

## THE LTFUC GIVE 50 DISADVANTAGED CHILDREN A BRILLIANT 'HAIR-RAISING' EXPERIENCE

50 disadvantaged children had a great hair-raising experience, when the London Taxidriers' Fund for Underprivileged Children took them to see the matinee performance of smash hit musical 'Hairspray' at the Shaftesbury Theatre on 26th September 2009. The children were driven to the theatre in a convoy of 18 taxis decorated with blue 'Hairspray' balloons and in no time the quiet City of London came alive with the sounds of horns blaring and flashing lights. It was a lovely sunny day and many pedestrians and people sitting outside cafes were waving to the children, who in turn frantically waved back, trying hard to master the 'royal' wave as they felt so special!



The show started at 3pm and it was a sight to behold watching the looks of amazement on the children's faces, especially as many of the children had never been to a theatre before. The children had been put forward for this outing by the Police and were very deserving of this special treat. Ice creams were given to

everyone during the interval and I took the opportunity to chat to some of the excited children, one little boy telling me it was his best day ever, asking whether what he was watching was real or TV?

A further surprise was in store for the children at the end of the show when three leading members of the cast, Brian Conley, Chloe Hart and Liam Tamne came out to meet them and have photos taken and we thank them for this kind gesture, especially as they were all due back on stage again at 7.30pm.

The Honorary President, Honorary Chairman and Committee are deeply grateful to Jon Kissack at Stage Entertainment and his team for all their



help and support in putting this day together and for the kind donation of the tickets, which enabled us to give these children a day they will cherish forever. Our grateful thanks must go to all the drivers and helpers, Ben Heath of the NCP Car Park, Museum Street, WC1 for kindly donating the taxi parking spaces and to Richard Green of

Simons Electrical Wholesalers, Honey Pot Lane Stanmore for his donation.

This show can only be described as brilliant, amazing, happy and funny and a musical with everything and if you have not seen it yet, you are really missing out!

Raymond Levy



## AN OPEN LETTER TO ALL LONDON TAXI DRIVERS, OPERATORS AND SUPPLIERS

London's taxis and their drivers are rightly considered the best in the world and I want to ensure that this deserved reputation for excellence continues. Throughout its history, those in the cab trade have occupied a position of trust - and have been seen as those men and women who are always willing to help.

At this juncture we need that help more than ever. Not just to get us where we want to go, but to help us in our battle against pollution.

As Mayor of London I have a responsibility to do all I can to clean up the air we breathe. London's air quality has improved in recent decades, but our city still suffers the worst air pollution in the UK.

We have already made great strides forward in reducing emissions from taxis but a lot more needs to be done if we are to achieve the improvements in air quality we so desperately need. This is my rallying call to you - London's black cab drivers - to help us to do this.

We are looking at how we can encourage the take up of new, cleaner, less polluting vehicles. This could be through the introduction of a 15-year age limit on taxis and private hire vehicles in 2012, moving to a 10 year age limit from 2015. Let me be clear - these policies I am proposing will not affect the vast majority of you who have already upgraded your vehicles. They are aimed

at the small majority who have older cabs, which tend to be more polluting. Cleaner, newer vehicles will be better to work in, will mean financial savings as they are more fuel efficient and customers will benefit from a better service, not least the huge crowd heading here from across the globe in 2012.

Clearly at this stage these are just proposals and I am fully committed to developing solutions in partnership with the taxi industry. TfL will be taking forward a series of discussions with industry representatives over the coming months and we will launch a full public consultation in the spring to gather as many views as possible.

I want people coming to London for the Olympic Games to come to a cleaner and more pleasant city, one that we Londoners are proud of. Improving the air we breathe is key to that. I am keen to work with you to do this and I want to hear what you think and get your ideas on how you think this can work.

I am proud of our black cab trade and I am confident that you will take up the challenge to help to play your part in making London a less polluting city.

Yours sincerely,

Boris Johnson

Mayor of London