabbies finally had options again, it all ends in disaster, as Dynamo go to the wall! I shouldn't have been surprised. I have been around long enough to have seen the same thing happen to the original Metrocab from the 1980s, its reincarnation in the 1990s and its final demise with the death of the TTT in the 2000s.

Before I get to where that leaves the 180 Dynamo owners currently running one of their cabs, I must regale you with my personal tales of woe with my own Dynamo.

## My Dynamo dilemma

One morning last week, I went out ready to go to work, only to find the



cab would not open. Once I had gained access using the manual key, I discovered it wasn't the remote key fob that wasn't working, the entire vehicle was dead. Nothing would come on.

I made a quick call to the RAC, who diagnosed a dead 12v battery. After eventually getting it going, I was off to Northwest taxis for a new battery. They were unable to reset the software and again it was

back onto the RAC and the cab was eventually relayed to a Nissan main dealer.

One new battery and a software reload later, and I was back at work. Unfortunately, this only lasted 36 hours, when once again it went dead. It was 2pm on a Friday, I called the RAC again, and the cab was eventually picked up at 10pm. Unlike many cab garages, Nissan don't work weekends and by the

time they looked at it and called me it was late Monday, and the news was not good. Turns out, it's some sort of high voltage battery problem and the cab is off to Nissan in Swindon to be fixed!

## Warranty update

On a more positive note, anyone with a Dynamo cab, who is worried about the loss of their warranty on the non-Nissan parts, such as rear doors, steps, steering linkages and electrics etc. will be pleased to learn that City Electrical Vehicle Engineering (CEVE) in Chelmsford is about to launch a warranty package. CEVE are already an approved LEVC dealer and are fast gaining an enviable reputation amongst Dynamo drivers, as experts with all things Dynamo. Once I get the details of cost, coverage etc. I will get them circulated. In the meantime, if you have a Dynamo problem, give CEVE a call. **TAXI**



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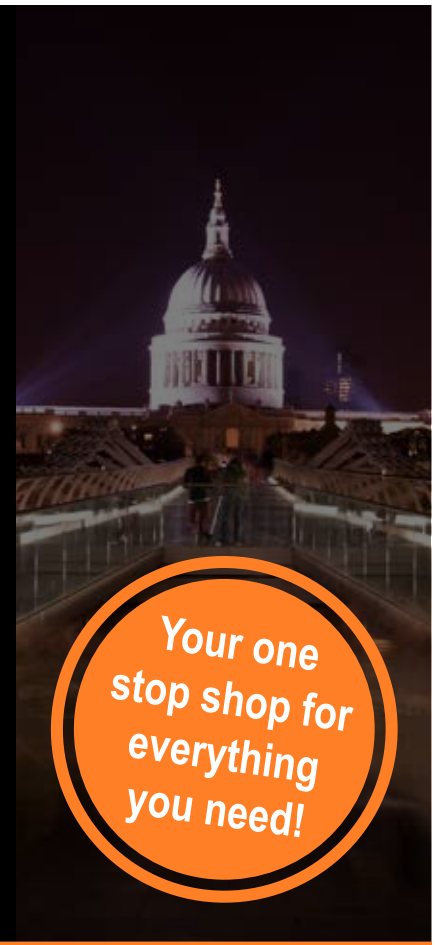
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# Movie Corner

Amon Warmann is on hand this week to recommend some top titles for you and your customers.

## Reel Talk



BBC Film

### Aftersun (12a) ⓘ

The father-daughter bond has rarely felt as moving as it does in *Aftersun*, the superb feature debut from writer-director Charlotte Wells. The two-hander focuses on Calum (Paul Mescal) and Sophie (Frankie Corio), the former committing to treat his 11-year-old child to the best Turkish holiday his meagre funds can buy. Years later, an adult Sophie (Celia Rowson-Hall) reflects on her relationship with her father, with memories both real and imagined, filling in the gaps between miniDV footage.

This is not a movie that gives you a definitive answer as to why Calum's absence is so keenly felt in Sophie's adult years, but you'll be too wrapped up in the chemistry between its two leads to care. Mescal burst onto the scene with a terrific performance in 2020's *Normal People*, and here he proves to be a similarly compelling screen presence as a Dad trying to hide his inner turmoil from a kid he clearly loves. Corio, meanwhile, is an amazing find: Sophie is smart and scrappy, and she plays it with authentic naturalism. Gregory Oke's beautiful cinematography captures every iota of tenderness between the pair of them, and it's gorgeous to watch.



**Aftersun is in cinemas now.**



Netflix



BBC Film

### Aisha (12a) ⓘ

Letitia Wright rose to the occasion to deliver a strong performance earlier this month in Marvel Studios' *Black Panther: Wakanda Forever*, but she may have bettered it with her work in this emotionally affecting indie. She stars as the titular Aisha, a young Nigerian woman seeking asylum in Ireland, who has to contend with social services and layers of bureaucracy; not to mention a steady stream of microaggressions as a Black Muslim woman navigating a white country. Even for someone as dignified as she is, it's a lot to tolerate.

Written and directed by Frank Berry, the opening card informs us that the film is based on the real experiences of 'international protection applicants for the Republic of Ireland.' That authenticity shines through in a number of well-researched sequences, as Aisha is put through the ringer by a system that makes life-altering decisions at the drop of a hat. The genuineness extends to the performances themselves: from Wright's restrained yet impactful turn, to Josh O'Connor's Conor, a kind Irishman who strikes up an unlikely, but sweet relationship with her. Credit also goes to Berry, who at every turn forgoes the inspirational, hopeful version of this story; instead choosing to be honest and real. And the film is better for it.



**Aisha is available on Sky Cinema and NOW.**

### Slumberland (PG) ⓘ

Francis Lawrence proved that he knows his way around a CGI sequence with his work on *The Hunger Games* sequels a few years ago. It's a good thing too, because his latest directorial effort, *Slumberland*, features an abundance of it. The story revolves around Nemo (Marlow Barkley), who goes to live with her Uncle Phillip (Chris O'Dowd) after her lighthouse-operating single Dad (Kyle Chandler) is lost at sea. It's then that she finds her way into Slumberland, and is quickly joined by self-styled outlaw Flip (Jason Momoa, having a lot of fun) as they journey through people's dreams searching for a MacGuffin that may help her see her father again.

It's an adventure that's just compelling enough if you don't think about it too much - because I have questions about the rules of Slumberland that the film doesn't answer - and the colourful CGI has some nice visual flourishes, like dancers made up of butterflies. It's really the emotional moments that *Slumberland* nails though; its observations on processing grief are as poignant as they are heartwarming. It's a little too long, but there's plenty of family fun to go around.



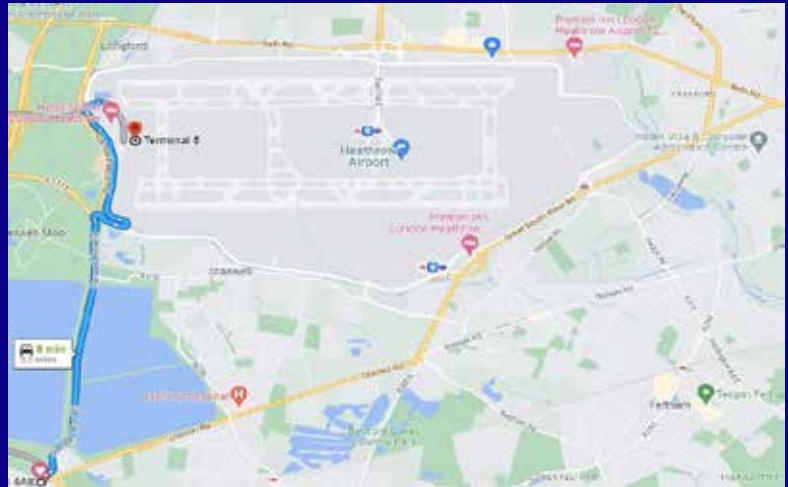
**Slumberland is available on Netflix now.**

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# Why You Should Change Savings Accounts

While the cost of living crisis rips through the UK, there's opportunity for anyone with a stash.

## Money matters

**R**ising interest rates aren't all bad news. If you've got some spare cash to save, you can earn more interest on your savings.

The Bank of England raised the base rate to 3% at the beginning of November. This is the highest the base rate has been since November of 2008.

The intervening years of low interest rates might have been good for mortgage borrowers, but savers have struggled to find a decent return on their money. However, since the base rate started to rise in December of 2021, savers have been offered a raft of better rates.

Some legacy savings accounts with high street banks pay savers as little as 0.1% interest. If you have money saved in one of these accounts, it's probably time to switch. Even if you opened a savings account this time last year, it's worth shopping around to get a better deal.

The first port of call for many people should be an easy access savings account. These allow you to add to your savings or withdraw your cash at any time. When interest rates were loitering below 1%, easy access accounts paid dismal rates – but they are much better now.

### Nice little earner

You can earn 2.50% AER with Marcus by Goldman Sachs or Saga, or 2.45% with Investec Bank. Marcus and Saga don't have a minimum amount, but you'll need at least £5,000 to open a savings account with Investec.

You can earn slightly more – 2.81% – if you have a minimum of £5,000 to save and you opt for an Islamic savings account with Al Rayan Bank. Following Islamic finance principles, Al Rayan pays an 'expected profit rate' instead of interest.

If you don't need instant access to your money and have a lump sum to stash away, fixed rate savings accounts or bonds pay higher rates. Normally, the longer you fix for, the higher the rate. But the gap between one and five-year bonds is pretty narrow at the



moment. For example, you can earn 4.6% AER on a one-year bond with the Bank of London and the Middle East, while the top paying five-year bond from Gatehouse Bank only pays 0.5 percentage points more at 5.1%.

In most cases, savers would be better off opting for a one-year fixed rate bond and then moving their money in 12 months' time if better rates are available.

ISAs (individual savings accounts) are another good option for savers. Interest on ISAs is always paid tax-free and you can save up to £20,000 a year in an ISA.

ISA rates are currently comparable to mainstream savings accounts. The best easy access ISA is from Marcus by Goldman Sachs and pays 2.5%, the same as the bank's easy access savings account. The best one-year fixed ISA is from Leeds Building Society and pays 3.85% – less than the best non-ISA one-year bond on the market.

Whether you should opt for an ISA depends on how much money you have in savings and whether

**"The first port of call for many people should be an easy access savings account. These allow you to add to your savings or withdraw your cash at any time."**

amount of savings and interest rates keep rising, you could soon find yourself paying tax on your savings interest. So, an ISA could be a good way to shelter your gains from the tax man.

If you already have a large sum of cash saved in an ISA, from using your ISA allowance in previous years, it makes sense to leave your money in an ISA but to look at transferring it to a cash ISA, with a more competitive rate if possible. Most, but not all, cash ISAs allow 'transfers in' from other providers..

### New starters

If you're just starting to save, a regular savings account can be a good option. These accounts offer a fixed interest rate for 12 months. However, there will be a limit as to how much you can save each month. For example, Lloyds regular saver pays 5.25% and allows you to between £25 and £400 each month, but you'll need a Lloyds current account to be eligible for that one. ■ **TAXI**

you have built up a decent sum in ISAs in previous years.

Since 2016, Brits can use the personal savings allowance (PSA) to reduce the amount of tax they pay on their savings on any kind of savings account. Basic rate taxpayers (20%) can earn £1,000 in tax-free interest each year while higher rate taxpayers (40%) can earn £500 in tax-free interest each year.

These thresholds might seem quite high – but if you have a decent



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# Remembrance Sunday and the Poppy Cabs Service



Taxi spoke to cab driver Mike Hughes, who coordinates the annual service.

**TAXI** Hi Mike, how are you?

**Mike:** I'm well thank you, just a little tired after trying to get everything in place for the other Sunday.

**TAXI** I think most of our readers will know about Poppy Cabs but for those who don't, can you explain what it is?

**Mike:** Poppy Cabs is a free cab service for veterans who attended the service at The Cenotaph or took part in the parade on Remembrance Sunday in London. Thanks to hundreds of kind-hearted drivers who volunteer their time, we were able to arrange transport for veterans from mainline stations, making the day, especially for the older veterans, much less stressful than it might otherwise be.

**TAXI** How did it all start?

**Mike:** It all started in 2009 when TfL decided to shut down large parts of the tube network, including Westminster Station, for maintenance. A veteran was bemoaning this on a radio station, when a taxi driver called and volunteered to take the veteran for free. At that time, there were a few of us on social media who decided that we too would volunteer. We wondered if there was more we could do. I contacted the various authorities, discovered where they thought help was needed, and Poppy Cabs was born.

Although Poppy Cabs is its own entity, over the years, through contact with the Taxi Charity for Military Veterans and seeing the way that London's cabbies cared for the men and women, they drove to events. I too became a volunteer for them. Many of the drivers who also volunteer for the Taxi Charity help out on the day, as do drivers who support the other taxi charities and many of our volunteers do it because they had grandfathers who fought in WWII, or even fathers who fought in more recent conflicts. And we all know some offer their time simply because they care.

In the first year, we had 14 drivers lined up on Westminster Bridge. Three years later, we had 107 on the bridge. In 2018 and 2019, we had in excess of 150



Chelsea pensioners and a Poppy Cab.



Poppy Cabs at the Cenotaph.

waiting on the bridge. Sadly, in 2020, Covid prevented us from offering the Poppy Cab service, but five of us walked across Westminster Bridge to listen to Big Ben mark the 11<sup>th</sup> hour. Now, hundreds offer their help, not just on Westminster Bridge but also at Admiralty Arch and at other locations.

In the early years, we had very little publicity but now the iconic picture of lines of black taxis on Westminster Bridge makes news broadcasts. I've already been interviewed by BFBS and have spoken with Eddie Nestor on BBC Radio London and Andrew Pierce on GB News to talk about Poppy Cabs.

**TAXI** We understand you have had some great support this year?

**Mike:** We have indeed. This year, we are over the moon to have received support from ASDA, which has allowed us to have an electric taxi, driven by

Taxi Charity volunteer Mickey Harris, wrapped with a Poppy Cabs livery. It's to remind people of the Remembrance Day cab service and the fabulous support and respect the London Cab trade show has given to our veterans.

Ubiquitous wrapped the cab and, unbelievably, they offered a second wrap for my cab, which was a wonderful gesture and I am very thankful for. The wrapped cabs are now respectively called Scarlet and Poppy Too.

**TAXI** Great names, how did you choose them?

**Mike:** Scarlet reminds us of the colour of the poppy flower and uniforms of the Chelsea Pensioners, plus the various brigades of Guards. Poppy Too gets her name because my previous red taxi was called Poppy and the name was taken forward which has two poppies on her front grille.

**TAXI** Tell me about the Poppy Cab badges.

**Mike:** Every year we produce a Poppy Cab badge and we ask for donations which are shared between the Royal British Legion and The Taxi Charity for Military Veterans. We have had four different badges, including: FX4, FX3, Hansom Cab and this year's Austin Harris. Some people support us every year and proudly display them all on their lapel.

The badges have raised an incredible £15,000 for the Royal British Legion and The Taxi Charity, and this year we are on target to raise around £5,000.

**TAXI** How do people get hold of one?

**Mike:** If you would like a badge, please email [mike@mikehughes.org.uk](mailto:mike@mikehughes.org.uk) I do not have any FX4 badges available but have a very small supply of FX3 and Hansom Cab badges with a rapidly diminishing supply of Austin Harris badges. All we ask for is a donation of £5 per badge.

**TAXI** Will you need more drivers for next year?

**Mike:** I'm always happy to talk to drivers who want to help or to those who would like to help in other ways on the day. Drivers can simply turn up at any of the mainline terminus stations, Union Jack or Victory Services Clubs. We always need marshals and they can be drivers, family or friends. Knowledge students are especially welcome as with their bikes they can be rapidly deployed where needed. ■ **TAXI**

To volunteer, please email: [mike@mikehughes.org.uk](mailto:mike@mikehughes.org.uk)

## About the Taxi Charity

The Taxi Charity is run by volunteer London black taxi drivers and has been supporting thousands of veterans of all ages since 1948. The charity arranges free trips to Belgium, France and the Netherlands, for acts of commemoration and days out to museums, concerts, or fundraising events across the UK, to catch up with friends and comrades.

The charity was awarded the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service in June, 2021.

In 2023, the charity will be celebrating its 75th anniversary. To fund and facilitate their work, the charity is reliant on donations, grants and sponsorship.

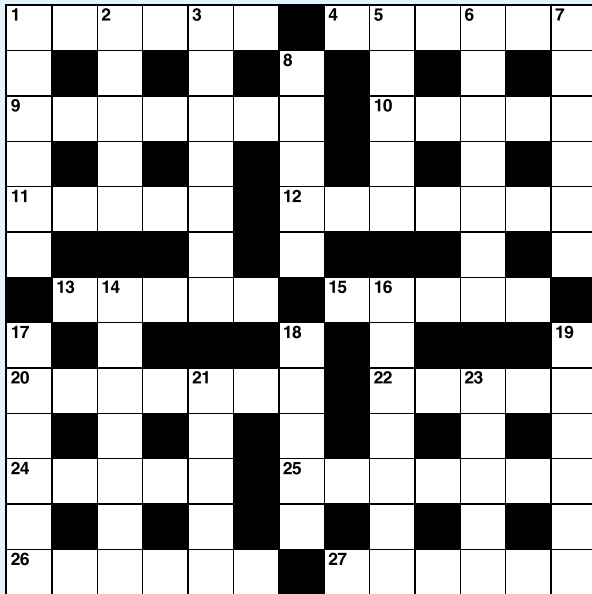
[www.taxicharity.org](http://www.taxicharity.org)





# Puzzler Page

## Crossword



### ACROSS

- 1 Plain-spoken (6)
- 4 Mummify (6)
- 9 Make an attempt (4,1,2)
- 10 Split (5)
- 11 Shetland \_\_\_\_, Scottish group (5)
- 12 False display of courage (7)
- 13 \_\_\_\_ the Peril, The Dandy character (5)
- 15 Following (5)
- 20 Long paces (7)
- 22 Stroll (5)
- 24 Official decree (5)
- 25 Disbeliever in God (7)
- 26 Diatribe (6)
- 27 Sponge and cream dessert (6)

### DOWN

- 1 Showy garden flower (6)
- 2 Make merry (5)
- 3 Boorishly (7)
- 5 Rich pungent coffee (5)
- 6 Par for the course (7)
- 7 Formal proposal at a meeting (6)
- 8 Personal pastime (5)
- 14 Previously (7)
- 16 Plume (7)
- 17 Rise (6)
- 18 Dissertation (5)
- 19 Kitchen appliance (6)
- 21 Went out with (5)
- 23 Concise (5)

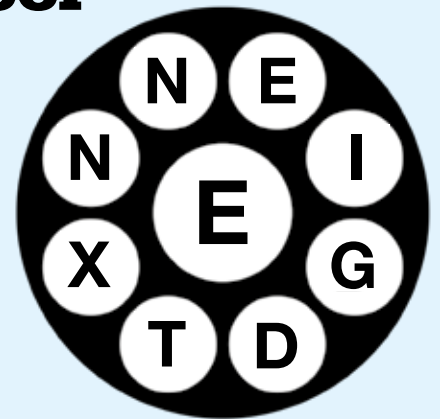
## Sudoku

Have a go at this medium level Sudoku puzzle. Fill the grid so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the numbers 1-9 just once.

	8	1		6		4	3	
	5		2		3		6	
8			9		2			3
	3			7			9	
	9	6				2	1	
		3	8		7	5		
			4	2	9			
				5				

## Wordwheel

How many words of four letters or more can you make from this Wordwheel? Each word must use the central letter, and each letter may be used once only. At least one nine-letter word can be found. We found 39 words - can you do better?



## Futoshiki


Fill in the blank squares so that each row and column contains all the numbers 1 - 5. Use any given numbers and the symbols that tell you if the number in the square is larger (>) or smaller (<) than the number next to it.

	<		1	
	^			
		4		
				>
	^		<	
		^		
		<		

All answers to puzzler on p30

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**TAXI** **LINAGE** **TAXI**

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- Dynamo taxi for sale 34k miles, £37,000 – 079760 34456
- Cabs for sale. Main Dealer service history. Non-fleet cabs. New stock daily. Cabs also wanted. Finance Paid 07957 465423

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- TX4s from £220 per week, based north west London Kingsbury – 02082008488/ 07956422658

- All taxis well maintained, no ads full back up with spare cab, night man and part time welcome - 07970915778
- VNK Motors -Electric cabs LEVCs & TX4s for rent, from £195 upwards per week. Full back up, Caledonia Road, North London area, breakdown service, overhauls, running repairs & body work. Also Looking for a taxi mechanic. 0207 700 1045 or 07951 661430 – Nick.
- New 72 plate txe vista comfort plus, black no adverts £350 per week, Natasha - 07968623209
- TXEs, TX4s and vitos available from £230 per week contact Sabri – 07958973944

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Name.....  
 Address.....  
 ..... Postcode.....  
 Telephone..... Mobile.....  
 Email..... Twitter.....  
 Date of Birth..... Badge No.....  
 Badge colour (Please state whether green or yellow)..... Year badge obtained.....  
 Suburban badge sector numbers.....

Have you ever been a member of the LTDA before? (please tick) Yes  No   
 Do you currently have points on your DVLA driving license? (please tick) Yes  No   
 If Yes how many points do you have?

Please tick if you **DO NOT** wish to receive information from the LTDA and other related organisations in the future?

I understand that my application for membership of the Association must be approved by the Council of Management and that until this is confirmed I am not eligible to vote in relation to any form of Association matters. I agree that all benefits prior to approval of membership shall be at the discretion of the Council of Management.

**Please note: We do not provide assistance for any matters that have occurred prior to you joining LTDA.**

Signed..... Date.....

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1

4

4

2

8

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2 Name of account holder.....

3 Account number

4 Bank Sort Code  -  -

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5 Signature(s).....

Date.....

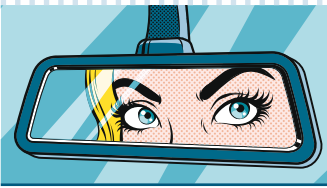


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  - If you receive a refund you are not entitled to, you must pay it back when LTDA asks you to.
- You can cancel a Direct Debit at any time by simply contacting your bank or building society. Written confirmation may be required. Please also notify us.



# Lady Wotsit of Wherever



I had a school friend whose Mum was a royal — well, let me explain...

## A woman of words

**A**t least, she thought she was a royal. I remember her standing at the school gate dressed in a ball gown and tiara, and with three corgis on leads yapping around her feet.

My favourite thing that she did was to sign notes to the teacher as various members of the royal family. As in, 'My Margaret can't do PE today because she has a cold, yours faithfully, Her Majesty the Queen.' Or 'My Margaret has to leave school early today to go to the dentist, thanking you, Prince Phillip.'

It was funny when we were at primary school but not so much when Margaret was 16 and her mum got in trouble after she tried to use an ornamental sword to knight folk in Asda. She was

arrested in the pet food aisle just as she was saying "Arise Sir Bonio!" to a terrified shelf stacker.

Margaret's mum is now happily living in a care home. She's taking her medication regularly but is nevertheless convinced she is Princess Michael of Kent.

I started thinking about Margaret's Mum as I entered the very la-di-dah House of Lords this week. No, I wasn't dropping a fare there. I went IN. With Mr. Meg. For afternoon tea. Ooooooh, get me!

Mr. Meg and I, his tag along (I mean plus one) were invited to afternoon tea by the Hospice that he works hard to raise funds for and were celebrating 35 years of great work. Hip hip hooray for Mr. Meg!

Trust me, getting into the House of Lords was no easy feat. The security process is A LOT. Think airport security plus plus plus. Boots off, coat removed, bags tipped out and rummaged through by security guards

packing guns.

As I emerged from my security check, I heard an alarm going off behind me. I knew it had to be Mr. Meg's replacement hip that had set it off. I turned to watch as he was body searched very thoroughly. It was so thorough, intimate even, in places that a bottle of baby oil and some romantic music would have come in handy.

That security guard's fingertips went to places that I haven't been in for four decades of marriage, including deep into his belly button.

When it was all over the guard had to shout, "Move along!" at Mr. Meg, who was left in a post-massage haze.

Afternoon tea was special. We were on the terrace at the House of Lords at sunset and the river views were spectacular. Driving around London all day, every day makes it easy to miss what a beautiful city surrounded us.

We quaffed champagne, ate yummy sandwiches and macaroons and, in a nod to Margaret's Mum, I felt just like we really were Lord and Lady Westminster.

I would be well suited to a title. I think Lady Meg of Taxiranks would be a good one for me.

But I didn't act like a Lady when I helped myself to a souvenir. Good job there was no security on the way out of the House of Lords, because somehow one of their teacups and a matching saucer fell into my handbag.

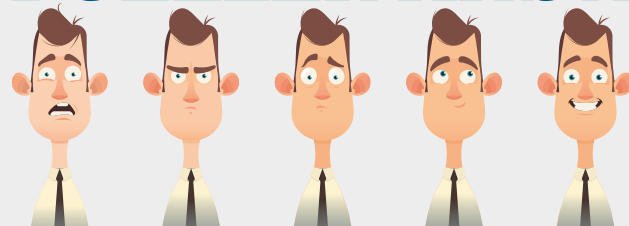
In future, I'll be sure to stick my pinkie out whenever slurping tea.

■ TAXI

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- ◆ Coney Allen, Dunbridge Street, E1
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- ◆ Globe Transmissions, Cudworth Street, E1
- ◆ The Ham, Brentford
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- ◆ Knowledge Centre, Caledonian Road
- ◆ KPM, Hemming Street, E1
- ◆ London City Airport Canteen
- ◆ LP Motors, Dunbridge Street, E2
- ◆ Martin Cordell, Thomas Road, E14
- ◆ Paddington Station Rank
- ◆ Putney Bridge Taxis, The Arches, Putney Bridge Station, SW6
- ◆ Richmond Road Taxi Centre, E8
- ◆ Safewise Supermarket, Harrow
- ◆ South Bank Service Station, Great Suffolk Street, SE1
- ◆ TAXI HOUSE, Great Suffolk Street, SE1
- ◆ Taxi & Private Hire, Blackfriars Rd, SE1
- ◆ Temple Place Shelter
- ◆ Turbo Accessories, Three Colts Lane, E2
- ◆ Ubiquitous Ltd, E1
- ◆ Waterloo Station
- ◆ Wimbledon Station Rank
- ◆ WizAnn Knowledge School, Watts Grove, E3

# PUZZLER ANSWERS



## Crossword

D	I	R	E	C	T	E	M	B	A	L	M
A	E	R	H	O	V	O					
H	A	V	E	A	G	O	C	L	E	F	T
L	E	S	B	H	R	I					
I	S	L	E	S	B	R	A	V	A	D	O
A		L	Y		G	N					
	B	E	R	Y	L	A	F	T	E	R	
A	A		E	E		K					
S	T	R	I	D	E	S	A	M	B	L	E
C	L	A	S	T	R	T					
E	D	I	C	T	A	T	H	E	I	S	T
N	E	E	Y	E	E	L					
T	I	R	A	D	E	T	R	I	F	L	E

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## SUDOKU

3	6	9	1	8	4	7	2	5
2	8	1	7	6	5	4	3	9
7	5	4	2	9	3	1	6	8
8	1	7	9	4	2	6	5	3
5	3	2	6	7	1	8	9	4
4	9	6	5	3	8	2	1	7
9	2	3	8	1	7	5	4	6
6	7	5	4	2	9	3	8	1
1	4	8	3	5	6	9	7	2

## Wordwheel

**SOLUTION: EXTENDING**

**All words:** Deign, dent, denting, diet, dine, edge, edit, ending, engine, engined, exigent, exit, exited, extend, gene, genie, indent, index, intend, need, needing, next, nine, teed, teeing, teen, tend, tending, tide, tied, tine, tinge, tinged, tinned, EXTENDING.

**Word targets** Excellent: 40, Good: 33, Target: 24, Kids: 19

## Futoshiki

2	<	3	5	1	4
		^			
3		5	4	2	1
5	2	1	4	>	3
		^			
1	4	3	<	5	2
		v			
4	1	<	2	3	5



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