

The **monthly** branch newsletter of **railfuture** in London and the South East

Britain's leading *independent* campaign for a bigger better railway for passengers and freight

New Thameslink station in Zone 3 north London



Opening with the timetable change on 10th December, Brent Cross West on the Midland Main Line will join Thanet Parkway and Barking Riverside as recently-opened mainline stations in our regional branch area. It could later be connected with the northern arm of the proposed West London Orbital which would terminate at Hendon, the southern arm passing via Cricklewood to West Hampstead Thameslink.

Britain's Growing Railway in London & South East: December birthdays

~ 4th, in 1982 – Watford Stadium Halt opened, on match days only (to be served again by a new station on a revived Croxley link, at Watford Vicarage Road!)

~ 9th, in 2007 – London St. Pancras International's Thameslink platforms A and B opened.

~ 9th, in 2012 – London Overground services extended from Surrey Quays via a new link at Silwood Junction to Queens Road Peckham, Peckham Rye, Denmark Hill, Clapham High Street, and Wandsworth Road to Battersea Park / Clapham Junction, at last completing London's new 'outer circle' railway.

~ 10th, in 2023 – Brent Cross West opens!

~ 11th, in 2016 – London Marylebone services extended between Oxford Parkway and Oxford.

~ 14th, in 2008 – Aylesbury Vale Parkway station, and the extended line from Aylesbury, opened (one day to be served by trains between the re-branded East West Main Line and Watford Junction?)

~ 22nd, in 1994 – Eurotunnel Le Shuttle services for cars commenced.

Our vision for rail: A railway system that provides services which travellers and freight forwarders want to use, and which offers more journey opportunities to more people and more freight.

What shall we be doing this month?

London and South East regional branch members, and / or committee members, will be:-

~ consulting internally on our responses next year to:



Lewes District Council's [consultation](#) – including five webinars – on 'spatial strategy and policies directions' for its new Local Plan (2020-40);



East Sussex County Council's [survey](#) for its draft Local Transport Plan 4 (2024-50);

~ holding regular **online** meetings of our Herts & Beds and Sussex & Coastway Divisions;

~ holding a regular meeting of the L&SE regional branch committee, partly as a festive season social.

What has @RailfutureLSE been doing?

Since the early-November edition of *inter-railse* no.65, Railfuture's London and South East regional branch members, and / or committee members, have:

~ issued two press releases as we had [prepared](#) for and then [responded](#) to publication on 31st October of the reports from Transport Focus / London Travelwatch on proposed changes to ticket retailing at stations;

~ noted the [response](#), published on 22nd November, from Rail Minister Huw Merriman to the Chair of the House of Commons Transport Committee's letter of 20th October about planned ticket office closures;

~ set out our regional branch's preliminary assessment of the ORR's 'final determination' of Network Rail's Strategic Business Plan for CP7 (2024-29) in our quarterly newsletter *railse* for [December](#) (page 2);

~ put up the regional branch's Vice-Chair for interview by BBC Look East on [fare evasion on c2c](#);

~ asked questions at the All-Party Parliamentary Rail Group meeting with Rail Minister Huw Merriman on HS2 and other currently-topical rail industry matters;

~ participated in Southeastern's Stakeholder Forum, Southeast CRP's MarshLink AGM, and another TfSE Transport Forum;

~ held regular evening [online](#) meetings of our Eastern, Herts & Beds and Sussex & Coastway Divisions;

~ held a regular meeting of the L&SE regional branch committee, [online](#);

~ submitted our [comments](#) on the proposals for Liverpool Street station – [ref.23/00453/FULEIA](#) – to the City of London Corporation as local planning authority.

***Our vision for Railfuture:** An independent organisation whose views are respected by the rail industry, to which decision makers come for advice, which rail users are proud to join and recommend.*

Calendar of forthcoming diary dates

Friday 1 December Office of Rail & Road publishes Passenger rail performance: Cancellations data for Period 8, 15 October – 11 November 2023.

Thursday 7 December Office of Rail & Road publish Passenger rail performance: Q2 2023/24 (July - Sept 2023) – PPM, Cancelled and Significantly Late (CaSL).

Thursday 7 December Sussex & Coastway Division [online](#) evening meeting. [Invite non-members!](#)

Sunday 10 December National rail timetable change.

Monday 11 December Herts & Beds Division [online](#) evening meeting. [Invite non-members!](#)

Tuesday 12 December ORR publishes Freight rail usage and performance Q2 2023/24 (July - September) - freight moved, freight lifted, normalised freight delay.

Thursday 14 December Office of Rail and Road publishes annual estimates of station usage 2022/23.

Saturday 16 December – Sunday 7 January Schools' holiday: [>95% of the rail network remains open for customers!](#) Enjoy your local heritage railways.

Saturday 16 December – Sunday 14 January Major works affecting Southeastern London Victoria services and London Overground Clapham Junction services.

Tuesday 19 December ORR publishes Passenger rail usage Q2 2023/24 (July - September) - Passenger train KM, Passenger KM, journeys, revenue.

Wednesday 10 January Eastern Division [online](#) evening meeting. [Invite non-members!](#)

Thursday 11 January Sussex & Coastway Division in-person social evening, Lewes. [Invite non-members!](#)

Saturday 13 January Herts & Beds Division morning in-person meeting. [Invite non-members!](#)

Wednesday 17 January London Metro Division evening in-person meeting. [Invite non-members!](#)

Saturday 27 / Sunday 28 January Railfuture regional branch / Kent Division stall at annual rail exhibition in Longfield Academy.

Full details in our [Events](#) and [Rail dates](#) web pages.

Railfuture is 'in the news' / 'making the news' / sharing 'news and views'

~ Stay abreast of Railfuture members making, not just watching, things happen in our website [media extracts](#).

~ Stay abreast of Railfuture making, not just reporting, the news through our [press releases](#).

~ Stay abreast of Railfuture's and others' reports and thoughts published in our [website articles](#).

~ Railfuture is active on [Twitter](#) / [Facebook](#) / [LinkedIn](#).

Be in it to win it - join Railfuture's Lottery!

Members – individual, joint, affiliated organisation such as a rail user group or similar, or a business – can support Railfuture by joining our monthly [lottery](#).

Railfuture publications by email

~ All members – individual, joint, affiliated organisation such as a rail user group or similar, or a business – are being encouraged to receive [Railwatch](#) direct to their Inbox immediately on publication by logging-in at [Member services](#).

~ receive Railfuture's regular monthly newsletter [Rail User Express](#) direct to your Inbox immediately on publication by emailing renewals@railfuture.org.uk

~ receive Railfuture's occasional [Rail Action](#) bulletin direct to your Inbox immediately on publication by emailing renewals@railfuture.org.uk

This branch e-newsletter is free, published monthly and distributed to branch members with their GDPR consent Items for our newsletters, and our branch Local Action column in *railwatch*, to londonandsoutheast@railfuture.org.uk

railfuture

Railfuture's mission: to be the number one advocate for Britain's railway and rail users

Website: [Welcome to Railfuture](#) Twitter: [@RailfutureLSE](#)

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