Hmmm, yes, June was a mixed month for all sorts of reasons. A very late newsletter is one consequence, but the July edition will be on its way within the next couple of weeks.

Date for your diary
- Some readers will recall the successful Schematic Mapping Workshop of 2014 hosted by the University of Essex and co-organised with the University of Kent. We finally have a follow-up scheduled for 11th/12th April 2019, co-organised with, and hosted at, TU Wien, Vienna, Austria. Details very soon.

In the media, on the web
- The Brexit maps in last month’s newsletter are discussed by Brilliant Maps.
- My Chicago El map, inspired by the stained glass work of Frank Lloyd Wright, has received more coverage, this time from Web Urbanist.
- Designer Roy Chan discusses creating a Hong Kong rail map based on concentric circles, with inspiration from my own work.

Web page news
Two new papers have been added to my academic publications page, both available for download. These were presented at the recent Diagrams 2018 conference at Edinburgh.

Map of the Month: Yet another tube-map metaphor
The tube map metaphor gets extended in just about every direction imaginable, and I mention a few well-known ones (and my favourites, not necessarily the same) in my lecture course on transit map design. These generally work better for some domains than others, and the key to this is whether the line-and-transfer principle is appropriate for the conceptualisation. It works well for Brexit maps, as shown last month, but not, for example, for road maps, in which every road is individually colour-coded.
I get a lot of tube-style maps sent my way via email and Twitter. Some of these are clever and witty, others are rather unimaginative, and some are truly dreadful. Even so, I always appreciate the opportunity to add the worst of these to my rogues gallery, although that was probably not the intention of some designers, who might have been hoping that I would give them some sort of public endorsement!

One recent map drawn to my attention aimed to depict the impenetrable novel, *Ulysses*, as a tube map (albeit not the first attempt at this) and simultaneously making fun of Dublin, its setting. I’ve never read the book myself, but it seemed like a fun idea, although I wasn’t so sure about the implementation. To my eyes it looked clumsy, with interchange symbols placed on curves, lack of breathing space for station names in the centre, and missed opportunities for symmetry and alignment. The font for the station names is not one that is associated with the London Underground (traditional Johnston is better for a work intended to be directly derivative of the London style) nor associated with Dublin, nor James Joyce. The proportions of the U-shaped mock-roundel also didn’t seem quite right to me.

A map inspired by the London Underground should be designed at least as well as the real thing, and the font for the station names needs to be well-chosen. With nothing better to do one Sunday morning, I reworked the design, and looking for font inspiration, found Lydian, a rather nice calligraphic sans serif, used for the even more impenetrable novel, *Finnegans Wake*, on the cover of the first edition. All that was left to do was to add my apologies to the original creators for having the audacity to rework their work, and enjoy the rest of the Sunday at the seaside.

Forthcoming events are set to bring the newsletter back to time – the first Monday of each month – and Map of the Month for July and August are completed and ready to go. To find out what is planned, subscribe to my newsletter at www.tubemapcentral.com.

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