

CRACKDOWN ON URINATING ON WESTMINSTER STREETS

Westminster City Council and the Metropolitan Police carried out the capital's biggest ever crackdown on people urinating in the street in the run up to Christmas. This has now seen 12 revellers face magistrates after being caught red-handed in Westminster. They were all sentenced and fined a total of £1900 by the court, with fines ranging from £50 - £250, after either being found guilty or admitting to the offence of urinating in a public place.

Dr Leith Penny, Westminster City Council's strategic director for city management, said: "It is deplorable behaviour and completely unacceptable. I hope these court cases send a very clear signal to visitors to our area that we will not tolerate such behaviour, which is deplorable. In Westminster we provide more toilets than any other part of the capital, and there are thousands of bars, nightclubs and restaurants, all with loos people can use before they leave. Not only is it offensive and unhygienic to urinate in the street, it costs a small fortune to clean up the mess and get rid of the putrid smell which seeps into brickwork and paving. All this is totally unnecessary as there really is no need for anyone to be caught short."

Urination in a public place is contrary to the Byelaws for Good Rule and Government (No 2) of the City of Westminster made on 12 October 2001 under Section 235 of the Local Government Act 1972.

INTRODUCING THE BEST TAXI SERVICE TO UKRAINE

Kiev is about to introduce the iconic London taxi to its streets. "We know more about taxi design and manufacture than anyone," said Matthew Cheyne International Market Development Director, "and it's that expertise that we are bringing to Kiev." The current version of the famous taxi is built in China to British standards by LTI and their joint venture company Geely and will be operated by both individual drivers and limousine companies to introduce a new London style service. Drivers will be trained in customer care techniques and given lessons on sightseeing tours so they can point out places of interest to their passengers. Hotels already want to take advantage of the unique service as they extend the facility to their guests to make their stay even more enjoyable.

Matthew said "we have been working for a long time to produce a cost effective vehicle that doesn't lose any of the values



that the taxi has in the UK. It is the same design and is as robust as the one we build in Britain but is a lower cost.

"We know it is going to prove popular here in Kiev as we have had numerous advance enquiries about how to buy the vehicle. Now we are looking for a partner who will import the vehicle into Ukraine and provide sales and aftersales back up. This is a unique opportunity to gain an advantage over your competitors and we are sure that very soon we can have a full launch of the vehicle over here and start seeing the taxi being used on the streets of Kiev."

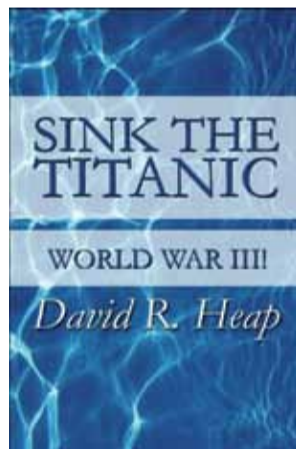
SINK THE TITANIC By David Heap

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David R. Heap, a London cab driver, is the son of a former London Symphony Chorus tenor and a retired children's fashion designer. Born during the swinging 60s, he became a punk rocker during the 70s. Sink the Titanic is his debut novel. He has lived in the Gravesend, Kent, since his parents moved there when he was 7 years old. That was 38 years ago and following his education at a local school, St Georges, David studied the KoL. He completed the KoL about 14 years ago and is proud to be a London cabbie. David says: "I am not a Titanic expert and my book is not exclusively about the Titanic disaster, but the book has a lot of pages devoted to the famous ship, including rare coverage of the ship's break up underwater and it's long journey down before smashing into the seabed."

Ed Draper, a time travel obsessive 30-something who has a "yippee-kippee-eye-aye" approach to life, realizes something is not quite right with his inaugural jaunt into the past. Has he inadvertently created some abhorrent war-stricken alternative reality ruled by the evil dictatorial king, Assimo Bad Sinnah? Or is he going to finally realize the dreams of his friend Rob Barron, a smooth-talking Titanic expert old timer who is a bit of a lady's man, by saving the great ship for him? Will this get Ed blown into oblivion?

Time itself becomes a woven tangled web, reaching a point of reciprocal paradox! Fortunately, the wise old man and unlikely hero Mizder Ed shows up, restoring order before bringing about world peace so that all realities can live happily ever after. For now at least!



GOOD RECORD KEEPING

Although keeping good records might not be the most exciting aspect of running your business, it is one of the most important. To emphasize this message, HM Revenue & Customs (HMRC) is sponsoring "The Business Inspector", a four part series airing on Five, which aims to raise awareness among small business of the need for sound business practices such as keeping good records.

The series is presented by Hilary Devey, a former C4 Secret Millionaire and chief executive and chairman of palletized freight distribution business The Pall-Ex Group, which she built up into a multi-million pound business. The four-part series sees Devey go into struggling businesses and reveal how improving their business systems, such as keeping good records, managing cashflow and developing a marketing strategy, can help turn around their fortunes. It will be broadcast weekly on Five at 8pm from 17 March 2010.

Stephen Banyard, Business Customer Unit Director at HMRC, said: "Failure to take reasonable care costs the Exchequer over £6bn a year with poor record keeping a major cause. We hope this series will raise awareness of the need for good record keeping."

For individual owner drivers of taxis, there is a reminder that good record-keeping is also a legal requirement. In April 2009, penalties were introduced for not taking reasonable care with records and tax returns.

Here are six tips for good record-keeping:

- * Set up a reliable system for keeping full and accurate records of your income and expenses from the outset
- * Keep records throughout the year - update your records regularly
- * Keep your records for a minimum of six years.
- * Keep records to show what you have bought or sold relating to your business. This should include details of all cash transactions as well as invoices and receipts.
- * Keep bank statements and building society books – this is particularly important if you don't have a separate business account. You should be able to show clearly what you have spent personally and on the business

For more help with record keeping go to www.hmrc.gov.uk/factsheet/record-keeping.pdf

