

## SPREADING MORE MAGIC 2ND – 4TH OCTOBER 2009

The Magical Taxi Tour will be leaving Canary Wharf, London on Friday 2nd October for a magical weekend in Disneyland Paris. This is the 16th annual trip being made by The Worshipful Company of Hackney Carriage Drivers, taking sick and terminally ill children, together with their carers and support staff, for a weekend of fun in the Magic Kingdom that is Disneyland Paris.

Every year special memories are made, thanks to the big hearted cab drivers who give their time freely to take part in the convoy. A huge amount of money is needed to make the trip possible and the Disney Committee work extremely hard to raise the necessary sponsorship. Despite the tough times the credit crunch has brought, sponsors have once again dug deep and made it possible for the trip to take place, bringing happiness to everyone involved.

For some of the children, it will be their first trip out of the UK and the excitement builds as the Big Breakfast send-off is hosted at Canary Wharf. This year, the Lady Mayoress of the City of London, Lin Luder, will cut the ribbon that marks the beginning of the weekend. The convoy of around 100 licensed London taxis will leave Canary Wharf, en route to Dover, where the P&O Ferry will be boarded for Calais. Down the motorway through France with a refreshment and comfort stop the convoy will cause some incredulous faces, particularly as the convoy is joined by police outriders from both the UK and France.

Once safely booked in to their Disney hotel, the fun will begin. A day in the Disney Park, followed by a Gala Dinner with many of their favourite Disney characters in attendance, will bring magic into the lives of these children. Phil Davis, Chairman of the Disney Organising Committee says: "Every year the smile on the children's faces makes all the hard work and effort worthwhile. And it doesn't just make the children smile – our drivers, support staff, ambulance drivers and paramedics, together with everyone involved in making the Magical Taxi Tour a success smile too. Our convoy will be around three miles long; it will include City of London Police escorts, London Ambulance NHS Trust vehicles and AA breakdown trucks and a contingency from the Gendarmerie Nationale starting the trip from Canary Wharf. Some of the licensed taxi drivers will be making this trip for the 16th time – such is the dedication of everyone involved in the trip."

For more details of the trip visit the website [www.magicaltaxitour.com](http://www.magicaltaxitour.com)



## DOES THE MAGNUM FROG-EYE MIRROR WORK?

In a recent issue of Taxi Globe, we told readers that the PCO had approved the use of a new external blind spot mirror to be fitted on London taxis. Called the Magnum Frog-eye, they are the first auxiliary clip-on mirrors of their type to be given official approval by Penton Street. The Frog-eye has a large size and is robust. It is also a product that London taxi drivers have been clamouring for. How often have you pulled out or pulled back into a lane, only to find there was another vehicle that you couldn't see because it was in a blind spot? Taxi Globe asked Alan Fisher, editor of Dial-a-Cab's in house magazine to test the mirrors on his taxi and report his findings. The distributor of the Frog-eye mirror is Magnum. MD, Sharon Hennessy, said that the product has been available for some years and had gained much interest from London taxi drivers who have been looking for a more effective means to see blind spots. "But they weren't allowed to use them because they hadn't been approved by the PCO," said Sharon. "I should add that the only reason was because we hadn't realised that's what we had to do. When we finally submitted them to the PCO, we were extremely pleased they were accepted and gained so many positive comments about quality and the safety benefits they provided."

Alan Fisher fitted a pair to his TX4 and gave them a 4-week trial. He said: "I decided to fit one to both the near and off-side mirrors. The Frog-eye is an auxiliary clip-on mirror, which the makers claim is easily fitted to the existing wing mirrors. Not being a natural DIY man, it took me 5 or 6 minutes to work out what I had to do, but once I began fitting them, each mirror took me no longer than two minutes to fit and tighten. It then took me several minutes to adjust them so that I could get



the most benefit from them. I did that by asking my wife, Linda, to walk alongside the cab and adjusted the Frog-eyes so that as she reached the front doors and became out of view of the main mirror, she was still clearly in eyeshot of the Frog-eye. I did the same on both sides. They undoubtedly increased my vision and helped eliminate those blind spots that so often contain a cyclist, motorcycle or car."

Alan continued: "It did take me a day to get used to looking in both mirrors, but on the third day, thanks to the Frog-eye, I avoided what would have been a close call with a small Honda that had crept alongside me. I think the Magnum Frog-eye is an essential addition to road safety. I also discovered as a bonus that the nearside one makes parking even easier with its great view of the kerb as you reverse! At these low prices for providing valuable extra safety, the question has to be whether we afford not to fit them?"

Currently the Magnum Frog-eye is only available for the TX1, TX2 and TX4, but hopefully approval for the Fairway will soon be awarded as well. The cost per Frog-eye including postage, packing and VAT is £21.51. However, if you buy a pair then the total cost would be just £34.16. On top of that, if you go to their website, select the Frog-eye and enter the code taxi1009, you will get another 10% off the price (before p&p and VAT) giving a further £2.50 off the pair. At those prices, extra road safety comes at a snip.

To contact the Magnum shop, just call 020 8744 5230 or visit them online at [www.blindspotmirrors.co.uk](http://www.blindspotmirrors.co.uk)...

## CHARITY WALK FOR LONDON TAXI BENEVOLENT ASSOCIATION FOR WAR DISABLED

On Friday 25th September 2009, a charity walk in aid of the London Taxi Benevolent Association for War Disabled will take place. This is being undertaken by Shaun Hogg, who is a London taxi driver who was seriously injured whilst serving with 2nd Battalion Royal Green Jackets in Northern Ireland.

Shaun will be doing the walk with the aid of crutches as he cannot walk too far without them. He will be

assisted on the walk by Richard Atlee, who will be escorting him with his Mercedes Vito taxi, which will have the charity logos on it.

Shaun intends to walk between ten London railway stations - starting at Kings Cross at 2 p.m. on Friday 25th September 2009. He will then go to St. Pancras, Euston, Marylebone, Paddington, Victoria, Waterloo, London Bridge, Fenchurch Street and will be finishing at Liverpool Street Station.

Please give Shaun encouragement on this walk when you see him, and if you could help by donating something in the buckets Shaun and his assistants will be carrying, it would be gratefully received. Alternatively you can make a donation via the charity's website which can be found at [www.taxicharity.org](http://www.taxicharity.org) and clicking on the donations icon.