


PUBLIC TOILETS UK A MATTER OF URGENCY




CAMPAIGN TO IMPROVE OUR HEALTH & WELLBEING


May 2015: Newsletter 1-4


[*Clipart accompanying the articles does not constitute a logo *]

 **The Election's over** but now the work begins. The increasing reduction in public toilets means more people – especially older people – fear to go out in case they have an accident. If you're a parent who's in the throes of toilet training your toddler – what do you do? And there are other issues arising from the lack of toilet facilities that affect all of us. Watch out for information on the effects of public toilet closures on the *PTUK* Facebook page and let your MP know why toilets are important.

Visiting Edinburgh? According to an article in the Edinburgh Evening News [13 April], around 12 public toilets in Edinburgh are under threat of closure. The reason? Saving money. Some of these facilities are located in parks which are very popular particularly in the summer – where are visitors supposed to go? Public urination is already a problem and with closures looming it will surely get worse. So will the costs to tourism and cleaning up outweigh having toilet facilities? There is a public consultation on the matter so make sure you have your say via The City of Edinburgh Council website. *PTUK* has sent some information to support the Convener of one of the park spaces in her campaign to keep the toilets open and this has been gratefully received. Fingers crossed the health issues at least will be taken seriously

 **Hawes Pier:** Are you one of the huge number of visitors who use the toilets at Hawes Pier on your visit to Queensferry? If so do complete the survey mentioned above to keep these toilets open because they are also under threat. Hawes Pier is used by passengers visiting the area not only by car but by cruise liner so it seems strange that visitors who will boost the local economy will not be able to 'spend a penny'.

 **Loos in Cornwall** There is concern in Fowey that the public toilets will not be ready for use in the summer. This was the subject of an article in the Cornish Guardian [29 March]. Apparently there is a lack of clarity with regard to ownership for 3 of the toilets whilst the 4th is being refurbished. Hopefully as we are now in May the situation has been resolved. If anyone is aware of the current status of these toilets please let *PTUK* know via our Facebook page or email Gill / Laus directly. With the tourist season looming toilets are vital and the fact that users will have to pay 20p to use them to help with running costs is better than having no loos at all!

 **London Bridge station:** London Bridge station itself may not be falling down but it is certainly falling down on its toilet provision! Anyone reaching the platform and needing a loo is in for a shock – platform toilets have closed! Travellers now have a choice – 'hold on' or risk missing the train in order to seek out the nearest toilets which are now located at The Vaults by the escalator and will cost you 30p! Is this progress? Is it Customer Service?

Hovering takes on another meaning! Some years ago there was a trend to have alternative signs for men and women's toilets on toilet doors. Usually the signs are pretty obvious – male in trousers, female in skirt but there appears to be a reawakening of this attempt to make us doubt our choice. *'When toilet signs go bad'* [Mirror 16 April] describes the new craze which makes us think hard, very hard before we enter. Fine if you're the confident type but if you're shy of indicating where you're going or you're in dire need and want a loo NOW this is not funny. Have you come across any bizarre signs? Do share them with *PTUK* on our Facebook page



Don't Panic! Well that may be Corporal Jones's answer to a situation in 'Dads Army' but the passengers on a Ryan Air flight recently had every right to feel a sense of panic when they learned that their 3 hour flight from Spain back to the UK was going to be without the comfort of toilet paper! [Daily Mail 2 May]. Apparently there was a delivery failure. For any on board who had a medical condition, was pregnant or had frequency issues it must have been a nightmare – especially as the announcement wasn't made until everyone was on the plane and watching the safety demonstration. If you were on that flight was it really that bad? Do tell *PTUK* your experience. Tissues anyone?



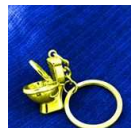
Toilets in Shops: Last month's *PTUK* newsletter followed up on whether there should be customer toilets in shops. *The Cleanzine* [30 April], the magazine of the cleaning industry reported our discussion with a repeat article in the 7 May issue. This is an important magazine which not only includes articles on various aspects of cleaning but also provides information on research related to health and hygiene in washrooms, thus making it appropriate to a wide audience within the industry. So thanks very much to *The Cleanzine* for highlighting this particular topic.



New Homes: Like them or loathe them new homes continue to be built around the UK. However not all have a downstairs toilet apparently. [Swindon Advertiser 'Opinion' 5 May]. At one time there was talk of constructing life-time homes whereby you purchased a home in which you could live – for ever - because the design made every effort to enable you to do this. This included having a downstairs toilet which is not only convenient for families but also reduces the need for older people to negotiate the stairs every time nature calls. Have you visited any newbuilds recently? Do they have downstairs toilets? Could you get a wheel chair or zimmer frame through the door? Do let *PTUK* know



*Next issue of Public Toilets UK newsletter will be June 2015
Gill & Laus*



IN THE MEANTIME.....

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