

## National Rail Control Centre + London Transport Museum at Covent Garden - October 14th 2016)

Our visit this month (October 14th 2016) was principally to the Kent Integrated Control Centre of National Rail, which is shared with train operating company SouthEastern, in Blackfriars Road.

The visit was expanded by the inclusion of the London Transport Museum at Covent Garden in the morning.

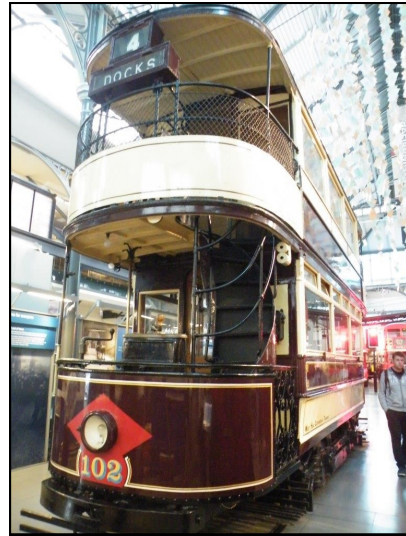
The **London Transport Museum** revived many (perhaps too many) memories, although the horse drawn & externally-staired trams & buses were outside even our direct experience. Many exhibits were accessible, some interactive (for the U1A among us) & informative back-up was provided on bus & tube services from their early days.



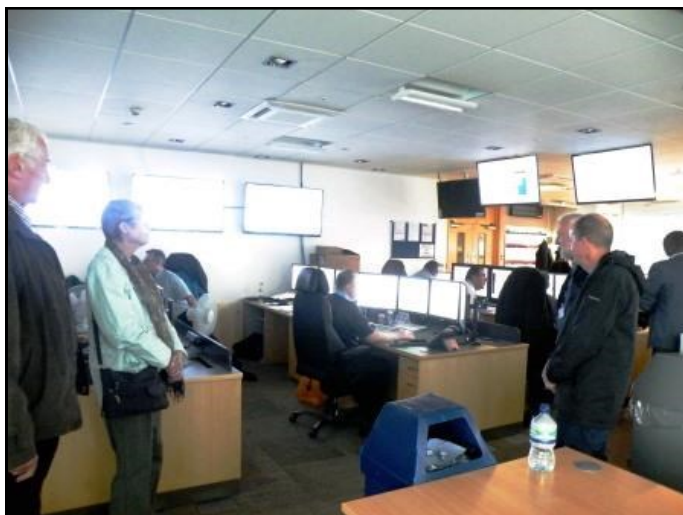
London Transport Museum - Old Tube Carriages



London Transport Museum - Tram



London Transport Museum - Routemaster Buses



The 'How Things Work' group enjoying a guided tour of the Kent integrated control centre of National Rail.

The **National Rail Centre** differed a little from our (at least my) expectations, having no wall-sized master board showing an overview of the region; instead, each individual had their own monitors from which any part of the relevant network could be accessed & contacted.

A comprehensive explanation of division for various groups, dealing with parts of the system & their inter-relationship, how freight & HS1 are incorporated, & the principles of dealing with 'known unknowns, & unknown unknowns' as they arise, was given by the senior route control manager, who elaborated in response to many questions prior to our being taken round the operations room – our general comment on which was that it resembled a version of three dimensional chess.

Thanks to all who came, on whose behalf I e-mailed our thanks to the personnel involved, & commiserations to those who wished to, but were unable to make it for various reasons.