

## LONDON'S HISTORIC FIRE STATIONS

Driving a taxi around in London sometimes means that the surrounding buildings get taken for granted as drivers ply for hire. London has many historic buildings which includes 18 nationally listed fire stations. They are Belsize, Brixton, Clerkenwell, Deptford, Euston, Fulham, Hendon, Kensington, Lambeth, Lee Green, Plumstead, Southwark, Tooting, Wembley, West Hampstead, West Norwood, Westminster and Woolwich. Some taxi drivers have served in the Fire Brigade before moving on to study the KoL.

English Heritage and London Fire Brigade have worked together to agree joint guidance on adapting London's historic fire stations. The advice will help London borough conservation officers and London Fire Brigade reach agreement on future refurbishment of fire stations and lead to a consistent approach across the capital. London Fire Commissioner Ron Dobson said: "Fire stations play a huge role in allowing us to keep Londoners safe but some of our buildings were originally built for the days when horses pulled fire engines and not for the complex modern vehicles and equipment our firefighters now have available to them.

"We are a 21st century fire service and so our fire stations must allow for a diverse workforce, as well as more advanced, training equipment and vehicles. As fire prevention and community safety are now a core part of our business, our stations must also provide space for firefighters to meet local people and pass on important advice. We recognise that it is also vital that we protect our historic buildings and welcome the partnership work with English Heritage."

One of London's newer fire stations is also its most eco-friendly fire station, opened by Mayor Boris Johnson on 11 February 2010. Harold Hill fire station is the first additional station in over a decade and will improve attendance times of firefighters responding to emergencies in the north east area of the Havering. The new station on Ashton Road, Romford increases London's fire stations to 112 and one river station. Harold Hill is fitted with state of the art green technology and is fitted with water collection technology which harvests rain water to flush the toilets and the fire station hose reel. The water storage holds 20,000 litres saving 64kg of CO<sup>2</sup> per year.

The solar panels provide the electricity for the high efficiency lights and plug sockets. The station also has energy saving boilers, lighting fitting with both motion and daylight controls and thermostatic radiator valves which control the temperature of each radiator.



## ELGAR £20 BANKNOTE TO BE WITHDRAWN

The £20 banknote carrying the portrait of composer Sir Edward Elgar is to be finally withdrawn from circulation from 30 June this year. This note has been gradually replaced by the Adam Smith £20 which was introduced in 2007.

Elgar £20 banknotes can still be used the notes up to, and including, 30 June. After that date the note will no longer have 'legal tender' status. The note will not have to be accepted in payment, or in change, in retail outlets after this date. There are approximately 1.5 billion £20 notes (£30bn) in circulation, of which an estimated 150 million (£3bn) are Elgar notes.

For several months from the end of June banks, building societies and Post Offices will accept Elgar £20 notes for deposit to customer accounts and for other customer transactions. Agreeing to exchange the notes for non-customers is at the discretion of the individual institution. The Bank of England will always give value for these notes (and all other banknotes the Bank has issued). Andrew Bailey, the Bank of England's Chief Cashier, said, "The Elgar £20 banknotes were first introduced in 1999 and we introduced the Adam Smith £20 banknotes three years ago. We said at the time that the two designs would circulate in tandem, with the Elgar notes gradually being withdrawn over the next few years. It is time now to withdraw the Elgar £20 notes completely, with the Adam Smith £20 banknotes to be the only £20 note design continuing in circulation."



## WALKING THROUGH THE PAST

The Worshipful Company of Hackney Drivers is pleased to invite taxi drivers, their families and friends to join Alan Goldsmith as he takes two guided walks through London.

The first walk will be on Sunday 2nd May 2010 starting from Whitechapel station at 10.30am. This walk will trace the footsteps of Jack the Ripper. Jack's gruesome crimes began in 1888, when Mary Ann Nicholls, a prostitute was found with her throat cut.....

As you walk through the areas where Jack carried out his crimes, be prepared to learn more of his heinous actions – luckily you will be walking in the daylight!

The second walk will take place on Sunday 9th May. Again this walk will start at 10.30am this time from The Monument. Alan Goldsmith will

bring to life the details of The Great Fire of London so vividly you will be able to smell the smoke. Following a hot, dry summer in 1666 the fire began, thought to have started in a bakery in Pudding Lane. Although few lives were lost, the devastation caused saw some 13,000 houses burned together with Livery Halls and Churches.



Alan Goldsmith, a Liveryman of the WCHCD, assists with The Cab Guide Course run by the Company and is a working cab driver. A small donation of £5 is suggested for each person, which Alan will collect for the WCHCD Charity fund.

### CAB GUIDE COURSE

If you would like to know more about the Cab Guide Course run by The Worshipful Company of Hackney Drivers, please contact The Clerk, Mary Whitworth, on 01494 765922.