

Tuesday 15 January 2019

Transformed gallery to explore wartime transport



- **A transformed gallery at London Transport Museum will explore the role London's transport played during the First and Second World Wars**
- **The remodelled gallery will feature new interactive exhibits and audio-visual displays alongside historic artefacts**
- **£82,500 from the DCMS Wolfson Museum and Galleries Improvement Fund is helping to make the gallery possible**

A redeveloped gallery at London Transport Museum will explore the role of London's transport during the First and Second World Wars. It is expected to open in spring 2020 ahead of the 80th anniversary of the Blitz.

A new grant of £82,500 from the DCMS/Wolfson Museums and Galleries Improvement Fund is helping to make the gallery possible. The money will support the transformation of an existing display into an immersive gallery.

The remodelled gallery will feature new interactive exhibits and audio-visual displays alongside artefacts from London Transport Museum's world-class collection, which is designated as outstanding by Arts Council England.

In the gallery, visitors will discover stories about how London's transport supported efforts on the front lines and kept civilians safe on the home front. The gallery will also introduce visitors to the people behind these stories.

Transforming the existing displays will make important historical stories about life in wartime more accessible to children and young people.

Sam Mullins, OBE, Director of London Transport Museum, said: “Transport in London played a significant role in both world wars, keeping the centre of government on the move, acting as a refuge on the home front and supporting the front lines with men and supplies. With the support of DCMS and the Wolfson Foundation, our transformed gallery will be an immersive experience, introducing visitors of all ages to the people and places behind these important wartime stories.”

Ends

For media requests, interviews and images please contact	
Esther Rush – Corporate Communications Manager Phone 0203 054 6504 Email esther.rush@ltmuseum.co.uk	For further information, please see: www.ltmuseum.co.uk
Candice Jones – PR and Marketing Manager Phone 020 7565 7448 Email candice.jones@ltmuseum.co.uk	Follow us on Twitter and Facebook at: https://twitter.com/ltmuseum https://www.facebook.com/ltmuseum
Claudia Pearson – Marketing Executive Phone 020 7126 1807 Email claudia.pearson@ltmuseum.co.uk	

Notes to editors

- This is the thirteenth round of a joint fund which DCMS runs in partnership with the Wolfson Foundation. The fund aims to provide capital funding for museums and galleries across England to deliver projects in one or a number of the following key areas:
 - Material improvements to the display and interpretation of collections, in both permanent galleries and exhibition spaces
 - Improvements to access and/or interpretation for visitors with disabilities
 - Physical improvements to public spaces to enhance visitor experience
 - Improvements to environmental controls, collections storage and conservation facilities to enhance the care of collections
- About the Wolfson Foundation:
 - The Wolfson Foundation (www.wolfson.org.uk) is an independent charity that supports and promotes excellence in the fields of science, health, education

and the arts and humanities, including awarding the Wolfson History Prize, the UK's foremost history prize. Since it was established in 1955, over £900 million (£1.9 billion in real terms) has been awarded to more than 11,000 projects throughout the UK, all on the basis of expert review.

- About London's transport during wartime:
 - During the First World War around 900 of London's red civilian buses served as military vehicles, with many serving on the Western Front. Men from across Britain enlisted as drivers, including many London bus drivers.
 - On the home front, women took on a variety of roles previously held by men in London Transport for the first time to keep London moving.
 - Between May 1917 and May 1918, Underground stations provided shelter against German air-raids to more than 300,000 Londoners.
 - At the outbreak of the Second World War in 1939, Frank Pick, the chief executive of London Transport, helped to organise the evacuation of civilians from the Capital.
 - In 1940, London's Underground stations and subterranean tunnels became strongholds for people sheltering from the Blitz.
 - Perhaps the most famous Underground station used during the Second World War is Down Street, a disused Piccadilly line station used as the wartime headquarters of the Railway Executive Committee and as a temporary shelter by Prime Minister Winston Churchill

About London Transport Museum

- London Transport Museum is situated in the heart of Covent Garden and filled with stunning exhibits; the Museum explores the powerful link between transport and the growth of modern London, culture and society since 1800. Historic vehicles, world-famous posters and the very best objects from the Museum's extraordinary collection are brought together to tell the story of London's development and the part transport played in defining the unique identity of the city.
- London Transport Museum is an educational and heritage preservation charity. Its purpose is to conserve and explain the history of London's transport, to offer people an understanding of the Capital's past development and to engage them in the debate about its future. The Museum's charity number is 1123122.
- London Transport Museum is supported by public funding from Arts Council England
- London Transport Museum opening hours:
 - Daily 10.00 to 18.00 (last admission 17.15)
- Public information:
 - Talks & events bookings: +44 (0)20 7565 7298
 - Switchboard: +44 (0)20 7379 6344 - general information
 - Address: Covent Garden Piazza, WC2E 7BB
 - 24-hour information: +44 (0)20 7565 7299
- <http://www.ltmuseum.co.uk>