

**KATAlist** (NB: all with new timetables but same operators) (**57etc** = 24hr) [\* not a TfL service]

**04/04/09**

**Post Buses\*** – All four Royal Mail services withdrawn from Dorking and Redhill etc.

**Certain Sundays 24 May – 27 Sept 2009**

**775\*** (Kingston – Worthing or Brighton / Eastbourne) This limited stop service is back-projected from Morden and commences at 08:50 at the 965 stop/stand by Richmond Road Sainsburys. Then picks up at Cromwell Rd 'A3' and Raynes Park Stn 'B' etc. It takes about 3 hours and costs £12 or £10 OAP/Kids (no passes) but you need to see the timetable as to where and when it runs (not 12 July or 6 & 20 Sep). Book at London General 020 8545 6110 or <http://www.go-ahead-london.com/bus-services/775.html> plus TfL Panel timetable: <http://www.busmap.org/tt4/775.pdf> (also see *Publicity, below*)

**Sat 27/06/09** (delayed from May)

**490** (Terminal 5 – Richmond) Withdrawn from Lower Mortlake Road and rerouted to Pools-on-the-Park near Twickenham Bridge.

**H37** (Hounslow – Richmond) Extended from opp Richmond Station to Manor Circus, thus taking up the old 490 stand. Also earlier and later journeys.

**Sat 4<sup>th</sup> July**

**57** (Kingston - Clapham Park) Early mornings increased from x30 to every 20mins. Same but refurbished double-deckers used.

**65** (Ealing – Kingston > Chessington) Extended at night via route 71 to CWA every 30mins. As an experiment it will not have the 'N' prefix (see *BUS STOPS below*). However we wonder how their publicity will unravel this unique situation. There will also be an additional return journey in both peaks, plus, new Scania OmniCity (SP) double-deckers.

**71** (Kingston – Chessington WofA) Night service as extended 65 above. Early mornings increased from x30 to every 20mins. New Scania OmniCity (SP) double-deckers.

**85** (Putney – Kingston) Extended in Kingston town centre via route 371 serving Eden Street and High Street (and reverse) but accordingly not Fairfield Bus Stn where it did only set-down. First pick-up is in Kingston Hall Road/College side 'UK'. Same buses.

**213** (Kingston – Sutton) Night service withdrawn between Sutton & Croydon thus becomes 24hr, every 30mins at night as before. Day buses etc officially terminate at Bushey Road by turning left at bottom of St. Nicholas Way via Crown Road etc. Buses to be PVL type. *\*TfL are looking at extra 154 journeys (but not by the 4<sup>th</sup>) to cover the loss, albeit that routing omits East Croydon and South Croydon as served by the former N213. The 154 runs for about 20 hours.*

**265** (Putney – Tolworth) Early mornings increased from x30 to every 20mins and earlier journeys towards Tolworth for rail connections. Same but refurbished buses used. *\*RBK had requested extension via Hook, Hinchley Wood and Hampton Court as served by the old 152 but was rejected because of projected insufficient use. This swathe does need a bus service, albeit would have to be non-stop between Tolworth and Hook.*

**281** (Tolworth – Hounslow) Increased evenings and Sundays to every 12mins instead of x15mins. The SDO journeys between Fulwell & Hounslow, and Fulwell & Tolworth to operate over whole route. Same but refurbished double-deckers used.

**Tue 7<sup>th</sup> – Sun 12<sup>th</sup> July**

**718\*** (Victoria – Hampton Court) Ldn Gen duly resurrected this for the Flower Show only. Dep Vic: 0915, 0945, 1045, 1145, 1245. Dep HC: 1430, 1530, 1630, 1700, 1730, 1830. No passes. [http://www.go-ahead-london.com/bus-services/page\\_189.html](http://www.go-ahead-london.com/bus-services/page_189.html)

**Sat 1<sup>st</sup> Aug**

**S3** (Sutton – Worcester Park > Malden Manor Station) This is the definite date for the extension to Malden Manor, via Manor Drive, that was expected to happen 18 months ago. Drivers' toilets also need to be provided at Malden Manor. The 27metre boarding points in The Manor Drive to be outside: #10/12, #33/37 & #112/114, #127/131.

**Sat 31<sup>st</sup> October** ? (delayed from 2008)

- 371** (Kingston – Richmond) This is the latest projected date for the extension away from Dee Rd to North Sheen Sainsburys (opp Homebase). Also earlier journeys to connect with trains at Richmond. Plus, new buses including 5 AD Enviro 200Hybrids. SDO journeys between Richmond and Greycourt School remain double-deckers.  
\* *Rightly TfL declined to extend this around Kingston Hospital as it would adversely affect more than it would benefit. However, KATA has requested yet again the extension of the K5 (Morden-Hospital-Ham) beyond Ham to R'mond via unserved roads.*

**Sat 30<sup>th</sup> January 2010**

- 10** ([St. Pancras] – King's Cross – Hammersmith - *Richmond*) Withdrawn between Hammersmith & Richmond but effectively replaced by 24hr 33 albeit via Hammersmith Bridge rather than Putney Bridge. Also extended at night to St Pancras. Tendered to Transdev instead of First London.
- 33** (Hammersmith – Fulwell) To become 24hr.  
\* *KATA is seeking a rerouteing at Teddington Hospital to Hampton Station.*

### MISSING BUSES...

**X26** – On Fri 1st May there was at least an hour to hour&half gap from Heathrow etc between 15:17 & 16:17 etc which TfL allege was due to a security alert at Heathrow except there were no reports of any of the other twenty routes being delayed!

**465** – Some 465s are arbitrarily terminating at Surbiton Station, from Dorking thus producing gaps in Kingston of an hour or indeed 2hours in the evenings. Let KATA know.

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For all London's proper bus timetables go to the marvellous and independent:-  
<http://www.londonbusroutes.net/routes.htm> or <http://www.busmap.org/>

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### PUBLICITY

TfL's "[Your guide to buses from Kingston](#)" (March '09) contained the usual dozen errors despite previous reporting to them. It still omits the K3 Hail & Ride at Hinchley Wood etc.

SCC reissued their **#10 Redhill** etc bus timetable book dated May. These books now have timetables in black & white only with some in even smaller type!  
Expected by October are:- #1 Staines, #2 Esher & #10 Guildford.

Apart from Ldn Gen's leaflet, the **775** TfL printed timetable (available from Cromwell Road Info Kiosk) wrongly depicts, on the return journeys, 'Eden St stop T' when this is in Clarence St near Rail Stn, and similarly shows this on the 773/775 version. Also, the 775 shows 'Cromwell Rd' on the linear heading which is not served because 'stop T' is. In other words the return routeing is as per the direct X26 between Norbiton Church and Rail Stn.

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### BUS STOPS

**New** Kingston bus stops duly appeared outside Kenneth Gee on Richmond Road for the southbound 65 etc. Also a pair outside ASDA London Road (85, K2 etc) albeit Kingston Hill bound is just past Gordon Rd, plus the nearby Coombe Road stop moved back to Jarvis fish shop. Plus a pair at Jubilee Way/St George's Field, beyond Transdev's Tolworth Garage.

However, the expected stop on Sopwith Way/Walters Rd, for all buses between John Lewis and Cromwell Rd, was rejected by RBK's Lib-Dims!

And since the 85 is not going to Seething Wells, we say that it is now 'straight forward' to install a pair in (Lwr) Brighton Road for the 515/515A near the old Lamb pub.

Plus, the long-awaited 481 stops in **Hampton Wick** etc are expected by the Autumn. There will be five; by Church Grove/Bushy Park gate, and Church Grove/opp Park Road and one in between near the Church towards Kingston. Plus, a pair just this side of the main Teddington traffic gate.

Meanwhile, the **65** is not gaining an N prefix so its penultimate daytime stop of D1 in Eden Street will remain a white E-tile "65 24hr" er, which it won't be here, but on the adjacent D2 will gain a blue E-tile "**Night Bus 65**". While on Brook St 'F' the white "65 24hr" E-tile is being replaced with "**Night Bus 65**" with an added band on the flag indicating that the '65 daytime service terminates here'.

New E-tiles appeared at 'A1' Cromwell Road on 19 June which included the band: -"Towards Kingston Hospital, New Malden and **Hammersmith**" with the latter similarly included on the K5 E-tile. Clearly the sign makers had translated 'Ham' into Hammersmith!

KATA has also pointed out that stop '**NN** **St Marks Hill/Station**' reads 'towards Kingston' but this omits the K4 destination of Hook.

Plus, '**G** **Brook Street**' has for many years read 'towards Ham, Teddington' which omits the direction of the K2,K4 & K3 to Hospital etc.

## DIVERSIONS

**65** – From 22 June to about 29 Aug this is diverted southbound at South Ealing via Little Ealing Road (E3), Windmill Rd (E2), Swyncombe Ave (E2), Boston Manor Rd (E2), Great West Road (H91) rejoining the Ealing Road under the flyover.

One Tuesday in May all routes northbound and eastbound, including 65, were once again rerouted around Richmond Green owing to an Arriva 337 breaking down at the junction of George Street/Sheen Rd blocking all traffic from the Bridge etc and certain routes from Bus Station.

## Eden Street Bus Lane part 94!

Following on from last edition the contra-flow bus lane is still without CCTV due to the DfT dragging their feet regarding modified signing which then authorises cameras, but are expected sooner or later. However, when proposed by RBK, this section from Union Street/ /St James's Rd to old Post Office was depicted as a continuous bus lane all the way to Neville House but that it is now broken at the mini-roundabout, er, which was also omitted from the drawings!

Meanwhile numerous dyslexic car drivers are still pushing their luck.

From 13th July the new legality will be in force, hopefully with Traffic Cameras.

## FARES & PASSES

The £3 deposit for a new **Oyster Card** has been resurrected by BoJo which is sure to deter many new users. Albeit, we did not appreciate that this £3 had been dropped for a period?

Additionally, we've discovered that seeking a bus fare **refund** after putting your Oyster on the card reader cannot be done by the driver after 30secs have elapsed or indeed if another passenger has 'bleeped' their card. So in these instances, which may result from driver changing the destination, no room for pushchair, no seat if you're infirm etc., or belatedly refusing your dog, simply write to TfL requesting the refund. This should also be done for an 'unused' £2 paper ticket.

Also, TfL are persuading **Boat Service** operators on the Thames to accept Oysters. Meanwhile, from November er, Winter, Thames Clippers will give a third off with an Oyster.

## Freedom Pass/England Pass

Bus Users UK are asking the Government to simplify the National Concessionary Fares Scheme for England to make it 24hr throughout. Plus, making it UK wide, and for operators to be reimbursed direct from central Government rather than local councils which currently means routes being lost.

However, the Scottish Government are looking at removing the Pass from over 60s in full time work and / or issuing a Pass with a fixed value for a given number of journeys!

## OMNIBUS

The **iBus system**, which includes GPS, is now fully installed on all London's 8,256 buses with on-board audio announcements and screens as above to cover the 19,000 bus stops. But moreover translates accurate info to the bus stop Countdown screens and to controllers from the 89 bus garages.

*Bus User* also tells us that the voice of iBus is Emma Hignett who recorded some 30,000 announcements. She is an actress and a former TV weather-girl. KATA adds that despite all her fans, where the volume is so high there are often cries of "Please shut-up Emma" !

**Intelligent Speed Adaptation (ISP)** is a new sat-nav device being fitted to a single London bus (route not known) for an experimental 6 months. This would know the speed limits on all streets used and regulate the bus accordingly. In emergency it can be disabled.

**RIBAS** – stands for Over **R**evving, Excessive **I**dling, Harsh **B**raking, Harsh **A**cceleration and Over **S**peeding which is a new system being fitted to buses with Transdev's Shepherd's Bush being the first. All existing systems are being replaced with a TfL one that requires the driver to plug his USB into the on-board iBus system. This automatically measures the way the bus is being driven with the data simultaneously being monitored by the garage, and indeed TfL. Drivers not trained with the USB will not be allowed to drive.

**Lethal** - After two years of inaction over the potentially **lethal exit bus ramps** on over 1,200 buses KATA wrote to the Traffic Commissioner for the South Eastern and Metropolitan Traffic Area – Philip Brown. Only his secretary replied telling us that they have no jurisdiction over ramps, despite their letterhead depicting a logo including “Positive About Disabled People”?

Of course the issue is not really about the disabled but they had not read our letter properly and is all a contradiction. Anyway they forwarded it to the DfT and London Buses Operations Director Mike Weston but still no reply a month on. However, the DfT have since written saying that it is not their problem either but to contact:- Bus Users UK in Stoke (a voluntary group with no powers!) ., or Passenger Focus in Manchester, (with no mention of London TravelWatch!), or the Vehicle and Operator Services Agency (VOSA) in Bristol. They added that it may require action through the County Court.

Between New Labour’s DfT and Tory BoJo’s TfL it would all be a joke if it were not for the inevitability of a fatality, due to these ramshackle ramps. A good many of these defective buses are in use by Transdev.

**Bendies** - Despite Bozo’s obsession with getting rid of bendy-buses some may still be around in 2015 due to contractual options to extend tenders and the fact that operators are having difficulty selling them on. They would of course be ideal for use during the Olympics, albeit it is expected that Bozo will not be mayor after Spring 2012, ie before the increasingly expensive event.

**Travel London/Surrey** have been sold by owners National Express for £32m rather than the expected £50m, to NedRail, ie the state owned Dutch Railways. This was on 21<sup>st</sup> May and includes 520 buses on 36 TfL routes and 33 SCC routes from six garages including Fulwell – the ‘TG’ half – with the 481 & R70 etc. From the latest figures Travel London is London’s worst performing operator.

**Rough Slough** – A bit out of the area but I’m pleased to report that the 1975 dour concrete block Slough Council had the cheek to call Brunel Bus Station is being demolished. Buses are now terminating on Wellington Road. ✱ *It actually looked a decade older! Ed.*

## **LONDON RAIL**

**London Overground** – The 54 new Electrostar trains, costing £260m, that were expected last Xmas are due this Summer, which is not a day too soon to replace those third-world crates between Richmond & Stratford, and Clapham Junc & Willesden Junction etc.

**Tramlink** - While the seriously damaged tram (hit by a bus) is still under repair in Crewe LOTS reports that they are trying to lease two trams from the Istanbul network as our system is at full capacity. (See KATA website for Tram pics).

**SWT** are in dire straights after over-bidding for the SWT franchise and have sacked their Rail Business Chief Ian Dobs, and moved finance director Mark Griffiths to their East Midlands franchise, with boss Brian Souter taking personal control of SWT. This has echoes of the Czar making himself Minister for War and then making a such catastrophic mess before copping it in the Urals in 1919.

**Tube** - The media’s right-wing indignation about the **48hr Tube strike** in early June omitted to mention that this was about the ‘no-redundancy’ promise as was given by deputy PM John Prescott, which has since progressed into the failed PPP of Metronet of which New Labour were so convinced would work. With LU picking up the pieces they are trying to renege on the public promise. As regards increased pay and moreover the question of safety on the Victoria Line these had largely been agreed.

Note that the Victoria Line is the only one on which the train doors can be opened on the wrong side because while wasting mi££ions on the PPP they should have instead installed the safety features that prevents this happening on all other lines. Had this been done then the driver, wrongly sacked, would not have been able to make this mistake. Interestingly, on the following Saturday there was more of the Tube out of action, due to engineering works, than during the strike. Strangely the TV news bulletins failed to mention this.

**NB: Avoid the deep Tube this week as it can hit at least 44deg centigrade.**

✱ LOTS reports a fascinating story about **Queensbury Station** near the top end of the Jubilee Line. It maybe known for its big ‘LT’ roundel on the roundabout outside but when built in 1934 it did not have a name because there was not much there. But as the previous station was called Kingsbury LT invented Queensbury! It is the only example on the Underground of a district being named and developed after the station.

## PARLIAMENT

The second-placed candidate for Commons speaker was Tory **Sir. George Young**, of whom some 276MPs thought was worthy of giving a clean honest image to Parliament. Fortunately, many of us do not suffer with short memories because he was the Sec of State for Transport responsible for pushing through the ill-thought out Rail Privatisation in the mid-nineties. How much blood money does he have on his hands (?) after the hundreds of rail fatalities all due to cost-cutting by the privatised Railtrack etc he set up.

Meanwhile, winner **John Bercow MP** is equally not the honest face of the Commons they make out because he, like his predecessor 'Gorbals' Mick, also fiddled £thousands in expenses, some of which he repaid! John Bercow was also a leading light in the extreme right-wing Monday Club.

New Labour's new **Secretary of State for Transport** is now Lord Adonis, who of course is unelected and can't be subject to questioning by MPs in the Commons. And nor can Lord Mandelson who apart from being Secretary of State for Business is also Deputy Prime Minister. We have to ask that with 350 New Labour MPs how is it they can't find any one of them capable of doing these jobs? Presumably, they're all too busy fiddling their expenses, and so what is the point of voting for these nincompoops?

The Junior Transport Minister in the Commons is Tooting MP Sadiq Kahn (38), who may or not be 'kosher' but his late father was a bus driver in Wandsworth for 25 years, and so should have some idea about the real world.

Departed Transport Secretary Geoff Hoon recently said "*I love cars*", er, we noticed.

Meanwhile, in the interests of balance Kingston&Surbiton Lib-Dem MP Ed Davey no longer claims for a second home. Presumably it had been between Zone 6 and Zone 1 ?

## More Spending On The Cards!

It is not just Parliament that has hundreds of crooks because BoJo, has just **sacked his fifth top aid** in 14 months. So-called deputy mayor Ian Clement, responsible for borough liaison, was caught spending the GLA corporate credit-card on personal items and girl-friends including items on a jaunt with Bozo to Beijing. The former Tory leader of Bexley Council had spent at least £2,300 which included a £700 dinner, and a £535 stereo for his Jaguar! Despite this illegal spending being uncovered last October it took Bozo 9months to act with 'PC49' now investigating. Is this an indicator as to how fellow Cameron will become if elected PM?

Last week Parliament announced that it had set-up a Select Committee to scrutinise the Mayor of London after all the dodgy dealings. Mind you it's a bit like the pot calling the kettle black!

Bozo's claim that he was to reduce public spending has fared no better at TfL where since he was elected 14 months ago **another 50 bosses are now earning over £100,000 a year**. Meanwhile, he has cut back on the TfL staff who actually do the work.

Meanwhile, **300 Met cops have recently been investigated for illegally spending money** without receipts etc on Met issued credit-cards. These cards were supposed to reduce bureaucracy and paperwork but clearly has not reduced spending! Some 46 are still being investigated. Since 2003 some 3,500 American Express cards were issued to Met officers and 1,500 have since been withdrawn after some £2million went AWOL !

It may be recalled that when Tube passes were issued to all Met Police they were all subsequently withdrawn after it was discovered that a good many had handed them over to their spouses to use for free travel. The officers themselves were simply showing their warrant cards to travel but as this was er, working, they made all coppers once again show their warrant cards rather than using the automatic passes on the ticket gates etc.

✱BoJo's recent Press Release claims that *reported bus crimes are down 18% since he was elected. Policing bus crime is as a result of the Met's Safer Transport Teams etc, as set up by Ken.*

With some **£50million now being owed by London Embassies** for unpaid Congestion Charges it is no surprise that top of the list is the 'special relationship' USA who owe £3million/\$5million. New York born Bozo is happy to condemn the RMT for the cost of the recent Tube strike but does nothing about his fellow countrymen.

~~~~~**REVAMP FOR SURBITON'S VICTORIA ROAD**~~~~~

The first stake-holder meeting has taken place on the need to revamp, with TfL funding, the ailing Victoria Road and Station interchange, and this is KATA's initial response:-

Dear RBK/Halcrow Group Ltd,

20 May 2009

*It was Vladimir Ilyich Ulyanov that made famous the quote; "You can't make omelettes without breaking eggs", and so we believe that only a radical solution will suffice for central Surbiton.*

*Piecemeal remedies are not going to work and those who voiced that we need more on-street parking and wider footways are clearly not grasping the problem. Surbiton will remain the third-world cousin of Kingston town centre all the time the old ways are held onto. More so during the decade of recession. We are also mindful that when the Xmas K50 additionally stopped in Surbiton as an experiment one year, (requested by Chamber of Commerce etc) it was never repeated due to lack of interest. With Kingston just 5mins away Surbiton has got to be radical in its approach or it is destined to remain third-world by comparison.*

*Victoria Road needs to be attractive and safe for pedestrians which will encourage both shops and shoppers. Wider footpaths with trees and other attractive street furniture can only be accomplished by ridding ourselves of cars, most of which are only passing through. Accordingly, we believe that through traffic (except buses etc) should be prohibited, at all times, from Victoria Road at least between the roundabout and St. Andrew's Road. Thus dispersing thousands of vehicles long before this point. Albeit delivery access will need to be allowed at certain times and places.*

*The benefits of blocking through-traffic would also reduce traffic on approach roads, like Brighton Road, Claremont Road and St Mark's Hill as their journeys would have found another way around long before these points. All this would reduce traffic / pedestrian conflict at the Station and roundabout, ie to/from bus stops.*

*However, we envisage that St James's Road will need some restrictions lest it becomes a by-pass and so does not reduce the overall traffic in central Surbiton.*

*We feel that a central-chicane for buses in a part of Victoria Road would afford more pedestrian space, but are mindful of one bus every 80 secs traversing the road, ie 22 in each direction, which may prevent this.*

*Equally, a buses-only section will need to be enforced better than Eden Street, Kingston and thus bus gates maybe required at each end of Victoria Road.*

*Finally, we feel that the ban on ordinary through traffic should be 24/7 so as to be a permanent barrier so as to avoid confusion, and indeed dangerous contraventions.*

*On behalf of KATA I thank you for considering these points and await notification of the next meeting'. Yours, T.A. (KATA)*

✿TfL have announced that Kingston Borough has had the highest rise in road accidents through-out London. In 2008 there was a 23% increase involving 423 road casualties of which 2 died.

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**And Finally...**

**DLR** – A free marvellous A5 32page booklet **"A Brief History of Docklands"** gives a brief history of all 40 DLR stations – the latest being Woolwich Arsenal.

It's so good its probably not written by DLR but of Devons Road Station it tells us that the nearby "The Widow's Son" or "Bun House" (take your pick) derive from a widow who in the early 1800s put aside a hot cross bun for her son who was at sea. But he never returned so she hung the bun from the ceiling and repeated act this every Easter afterwards. When a pub was built on the site in 1848 the publican retained the custom and the annual 'hanging of the bun' was made as clause in the lease of the building. Sailors to this day perform the ceremony on Good Friday.

✿ Copies from the reopened DLR Info Centre at Tower Gateway, next to District/Circle Lines Tower Hill Stn.

> Hopefully the next KATAllog Update will be by 1<sup>st</sup> October.

**NB: Please note that the KATA quarterly meetings are now at the new time of 15:00 (3pm) on the new day of Wednesdays but still in the small bar of the old Druids Head in Market Place. Diary Dates are :- Weds 2<sup>nd</sup> Sept and 2<sup>nd</sup> Dec.**

