

TOWER BRIDGE RENOVATION WORKS

Works on Tower Bridge later this summer will see the metal framework repainted, using 22,000 litres of paint and 44,000 man hours. The traditional blue and white colours which date back to 1894 will be retained. The task will take some four years to complete. To ensure that no paint drops into the river, there will be a scaffolding ledge below the bridge that will collect the falling fragments. This ledge will be vacuumed every day in order to ensure no debris is deposited into the water.

The City of London Corporation says: "Tower Bridge is unique and the firm undertaking the work needs to run tests before we finalise how the works will be programmed. But we expect to have a lot more detail about what will be happening where by the 1 June - with the core programme beginning later in the summer." Tower Bridge is one of the world's most iconic and internationally recognised landmarks. Thanks to shrewd investment by the medieval monks who founded the ancient City charity, the four-year maintenance project will go ahead alongside continued grant-giving totalling £60million to charities in Greater London.

The ancient City trust, now worth £700million, can trace its roots back to 1097 when Londoners paid a toll if they wanted to cross the original London Bridge, the only bridge over the Thames until Westminster Bridge opened in 1750.

The primary purpose of this trust was and still is to maintain all five City bridges (London, Tower, Southwark, Blackfriars and Millennium Bridges) at no cost to the taxpayer. However, following an Act of Parliament in 1995, any money surplus to bridge maintenance requirements was allowed to be distributed to help charitable causes within Greater London. The City Bridge Trust was formed to manage the annual distribution of approximately £15mn a year and has since made over 5,000 grants to benefit charities in every London borough. The grants in this 12-year period have totalled well over £200 million.



MICHAEL CASHMAN MEP HAILS MANUFACTURING EXCELLENCE

As West Midlands MEP, Michael Cashman represents local business in Brussels. He recently visited LTI Vehicles to see at first hand the excellent progress being made by the company. Michael met John Russell, CEO of Manganese Bronze Holdings the parent company of LTI, to discuss LTI's continued investment in the Coventry plant and the ongoing work associated with the company's Chinese joint venture, which is set to transform LTI into a global brand.



John Russell, CEO of Manganese Bronze Holdings (left), alongside Michael Cashman MEP

He also toured the factory, including the press shop to see the recently installed automotive panel press. Purchased for £375,000 the press underlines LTI's commitment to keep manufacturing within the UK. "Since its opening some 60 years ago LTI Vehicles has become an increasingly important part of the area's economy by supporting jobs and giving a much needed boost to the region's manufacturing industry," commented Michael Cashman MEP. "Not only do LTI deserve the recognition for what they have achieved, but they have also facilitated discussions that have enabled me to make informed decisions back in Brussels."

John Russell, CEO of Manganese Bronze Holdings, said "As our local MEP, Michael shows a real understanding of the opportunities that face the automotive industry. It's been a real pleasure to meet with Michael and to discuss a number of key policy issues that affect our business. Michael's commitment to local business is greatly appreciated."

NEW DIRECTOR APPOINTED AT RADIO TAXIS GROUP LIMITED

The Board of Radio Taxis Group Limited has announce the appointment of Gordon Brown as Finance Director with effect from 24 April 2008. A member of the Chartered Institute of Management Accountants for over 20 years Gordon joined Radio Taxis Group Limited as Financial Controller in November 2005. He was previously financial controller with the privately owned group that ran the successful retail chains of Ryman Limited and La Senza Limited and before that held a number of finance positions at Tesco plc.

COMPUTER CAB MAKES THE SUNDAY TIMES TOP 50 BEST GREEN COMPANIES LIST

ComputerCab has received the Sunday Times Best Green Companies award. Presenting the awards, Richard Casey, Managing Editor of The Sunday Times said: "The 50 companies listed in this report are all enterprising pioneers – enterprising, enlightened and fizzing with new ideas. All have a common sense of purpose about their corporate social responsibility. There may be plenty of environmental awards but this is the first that has both a robust methodology to measure environmental performance and a survey of each company's staff to find out whether green sheen is more than skin deep"

The Sunday Times worked with environmental consultants. Bureau Veritas were the external auditors and market research group, Munro Global devised the methodology for the competition.

Andrew Robson, Director of Marketing, Sales & Communications, Computer Cab plc, said: "Winning the award and making the list of 50 best green companies and coming 44th in the Top 50 is a great achievement for our team at Computer Cab.

The award recognises the commitment of both our staff and our drivers who are very environmentally conscious and adopt best 'green' practice whenever possible. The competition required the full involvement of all our staff in responding individually and anonymously to a questionnaire and our environmental efforts were audited by Bureau Veritas at first hand. The competition attracted businesses throughout the UK, large and small, ranging from banking giants to smaller companies. Interestingly many of those in London who entered the competition are Computer Cab customers.

"We are delighted with our award and we will continue to show our commitment to the environment."



Pictured (from left to right) Simon Haynes – Environmental Manager, Computer Cab plc, John Lee – CEO, Computer Cab plc and Alistair McCall – Sunday Times Correspondent