

Front cover picture

The East London line took a major step forward when this new railway bridge was lifted into position across Shoreditch High Street, using Britain's biggest mobile crane.

The 350-tonne bow-string bridge is a key part of the £1 billion programme to upgrade the existing East London line so it can reopen in two years time from West Croydon to Dalston Junction on the North London line.

The earth moves: Pages 10 and 11

Railfuture lottery winners

There has been no better time to join the Railfuture Lottery — with six prizes each month.

Half the money raised is returned in prizes while the remainder, after expenses, goes into Railfuture funds to help our campaigning.

So you can help us and help yourself by joining the Lottery.

It costs just £1 per entry per month and you can get more details by writing to Railfuture Lottery, 24 Chedworth Place, Tattingstone, Suffolk IP9 2ND, or email

lottery@railfuture.org.uk. Recent prize winners are:

February: Bryan Castle, Ian Clatworthy, Iris Graham, David Pring, Phillip Watson and Paul Keepin.

March: David Guild, John Ward, Colin Palmer, Peter Little, S McCulley and Michael Breslin.

April: Michael Savage, Bryan Ranwell, David Townsend, N Cossey, David Guild, and Mark Edgell.

May: John Barfield, Graham Smith, John Johnson, John Robinson, John Willis and Andrew Marsh.

Railfuture campaign conferences

National rail users conference Saturday 5 July 2008
Banqueting Hall, The Guildhall, Market Square, Salisbury SP1 1JH



Saturday 15 November 2008
CDSC, 24 Stephenson Way, Euston Square, London NW1 2DP.
High-speed rail: What does it mean for the passenger?

Railwatch

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Membership £21 per year. Family: £21 plus £2 for each extra person. Pensioners, students and unemployed: £14. User groups, community and parish councils: Please apply for rates. All membership enquiries to: David Harby, 6 Carral Close, Lincoln LN5 9BD membership@railfuture.org.uk

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Elections Board elections are held annually. Nomination forms can be obtained from Returning Officer, PO Box 7690, Hinckley LE10 9WJ. You can also download a form from www.railfuture.org.uk

Who's Who: Many other useful contact details can be found on the Railfuture website

LOCAL ACTION

Railfuture has regional groups which are involved in local issues and come together to support Railfuture on national campaigns. Here we give news of local action in the Railfuture regions.

Wales

By Rowland Pittard

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■ ■ In April, members of the South Wales branch committee met the Welsh Assembly Deputy First Minister Ieuan Wyn Jones, whose responsibilities also include transport, to present a copy of the Railfuture Development Plan for Wales and to discuss transport policy. The minister clarified proposals made in the

One Wales document which was produced after the recent elections and is the agreement between the Labour and Plaid Cymru Groups in the National Assembly. He agreed to consult with Railfuture with regard to future developments.

■ ■ Railfuture was present at the official opening of Llanharan station on 19 March 2008, and presented copies of Railwatch to those included in the photograph taken at



the start of the project in 2005. ■ ■ The long-awaited Welsh Transport Strategy Connecting the Nation was published on 6 May. Recent changes to the draft included measures to reduce transport emissions and to bring the strategy in line with the One

Wales document. The strategy has five key areas that are to reduce transport carbon emissions, make local transport genuinely integrated, improve access to key sites, enhance international connectivity and promote safety and security.

■ ■ An extension of the free rail travel scheme for Welsh over-60s was announced on 12 May. Machynlleth to Pwllheli (but only October to May) and Wrexham to Hawarden Bridge are added, while Llandudno to Blaenau Ffestiniog and Swansea to Shrewsbury remain. The Heart of Wales line is included now only from October to April. The provision of free rail travel in Wales continues to be selective, as in England and Scotland. In England, for example, London and West Midlands benefit while in Scotland those in Strathclyde benefit. But Wales has a smaller percentage of over-60s than both England and Scotland. Railfuture Wales suggests that there should be a blanket rail fare discount of 50% for all over-60s if the Northern Ireland model of free travel for all cannot be achieved.

■ ■ Recent press reports have highlighted the £80 subsidy paid for every air passenger journey between north and south Wales compared with £6 for every rail passenger journey. This latter amount is steadily decreasing as rail journeys increase in Wales. Railfuture has not supported the air service and believes that a faster rail service could be possible after track improvements, removal of the lower line-speed restriction placed on class 175 units and reduction of standing time at stations.

