

LTI TAXI'S LATEST STOP IS HERITAGE MOTOR CENTRE IN GAYDON

A London black cab has been loaned to The Heritage Motor Centre in Gaydon, Warwickshire, as part of an interactive exhibition. LTI Vehicles has loaned a TX4 to the museum, which houses the largest collection of British veteran, vintage and classic cars in the world, as part of a series of exhibits on the history of the British car industry.

The taxi is unique in the museum because visitors will be able to get inside and get up an up-close view of the iconic, world-renowned vehicle. The TX4 will feature as a bridging exhibit between two news sections called Making British Cars and Life's Highway. Curator Stephen Laing says the vehicle is an important addition to the museum because of the place it has in the imagination of people throughout the world. He said: "Most of our exhibits cannot be sat in but people can just climb in the taxi. They like to get a feel for the car by being in it."

"It's an important part of the British motor industry. It is like the Routemaster bus and the Mini. They are the vehicles that everybody around the world associates with Britain. We were pleased because not many people know the black cab is built in Coventry, and that the city has been producing it for 60 years. It's great to have a company with the heritage of LTI on our doorstep. "What is especially remarkable is that it has not changed its basic shape in all the time."



BARCLAYCARD ONEPULSE CASHLESS PAYMENTS BEGIN

As regular readers may remember, back in February, ComCab had their concept cab on show at the Business Travel Show. One of the features being demonstrated at the time was the in-cab combined Oyster and Credit Card reader, the first time an Oyster reader has ever featured in a London taxi. Barclaycard recently announced a unique partnership with Oyster to produce one single credit card that also can be used as Oyster card on contactless readers. Malcolm Paice, Fleet Operations Manger for Computer Cab plc, commented: "The in-cab Oyster and credit card reader has generated a huge amount of interest from visitors to the show. Oyster is rapidly becoming the standard payment mechanism for transport in London, it makes sense to see if the travelling public would like the convenience of having Oyster available in taxis too. The remarkable thing about the technology that Barclaycard are helping us to showcase is that you do not even need a separate Oyster card, it can all be featured on a standard credit card and the card has dual usage."

Now Barclaycard has announced that from this Autumn, Londoners who sign up to Barclaycard OnePulse, the unique three-in-one card, will be able to make cashless payments in more than 1000 stores throughout the capital. Major high street names including EAT and Krispy Kreme have joined the sign up and Barclaycard predicts that Londoners will be able to use its cashless card at several thousand retail outlets by the end of the year. Guy Harvey, Financial Director of EAT commented: "We are excited

about installing cashless readers in 25 of our London stores; it will help us to eliminate some of the frustrations for our customers such as queues in the busy lunchtime rush. Hopefully, we'll see lots of our customers choose this method of payment." Judith Denby, Marketing Director of Krispy Kreme commented: "This quick and easy payment method means that people will be able to spend less time in a queue and more time enjoying their coffee and doughnuts. Hopefully it will mean that customers visit us again and again because of the hassle free experience."

Cashless cardholders will simply need to make a touch of their card against the reader instead of entering a PIN or signature for purchases of £10 or under.

Barclaycard OnePulse is unique because it is the only UK credit card that combines this new cashless technology with the ease and convenience of Oyster card and the security and flexibility of Barclaycard. Cashless OneTouch payment, using UK contactless technology allows cardholders to make low value purchases of £10 or under more quickly and conveniently with OneTouch of their card against a reader instead of entering a PIN or signature, thus reducing a customer's reliance on cash.



ComCab concept cab at the Business Travel Show 2007

TIME FOR ACTION SAY PETROL RETAILERS

'Motorists could soon find it more difficult to refuel their vehicles if filling stations continue to close at the current rate,' said Ray Holloway, director of the Petrol Retailers Association (PRA), commenting on the shrinkage of the UK forecourt sector. 150 forecourts have already closed this year, according to figures released by oil industry body Catalist. There are now less than 9,500 forecourts in the UK, including supermarket filling stations. This is the lowest number of filling stations in the UK since 1912. The situation could become critical if the total number of forecourts continues to drop at the rate of recent years.

Holloway commented: 'Motorists are now noticing gaps in fuel availability, and if it gets worse as expected, they will certainly be inconvenienced when searching for a forecourt in some areas. Closures are not just in rural areas either. Urban closures are causing equal inconvenience for motorists. Oil company outlets are

being closed as fast as independents are forced out of business. Strong supermarket outlet growth since the 1990s and resulting squeeze on margin has made motor fuel retailing a very unprofitable business.'

The PRA believes that Government involvement is critical to save the nation's fuel stations. Holloway explains: 'Structure plans developed by local authorities must allow for maintenance of essential services such as forecourts. Some business rate relief is available to forecourt operators in rural areas but not in urban locations. From the evidence available they must extend this minimal support.'

'The Scottish Executive has a grants scheme available to assist forecourt retailers in Scotland with capital investment. The idea is to preserve businesses, and contribute to the continuation of fuel availability in all areas. Westminster must consider a similar scheme for England and Wales.'