

TAXI
GLOBE



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CABS ARE ONE OF LONDON'S TOP BRANDS

An Evening Standard reporter has written an article "Black Cabs – A symbol of Safety" following the reports of John Worboys, the former black cab driver found guilty of many rapes and assaults on women. This report emphasises that London's black cabs are safe and the writer states that "Whatever Worboys did, his violent, pervy career was terrible. But it was so much worse to read the reaction of some women who wrote pieces saying that the black cab - symbol of safety on London streets - could no longer be a port in the storm for women alone, late at night. I find this incredibly irresponsible. It would be a catastrophe if this sick loser caused even one woman to avoid taking black cabs. Black cabs are one of London's top brands. Black cabs are brilliant. They are safe and recognisable. Cabbies always know where they're going, and are the only men I know who can make my day by calling me blossom. They need our fares and our faith in their trade." London's taxi trade was horrified to learn of Worboys actions as the Court case progressed. Ed Thompson, Taxi and Private Hire Director at the Public Carriage Office said: "We are pleased that the John Worboys case has been brought to a successful conclusion and he has been brought to justice. Our thoughts are with those people who have been affected by his crimes. The safety of our passengers is our top priority and black cabs remain one of the safest forms of transport. Every person applying to become a licensed taxi or private hire driver must complete an enhanced Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) check and if they are licensed they must complete a new enhanced CRB check every three years when they renew their licence. Any driver charged with a sexual offence will have their licence suspended immediately and if convicted revoked.

"The Public Carriage Office continues to work in partnership with the Metropolitan Police to further improve safety for passengers."

DI Dave Reid of HSCC, the officer in charge of the investigation said: 'Worboys was a predatory sexual assailant who used his position of trust as a hackney cab driver to lure women into his cab and assault them. He presented a charming and affable countenance, all the while planning his assault and searching out women to prey on. I want to thank the women who came forward in this enquiry. I have listened to each of them as they

have given evidence in court, and been struck by the integrity of every one. What they did was not easy, and I do not underestimate the extra burden they have endured as a result of Mr Worboys' refusal to accept responsibility for the horrendous acts he committed.

'This has been a massive enquiry, and we have been greatly assisted by colleagues in the Sapphire teams, the time they have invested in assisting the women in this case has been of real value. Additionally, the exceptional work carried out by the Identification Centre in Southwark is worthy of mention, and colleagues in Surrey and Dorset as Mr Worboys' activities stretched far beyond the Capital. If there are further victims out there we would encourage them to come forward and speak with us, or attend a Haven'.

Havens for rape and sexual assault victims, also known as London's Sexual Assault Referral Centres, provide medical, practical and emotional support to rape and sexual assault victims of any age. They offer a confidential service and bring together, under one roof, a dedicated team of specially trained NHS doctors, nurses and other healthcare professionals. Bob Oddy, General Secretary of the LTDA, said: "The London taxi trade has been appalled by the criminal behaviour of this driver and I wish to extend sympathy, on behalf of my taxi driver members, to all the victims and their families who have suffered harm and distress as a result of these shocking incidents. This unfortunate case has, understandably, attracted wide media and public attention and has become particularly newsworthy due to the high level of trust which Londoners traditionally place in their Capital's licensed taxi drivers.

"The isolated actions of this particular driver are very much a case of the exception, rather than the rule, and need to be viewed in the context of the ¼ million taxi passengers who are conveyed safely in London cabs every day of the week. This is a deplorable one – off incident and passengers can be confident that the next cab they hail will convey them safely to their destination.

Many members have requested that we express our concern in a tangible way and my Association is responding by offering a donation of £10,000 to the St Mary's Hospital Rape Haven in Paddington, which specializes in assisting victims of sexual harassment."

LANE CLOSURE ON A406

The westbound A406 North Circular Road between Green Lanes and Telford Road in Bounds Green, Enfield, will have one westbound lane closed to facilitate National Grid gas main works during the next three months. The works will be undertaken in phases with the first phase of restrictions in place on the inside westbound lane between Brownlow Road and Telford Road until early May 09. The second phase will be from Green Lanes to Brownlow Road between early May 09 and mid June 09, weather permitting. The A406 will remain open in both directions during this time, however with westbound traffic restricted between these two junctions, delays are expected.

ALAN PAYNE

25.05.1952 – 13.03.2009



Alan, or Big Al as he was known, trained as a biochemist and printer before settling into cab driving twenty years ago. Since then, he had made many friends in the cab trade. He was a regular at several cab shelters, mainly Northumberland Avenue where he would have his lunch, spending several hours a day there and was never at a loss for words! He was a very gentle, kind, helpful, sociable, happy and well respected man who had a unique sense of humour and a thirst for knowledge. If he didn't know the answer to something he would find out and tell you the following day!

Alan was tragically taken from us all much too soon and, we can only be grateful that we were all blessed to have known him. He will be sadly missed by all his mates at the shelters, and by his wife Pauline, son Alan and sister Beverley.

Rest in peace Al, we will miss you.

