



TRUCKERS' TOILETS UK

Campaign to improve the health & wellbeing of lorry drivers

September 2013
NEWSLETTER 3

Welcome to our monthly update! Although it's been summer holiday time, there's been quite a bit going on.

Radio 4: Raymond Martin, Director of the British Toilet Association [the organisation that is supporting us] was interviewed on the *Today* programme about the effects of public toilet closures. The problems of accessing toilets facing lorry drivers whilst out on the road was also mentioned, so hopefully this is the start of 'public education'. [I believe there were also other radio and television interviews on this topic as well, which is very good news]



The Lady: Who would have thought it? *The Lady* magazine had a paragraph on public toilet closures in the 30 August issue! Public toilet closures and mobile workers were also mentioned in various newspapers. Interest in toilets will undoubtedly wax and wane over the coming months but any publicity on this very important subject is welcome!



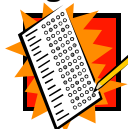
Daily Telegraph: '*More germs on trampoline than lavatory*' was the headline to an article on 6 September. Remarks on the importance of preventing the passing on of germs by hand washing were made by Dr Lisa Ackerley. I contacted Dr Ackerley and she responded very positively to our campaign and there may be the opportunity for me to give a presentation at a conference next year. In addition, Dr Ackerley kindly sent me some useful papers on hand hygiene.



Unite: I redrafted the original proposal I'd presented [see August issue] to our contacts at Unite the Union and hope to receive comments back shortly so that we can begin our course of action.



Logistics Companies Forum: As the result of the meeting I attended [see August issue] I have now devised the draft questionnaire about toilet access for drivers as the group requested and am awaiting comments. Once all is in order the questionnaire will then be distributed to a range of companies. The overall aim is to get views from companies in addition to those already received from drivers so that we can work on a satisfactory solution.



CAE: Members of The Centre for Accessible Environments [a charity] were very welcoming when I attended their AGM and were very aware of the need to improve the toilet situation. There may be an opportunity to write an article for their journal which has

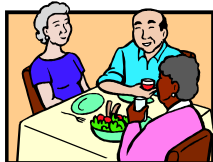


a wide audience so word would spread even further which is good news indeed.

An 'incident': I've been refused access to a toilet - again! On this latest occasion I left the train at Coleshill Parkway station [near Birmingham] which has undergone a revamp comparatively recently, only to find that there are no public toilets available – unless you have a RADAR key for the accessible toilet. Without it, you are DOOMED. Because I have a medical condition I do carry a key and was allowed to use it and therefore avoided an 'accident', but what about all those travellers who are in reasonably good health but need a loo? The answer I was given? You should go on the train! I have to admit the official was very polite and chatty but noone, unless they have a key, is allowed into the one and only loo; which to add insult to injury is in a prominent position near the exit - but could have been on the moon!



Restaurant warning: I've heard many times from people that 'its OK, we're meeting in a restaurant, so there will be a toilet'. In most cases this is true but not necessarily. As long as there are toilet facilities nearby, a restaurant does not have to provide public facilities. I found this out a little while ago when I met with friends at St Pancras International Station. OK the public loos there are free, but oh my word, the queues - for the Ladies of course! By the time you return to your restaurant seat your meal could be stone cold. Apparently the lack of customer toilets is to reduce terrorism!!!!



In my view these two incidents act as stark reminders of the situations truckers face on a daily basis!

Please continue to spread the word about our campaign!



Next issue of **Truckers' Toilets UK** newsletter will be in October

Gillian Kemp

The British Toilet Association <www..britloos.co.uk>