

## MARATHON RUNNING 'RABBIT' TAXI DRIVER GETS MBE

Derek McCarrick first began running marathons when a friend's daughter died. Since then he has raised more than £200,000 for Leukaemia Research, running marathons dressed as Roger Rabbit. He has been made an MBE in the New Year's Honours list for charitable services. Known to many as Del, the 73 year old from Minster, Isle of Sheppey, said: "I'm absolutely thrilled. I admire all the people on the Isle of Sheppey and all the people in London that have donated money to me. It's this rabbit that's made the money. A friend of mine, a taxi driver, his daughter died at 18 months old in Great Ormond Street from leukaemia. I did go to the hospital with him and it was quite a shock that someone at such a young age could develop a disease like this."



Roger Rabbit aka Del joined the 2008 Lord Mayor's Show

## MOTORISTS CONTINUE TO FLOUT MOBILE PHONE LAWS

Research by What Car magazine shows that motorists still continue to flout mobile phone laws.

- 36% admit to using a handheld mobile while driving
- 93% have seen someone else using a mobile phone behind the wheel in the last week
- Only a 6% drop in mobile phone usage while driving since 2005

The What Car? survey has revealed that 36% of motorists still admit to using a handheld mobile phone while driving their car, with a quarter saying they've done so in the past week. However, the true figure could be much higher as 93% of motorists say they've seen someone else using a mobile phone at the wheel in the past seven days.

In spite of tougher penalties being introduced in 2007, which include the threat of jail if a driver is prosecuted for dangerous driving, there has been no drop in the number admitting to using a handheld mobile over the past year. Last year's survey also showed that 36% admit to using their phone while driving.

Only a slight drop of 6% has been recorded since 2005. Steve Fowler, What Car? editor, commented: "The message is obviously not getting through – if you use a handheld mobile phone while driving, you may end up killing yourself or others. Research has shown that using a mobile phone at the wheel could be more dangerous than drink driving. Yet it seems you don't have to travel far to see someone who's oblivious to the dangers – they're all too easy to spot by their bad driving habits."

## WCHCD GREEN BADGE GUIDE COURSE WALK IN CHURCHILL'S FOOTSTEPS

A group of taxi drivers who have been studying for their Cab Guide Badge recently had a private tour of the Cabinet War Rooms, the bunker from which Churchill and his Cabinet ran the country during the Second World War. The tour allowed them privileged access to the key rooms of the Museum. The group went into the Cabinet Room, which has been perfectly preserved since 1945. It was in the Cabinet Room that Churchill announced 'This is the room from which I will direct the War.'



Operations Manager, Gerry McCartney, also took the group into the Map Room, which was the central hub of operations throughout the Second World War. In the room they got to see close up the thousands of pin pricks in the maps showing where all the convoys had been as well as the sugar ration discovered hidden away in a drawer when the Cabinet War Rooms were prepared to open to the public in 1984.

The group walked down the dimly lit corridors soaking up the atmosphere, imagining the cramped conditions and long hours in which the staff had worked.

Paul Playle from the Education Committee of The Worshipful Company

of Hackney Carriage Drivers said: 'For a while there was a war on but everyone when emerging into the daylight again must have been appreciative of all who made things happen for the better. The group were certainly appreciative of Gerry McCartney for such a good tour and Melody Allen of the Museum for organising it.'

The Churchill Museum and Cabinet War Rooms is open daily from 9.30am until 6.00pm (last admission 5.00pm) for entry fees or details on booking private tours visit their website: [www.iwm.org.uk/cabinet](http://www.iwm.org.uk/cabinet).

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