



**An invitation  
to join the  
Friends of the 457**

[www.emus.co.uk](http://www.emus.co.uk)

**The unique Class 457 Driving Motor Car, Unit 67300 that's now on permanent display at Eythorne Station on the East Kent Railway is *not just another railway carriage* — it's a special survivor and an important part of the story of Britain's developing railway network in the later years of the 20th Century and beyond.**

**It was converted from the driving trailer of a 210 DEMU, itself an experimental prototype that, whilst proved successful, was just too costly to enter full production.**

Laid aside, the vehicle was dumped out of use at Eastleigh for several years before being resurrected as part of a three car test train (*pictured above at Strawberry Hill*) to road test the new design of electric motors that would power British electric trains in the 21st Century. The 457 unit ran from 1988 until 1991 on trials that enabled 'Traction Development For The 1990s' to become a reality. It's a statement of fact that every electric train built after 1991 owes a significant part of its design to the 457 unit.



## **We all need friends**

**The Friends of the 457 has been set up to provide much needed financial support to keep this historic and valuable vehicle in top condition whilst on display to the public.**

The 457 needs a rolling plan of repainting and preventative maintenance as well as the odd repair which is carried out by the volunteers during the year. The Friends will also help to fund the sourcing of some of the missing components that will shortly become available when units of a similar age are taken out of mainline service and disposed off.

