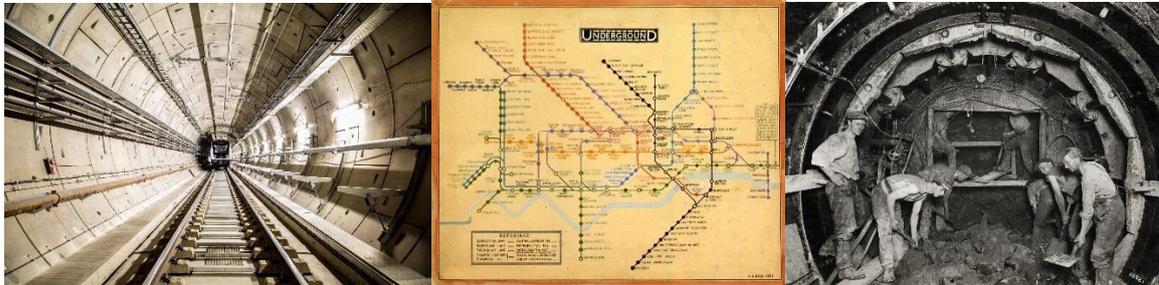




Fantastic Tunnels and Ingenious Engineering

New gallery and exhibition opening at London Transport Museum on Friday 23 March 2018



- **New gallery: Digging Deeper** explores the history of tunnelling from Brunel in the 19th century to modern day Crossrail
- **New temporary exhibition: The Secret Life of a Megaproject** reveals some of the secrets behind Crossrail – Europe’s biggest infrastructure and engineering project

An exciting new gallery permanent gallery and temporary exhibition will open at London Transport Museum on Friday 23 March as part of the national programme to celebrate Year of Engineering 2018. Digging Deeper will uncover the history of tunnelling from the early 19th century and The Secret Life of a Mega Project will bring the story up to date with revelations about Crossrail, Europe’s largest infrastructure engineering project.

New gallery: Digging Deeper

Featuring a giant audio-visual tunnel projection and a life-size recreation of the tunnelling shield that helped create the world’s first electric Tube railway in 1890, visitors can lose themselves in the stories of remarkable engineering feats. The gallery explores lasting legacies of London’s tunnel pioneers and how their principles are still relevant today:

- **Marc Isambard Brunel** (1769 to 1849), the prolific Anglo-French engineer who developed the first tunnelling shield which was used to build the Thames Tunnel, the first tunnel under a river anywhere in the world.
- **William Henry Barlow** (1812 to 1902), had the original idea of using a tubular cutter to dig tunnels in 1862. He patented a basic shield concept, and set up the company to build a tunnel to link the London Bridge station area and the Tower of London, providing another much-needed way to get across the river, 30 years before Tower Bridge.
- **James Henry Greathead** (1844 to 1896), was employed by Barlow to turn his idea into a practical machine, which was used to build the Tower Subway in 1870- the world’s first tube tunnel. Like the Thames Tunnel before it, the Subway was a commercial failure but it led to Greathead’s biggest achievement, the Greathead Shield that dug the first electric

railway in 1890 - the City and South London Railway. Similar machines were used for the whole of the deep London Tube network over the next 50 years. The next generation of machines that dug the Victoria line in the 1960s developed into the Jubilee line and Crossrail Tunnel Boring Machines, or TBMs, of today.

New exhibition: The Secret Life of a Megaproject

The Crossrail project is more than a railway – creating jobs and homes in the capital as well as uncovering the city's hidden history and bringing 10 major works of world-class art to Londoners. Months before the new railway opens, discover the lesser-known stories about this underground megaproject with rare prototypes, never-before-seen construction footage in a 270-degree immersive cinema, interactive maps and stories from a new generation of engineers who are building the Elizabeth line.

Sam Mullins, Director of London Transport Museum, said: “Our new galleries and exhibitions give a fascinating insight into the history of major infrastructure projects that most of us use every day but now take for granted. They will also help us to challenge our visitors' perceptions of engineering, raise awareness of the skills and mindsets involved in becoming an engineer, and the wide variety of engineering related career options available.”

Sir Terry Morgan, Chairman, Crossrail said: “The Crossrail project is not only constructing the Elizabeth line, which will redefine travel in the capital, it is creating jobs, new homes, uncovering the city's long forgotten history and introducing 10 major new works of public art. This fantastic exhibition brings these stories to life in a celebration of the impact a major infrastructure project can deliver.”

Later in the year an additional permanent gallery will open. **Future Engineers** will invite visitors to find out if they are a dreamer, planner, or fixer – all qualities required for tomorrow's engineers, as they experience a series of interactive encounters and try their hand at solving transport conundrums. The new gallery seeks to inspire an interest in STEM subjects and highlight the creativity, social value and sheer range of jobs available in engineering.

The new galleries, displays and family fun activities are part of Year of Engineering 2018 which raises the profile of engineering amongst 7 to 16 year-olds and encourages young people to consider a career in engineering.

The Museum is working in partnership with Transport for London, the Department for Transport and other partners including Crossrail; Biffa Award and Association of Independent Museums; Bombardier Transportation; DCMS Wolfson Museums and Galleries Improvement Fund; Luke Rees-Pulley Charitable Trust; Cubic Transportation Systems; Jacobs; Mott MacDonald, London Transport Museum Friends, to inspire more children to realise the opportunities that the profession can offer them.

Digging Deeper and The Secret Life of a Megaproject can be seen at London Transport Museum, Covent Garden Piazza, London, WC2E 7BB.

Admission

KIDS GO FREE

Adult admission tickets allow unlimited daytime entry for a whole year to all galleries and exhibitions.

Save money by booking adult tickets online in advance:

Advance online booking: adults £16.00 (concessions £13.50)

On the door: adults £17.50 (concessions £15.00)

For advance booking information, call +44 (0)20 7565 7298 or visit www.ltmuseum.co.uk

About London Transport Museum

- The 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.
- The Museum is a charity and the world's leading museum of urban transport and a place for everyone to come to understand and enjoy the story of London's journey. No other capital city is defined and shaped so much by its transport as London. Yet the scale of influence of transport can be invisible to those who use it every day. The Museum and its collections are a window into the past, present and future of how transport keeps London moving, working and growing, and makes life in our city better. The Museum's charity number is 1123122.
- Delivered in partnership with Transport for London (TfL) and industry coalition partners, e-to-e leverages the Museum's unique place in the transport industry, with its world-class transport collection, highly experienced education team and hugely respected brand, to reach and impact over 50,000 teachers, parents, children, and young people every year.

Travel to London Transport Museum:

- Address: Covent Garden Piazza, WC2E 7BB.
- The nearest stations to London Transport Museum are:
 - o **Underground:** Covent Garden, Leicester Square, Charing Cross, Embankment, Holborn
 - o **National Rail:** Charing Cross and Waterloo
 - o **Boat:** Embankment or Westminster pier
 - o **Bus:** Strand or Aldwych