

FEBRUARY 2013

LONDON™

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THE OFFICIAL MONTHLY GUIDE TO LONDON



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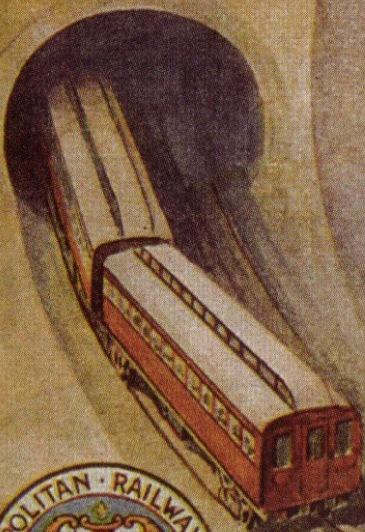
SIGHTS | ARTS | SHOPPING | EATING | ENTERTAINMENT | SHOWS | TRAVEL | MAPS | **FREE**



METROPOLITAN RAILWAY

TIME TABLES and Guide.

31
MARCH,
1913.



With London Underground celebrating its 150th anniversary in 2013, there are exciting events taking place all year, from heritage railway days to exhibitions. *By Jo Caird*



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

London saw a huge number of changes during the Victorian era, but perhaps none more monumental than the events of 9 Jan 1863. It was on this day that the inaugural train of the world's first underground railway made its journey through the brand new tunnels of the Metropolitan line. Connecting Paddington in the west with Farringdon in the east, this was the first section of a network that now, 150 years later, serves 270 stations and carries over one billion passengers every year.

'OPEN WEEKENDS WILL BE TAKING PLACE AT THE LONDON TRANSPORT MUSEUM'S ACTON DEPOT'

Transport for London and the London Transport Museum (p. 56) are celebrating this important anniversary with a year of events, exhibitions and more. It all kicked off in January with a recreation of that first ever Tube journey with a series of heritage engines and carriages. The locomotive used to haul the train, Metropolitan Steam Locomotive No. 1, will run throughout the year across the Metropolitan line network on special occasions. The 115-year-old engine will also be part of a programme of activities at the Buckinghamshire

Railway Centre (Quainton Road Station, Quainton, HP22. ☎ 01296 655 720. 🌐 bucksrailcentre.org 🚉 Aylesbury) in August (check 🌐 ltmuseum.co.uk for details). It takes around an hour to reach this out of London destination, which is open all year round.

If August is too long to wait for your heritage Tube fix, don't panic. You can see other engines from the early days of the Underground on display at the London Transport Museum practically every day of the year.

Behind The Scenes events and *Open Weekends* will also be taking place at the museum's Acton depot (2 Museum Way, 118-120 Gunnersbury Lane, W3. 🚉 Acton Town) – which isn't usually open to the public – in April and October (details TBC). During the *Open Weekends*, you'll be able to see the Metropolitan Locomotive No. 1 'in light steam', which means it'll be standing stationary, but with its engine burning fuel.

This month (**from 15 Feb**) sees the opening of *Poster Art 150 – London Underground's Greatest Designs* at the London Transport Museum. London Underground's design pedigree has long been recognised, and this exhibition lets you see 150 of the best posters all in one place, including rare examples from the late 19th century and designs by the likes of surrealist photographer Man Ray.



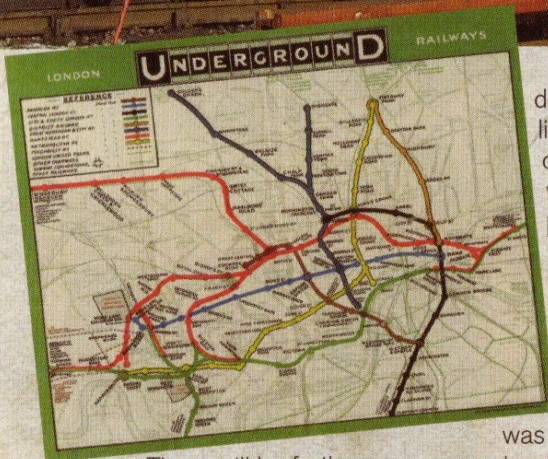
THIS STATION WILL NOW REMAIN OPEN DURING AIR RAID ALERTS

LONDON 🚉 TRANSPORT

Main picture: A timetable and railway guide from 1913. Top: Serving refreshments to Londoners sheltering from the Blitz at Holland Park station in 1940. Above: Poster from 1940.



Main picture: Metropolitan Locomotive No. 1. Left: a map of the London Underground from 1908



There will be further opportunities to explore the Tube's fascinating history and its impact on Londoners' lives across the network throughout 2013. Art On The Underground is presenting a programme that will see artworks brought into every station. Fifteen

'THE TUBE PLAYED A VITAL ROLE DURING WARTIME, SHELTERING 170,000 PEOPLE A NIGHT DURING THE BLITZ'

leading contemporary artists have also been commissioned to create a set of posters and limited edition prints to mark the 150th anniversary.

There's plenty going on when it comes to moving pictures and performing arts too. There will be screenings of London Underground-themed films from the BFI archive (p. 68) at a Tube station, and a series of theatrical events at the disused Aldwych station (details of all events to be confirmed from ltmuseum.co.uk).

Aldwych station opened in 1907 but has been closed since 1994 – it was

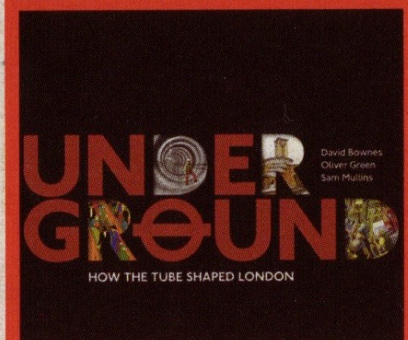
decided that replacing the original lifts would be too expensive considering how little the station was used. Lots of television programmes, music videos and films have been shot at the station, including the 2007 Keira Knightly film *Atonement*.

The station was also closed for the entire course of the Second World War, when it was used as an air-raid shelter (with treasures from the British Museum (p. 55) stored in the unused tunnels). The Underground played a vital role during wartime, its station platforms sheltering up to 170,000 people a night during the Blitz (see picture on previous page).

If you want to take a memento of the 150th anniversary year home with you, London Underground has that covered too. There's a commemorative Oyster card available and you can buy gifts including Metropolitan line glassware, three new books published by Penguin (available from penguin.co.uk, see right) and heritage posters from the London Transport Museum's shop. In addition to this, the Royal Mint (see Bank of England Museum, p. 57) has put two new two-pound coins into circulation and Royal Mail has issued 10 new stamps. Six of these feature scenes from the history of the network and four showcase classic London Underground posters.

Charles Pearson, the 19th-century politician who first proposed the idea of the Tube, sadly died just one month before the new network's inaugural journey. If only he could see it now – many happy returns London Underground!

RAILWAY READING



Underground: How The Tube Shaped London 1863 to 2013

A brand new official history of the Underground that includes lavish illustrations.



London Underground By Design

This illustrated book charts the evolution of the Tube as a design innovator, from maps to trains.

Poems On The Underground

Poetry has been displayed in advertising spaces on Tube trains since 1986 with the aim of bringing it to a wider audience. This new book is the latest in the series inspired by the programme.

