

***NEW* DID YOU KNOW BLOCKS**

LON_ENG_013 – DID YOU KNOW - POLICE IN LONDON (44")		
<p>FX: 'Did you know' sting</p> <p>GEORGE: Did you know...London is home to not one, but two police forces. We've got the Metropolitan Police, known locally as The Met, and the City of London Police. The Met numbers around 30,000 officers and they police all of London Boroughs apart from the City of London, also known as The Square Mile.</p> <p>TALLY: You may have heard people using the phrase 'bobbies on the beat' when referring to the police. Well, the nickname 'Bobby' comes from the founder of the modern police service, Sir Robert 'Bobby' Peel, who was Home Secretary back in the 1820s. Londoners also refer to our boys and girls in blue as coppers, rozzers, and the old bill, but not to their faces!</p> <p>FX: 'Did you know' sting</p>	MAIN BLOCK	FORMERLY BANTER DICKENS MEMORIAL

LON_ENG_025 – DID YOU KNOW – THE KING'S GUARDS (47")		
<p>FX: 'Did you know' sting</p> <p>GEORGE: Did you know...you can tell the regiment of a soldier of the King's Guard simply by looking at their hat? Next time you're taking in the sights at Buckingham Palace or St James's Palace, Pay ATTEN-SHUN to the foot soldiers guarding the Royal palaces. Take a look up at their strikingly tall bearskin hats and you'll see feathers, or plumes, of differing colours. It's these colours that tell you which regiment the soldier is a member of.</p> <p>TALLY: Coldstream Guards wear red. Grenadier Guards wear white. Irish Guards, blue, and Welsh Guard white and green. Scots Guards wear no plume at all. Together with the mounted soldiers of the King's Life Guard, they make up the British Army's Household Division.</p> <p>FX: 'Did you know' sting</p>	MAIN BLOCK	FORMERLY BANTER REGENT STREET

LON_ENG_029 – MULTICULTURALISM IN LONDON (43")		
<p>FX: 'Did you know' sting</p>	MAIN BLOCK	

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<p>GEORGE: Did you know...London is proud to be one of the World's most multicultural cities. It's reckoned that between us, we Londoners speak over 300 different languages. A census in 2021 showed that more than one in three of us was born outside of the UK.</p> <p>TALLY: And the numbers don't stop there: London is home to over a million Muslims, over 2/3rds of British Jews and over half of the UK's Hindu population.</p> <p>GEORGE: The coming together of so many different people from so many amazing cultures is what makes London so brilliantly unique. Wherever you're from in the World, you're sure to experience a big, warm welcome in London.</p> <p><i>FX: 'Did you know' sting</i></p>	<p>FORMERLY BANTER HAMLEY'S GOSSIP</p>
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LON_ENG_039 – LONDON'S SEWERS (1'00")	
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<p><i>FX: ‘Did you know’ sting</i></p> <p>GEORGE: Did you know...London hasn’t always smelled quite as sweet as it does today. Back in the early 1800s, people didn’t have the luxury of flushing lavatories and much of, how shall I say it, the effluent was simply dumped out on the streets. When it rained, it would simply wash into The River Thames which was fine, ish, until London’s population began to swell.</p> <p>TALLY: Which leads us to The Great Stink of 1858. An extremely hot summer heated up the river which caused centuries of sewage at the bottom to ferment, leading to noxious gases rising and enveloping the city streets. Even Parliament considered moving to a more fragrant part of town.</p> <p>GEORGE: The Great Stink was the last straw, and it led to the creation of London’s impressive Victorian sewage system in the 1860s. The Thames Embankment you see along the river is actually a cunning way of concealing the pipes!</p> <p><i>FX: ‘Did you know’ sting</i></p>	<p>MAIN BLOCK</p> <p>FORMER LY BANTER WINDMIL L STREET</p>
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LON_ENG_053 – LONDON MONOPOLY BOARD (36’')	
<p><i>FX: ‘Did you know’ sting</i></p> <p>GEORGE: Did you know...that your Big Bus Tour of London is a bit like a real-life game of Monopoly? If you’ve seen the London edition of the classic board game, you’ll know there are 26 named properties, and the Big Bus travels on, up, or very close to 16 of them.</p> <p>TALLY: These include Regent Street, Oxford Street, Fleet Street and Trafalgar Square. There’s Whitehall and Strand, and we’ll also be heading up Park Lane which is the 2nd most expensive property on the board.</p> <p>GEORGE: One thing we won’t be doing today is ‘Going To Jail’, well, fingers crossed.</p> <p><i>FX: ‘Did you know’ sting</i></p>	<p>MAIN BLOCK</p> <p>FORMERLY BANTER CHRISTMAS TREE TRAFALGAR SQUARE</p>

LON_ENG_089 – PUBS IN LONDON (1'00")		
<p><i>FX: 'Did you know' sting</i></p> <p>GEORGE: Did you know...there's nothing we Londoners love more than a pie and a pint. And luckily for us, we're spoiled for choice as London is home to over 3 and a half thousand pubs. The first pubs popped up in ordinary people's homes as somewhere locals could meet, hence the full name 'public house'.</p> <p>TALLY: If you ask any landlord which is the oldest pub in town, they'll probably say theirs as lots of pubs claim the title. As far as we know, the actual oldest pub in London is the Prospect of Whitby in Wapping, East London which is said to date from the early part of the 16th Century.</p> <p>GEORGE: If there is something we love as much as a pie and a pint, it's a pub with a great name, and London has plenty. We've got The Laughing Gravy, The Mad Bishop and Bear, The Hung Drawn and Quartered and, my favourite, Ye Olde Cheshire Cheese.</p> <p><i>FX: pint glasses clink together</i></p> <p>Cheers!</p> <p><i>FX: 'Did you know' sting</i></p>	MAIN BLOCK	FORMERLY BANTER TIPPERARY PUB
LON_ENG_091 – TREES IN LONDON (1'00")		

<p><i>FX: 'Did you know' sting</i></p> <p>GEORGE: Did you know...that according to the United Nations, London is officially a forest. The definition says that if more than 20% of an area is wooded, or covered by trees, then a forest it is. So, welcome to the Forest of London.</p> <p><i>FX: the sound of woodland birds under our voices</i></p> <p>TALLY: The main trees you'll see are known as the London Plane: these have been adapted over centuries to thrive in inner-city areas, and their large leaves not only provide shade in summer but also turn a wonderful yellowy orange in Autumn.</p> <p>GEORGE: Our city's parks are known as 'the lungs of London', and it's reckoned that over 8 million trees are spread across 33 Boroughs. Now, if you fancy a go at counting them, good luck. There is a database online called The London Tree Map, but even that only accounts for about 800,000. So, there are still over 7 million more to document...if you've got a few spare minutes...</p> <p><i>FX: 'Did you know' sting</i></p>	<p>MAIN BLOCK</p> <p>FORMERLY BANTER ST BRIDES</p>
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LON_ENG_095 – TOWER BRIDGE OPENING (45")	
<p><i>FX: 'Did you know' sting</i></p> <p>GEORGE: Did you know...that if you Google 'Tower Bridge Lift Times' you can find out exactly when to head to our iconic bascule bridge. Tower Bridge is known as a bascule bridge because both sides of the bridge cantilever upwards when boats approach.</p> <p><i>FX: boat horn in the distance</i></p> <p>TALLY: In its heyday, back in the 1890s, the bridge would open up to 17 times every day. And it set the record for the most lifts in 24 hours back in 1910 when it opened...wait for it...64 times!</p> <p>GEORGE: Sadly, it no longer goes up and down like a fiddler's elbow, but it still opens on average twice a day, so be sure not to miss it!</p> <p><i>FX: 'Did you know' sting</i></p>	<p>MAIN BLOCK</p> <p>FORMERLY BANTER ST PAUL'S MOVIES</p>

LON_ENG_103 – HOUSE OF COMMONS AND HOUSE OF LORDS (45’')		
<p>FX: ‘Did you know’ sting</p> <p>GEORGE: Did you know...that within our Houses of Parliament, you’ll find both the House of Commons and the House of Lords? The great British public elect the members of the Commons, and it’s they who make up the laws of the land. The House of Lords comprises officials whom the Government has elected: these dignitaries oversee the Commons and range from Bishops to Hereditary Peers.</p> <p>FX: the sound of a Parliamentary debate, a gavel banging, and a shout of ‘Order!’</p> <p>TALLY: Although you may think politics today involves a lot of heated debate, it’s nothing compared to years gone by. In fact, the two sides of the chamber in the House of Commons are separated by a gap claimed to be two sword-lengths apart, just in case the debate got a bit too heated...on garde!!!</p> <p>FX: the sound of a sword fight to end the block</p> <p>FX: ‘Did you know’ sting</p>	<p>MAIN BLOCK</p> <p>FORMERLY BANTER FIRE OF LONDON</p>	

LON_ENG_108 – CITY OF LONDON TIME ZONE (53’)		
<p>FX: ‘Did you know’ sting</p> <p>GEORGE: Did you know...the City of London is a financial success for many reasons, but one key reason is that it sits within the centre of World time. All time zones start from the Greenwich Meridian Line, which we call Greenwich Mean Time. As you head West, the hours go backwards, and as you head East, they go forwards.</p> <p>TALLY: It’s because of its ability to trade with markets as far afield as San Francisco and Tokyo within a single day, that the City of London is such a successful financial district.</p> <p>GEORGE: Interestingly, until as recently as the 1860s, most countries around the world had their own time: However, as the railways and shipping routes expanded worldwide, it was decided that coordinated time zones were required, and Greenwich was chosen to be the ‘centre of time’.</p>	<p>MAIN BLOCK</p> <p>FORMERLY BANTER BOROUGH MARKET</p>	

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<i>FX: 'Did you know' sting</i>		
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LON_ENG_112 – FREE MUSEUMS IN LONDON (45")		
<i>FX: 'Did you know' sting</i> GEORGE: Did you know...London is home to some of the World's greatest museums and what's more, many of them are free to enter! TALLY: It'll cost you nothing to marvel at Vincent van Goch's Sunflowers at the National Gallery and Portrait Gallery on Trafalgar Square. GEORGE: It won't cost you a penny to be inspired by incredible stories of achievement at The Science Museum in South Kensington. TALLY: And you can discover 2 million years of history, even if you lose your wallet, at The British Museum on Great Russell Street. GEORGE: Tate Modern. Tate Britain. The Victoria and Albert Museum. They're all free to enter, and you can find a full list by Googling LONDON'S FREE MUSEUMS AND GALLERIES. <i>FX: 'Did you know' sting</i>	MAIN BLOCK FORMERLY BANTER GEORGE PUB	

LON_ENG_126 – CCTV IN LONDON		
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<p><i>FX: 'Did you know' sting</i></p> <p>GEORGE: Did you know...it's always worth smiling as you walk the streets of London because the chances are...</p> <p><i>FX: a camera shutter</i></p> <p>...you're on camera.</p> <p>TALLY: It's reckoned there are around 15,000 closed-circuit television cameras, or CCTV cameras, on the London Underground alone. Add to that, the 25,000 cameras our Met Police wear on their uniforms as they patrol the streets.</p> <p>GEORGE: Not forgetting the countless cameras in our shops, retail parks, residential areas, restaurants and bars.</p> <p>TALLY: It's thought there are over a million CCTV cameras across London, and that each and every one of us will be 'caught on camera' around 70 times each day. So, remember to smile!</p> <p><i>FX: a camera shutter x3</i></p> <p><i>FX: 'Did you know' sting</i></p>	<p>MAIN BLOCK</p> <p>FORMERLY BANTER COLONEL BLOOD CROWN JEWELS</p>
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LON_ENG_146 – GREAT FIRE OF LONDON (43")	
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<p><i>FX: 'Did you know' sting</i></p> <p><i>FX: we hear the sound of roaring flames and crackling wood/crashing destruction as a fire burns fiercely.</i></p> <p>GEORGE: Did you know...in 1666, the Great Fire of London destroyed over 13,000 homes in just 5 days. Even St. Paul's Cathedral couldn't escape the flames, and the building that took over 2 centuries to build was reduced to a pile of ashes within 24 hours.</p> <p>TALLY: The fire took hold at a bakery in Pudding Lane and strong winds fanned the inferno to nearby buildings through London's higgledy-piggledy streets. Thatched roofs had been outlawed but many constructions continued to use this combustible material and this helped the fire spread far and wide in no time at all.</p> <p>GEORGE: The Great Fire finally burned itself out after soldiers blew up buildings in its' path.</p> <p><i>FX: the sound of cannon fire, and our flames recede. Crowds cheer.</i></p> <p>Pretty dramatic stuff!</p> <p><i>FX: 'Did you know' sting</i></p>	<p>MAIN BLOCK</p> <p>FORMALLY BANTER DAME MILLICENT FAWCETT</p>
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<p>LON_ENG_148 – THE LONDON UNDERGROUND (54")</p>	
<p><i>FX: 'Did you know' sting</i></p> <p>GEORGE: Did you know...the London Underground, or The Tube as we like to call it, is one of the World's most busy metro networks? The numbers are staggering. There are currently 11 tube lines which carry over 4000 carriages around the system. The trains serve over 270 stations and traverse more than 250 miles of track.</p> <p>TALLY: Each year, over 1.3 billion people make their way around London by tube and on their way they go up and down over 450 escalators, the longest being a 60-metre one at Angel, and the shortest being just 4 metres: you'll find that one at Stratford.</p> <p>GEORGE:</p>	<p>MAIN BLOCK</p> <p>FORMERLY BANTER DOOR AT WESTMINSTER ABBEY</p>

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And if those numbers haven't blown your minds, here's one more incredible fact for you...together our Tube trains travel over 53 million miles each year. That's like going to the moon and back 222 times. <i>FX: 'Did you know' sting</i>		
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LON_ENG_165 – THE CROWN JEWELS – THE CORONATION SPOON (52")		
<i>FX: 'Did you know' sting</i> GEORGE: Did you know...that the only item that remains from the original Crown Jewels is the golden Coronation Spoon. <i>FX: a teaspoon taps on the side of a teacup</i> TALLY: The ceremonial Coronation Spoon was likely made in the 12 th Century by order of Kings Henry II or Richard I, also known as Richard the Lionheart. It was part of the Crown Jewels, but sadly all the gold was melted down at the end of the English Civil War, and the money raised was used to pay the soldiers who defeated King Charles I. GEORGE: By chance of fate, the Coronation Spoon survived this molten doom as in 1649 it was sold to one of Charles I's Yeomen. It was returned to the Crown Jewels for the coronation of King Charles II in 1661, and it's been used ever since. <i>FX: a teaspoon taps on the side of a teacup</i>	MAIN BLOCK FORMERLY BANTER ALBERT PUB	

LON_ENG_171 – CITY OF LONDON DRAGONS (41")		
<i>FX: 'Did you know' sting</i> GEORGE: Did you know...that dragons roam the streets within the City of London? Well, not real ones, but you'll see them on street signs within our financial hub as the dragon is the emblem of the City of London. TALLY: When you enter the square mile, you'll see 14 dragon statues facing outwards at the City's boundary. There are dragons around the Tower of London, and London Bridge...it's quite good fun seeing how many you can spot. GEORGE:	MAIN BLOCK FORMERLY BANTER BUCKINGHAM PALACE	

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<p>The dragons are thought to be inspired by the legend of St. George, who defeated a dragon and went on to become the patron saint of England. Nice career move.</p> <p><i>FX: 'Did you know' sting</i></p>		
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LON_ENG_198 – ROYAL PARKS (45")		
<p><i>FX: 'Did you know' sting</i></p> <p>GEORGE: Did you know...London has 8 Royal Parks. Now, there's a prize for anyone who can name all of them. Well, there isn't actually a prize, but give yourself a big pat on the back if you can.</p> <p>TALLY: The largest Royal Park is Richmond, which you'll find in Southwest London: it's a protected area where the Royal Deer are free to roam.</p> <p>GEORGE: There's Regent's Park, Hyde Park, and Kensington Gardens, which is called gardens but is actually a park. Then we've got Green Park, St. James Park, Bushy Park and Greenwich Park.</p> <p>TALLY: They're all beautiful green spaces, perfect to escape the hustle and bustle for a while, and maybe stop off for a picnic.</p> <p><i>FX: 'Did you know' sting</i></p>	MAIN BLOCK FORMERLY BANTER BEATLES MAYFAIR	

LON_ENG_204 – MILITARY BARRACKS IN LONDON (45")		
<p><i>FX: 'Did you know' sting</i></p> <p>GEORGE: Did you know...that although London has 14 military barracks, only 5 of these are occupied by working regiments. You'll find one of them close to Buckingham Palace: the Wellington Barracks is home to the King's Household Division and the bands of the King's Foot Guards.</p> <p>TALLY: If you've been lucky enough to witness the changing of the guard ceremony, Wellington Barracks is where the guards reside, but it's not all army drills and training: inside, there are squash courts, a gymnasium, snooker tables, and even a masseur.</p> <p>GEORGE:</p>	MAIN BLOCK FORMERLY BANTER OSCAR WILDE MAYFAIR	

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Hyde Park Barracks, just down the road, is home to the Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment and you can often see troopers exercising their horses in Hyde Park.	
<i>FX: 'Did you know' sting</i>	

LON_ENG_213 – FAMOUS GRAVES IN LONDON (41")	
<p><i>FX: 'Did you know' sting</i></p> <p>GEORGE: Did you know...that although Westminster Abbey is impressive from the outside, the who's who of graves inside is equally impressive.</p> <p>TALLY: You're certainly walking amidst the great and the good, because as well as many of our former Kings and Queens, you may well spot some famous names.</p> <p>GEORGE: From physicist Sir. Isaac Newton and naturalist Charles Darwin, to authors Charles Dickens and Rudyard Kipling. Actor Laurence Olivier and poet Geoffrey Chaucer have also been laid to rest within the Abbey.</p> <p>TALLY: There's also the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, which is the only one of the graves beneath your feet that you can't tread upon.</p> <p><i>FX: 'Did you know' sting</i></p>	<p>MAIN BLOCK</p> <p>FORMERLY BANTER MAYFAIR RANDOM</p>

Commented [t1]: This may work better as a 'graves in Westminster Abbey' block? Let's see where the most interesting research is...

Commented [DH2R1]: I have taken this on board, and think it makes for a more succinct block, so it could now be named Famous Graves within Westminster Abbey

LON_ENG_249 – MOVIES IN LONDON (51")	
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<p><i>FX: 'Did you know' sting</i></p> <p>GEORGE: Did you know...London is a living, breathing movie set. In fact, since the days of silent movies, it's acted as the backdrop to many a cinematic classic.</p> <p>TALLY: If anyone on the Big Bus has seen a James Bond film, the chances are you've seen the impressive MI6 Headquarters at Vauxhall Cross on the south bank of the River Thames</p> <p>GEORGE: Who can forget London-born actor Bob Hoskins' iconic scene in front of Tower Bridge in The Long Good Friday?</p> <p>TALLY: Or Hugh Grant and Julia Roberts awkwardly climbing the railings into Rosmead Gardens in Notting Hill.</p> <p>GEORGE: The Natural History Museum plays a starring role in Paddington...</p> <p>TALLY: ...and Marylebone Station is the setting as sixties pop band The Beatles try to outrun their over-excited fans in A Hard Day's Night.</p> <p><i>FX: 'Did you know' sting</i></p>	<p>MAIN BLOCK</p> <p>FORMERLY BANTER KENSINGTON FIRE STATION</p>
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<p><i>FX: ‘Did you know’ sting</i></p> <p>GEORGE: Did you know...London’s streets are buzzing with the sound of music. And it’s always been that way. Some of the World’s most famous composers lived in London during their lifetimes, including Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, George Frideric Handel, and Frederic Chopin.</p> <p>TALLY: Our capital’s music scene led to the development of many music genres, including psychedelia, punk rock, British rhythm and blues, glam rock, and grime.</p> <p>GEORGE: Many of the world’s biggest bands played in some of our iconic smaller venues in their formative years. You may have heard of the Roundhouse in Camden. Well, if you were lucky enough to have visited during the 1960s, you could have caught early performances from The Who, The Rolling Stones, T-Rex and Fleetwood Mac.</p> <p>TALLY: And since the Summer of 1969, Hyde Park has played host to live outdoor concerts from acts as diverse as Queen, Pink Floyd, and Pavarotti.</p> <p><i>FX: ‘Did you know’ sting</i></p>	<p>MAIN BLOCK</p> <p>FORMERLY BANTER MOVIES IN NOTTING HILL</p>
<p>LON_ENG_260 – ROYAL RESIDENCES IN LONDON AND AROUND THE UK (54’')</p>	

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<p><i>FX: 'Did you know' sting</i></p> <p>GEORGE: Did you know...as well as Buckingham Palace and Windsor Castle, the Royal Family have residences throughout the 4 nations of the UK. In London, to name a few, there's Kensington Palace, St James's Palace, Clarence House and, of course, Buckingham Palace.</p> <p>But if you're travelling outside of our capital, there are plenty more to spot, and some you can visit! Notepads at the ready.</p> <p>TALLY: Across England, there's Windsor Castle, The Royal Lodge, Sandringham House, Gatcombe Park, Bagshot Park, Anmer Hall, Highgrove House, Tamarisk House, and Frogmore House.</p> <p>GEORGE: The late Queen Elizabeth II was very fond of Scotland, and the nation is home to The Palace of Holyroodhouse and Balmoral Castle, which is where she spent her final days.</p> <p>TALLY: In Northern Ireland, there's Hillsborough Castle, and an estate known as Llwynywermod near the Brecon Beacons in Wales.</p> <p><i>FX: 'Did you know' sting</i></p>	<p>MAIN BLOCK</p> <p>FORMERLY BANTER PETER PAN TALKING STATUES</p>
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LON_ENG_726 – KINGS SOLDIERS IN LONDON (53")	
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<p>FX: 'Did you know' sting</p> <p>GEORGE: Did you know...that if you were one of the King's Guards, you'd have to stay stock still for the best part of 2 hours when you were at your post. The sentries you'll see guarding Buckingham Palace, The Tower of London, and St James's Palace are under order to avoid sleeping, sitting, eating, or lying down whilst on duty.</p> <p>TALLY: Although they are allowed to march 15 paces every 10 minutes, presumably to avoid getting a cramp!</p> <p>GEORGE: The King's Guard is also known as the Household Division and comprises 5 regiments of foot guards and 2 mounted regiments, and it's best not to annoy them, as if you do they command <big soldier-like voice> 'Stand back from the King's Guard'.</p> <p>TALLY: <Chuckles> And if they're moving and you stumble in their way, they'll say...</p> <p>GEORGE: <big soldier-like voice> Make way for the King's Guard.</p> <p>FX: 'Did you know' sting</p>	<p>MAIN BLOCK</p> <p>FORMERLY BANTER WALK TO COVENT GARDEN</p>
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LON_ENG_738 – LONDON'S BLACK TAXIS (48")	
<p>FX: 'Did you know' sting</p> <p>GEORGE: Did you know...that London's Black Taxis haven't always been black. What I mean is, up until the end of World War II London's cabs came in all sorts of colours, but when manufacturer Austin released its popular FX3 design in 1948, black was the standard colour. Taxi operators could pay extra for different colours, but in post-war Britain, this seemed one luxury too many and so black cabs became the order of the day.</p> <p>TALLY: In 1958 Austin came up with an improved model, known as the FX4, and this taxi became so popular they continued making it for nearly 40 years. The FX4 journeyed the streets well into the 21st Century, and if you're lucky you could still hail one today.</p> <p>GEORGE: <Calls out> TAXI!!!</p> <p>FX: 'Did you know' sting</p>	<p>MAIN BLOCK</p> <p>FORMERLY BANTER THE 7 NOSES OF SOHO</p>

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