

NOT JUST CARTOONS

The Worshipful Company of Hackney Carriage Drivers recently visited The Cartoon Museum, as part of the Education Committee's Guiding Course work. Situated at 35 Little Russell Street WC1A 2HH, the museum was opened in 2006. The Cartoon Museum is full of British cartoons, caricature and comic art and is dedicated to preserving the best of British cartoons, caricatures, comics and animation, and to establishing a museum with a gallery, archives and innovative exhibitions to make the creativity of cartoon art past and present, accessible to all for the purposes of education, research and enjoyment. For some visitors the Museum will mean a trip down memory lane as they look at cartoons from comics such as The Beano and The Dandy. For others there is a darker side to some of the exhibits; there are plenty of political cartoons as well, including some of Blair and Bush. Many of the items on display are very rare and therefore are on loan and so the collection changes regularly. From the 18th century, cartoons and caricatures gained in popularity and here at the Cartoon Museum you can see Hogarth prints, classic works by Gillray, and 3D cartoons including Gerald Scarfe's Chairman Mao.

The Museum is situated in a light and airy building, with two floors open to the public. There is also a large area where visitors can try their hand at drawing their own cartoons. The museum, which receives no public funding, is situated just around the corner from the birthplace of caricaturist, George Cruikshank.



Currently the Museum is running a special exhibition, Heath Robinson's Helpful Solutions. This will run until 7 October 2007 and is the largest exhibition of William Heath Robinson's (1872-1844) humorous drawings for 15 years. It includes over 100 original drawings and sketches by the man who is one of the few artists whose name has entered the Oxford English Dictionary to signify 'any absurdly ingenious and impracticable device'.

Images are reproduced by kind permissions of Pollinger Limited and the Estate of J. C. Robinson. Copyright © the Estate of Mrs J. C. Robinson

For more details about the Museum and the current exhibition, you can email info@cartoonmuseum.org or log on to www.cartoonmuseum.org

Opening Hours: Tues – Sat, 10.30 – 17.30; Sun 12 – 17.30

Admission: Adults £4, Conc. £3, Free to Under 18s and students

If you would like to know more about The Worshipful Company of Hackney Carriage Drivers, please contact The Clerk on 01494765922. Anyone who would like more details about the cab guiding course can contact Graham Woodhouse, the course organizer, on 07968-791117 or e-mail him at info@cabguide.com

PEOPLE LOVE BLACK CABS

Down in Plymouth, taxi driver Tony McGill says people at taxi ranks there often seek out the iconic purpose built taxi. He has had his new TX4 for over two months now and is full of enthusiasm for it. "There are people who often request a TX because they like them and can get in easier. I think people just prefer the cabs and recognise them a lot more as being a taxi."



NEW TOWN CENTRE FOR CENTRAL LONDON

The Elephant and Castle is to be transformed by Southwark Council into a thriving town centre. In a £1.5 billion regeneration scheme, this is the capital's largest ever development by a single borough, covering 170 acres. Elephant and Castle already has more than £400 million of regeneration underway. Funding for the redevelopment of St Mary's Churchyard and major roadworks has been confirmed by the London Development Agency, and that work is already taking shape alongside the hotel, cinema, homes and shops at Oakmayne Plaza, as well as the £100 million Multiplex tower with room for more than 400 homes. Plans include more than 6,000 new homes, leisure facilities, two major new public parks, a cinema, civic square and a new pool. In a safer, cleaner environment, pedestrians and cyclists will take priority over traffic as the subways and the southern roundabout are removed.