

For your diary KATA meetings are on Wednesdays:-

and 2<sup>nd</sup> March, 6<sup>th</sup> July, 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2011

At 15:00 (3pm) in the cosy 'Public Bar' Druids Head, Market Place (not Meerkat!)



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## **OMNIBUS – news in brief**

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The 'London United-RATP 7 GROUP' name has (re) appeared on buses replacing 'Transdev' after 5 years due to the split in this French state owned company, thus London United is now a subsidiary of RATP-DEV UK Ltd, while London Sovereign (Harrow and Edgware garages) is part of Veolia-Transdev, and 'TRANSDEV' still appears on its buses.

The reasons are that Transdev sought a merger with Veolia (ex Connex) but Transdev was mainly owned by CDC (French state bank) and RATP (Paris Metro etc) had a stake as well. The idea was Veolia would buy all the shares in Transdev, but RATP did not want to sell its shares nor participate in the combined business, and instead asked for some of the "assets" i.e. companies. LU is one of the parts that has gone to RATP (but not London Sovereign). So strangely LU is (and has been since 1997) a public sector organisation, albeit French public sector !

Meanwhile the London United website lists their routes with glaring errors:-

- 57 to Clapham Park (they give Streatham Hill)
- 131 to Tooting Broadway Station (they give Wimbledon)
- 49 to White City (they give Shepherd's Bush)
- 148 to White City (they give Shepherd's Bush)
- 267 to Hampton Court Green (they give Station-not since 2009)
- 283 /omits Wetlands Centre
- 411 not LU since Quality Line took it over last October!
- 440 to Gunnersbury (they give Turnham Green)
- 641 not LU since Quality Line took it over last October!!
- 661 omits 'SDO'
- 671 routeing includes 691 routeing!
- 965 gives no route
- C1 gives no route
- 'N'65 to Chessington (they give Kingston)
- N27, N65, N72, N94, N148, N281, N285 :
- all need to delete 'N' as these are not shown! .

**SAVE OUR BUSES** has been launched by the Campaign for Better Transport as 70% of authorities plan major cuts to bus funding – some up to £1million. This will also drive down local economies, and an interactive map of cuts can be found at: [www.bettertransport.org.uk/campaign/save-our-buses/map](http://www.bettertransport.org.uk/campaign/save-our-buses/map) .

 A garbled letter in the *Richmond & Twickenham Times* was suggesting that **wheelchair users** had a right to bus transport when required. But the letter started off with; "Assuming wheelchair users have Oystercards...they have a contract with the operator (s)", but not only do wheelchair users not have an Oystercard they do not require any pass to travel free on buses. But as regards a bus on demand this is not possible, and nor illegal as the writer questions. However, Dial-A-Ride goes some way to this end and moreover all London's buses are wheelchair accessible, except the dozen Routemasters on the 9 & 15. .

The 1950s "Astolat" bus shelter at Red Lion Green (for 281,406,418,K1 and er 265) is falling apart due to vandalism, and despite our pleas to RBK to save this almost unique wooden structure and looks like RBK will demolish it. KATA has asked TfL to install a new replacement but it appears they require some funding from third parties, ie the Council.

Meanwhile, the LT Museum in Acton had requested it, but before Xmas acquired a better condition one from SCC (anyone know where from?). .

From April the new chair of **Bus Users UK** will be Gillian Merrion a former New Labour Transport Minister. She replaces Gavin Booth who in partial retirement becomes Editor of “Bus User” replacing Stephen Morris who is now General Manager. BUUK is a non-statutory body representing all bus users where there is no statutory representation, noting that only London, Scotland and N.Ireland have such. Albeit recently Passenger Focus (PF) was given a remit for complaints about bus services in Britain but in turn pass on the complaints to BUUK, so there is still no statutory representation ! New Labour only widened the PF remit on paper but why did they hold-back from giving equal bus representation to all? Not surprisingly the so-called peoples party is accordingly now in opposition. .

**FARES & PASSES update****Page 2**

BoJo is to **cut nearly £8bn in TfL funding** by 2018, some £3bn more than announced last October. This means thousands of jobs will be cut and £½billion reduction in ‘bus subsidies’. Fares will rise by an even greater amount than before but perhaps not next January being five months before the Mayoral election. We also note that he has apparently halted (?) the Government cuts to the Metropolitan Police but this is clearly because of the security required for the Royal wedding, and next year’s Queen’s jubilee and the Olympics, and moreover he wants re-election in May 2012. But if BoJo is re-elected then look out in 2013. .

°°° **Don’t bank on it!** - By the Olympics London will be the first city in the world where passengers will be able to access the TfL transport network with a contactless debit or credit card. TfL is upgrading its Oyster system to accept any bank card issued by Visa, MasterCard or American Express in the same way the Oyster-card is used. However, while all 8,000 buses will be modified by 27 June 2012 the Tube, Overground, DLR and Tram will probably not be until after the Olympics and there is no indication if or when National Rail in London will be incorporated. .

☒ **Overcharging on Oyster-cards** was £62million in 2010 with Waterloo being the highest at £2.5million. But locally the six highest are Richmond at £323,000, Kingston £109,000, Twickenham £99,000, Surbiton £89,000, Norbiton £41,000 and New Malden £40,000. By not tapping out users are charged the maximum single fare (zone 1-6) of £7.40 but a lot is due to Oyster design rather than by accident. Plus when gates are left open users simply walk through. Only about 25% claim back the overcharging so do make the effort. .

**Fair Fares Now** is a new national campaign calling for cheaper, simpler, fairer train fares. As they say we already have some of the most expensive train fares in the world which prices people off trains and hurts passengers, the environment and the economy.

Now the Government is planning to raise the cap on regulated rail fares, paving the way for massive fare hikes from January 2012. The Government claim this is to pay for extra capacity on the network, but in many places no improvements are on the cards at all, and have admitted that even where investment is planned, it will take a good few years to come on line. So we are all being asked to pay a great deal more, often for the same or a worse service.

*Fair Fares Now calls for:*

- *Affordable prices no matter when you travel or how advanced you book*
- *Reliable services that aren’t overcrowded*
- *Straightforward tickets that make train travel easy*

The campaign will give a voice to the growing anger at yearly fair hikes, and aims to hold the Government to its promise of ‘fair pricing for rail travel’. “Above all, we’ll be pushing to reverse the decision to increase fares still higher in 2012 – which would result in fares being 25% higher by 2015. Eight out of ten people oppose this plan, and together we can make the Government change their minds and begin to make fares truly fair”.

Sign up as an individual to support the campaign and receive updates at:

[www.fairfaresnow.org.uk](http://www.fairfaresnow.org.uk) .

**Ticketmunky** has become the UK's first independent retailer of rail season tickets and provides a range of products and services to commuters, including a 5% holiday reward voucher scheme. The service covers all train companies and the London Underground/Oyster. And offers Season Ticket Finance, a scheme whereby commuters can spread the cost of an annual ticket across ten monthly instalments. [www.ticketmunky.com](http://www.ticketmunky.com) And Twitter @wheresmunky .

☞ If you live in **Surrey** you are no longer able to apply for your England Concessionary Bus Pass at council offices, and since 1<sup>st</sup> April have to go to one of only 23 libraries; ie Ewell, Epsom, Esher, Sunbury etc. Phone 03456 009 009 or [www.surreycc.gov.uk/freebuspass](http://www.surreycc.gov.uk/freebuspass) .

💰 Our Oz correspondent reports that in Melbourne etc a new ticketing system **MYKI** is A\$billions over budget and 3 years late, so that the old system (Metcard) is still in operation along side it. This is one of the reasons why the Labor Party lost control of the state of Victoria. MYKI is owned by the American Keane Inc. .

Our roving Canada correspondent reports on **Hong Kong** where Trams have a flat fare of 20p. Routes also have to negotiate their way through a street markets. He also took the Peak Railway – another cog railway – up Mt. Victoria, and then the 15 bus down which is a spectacular descent in a double-decker, zig-zagging down the mountain. In China he visited some large cities as well as smaller centres, all have well-developed public transport systems. In **Shanghai**, buses with air conditioning have a snowflake in front of the number and charge a premium fare (see attached pics). Using the underground systems was easy – all signs included English – and in both Shanghai and Beijing, there were X-ray machines at every entry for any bags. .



## ☞ **PUBLICITY**

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57 & 131 bus stop timetables at Tooting Broadway Stn are **out of sync** as the 57 SSTT\* to Raynes Park gives 25min while the 131 SSTT gives just 17min despite the same routing to here, plus the TfL WEB versions give 25mins for both! And 131 SSTT to Kingston is 35min while the Web version gives 46min ! TfL have agreed to amend the 131 details. (\*SSTT = Stop Specific Timetable) .

At **Wimbledon Bridge 'C'** the 156 E-tile requires "ALIGHTING POINT" as it cannot set down (and do not) at Wimbledon Bus Station (as indeed the old 131 did not). Again TfL are to amend the flag. And interestingly the 156 SSTT gives the average journey time Wimbledon – Vauxhall as 40mins when it took 50mins each way one early afternoon without any traffic hold-ups. .

At Kingston Brook Street 'G' there are Etiles for '24hr 65' (white) and '65 Night Bus' (blue) which is a case of **belt and braces** and the latter is now to be removed. And opposite at 'F' almost the same pair also appear with a blue '65 Night only' to imply extended Night service to Chessington and a simple white '65' which was originally suffixed 'ALIGHTING POINT' and will once again show this to indicate the terminus of the 'Day' route after KATA pointed it out. .

☞ The new and only **Greater London Bus Map** (#32) is dated 19 March 2011 at £2, a 50p increase and the first for 10 years. This shows all 650 TfL routes plus the 9month eastbound diversion away from Oxford Street. However it prematurely gives the still expected 371 extension to Manor Circus Sainsbury's, and while the 85 & 371 show the correct terminating in Kingston Hall Rd, the wording is otherwise. Also from Mike Harris is a first **Greater London Night Bus Map**, also 19th March, at £4. This clearly shows all 114 overnight routes and frequencies, including an enlarged central map and a list of all routes/stops at Trafalgar Square. Both post-free from: [www.shop.busmap.co.uk](http://www.shop.busmap.co.uk) or send cheque to 'Mike Harris' 27 Albany Road, Wickford, SS12 9BP.

☛ TfL have just reissued a new Central London map dated March.

SCC have produced a new **#8&9 Epsom etc timetable book** dated March. But for routes 406,418,465 this strangely refers to 'Cromwell Street Bus Stn', and Epsom map shows Kiln Lane Sainsbury's as a bus route but is not directly served. .

 **KATAList - Bus route changes** (Routes are listed in numerical order) **Page 4**

[ 57 = 24hr | 515 = non-TfL service | numerical date = past | Full date = future ]

**24/01 – 21/03/11 Diversion**

**33,72,265,969**

Due to road/pedestrian improvements at Barnes Common Station buses were diverted southbound via Queens Ride, albeit 33 & 72 had to go via 22 turn/stand.

**Sat 29/01/11**

**57** (Kingston – Clapham Park) *London United*

Minor timetable changes and PVR (max vehicles) up to 26 Mon-Sat / 16 Suns.

**Sat 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2011 ?**

**110** (Twickenham - Hounslow > West Middx Hospital) *London United*

Extension further delayed due to required changes to road layout at West Middx Hospital. Hence our **481** & 117 will be re-routed within hospital with the above.

**14/03 – 01/04 approx Diversions**

**131,152,265,N87**

Due to road works on Burlington Road buses were diverted westbound at Fountain via Malden Road and By-pass to Shannon Corner etc.

- ★ *On Friday 1 April near New Malden Library a teenager on a speeding motor-scooter hit a woman on the zebra crossing, who was then run-over by a car (obviously speeding as well), with Kingston Road closed between 16:00 & 21:00. The Air-ambulance landed in rear of Catholic church but remained there for 2.5hours before flying to St. George's. 131 & X26 diverted via 213 to N.Malden A3 Roundabout (noting Burlington Rd already closed westbound).*

**Wed 17/11/10 – Wed 22 June 2011 Diversion**

**152, 163, K5** are diverted westbound in Raynes Park owing to road works in Kingston Road and run (from Merton Park) via Bushey Road and Grand Drive to Junction Tavern, and turning back to line of route.

**05/02 - 21/03/11**

**213/151** (Kingston – Sutton | Worcester Park Stn - Wallington) *London General*

Owing to road works in Worcester Park 213 had a reduced frequency while the 151 terminated at Queen Vic as per the 93 we understand.

**Feb-Aug 2011 Diversions**

**265** (Tolworth – Putney Bridge Stn) *London United*

Due to bus stop improvements on A3 (Beverley Way etc) buses could be diverted but more likely simply omit stops.

**Sun 24 April 2011**

**267** (Hammersmith – Fulwell > Hampton Court Green) *London United*

Summer Sunday/Bank Holiday Mon extension recommences to Hampton Court

Green, not eves, till 25 Sept. Note this is starting two weeks earlier to include Easter.

- ★ *Despite not crossing Hampton Court Bridge since 2009 SCC still gives HC Station!*

**Sat 30 April 2011**

**371** (Kingston – Richmond) *London United*

Extension to Manor Circus Sainsbury's (opposite Homebase) instead of Dee Road, finally arrives but as there is not space for buses to overtake from the stand the out-of-service garage journeys have to run out earlier and in later to get there in the right order. The stand road is expected to be widened eventually.

**Sat 18/12/10**

**411** (Kingston – West Molesey) *Quality Line*

Timetable changes including better connections with trains at Hampton Court.

**Sat 19/02/11**

**461** (Kingston – Chertsey) *Abellio*

Third timetable since August to better connect with trains at Hampton Court and longer running times Mon-Sat.

- ★ *Minor t/t error is Rowtown which TfL panel wrongly gives as Row Town).*

**Sat 17/01/11 – 07/02/11 Diversion**

**465, K1, K3** (Kingston – Surbiton etc)

Owing to roadworks near Surbiton Station these were re-routed southbound via Maple Road, St Andrew's Rd to Sainsburys etc, except that the 465 rarely did so! And northbound all ran direct along Maple Road after a Dolly stop in Brighton Road/Victoria Ave. To avoid confusion the Diversion panel could have mentioned that the 71, 671, K4, 514, 515 were not diverted and simply queued in traffic albeit the 71 had a reduced frequency – er as did the 281, which probably needn't had.

**Bus Stop?**

**465** (Kingston – Dorking) *Arriva*

Despite the assurance from TfL via TravelWatch in February 2010 the new stops for the Garden Centre at Malden Rushett has been halted due to RBK cut in funding for some paving southbound, as it is currently grass. And while a north-bound stop is simple affair TfL want a pair of stops so as not to confuse users!

**Sat 3<sup>rd</sup> Sept 2011**

**467** (Hinchley Wood – Hook – Epsom – Roseberry School) *London United*

TfL contract awarded to Quality Line with two new double-deckers (as per 406/418), plus the solitary By-pass/Claygate Lane stop (to Epsom) will be removed.

**Tue 04/01/11** – Was converted to double-deckers.

**Sat 23 July 2011**

**801 SDO** (Hinchley Wood/Hersham – Tiffin Girls School)

Proposed to be withdrawn as SCC cut funding for school services into Greater London.

**Tues 5 – Sun 10 July 2011**

**718** (Victoria Station - Hampton Court) *London General*

Resurrected for Hampton Court Flower Show. No Passes.

[www.go-ahead-london.com/bus-services/](http://www.go-ahead-london.com/bus-services/)

**Sun 22<sup>nd</sup> May till Sun 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2011**

**775 Summer Sundays** (Kingston - Brighton - Worthing/Eastbourne)

Picks up at Sury Basin Sainsbury's, Cromwell Road 'A3' then Raynes Park 'B'.

£12 or £10 OAP/Kids ☎8545 6110 [www.go-ahead-london.com/bus-services/775.html](http://www.go-ahead-london.com/bus-services/775.html)

**Mon ?? 2011**

**965** (Riverhill – Kingston, Sury Basin Sainsburys) *London United*

Proposed to be withdrawn on Mondays leaving just Fridays because of insufficient usage say TfL. However, the TfL proposal shows its former routing by terminating at Cromwell Road so its usage is thus being undermined! It is widely opposed.

**Sat 9<sup>th</sup> April 2011**

**K1** (Kingston – New Malden Station) *London United*

Fixed stops installed at Malden Manor Stn/RC School; 2 to Kingston, 1 to N.Malden.

**12/01 – 04/03 – 10 May 2011 Diversions**

Owing to road works K1 diverted away from Southwood Drive, and again since 4 March runs via Oakdene Drive and Raleigh Drive instead of Southwood Drive, Knollmead and Warren Drive South. Is Hail&Ride on diversion.

**Sat 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2011**

**K5** (Ham – Morden) *London United*

TfL Contract awarded to Quality Line but with bad experiences relating to QL's operation of the S3 things may decline. Also as RBK have problems making the Dysart Ave stop fully-accessible they are seeking to reroute direct along Dukes Ave then sharp left into Hardwicke Road and then left to the existing alighting-stop in Beaufort Rd. However KATA points out that this terminating arrangement would also apply to short-running of both the 65 & 371 from either directions and might not be able to negotiate the left-hand hairpin bend at Hardwicke Avenue?

Additionally KATA is seeking a s/b stop opposite Northweald Lane so as to shorten the inordinately long gap between its first stop and Tudor Drive. Similarly for the 371.

We are also requesting the livening up of last journeys from Ham as far as Kingston which would be at 20:10 & 21:10. \* *K5 still diverted in Raynes Park – see 152.*

**04/01 - 15/04 & 3 May - 8 July 2011**

**KU1,2,3 Kingston University Shuttles** – *TGM-Arriva*

Just to point out that the Spring recomencement is Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> May and not May Day 2<sup>nd</sup> as given on TfL panel. The TGM glossy is correct.

\* *The Con-Dem government are to abolish the May Day Bank Holiday and thus can revert to the traditional day of protest instead of er, DIY.*

Sat ??/??/2011

**S3** (Malden Manor - Sutton Hospital) *Quality Line*

Delayed re-routing to serve Tesco at Kimpton Industrial Park off Sutton by-pass .

10/01/11 – 21/03/11 *Diversions*

553 Due to utility works near The Midas Touch (old Huntsman) the S3 terminated at other end of Green Lane, and a shuttle, initially numbered 553 but later S3, ran every 30mins between Malden Manor &amp; North Cheam Sainsburys via Central Road.

**E16** ran non-stop from Cheam Common Rd, London Rd to Sparrow Farm Rd, and instead of The Worcester turned via The Avenue/Woodlands Ave.**Route Proposal**

'218' KATA has long requested a direct route between Kingston and Twickenham via Strawberry Vale but there is now a local campaign and an impressive website at <http://t2kbus.com> to achieve such a route. They propose a service:- Tesco Mogden Lane, Rugby Stadium, then via 281 to King Street, then via R68 to Teddington Lock, then via 281/285 to Kingston. Accordingly KATA suggests an extension of the H20 which terminates at Tesco from Hounslow via Hounslow Stn and Isleworth. This runs x12mins and x20 Suns and takes 25mins, and if extended to Kingston would take another 25mins. Thus between Twickenham and Teddington Lock would take 6mins vs 15mins on the 281. The new route could be numbered 218, so add your support.

**KEEPING TRACK – Rail & Tube news****Page 6**

On 28<sup>th</sup> Feb the **London Overground** was extended from Dalston Junction to Highbury & Islington via Cannonbury. (The official opening is about 22<sup>nd</sup> May). Thus trains run from West Croydon to Highbury and will, in time, carry on to Richmond. In 2012 the remaining link between Croydon and Clapham Junction opens thus completing the Orbital line. .

**London Tramlink** are to lease 10 new trams for the busy Croydon – Elmers End section, to be funded by TfL and LB of Croydon.

\* *Despite SWT announcements this ceased to be “Croydon Tramlink” when TfL took it over in early 2008 for £98m, but the staff remained First. .*

**Passenger Focus** and rail user groups requested a routine meeting with SWT for which SWT only offered 10mins and with the issue of rolling stock er, banned! .

**SWT** - Featured on the Jeremy Vine show and some newspapers was the case of two passengers returning to Southampton from Waterloo but decided to end their journey two stops earlier at Eastleigh. For alighting just under 6miles short this was against the rules of the £6 Megatrain tickets, and despite being a Sunday were **fined £114**. One would have thought that freeing up seats would be welcomed by SWT? This is how Stagecoach founders Brian Souter and Ann Gloag can afford two castles with family investments worth up to £400m and SWT's last half-year profits were up 43% to almost £109million. (from *HOG RIDER Southampton*) .

From 22 May SWT will be the **last London train operator** to adapt its ticket machines, at all its 44 London stations, to allow the top-up of Oystercards. .

**New National Rail timetables** commence on Sunday 22 May 2011. At time of writing we have no news on any SWT changes. .

**Links – for further info****Page 6**

New notices on buses on who to complain to fail to give an address for TfL and instead only give the phone no: **0845 300 7000** (08:00-20:00 Mon-Fri) and email: [customerservices@tfl-buses.co.uk](mailto:customerservices@tfl-buses.co.uk)

But for those without internet KATA can give the address as: **Customer Services, TFL London Buses, 4th floor, Zone B5, 14 Pier Walk, London SE10 OES** and <http://www.tfl.gov.uk/>

*For all London's proper bus timetables go to the marvellous and independent:*

<http://www.londonbusroutes.net/routes.htm>

or <http://www.busmap.co.uk/> (NB: new address)

plus the **official SCC:**

[http://www.surreycc.gov.uk/sccewebsite/sccepages.nsf/LookupWebPagesByTITLE\\_RT/F/Bus+timetables?opendocument](http://www.surreycc.gov.uk/sccewebsite/sccepages.nsf/LookupWebPagesByTITLE_RT/F/Bus+timetables?opendocument)

... **Next KATAllog update expected late Summer** ...