

67th UNITED GUILDS SERVICE HELD AT ST PAUL'S

On a glorious, sunny spring morning, Freemen of the Worshipful Company of Hackney Carriage Drivers attended the 'United Guilds Service' at St. Paul's Cathedral on March 27th. The City of London Guilds, Fellowships and Livery Companies are invited to the Annual Service, which is also attended by The Right Honourable Lord Mayor. The origins of the service date back to 1943 when at a meeting at Goldsmiths' Hall by Masters of the great twelve Livery Companies, it was decided that a service would help lift the spirits of the City of London following the Blitz during the Second World War. The service commenced with a fanfare of trumpeters from the

Band of the Blues and Royals and a verger led the procession including Masters' of the Great Twelve, The Bishop of London, The Aldermen and the Lord Mayor; accompanied by his Serjeant at Arms and his sword bearer.

As the majestic St Paul's Cathedral emptied after the uplifting service, many tourists stood watching the many different gowns and ceremonial robes worn by those who had attended the service. This service is just one that is held each year in the magnificent cathedral that attracts so many visitors. Some of those watching had younger visitors with them who wanted to know more about the service and why it had been held. It is another example

of old traditions taking their part in modern day life in the City and proves the strength of the Livery continues as it has for many years. Those attending the service from the WCHCD all agreed that the service was wonderful and it still lifts the spirits of the congregation today as it has since 1943. The origins of this service during the Blitz have built a tradition; today the City is facing tough times of a different sort and yet the service still proves to be as uplifting as it was in 1943.

It has become custom that the Companies join together afterwards in small groups and lunch, usually at one of the Livery Halls. This year, once again the Hackney Carriage Drivers were delighted to attend a



lunch at the Butchers' Hall along with the Glovers, Gunmakers, Solicitors and other companies where they were greeted with a champagne reception followed by a three course lunch with wine.

Anyone who earns their living through the Taxi trade can apply to become a Freeman of the Worshipful Company of Hackney Carriage Drivers. For more details, please contact the Clerk on 01494 765922.

BRIAN IS ALL HEART AND NO HAIR!

It may be getting warmer, but it was a little chilly on the day that London cabbie Brian Nayar went ahead with his plans to crop his dreadlocks. Brian's unusual fund raising effort for the British Heart Foundation Saving Lives in London Appeal, has so far made over £3,500, which he hopes will top nearly £4,000 after gift aid and further donations have been added. Brian said: "I've been growing my dreadlocks for about fifteen years now so having them shaved off was heart wrenching, but it's for a cause. Sadly, both my father, and my fiancé Debbie's father, died prematurely of heart disease. We both know how vital the work of the BHF is in saving and improving the lives of heart patients – and helping to keep families together."

The Saving Lives in London Appeal which is co-ordinated by the British Heart Foundation (BHF). It aims to raise £100,000 towards the cost of placing life-saving defibrillators at some of the most busy and densely populated public areas across London – the Tube stations. These are areas of greatest need for defibrillators, where it may be difficult for an ambulance to access quickly in an emergency because of traffic congestion – and sheer volume of people.

In addition to helping purchase defibrillators, the Appeal will also help the BHF, in partnership with the London Ambulance Service, to train teams to use the equipment in emergency situations, saving critical minutes before an ambulance can arrive. Jane Harries, BHF Fundraising Volunteer Manager for London said: "Every two minutes, someone in the UK has a heart attack – almost 30% of those people will die before they reach hospital. That's why every second counts in the delivery of first aid following a heart attack. The

Saving Lives in London Appeal will help provide more defibrillators, and trained teams, to work strategically across London in our busy Tube stations. We're delighted with Brian's fundraising efforts and are very grateful to him for losing his long locks in support of this local life-saving appeal."

The BHF urgently needs people across London to get involved and support the Saving Lives in London Appeal by offering to give donations of time or money, to help us save more lives. For further information about the appeal and how you can get involved in different ways, please contact Jane Harries on 01628 673390 or email harriesj@bhf.org.uk.

To support Brian's efforts click on www.justgiving.com/briannayar

Jane Harries, BHF Fundraising Volunteer Manager for London, said: "On Friday 20th March 2009 Brian Nayar spent over 15 hours collecting money for the British Heart Foundation's Saving Lives in London Appeal. Brian based himself at the London Heathrow main taxi feeder park from 0400hrs collecting money from generous taxi drivers until 1900hrs.

"I would like to thank all the volunteers who helped Brian and his Fiancée Debbie collect an



incredible £1,217.50 for the Appeal. A massive thank you also goes out to the taxi drivers who donated money on the day."

TAXI DRIVING TEST – REVISED FEES

The Driving Standards Agency (DSA), which is contracted to carry out taxi driving assessments on behalf of the Public Carriage Office, has advised that its fees increased on 30 March 2009.

The new fees are:

Normal Hours:

Taxi driving test and wheelchair test £89.07

Wheelchair test only £25.45

Saturday and evenings:

Taxi driving test and wheelchair test £107.66

Wheelchair test only £31.31

The fees are inclusive of VAT at the current rate of 15%.

Further information in respect of the DSA taxi driving test, including the online booking service can be found at www.transportoffice.gov.uk