

January



February



March



April



December



November



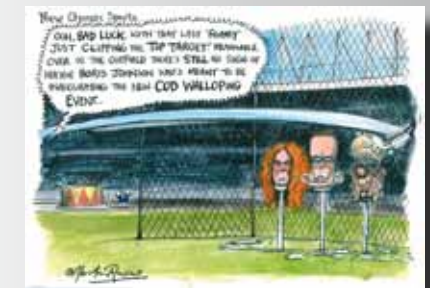
October



September



August



July



London **Communications** Agency

# Review of the Year 2011 *and a look-ahead to 2012*



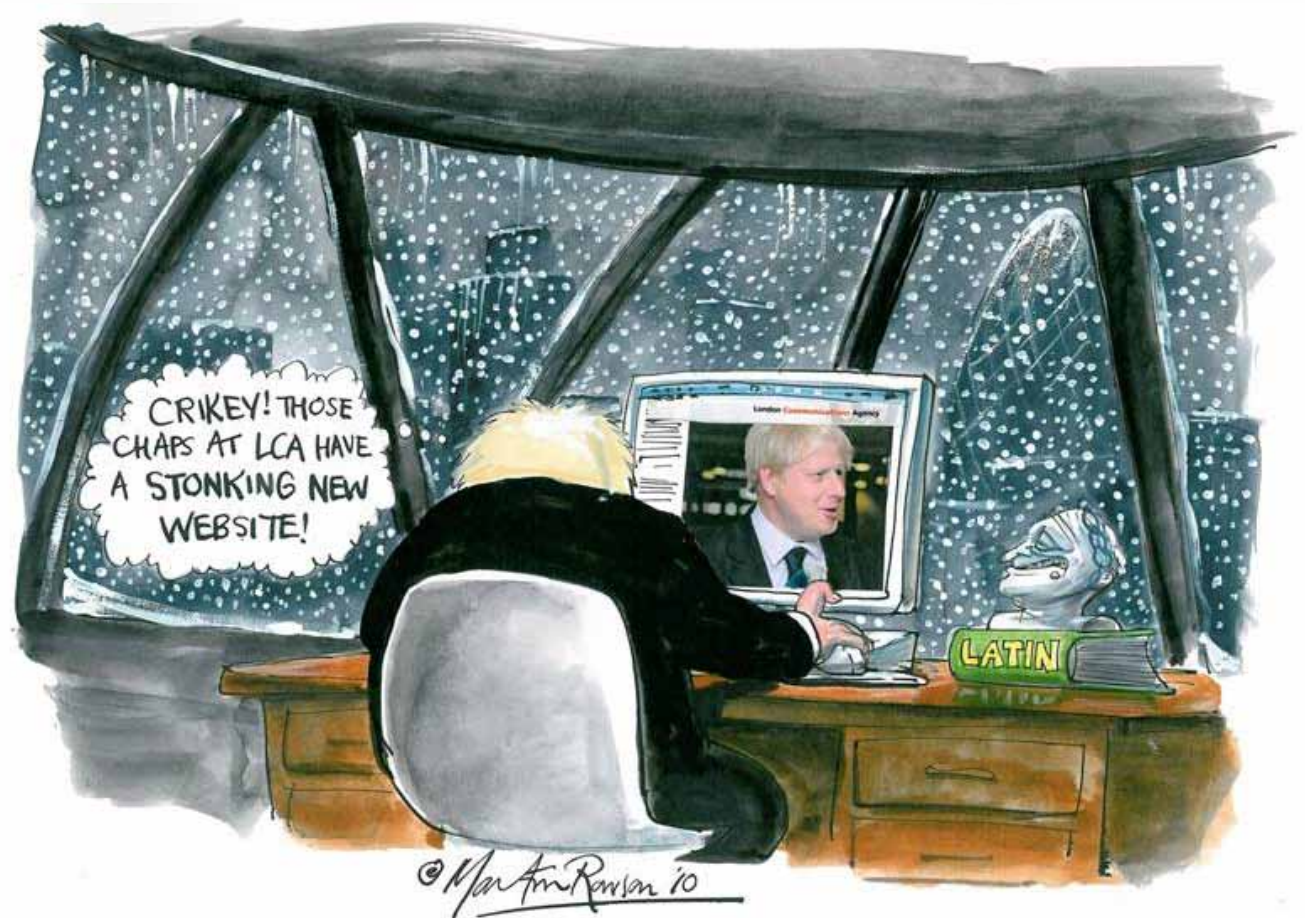
May



June

# January

- » Rob Holden stepped down as Chief Executive of Crossrail after just under two years at the helm with funding for the project secure. His departure coincided with the publication of new proposals to raise £300m for the project via a new Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL).
- » Airlines came down hard on BAA over its handling of the heavy snow in December 2010. British Airways said that the delays at Heathrow cost it £50m – a significant sum during a year also marred by strikes and volcanic ash.
- » The £700m refurbishment of Victoria Station and its surroundings got underway. The central London station is one of the busiest on the underground with 80m passengers using it each year. Completion of all the works is expected in December 2018.



## January 2012 – LCA's view

January will see the launch of the new routemaster bus in London. This was a key manifesto commitment by Boris Johnson and he will be hoping that the first few weeks go smoothly with no further incidents following the recent breakdown of one late December. His campaign team will also promote this as a major investment in London's transport infrastructure, a core election issue.



## Mark your diary

**6-15 January** - London Boat Show

**January** - The Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime replaces the Metropolitan Police Authority

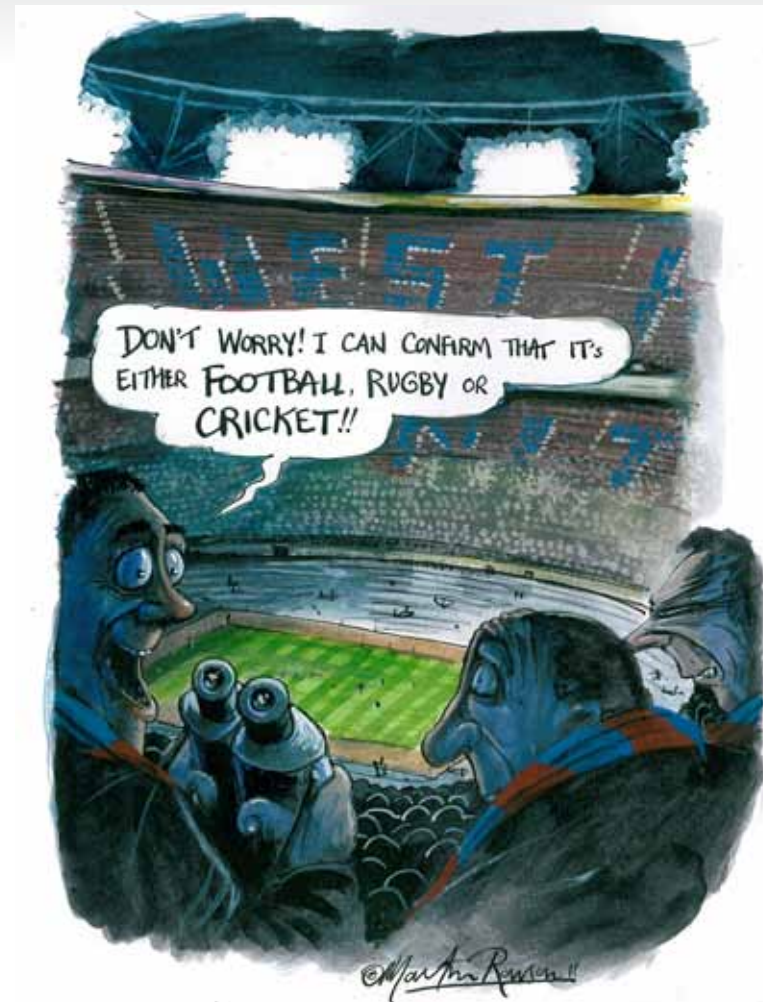
**January** - The Stephen Lawrence murder trial is expected to reach a decision

# February

- » There were angry scenes across the capital as London boroughs started voting on vastly reduced budgets for 2011/12. Research conducted by LCA and published in the Evening Standard correctly predicted that the capital's town halls would agree cuts to frontline services totalling £500m.
- » Some worrying research came from the ONS and the Prince's Trust revealing there are 100,000 homes in London occupied by adults who have never worked.
- » The 6,000-seat Velodrome, complete with its sweeping roof designed to reflect the curve of the cycling track, was the first venue at the Olympic Park to be finished.

## February 2012 - LCA's view

A repeat of the protests against local authority cuts will be on the cards as boroughs announce their budgets for 2012/13. Whilst councils set out two, three or four year programmes in 2011, these could be amended to include further redundancies or costs saving measures given the continuing difficult economic times for councils.



## Mark your diary

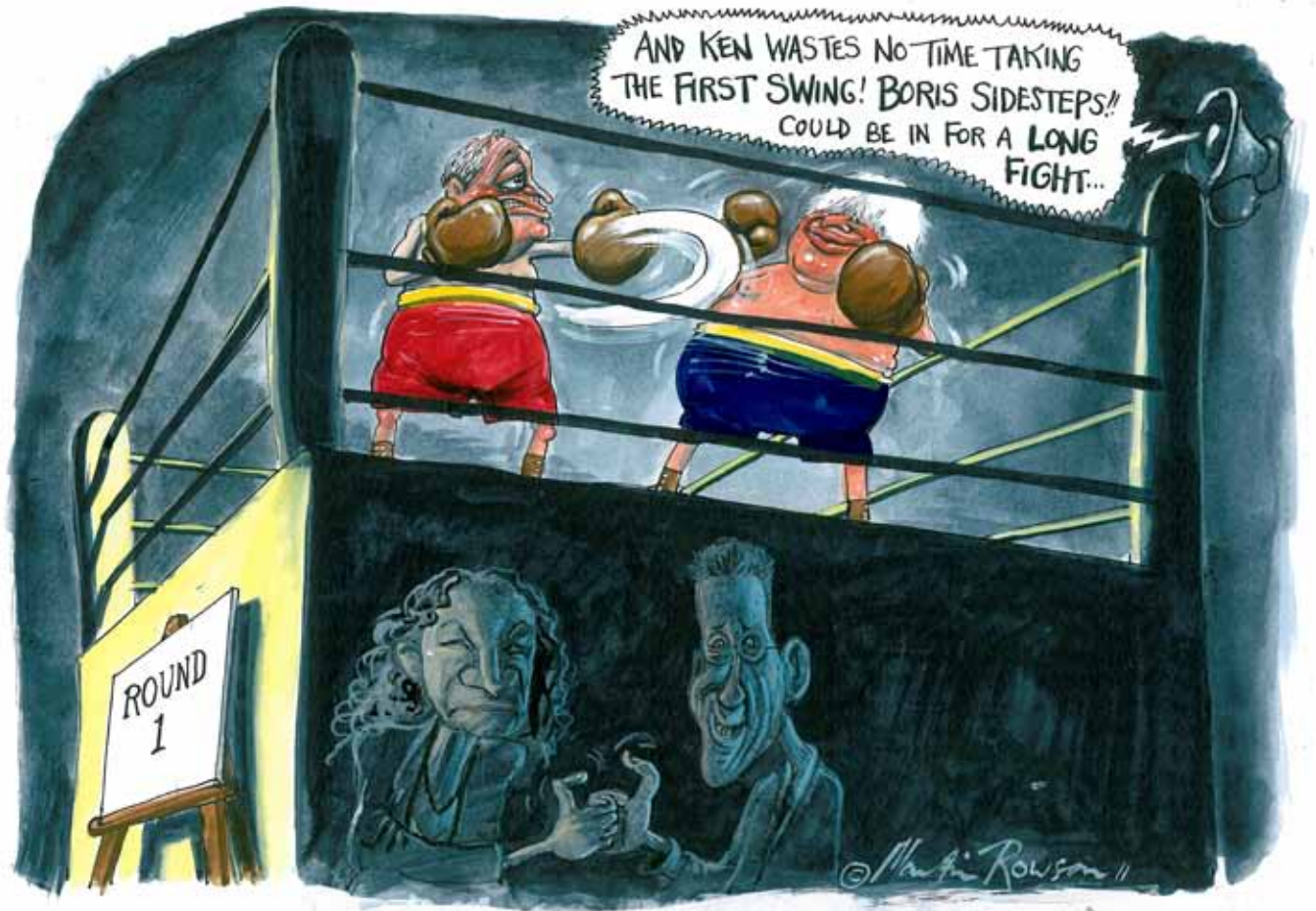
- 6 February** - National Apprenticeship Week, expect Boris Johnson to feature heavily given his focus with 'Team London' on apprenticeships
- 7 February** - The 200th anniversary of the birth of perhaps London's greatest story teller, Charles Dickens kicks off a year long series of events
- 20 February** - The new Routemaster will begin service

# March

- » A major protest against public sector cuts took place with crowd violence, bonfires in the streets and the destruction of shop and bank windows, dominating what was otherwise a peaceful demonstration.
- » The Mayor gave the final planning approval for a cable car spanning the River Thames between Greenwich Peninsula and the Royal Docks in Newham. Construction is due to be completed in summer 2012.
- » The Boundary Commission for England recommended reducing the number of MPs from 650 to 600 with five less in London taking the number down from 73 to 68.

## March 2012 - VCA's view

The winning developer for the 50 acre Silvertown Quays site in east London's Royal Docks is due to be announced by the Mayor at MIPIM, the international property conference in Cannes between 6-9 March. The brief of developing a world-class scheme providing jobs and homes on the former docks site is an integral element of both Newham and the Mayor's economic development and regeneration strategies for the Royal Docks which is now also one of the Government's new enterprise zones.



## Mark your diary

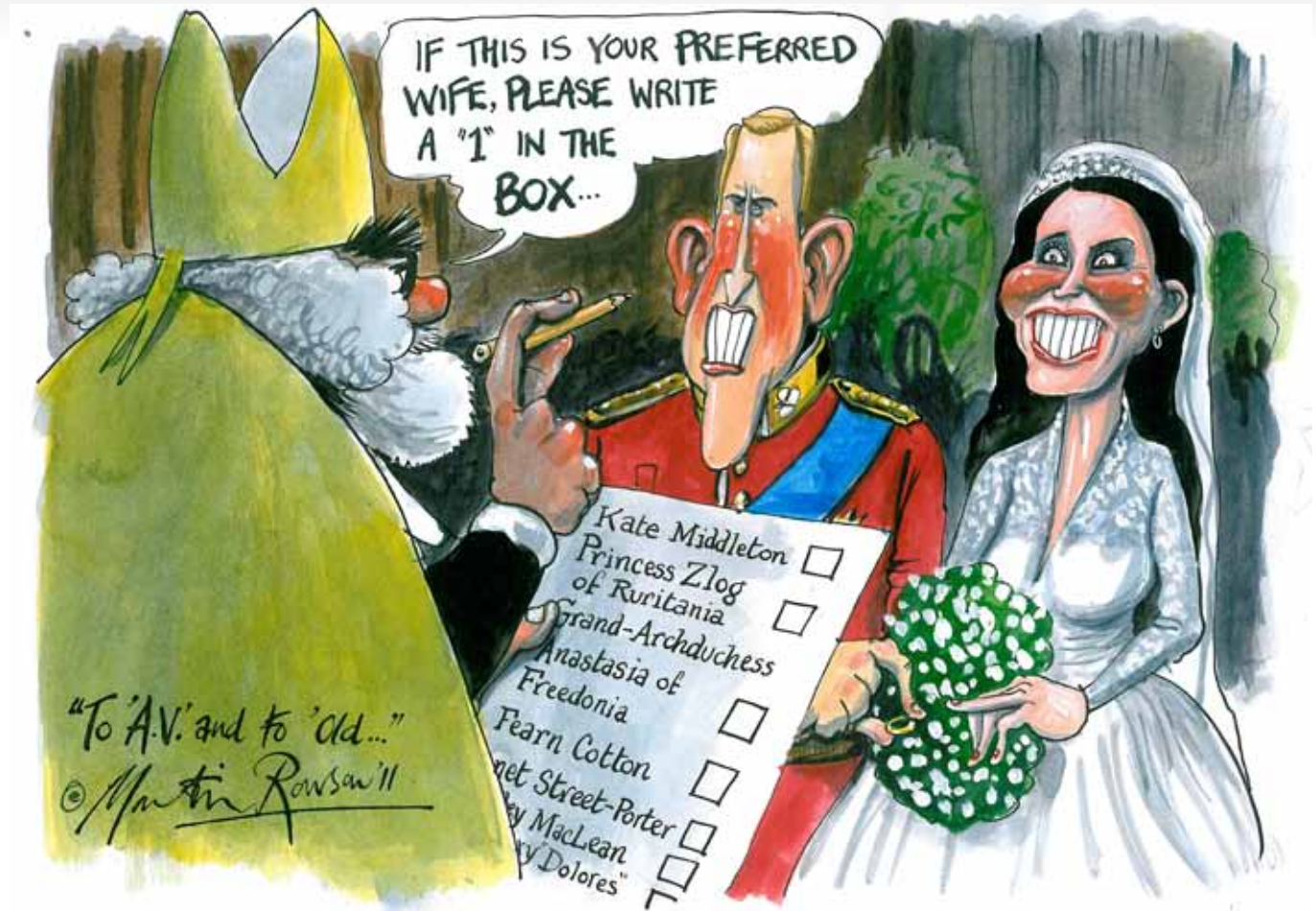
- March** - The Cycle Hire Scheme will be extended in east and west London
- 21 March** - Chancellor George Osborne delivers his budget statement
- 31 March** - Various agencies disappear including the LDA and nationally the COI

# April

- » London went royal crazy with the nuptials of Kate and Wills that happily went off without incident and once again showcased the UK's unique ability to stage world class celebrations of this kind.
- » Sadly, Sir Simon Milton, one of London's most talented and dedicated politicians and planning and housing adviser to the Mayor, passed away after a long battle with illness.
- » The Lee Valley White Water Centre, the first and only Olympic venue to open to the public ahead of London 2012, was launched by the Lee Valley Regional Park Authority to great acclaim.

## April 2012 - LCA's view

As a new financial year begins, the Government and the Mayor of London will need to stem the flow of rising unemployment and their policies for the 2012/13 financial year will be concentrating wholeheartedly on kick starting growth and creating jobs.



## Mark your diary

- April** - The Cutty Sark will open to the public after a major six year restoration
- 1 April** - The Mayor of London's Community Infrastructure Levy is brought into effect
- 3 April** - The pre election period starts for the Mayoral and GLA Elections

# May

- » The Alternative Vote system was firmly rejected by the public. 60% of Londoners voted against the proposals compared with a national figure of 67.9%.
- » Barack Obama made his first state visit to the capital which included meeting the Royal Family and Leader of the Opposition, Ed Miliband in Buckingham Palace, and the Prime Minister David Cameron in Downing Street.
- » Around 250,000 people missed out completely on the first round of Olympic tickets. A staggering 20 million made requests meaning the vast majority of events were oversubscribed.

## May 2012 - LCA's view

Londoners will vote for their Mayor and 25 London Assembly members on 3 May. Boris is currently ahead in the opinion polls but the experience of 2008 where Ken led until February shows that there is still all to play for. The Assembly vote is likely to see a close contest between Labour and Conservatives in the super constituencies with the Liberal Democrats, Greens and perhaps UKIP fighting it out for top-up seats.



## Mark your diary

**May** - The Annual London Survey will be published

**May** - The shell and core of the Shard, Western Europe's new tallest building, will be completed

**3 May** - Polling day, Mayoral and London Assembly Elections

**18 May** - The Olympic torch relay begins its 70 day route

# June

- » Strikes made the headline once again with thousands of public sector workers walking out in London and across the UK over changes to pensions.
- » Two planning applications were submitted for the £8 billion redevelopment of the Earl's Court site in West London. Meanwhile tenants on the existing estates launched a campaign to take over ownership of their homes in order to derail the plans.
- » Westminster Council gave the go-ahead to revised plans for Chelsea Barracks after the proposals were radically redesigned following strong local opposition and an intervention from the Prince of Wales.

## June 2012 – LCA's view

Olympic organisers will be hoping that the strikes of June 2011 are not repeated in the same month in 2012, particularly on the transport network. With only weeks to go until the start of the Games it will be vital that there are no upsets or delays to rail, tube and bus services as the eyes of the world turn towards the capital.



## Mark your diary

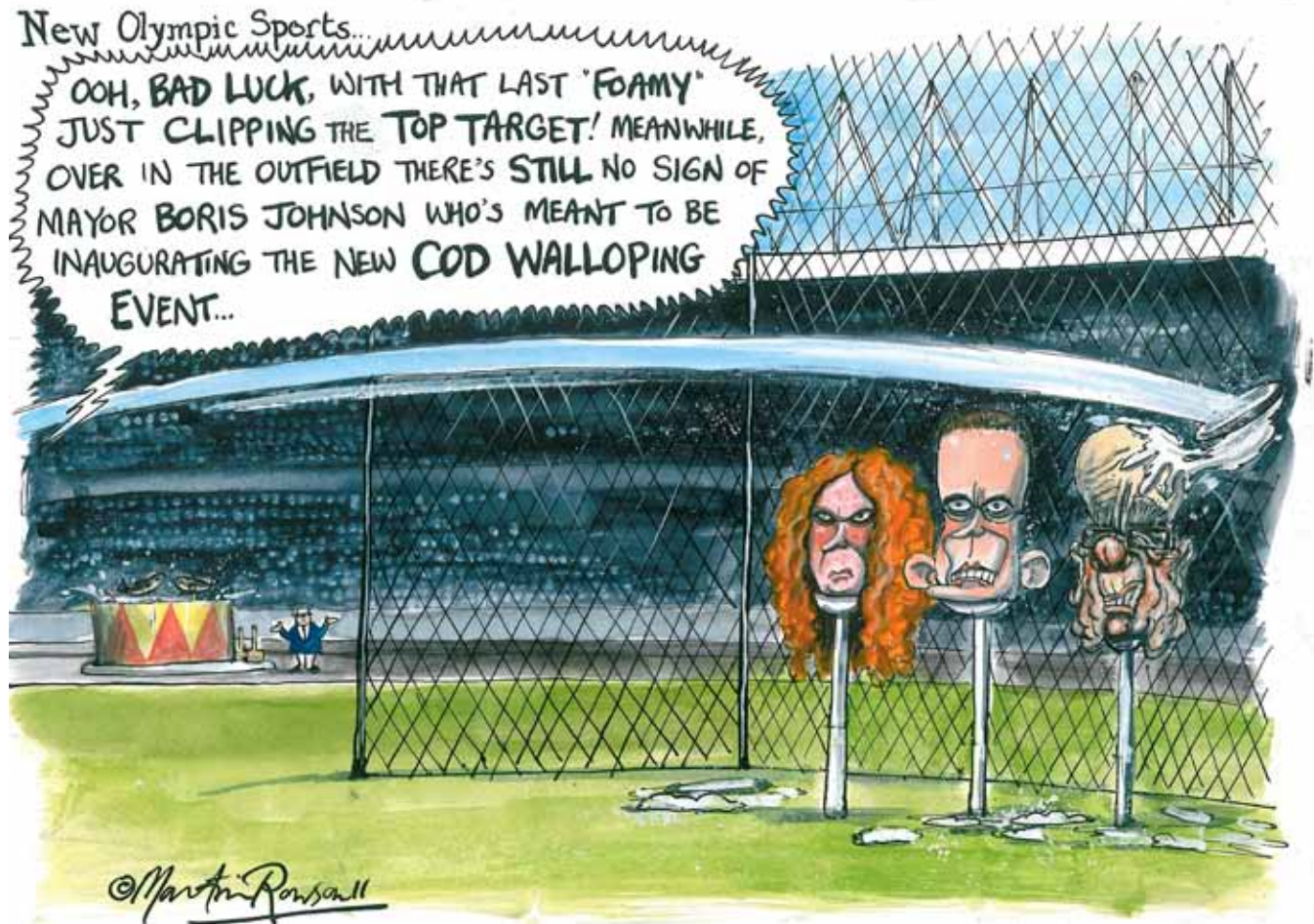
- June** - London's newest public space, Granary Square, at King's Cross opens to the public
- 3 June** - The Queen's barge will head the flotilla of boats that make their way down the Thames as part of the Diamond Jubilee celebrations
- 21 June-9 September** - Cultural Olympiad

# July

- » The fallout from the phone hacking story reached its height as former Metropolitan Police Commissioner Sir Paul Stephenson and his assistant Commissioner John Yates resigned from office.
- » Boris Johnson published his revised London Plan which included scrapping the 50% target for affordable housing. Meanwhile, the draft National Planning Policy Framework was published for consultation.
- » LDA and Prudential chair Harvey McGrath was named chair of the new Londonwide Local Enterprise Partnership. The pan-London body was set up in February 2011 as a response to the Government's agenda on economic growth and decentralisation. It is backed by the Mayor and London Councils and aims to drive investment in the capital, support business and secure training and employment opportunities for Londoners.

## July 2012 - LCA's view

Since 2005 the capital has been gearing up to host the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games. After the successful construction and regeneration of a large part of east London, attention will finally turn to the sporting events. The question then will be, how many medals can Team GB win?



## Mark your diary

- 13 July** - Official opening of the Olympic Village
- 27 July** - London 2012 begins with the opening ceremony
- 27 July** - Olympic live sites will be in operation across the capital with Hyde Park the obvious focal point for these

# August

- » August was dominated by the widespread riots that took place in the capital and across the UK. Trouble flared up in Tottenham and spread to other parts of London – particularly Croydon, Ealing Broadway and Hackney.
- » Plans were submitted to the City of London Corporation for a £60m floating pontoon on the north bank of the Thames, called the London River Park. The application revealed plans to create a 1km long walkway on a 12-metre-wide floating pontoon along part of Thames Embankment in the Square Mile.
- » Brian Paddick was chosen as the Liberal Democrat candidate for the 2012 London Mayoral election. Paddick also stood in 2008.

## August 2012 – VCA's view

Whilst the month will be dominated by the Olympics, the start of a new football season will see a number of the capital's clubs still looking to upgrade their stadiums or move to new homes, notably Tottenham, Chelsea, Barnet, QPR, Brentford and Fulham. There is also still an issue over who will occupy the Olympic Stadium post Games.



## Mark your diary

- 16 (Lord's) and 31 (Oval)** - England's cricketers play two test matches against South Africa in London
- 29 August** – The Paralympic Games begin with the Opening Ceremony

# September

- » Bernard Hogan-Howe was appointed as the new Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police replacing Sir Paul Stephenson.
- » Westfield Stratford opened its doors featuring 250 shops with 70 different places to eat and the creation of 10,000 jobs.
- » Three of London's most senior Conservative politicians, Sir Eddie Lister, Stephen Greenhalgh and Colin Barrow issued a paper calling for the Coalition to create 'free councils'; local authorities that would be able to keep and reinvest money raised through business rates and other fees and taxes.

## September 2012 - LCA's view

With the closure of the Olympic and Paralympic Games, focus will inevitably turn to the legacy of hosting the world's premier sporting event. As we enter 2012, OPLC claim that six of the eight venues have a legacy plan and there is hope the media centre will have a contract in place for its post-Games use in early 2012.



## Mark your diary

- 8-9 September** - The Mayor's Thames Festival will round off the Games period
- 14 September** - Olympic Park closes for transformation – a two year £400 million project being managed by Mace on behalf of OPLC
- 21-26 Sept** - London Fashion Week

# October

- » The occupation outside St Paul's Cathedral began. The protest led to a High Court battle over the City of London's attempts to evict the activists and division within the Church of England over whether to support the occupation.
- » There were fresh concerns for road safety following the deaths of two cyclists at Kings Cross and Bow Road which brought the number of cycling fatalities in London so far this year to 14.
- » The debate over the future of aviation in the capital rumbled on as Lord Foster revealed ambitious plans for a £50bn four-runway airport sited in the Thames estuary.



## October 2012 – LCA's view

With many coming to the conclusion that aviation capacity needs to be increased in the south east for London to remain competitive in the global market, the Government needs to form a cohesive aviation policy in 2012. It will be interesting to see how Justine Greening, the Putney MP and new Secretary of State for Transport handles this issue especially given her opposition to a third runway at Heathrow.



## Mark your diary

- 8-11 October** - The Conservatives complete Party Conference season
- October** - The 56th BFI London Film Festival
- October** - London Restaurant Festival

# November

- » There was yet another major sporting event to look forward to after London was named as the host of the 2017 World Athletics Championship for the first time. The capital held off competition from Doha, picking up 16 out of 26 votes from the International Association of Athletics Federations.
- » Chancellor George Osborne delivered his Autumn Statement. Highlights for London were £130m for the capital's transport budget to keep fare increases down to RPI+1 per cent and support for the extension of the Northern Line to Battersea.
- » The Localism Act received Royal Assent. It paves the way for a transformation of the planning system throughout the UK and is likely to be implemented in April 2012.

## November 2012 – LCA's view

A year on from the launch of the Mayor's Housing Strategy it will be interesting to see whether ambitious plans to build 55,000 new affordable homes by 2015 are on the way to being delivered. A sizeable proportion of this is likely to come through the unlocking of stalled schemes like Barking Riverside and Greenwich Peninsula alongside new developments around Stratford.



## Mark your diary

- 5-8 November** - World Travel Market at ExCeL as London seeks to build on the Olympics
- 9 November** - England's rugby team begin their autumn international programme against Fiji at Twickenham before facing Australia on 17 Nov and world champions New Zealand on 1 Dec
- 10 November** - Lord Mayor's Show

# December

- » Westminster City Council's proposals for night time parking charges were put on hold until after the Olympics after strong opposition from businesses, the Mayor, government ministers and a host of celebrities.
- » Within days of the government expressing support for the Northern Line extension, the future of Battersea Power Station was once again uncertain after owners Treasury Holding went into administration after lenders called in £324m of debt.
- » A major planning application for the development of Hammersmith Town Hall and the surrounding area was withdrawn by Hammersmith & Fulham Council after discussions with Boris Johnson. The Mayor reportedly told planning officers that the scheme broke London planning laws because of its impact on historic buildings and the Grade II Listed cinema.



## December 2012 – LCA's view

The annual banker bonus round usually hits the headlines in December with politicians on all sides urging restraint in continuing times of austerity. 2011 was marked with a strong warning from Deputy Prime Minister Nick Clegg to Britain's state-controlled banks noting that they will face tough restrictions if they attempt to introduce 'irresponsible payment'. But will this mean that by 2012 there will be an end to the perception of excessive bonuses in the financial sector?



## Mark your diary

- December** - The London Policy Conference will return for its second year
- 31 December** - Will fireworks on NYE surpass the Olympic displays?

If you know anyone else within your organisation who would like to receive these briefings please do let us know. Alternatively, if you would rather not be sent this document then please also let us know. We would welcome your views on the content, if you have any comments please contact Chris Madel on 020 7612 8480.

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