

# NEWSFLASHES

**Items for the 'Newsflashes' (and Tailpieces) section of Underground News may be sent to the Editor by post and also by E-Mail, to the following address: editorUN@lurs.org.uk**

**NF 9/19** – On 28 January 2019, two new lifts were commissioned at Finsbury Park, which is the first stage in a major upgrade of the station (*photos in a future issue – Ed.*). The new lifts provide step-free access to the Piccadilly and Victoria lines as well as to platforms in the Network Rail station. The project to upgrade Finsbury Park will later deliver a new, larger entrance in the western part of the station which will create a new, alternative step-free route when completed. New ticket gates and a larger staircase have already been installed. The work has seen two new lift shafts dug using traditional mining techniques, with some 7,500 tonnes of spoil being removed.

**NF 10/19** – New staff accommodation at Whitechapel station was opened on Monday 10 December 2018. It has been named “St. Mary’s House”. Moreover, the London Overground platforms at Whitechapel opened for “Night Overground” services for the first time on Friday night 14 December 2018 and ‘Night Overground’ roundels subsequently installed.

**NF 11/19** – Passenger demand for LU services dropped in the 2017/18 year, both on weekdays and weekends. But in 2018/19 demand has continually built on all days, such that by 5 December 2018 there was a 3.8% increase in weekend journeys and a 2% increase in weekday journeys, which translates to over 11 million journeys over budget.

**NF 12/19** – As part of an initiative to look at ways of improving the overall appearance of both the interiors and exteriors of the 1992 Tube Stock, driving motor car 91133 was selected to undergo trials. The work was carried out by PLC Paint Services who have over 20 years of experience in painting and refinishing the exteriors/interiors of all types of rolling stock. The purpose of the trial is to demonstrate what level of finish can be achieved without the need to re-paint or re-vinyl. Whilst undoubtedly a great success, it was very costly in manpower, so whether other cars/trains will be so treated remains to be seen.

**NF 13/19** – On Tuesday afternoon 15 January 2019, a baby was born at Warren Street. The mother, who was aware that she was in labour, was heading to neighbouring University College Hospital by public transport when baby Lucas decided he couldn’t wait any longer to come in to the world. The mother gave birth while walking up the stairs from the northbound Northern Line platform and Lucas was delivered by members of the London Ambulance Service, British Transport Police medics and an off duty junior doctor who was on the station.

**NF 14/19** – The ‘labyrinth’ (maze) at Harrow-on-the-Hill has been moved from platforms 5 and 6 to the main footbridge. It is now just outside the gate line, adjacent to the GLAP (on the opposite side of the gate line from the former ticket office).

**NF 15/19** – District Line update:

- Platform-based OPO monitors have been removed from Gunnersbury platform 1 and the west end of Upminster platform 5, with front doors of S Stock trains at those locations becoming operative.
- New signalling equipment rooms are being built at Parsons Green (adjacent to No.24 siding road) and at Richmond, adjacent to the Network Rail signal cabin, east of Richmond station.
- The old style dot matrix indicators at West Brompton have been replaced, operating from 15 January 2019.
- New dot matrix indicators were commissioned on both platforms at Hornchurch on 13 January 2019.
- Vegetation noted being cleared between Hanger Lane Junction and Ealing Broadway mid-January.
- Stepney Green eastbound still has two 1970s yellow OMO stop plungers visible.

**NF 16/19** – The high mast lighting towers situated at Upminster Depot are now being used to generate additional revenue for the business. Staff at Upminster Depot came up with the idea of opening up the top platform of the lighting tower for rental space – renting the top platform as commercial space for other businesses to fit their equipment, such as signal beacons and/or satellite receivers. A lease agreement has been secured meaning that commercial companies could pay

anything in the region of £200k per annum to rent a space, and house their beacons on our lighting towers. Moreover £150k has been saved for renewing the depot lighting and there will be new LED lights at zero cost. The LEDs will be funded by the commercial companies who will be leasing a space on the masts.