

Travelogue No 52

British Transport Police - Shame On You

Over the Christmas and New Year period, British Transport Police have traditionally gone high-profile with cleverly worded adverts such as 'Christmas Presence', a play on words to advise the public that extra staff would be around during this busy time. All sensible stuff when the public are out shopping and carrying more money than usual.

Only that this recent festive season has seen political correctness rear its ugly head at a time when dangers exist on every street corner. Hundreds of the posters have been put up over the past few weeks in railway stations up and down the country and on the London Underground at a cost of thousands of pounds to the taxpayer.

Nick Baines, the Church of England Bishop of Croydon, said: 'It is bonkers. To replace "Christmas" with "Holiday" not only makes non-sense of the phrase and the sentiment, it also shows that the advertisers have lost the plot.' Former Tory Minister Ann Widdecombe said: 'It's astounding. The person who made this decision must be living on a different planet from everyone else – one where Christmas doesn't exist.'

A Transport Police spokesman said the poster had the dual purpose of making people aware of the extra officers on duty and warning that anyone who assaulted transport staff would be treated severely.

The spokesman said that there was normally a rise in such assaults over the Christmas and New Year period. He added that the decision to remove the word 'Christmas' had been made by the Transport Police's marketing manager, Alison Lock, a hairy-lipped ferret based at its headquarters in Camden, North London.

'It is just to make the message non-denominational so that it applies to everyone and so that people who don't buy into Christmas don't feel excluded,' the spokesman said.

He said Ms Lock could not be contacted for comment because she was on holiday in Canada, and added: 'As far as we are concerned, the more publicity we get for the campaign, the better.' **Ed: Mediocre, flatulent toadies, what a crock of !!**



Used Car Advert



*1985 Blue Volkswagen Golf for Sale
Only 15 km actual mileage; Only first
gear and reverse used.*

Never driven hard

Original tires

Original brakes

Original fuel and oil

Only 1 driver

*Make offer: Owner wishing to sell due
to employment lay-off.*

*Cat on the bed euph. Descriptive of the sensa-
tions transmitted through the mattress that a gen-
tleman feels when his fellow bed lady is playing
the invisible banjo. 'Can you feel something, your
Majesty?' 'It's just a cat on the bed, Mr Fagan.
Now go back to sleep.'*



Reindeers - Far Too Dangerous

As natives of the Arctic Circle, reindeer are pretty used to trotting about in wintry weather. So you might not have thought a market town in the East Midlands would pose much of a problem for them. But health and safety officers had other ideas after 12 were booked to entertain shoppers in Market Harborough.



They banned the animals from parading round the town square after ruling it was too dangerous - because it might snow !!!

Officials put up posters saying: 'There is a risk of slips and falls to attendees at the event, when the conditions get worse.'

The sudden cancellation only three hours before the reindeer were due to arrive in the Leicestershire town for the council-organised event left shopkeepers fuming.

Malcolm Lever-Jones, independent traders' spokesman, said: 'It is health and safety gone barmy and completely ruined the festive mood. 'Hundreds of people had come from up to 40 miles away and were dreadfully disappointed.

'The council said there was a risk of snow and ice to pedestrians but with or without the reindeer the streets were still icy. None of the town centre was cordoned off. It just made no sense.'

He estimated the cost to the taxpayer of cancelling Friday's event at around £10,000.

A Harborough Council spokesman said: 'Obviously, the reindeer would have loved the snow. But sadly we decided to cancel because of the possible danger to people, including young children.'

Lockey's Lump - Amazing 94 lbs



Brit Martin Locke, 47, jumped out of his lakeside tent at 6am in temperatures of -3C to net the monster fish that tipped the scales at 94lbs.

The enormous mirror carp weighed the same as Kylie Minogue and beat the previous record by 3lbs. The fish - nicknamed Lockey's Lump - was the first and only bite Mr Locke, 47, had during the week-long freezing fishing trip to the Rainbow Lake near Bordeaux in France.

Mr Locke was alerted to the catch when his rod alarm sounded during the early hours. Wearing only a T-shirt and trousers, he jumped in his boat and motored 200 yards out to the fish and began reeling it in. At first he thought he had hooked a sunken tree trunk due to the weight of it but was gobsmacked when he heaved the carp to the surface.

Getting it in his landing net was like 'trying to land a small hippo with a tennis racket,' but after succeeding he towed it to the shore to weigh it. Despite the early hour and freezing temperatures, many other anglers gathered round to celebrate with the new record holder.

Mr Locke, from South Darenth, Dartford, Kent, left the fish in the shallows until daylight when he photographed the aquatic beast before returning it to the lake in good health.



George W. Bush Statue To Be Opened



Christmas Cheer



Happy New Year From Pattaya



Dietary Disaster !!

The floor of a weight watchers clinic in Sweden collapsed beneath a group of people taking part in a weight loss programme.

According to a report in Swedish English-language newspaper, *The Local*, the dieters were queuing up to see how many pounds they had lost in the past week.

One person reportedly told another news-

paper that "there was a huge thud, before the floor collapsed along the walls in one corner of the room."

A Weight Watchers consultant told *The Smalandsposten* newspaper: "We're going to have to find replacement premises."

The cause of the collapse is still being investigated by local authorities, and none of the people involved were injured.

.....and Happy New Year From Us !!

