

The social history and cultural significance of the London bus



London
transport
museum

SYMPOSIUM

Date: Saturday 18 October 2014
Time: 10.00 – 16.00
Location: Cubic Theatre
Price: £40, £35 concessions, £20 students

How has the London bus changed the world? From encouraging female emancipation, supporting the war effort in 1914-18, providing design classics and inspiring art the bus has become part of the cultural identity of London. A one day conference for Year of the Bus, in which our prominent speakers look at the iconic nature of London's red double-decker buses, their social history, economic impact and cultural significance. Tickets include refreshments and entrance to the Museum galleries. To book tickets visit ltmuseum.co.uk.

PROGRAMME

- 10.00 *Tea, coffee and registration in the Cubic foyer*
- 10.15 Welcome
- 10.20 **Chair Sam Mullins, Director, London Transport Museum, introduces the day**
- 10.30 **Next stop, the Western Front: The role of the London bus during the First World War**
Sam Mullins, London Transport Museum
- 11.15 **'All Change: The Routemaster from austerity to affluence'**
Joe Kerr, Royal College of Art
- 12.00 *Coffee break in the Cubic foyer*
- 12.20 **Picturing the London bus: A short history of London buses in art, 1829-1960**
Richard Dennis, University College London
- 13.05 *Lunch break* and opportunity to visit the Goodbye Piccadilly exhibition*
- 14.00 **Amy Levy and Virginia Woolf: Bus, modernity and the novel**
Ana Parejo Vadillo, Birkbeck College
- 14.45 **How buses can transform the world**
Nick Tyler CBE, University College London
- 15.30 **Panel discussion and questions from audience chaired by Sam Mullins**
- 16.00 *Close*

*Lunch is not provided, but you can enjoy a snack at the Museum's Upper Deck cafe bar, or visit one of the many restaurants in and around Covent Garden.

MAYOR OF LONDON





BIOGRAPHIES

Sam Mullins, Director of London Transport Museum since 1994, has been responsible for many major developments - the Museum Depot at Acton (a state-of-the-art collections facility), the £22m redevelopment of the main museum in Covent Garden, which opened in 2007; and the creation of a new charitable trust for the Museum in 2008. He is also Vice President of AIM, the voice of independent museums in the UK, and a board member of the Museums Association. Previously he was responsible for local authority museums in St Albans, Market Harborough and Much Wenlock and a Trustee of the Museum Prize Trust and the SS Robin Trust.

Joe Kerr is a writer, broadcaster and historian. He is Head of the Critical & Historical Studies Programme at the Royal College of Art, and a bus driver working at Tottenham Garage. He is a passionate - but not uncritical - enthusiast for London, and is proud of his small role in keeping the city moving.

Richard Dennis is Professor of Geography at University College London (UCL), where he teaches and researches on the historical geography of 19th- and early 20th-century cities. He is the author of *Cities in Modernity* (Cambridge University Press, 2008); and most recently, of articles and book chapters dealing with: the novelist, George Gissing, and his representation of late Victorian London; and the environment and experience of London's earliest underground railways, including a chapter in *Going Underground: New Perspectives* (London Transport Museum, 2013).

Ana Parejo Vadillo is co-director of the Centre for Nineteenth-Century Studies at Birkbeck College, University of London. She has written on poetry, the novel, optical entertainment and urban mass-transport (omnibuses and underground) at the end of the nineteenth-century.

Professor Nick Tyler CBE is the Chadwick Professor of Civil Engineering, at UCL and Pro-Provost, East and South Asia. Nick Tyler works with clinical, engineering, social science, arts and humanities researchers in order to explore exactly how a person interacts with their immediate environment. This work spans from understanding how neurons respond to environmental stimuli, to how the environment can be designed to make this easier. He applies this to the design of bus systems around the world and is currently writing the second edition of his book *Accessibility and the Bus System* (due for publication early 2015).