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InTheNews: The latest rail news on Monday, 17th January 2022

Pandemic-related staff shortages have caused train operators to cancel hundreds of daily services across the UK.

The article on the Sky News website says Avanti West Coast, c2c, East Midlands Railway and South Western Railway are among those introducing emergency timetables from today.

Several other operators have recently been forced to do the same, due to the impact of the Omicron coronavirus variant.

Ambitious plans to create a new underground rail terminal at East Midlands Airport and create 10 new stations in Leicestershire have been put forward.

An article on Leicestershire Live says the proposals, created by campaign group Sustainable Transport Midlands (STM), are part of a wider, epic scheme designed to give the East Midlands a rail network that puts it on a par with the south.

The plans, known as East Midlands Commuter Programme, are split into four stages.

The initial step would focus on developing the rail network in Derby and Nottingham, with the second step concentrating on Leicester, where STM has put forward plans for five new stations, to be created on existing infrastructure lines.

Samaritans volunteers hope to debunk the myth of “Blue Monday” by handing out free tea bags at railway stations across the West and South West.

An article on the BBC website say the charity opposes applying that phrase to the third Monday in January, often referred to as the toughest day of the year.

Instead it has launched what it is calling “Brew Monday”.

The idea is to encourage people to feel able to talk about issues such as mental health and loneliness.

[Click here for more details.](#)

The Stockton & Darlington Railway (S&DR) has unveiled a wide range of events in a plan to celebrate its 200th anniversary in 2025.

These will include special steam train journeys, exhibitions, parades, and arts and theatre events.

The railway opened on 27 September 1825, transforming the way in which goods and people were transported right across the globe.

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