

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

Welcome to the late-autumn edition

We begin with a month of anniversaries to celebrate!

A quarter-century ago in 1994 the Channel Tunnel, Waterloo International station, and the Stewarts Lane Viaduct and Waterloo Curve which connected them via the South Eastern pre-Channel Tunnel Rail Link (CTRL) 'classic' rail network, hosted the start of limited preview 'Discovery' Eurostar services.



Channel Tunnel's French portal with 25th anniversary artwork

Eurostar have confirmed that class 374 e320 trains are on track to use Ashford International from January, that the third pair of Paris services will return in May, and to expect direct services from Amsterdam next Spring!

In November 2006 the CTRL was re- (or mis-) named HS1 (a re-brand which continues to cause big trouble). Stratford International station opened 10 years ago, to coincide with the third phase of Southeastern's preview high-speed services, along the North Kent line.

Luton Airport Parkway station marks its 20th birthday this month; in 2017/18 it was used by c.3.9 million passengers. Top prize for the longest anniversary goes to Basildon station, opened 45 years ago in 1974 to support the New Town being developed there; in 2017/18 it was used by c.3.2 million passengers.

Looking ahead, Railfuture does not believe that cries of "reverse Beeching" - from whatever source - are in any way helpful. The seven Criteria in our website's page [New stations](#) and its link to our DfT/CfBT-backed guide "[Expanding the Railways](#)" are the proper resources. A later "[The case for expanding the rail network](#)" failed in its task and cannot be used as a trustworthy guide - a missed opportunity to advance the cause. Even now many still refer, with justifiable confidence, to ATOC's "[Connecting Communities](#)" published a decade ago!

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 have we been doing out there?

Since the early-October edition no.16 of *inter-railse* Railfuture in London and the South East has:-

- ~ submitted four outline bids to the DfT's £20million [Access for All CP6 Mid-Tier Programme](#)
- ~ responded to GTR's initial assessment of bids to their Passenger Benefit Fund, with some suggestions!
- ~ participated in the [11th Rail Summit](#) held by Kent County Council; a new Rail Action Plan is coming!
- ~ responded to England's Economic Heartland's consultation on their [Outline Transport Strategy](#), and Coast to Capital Local Enterprise Partnership's consultation on their Local Industrial Strategy.

What shall we be doing out there?

TfSE published its [draft Transport Strategy](#) for public consultation on 7 October, closing 10 January 2020.



5 Counties and 11 Unitaries in [Transport for the South East](#)

Lewes and Eastbourne Councils published "[Eastbourne's Direction of Travel: Issues and Options for the Eastbourne Local Plan](#)" for public consultation on 1 November, also closing 10 January 2020.

Homes England published [West of Ifield](#) for public consultation on 29 October, closing 1 December 2020!

Medway Council has won a £170m grant from the [MHCLG's Housing Infrastructure Fund](#) to support [10.6k new homes on the Hoo Peninsula](#). Railfuture must show 'The Rail Way': [railse no.140 June 2018](#)

We're **asking our audience**, that's **you**, our members! What do **you** wish us to say? **Your comments** please, to roger.blake@railfuture.org.uk who will forward them to the Railfuture member leading on our response.

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

Calendar of forthcoming diary dates

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

Monday 4 November “*East West Rail: Connecting the Varsity Cities.*” Free evening talk in London.

Monday 4 November “*Improving new train introduction: challenges and lessons learned.*”

All-day seminar, London.

Monday 4 November “*Leading and developing successful teams.*” Morning webinar.

Monday 4 November Bedford Commuters Association AGM, with EMR’s Interim MD, in Bedford.

Wednesday 6 November “*Class 444/450 15 years on.*” Free evening talk in Southampton.

Thursday 7 November ORR publishes data on 2018/19 Rail Emissions.

Thursday 7 November Sussex & Coastway Division. Guest speaker from Network Rail on Gatwick Airport station upgrade. Open evening meeting in Hassocks.

Sunday 10 November Train services suspended between Barnham and Havant via Chichester for track and level crossing works.

Monday 11 November “*New technology does not mean that we can stop investing in new transport infrastructure.*” Evening talk in Reading, with guest speaker Michele Dix, MD for Crossrail 2.

Monday 11 November Bexhill Rail Action Group.

Wednesday 13 November Eastern Division.

Wednesday 13 November “*Broken ladders? Social mobility.*” Free evening talk in Chatham.

Wednesday 13 November “*British Transport Police.*” Free evening event in London.

Thursday 14 November “*Smart ticketing – what comes next?*” Free evening talk in London.

Friday 15 November “*Introduction to management.*” Morning webinar.

Saturday 16 November Kent Division.

Saturday 16 November “*Help change regional transport policy.*” Transport Action Network afternoon conference at Gatwick.

Sunday 17 November Train services suspended between Barnham and Havant via Chichester for track and level crossing works.

Monday 18 November Abbey Flyer Users’ Group open public evening meeting in Bricket Wood.

Monday 18 November “*Class 88 bi-mode locomotive.*” Free evening talk in London.

Tuesday 19 November “*Informing the passengers.*” Evening talk in Redhill.

Wednesday 20 November “*Transport Planning Day.*”

Wednesday 20 November “*Clean growth UK: Innovating in the low-carbon sector in collaboration with University.*” Free evening talk in Brighton.

Saturday 23-Sunday 24 November Javelin and Eurostar services suspended at Ashford International for major track-works preparations.

Saturday 23 November West of Ifield event, Crawley.

Saturday 23 November Herts & Beds Division.

Saturday 23-Sunday 24 November Railfuture stall at annual national rail show, NEC Hall 5, Birmingham.

Monday 25 November West of Ifield event, Crawley.

Monday 25 November “*Rail Freight Group.*”

Free evening talk in Maidenhead with guest speaker RFG’s Director General Maggie Simpson.

Tuesday 26 November West of Ifield event, Horsham.

Tuesday 26 November “*Network Rail.*” Free evening talk in Woking with guest speaker Network Rail’s CE Andrew Haines OBE.

Wednesday 27 November “*Women on the railway.*” Free evening talk in Chichester.

Thursday 28 November-Sunday 1 December Train services suspended around Lewes for commissioning new area signalling system.

Thursday 28 November “*Gatwick Station Project.*” Free informal evening discussion in London.

Thursday 28 November “*UK Electricity System: Resilience and Security of Supply.*” Seminar in London.

Friday 29 November Campaign for Better Transport, London group. Non-members welcome, Farringdon.

Saturday 30 November-Sunday 1 December Train services suspended between Barnham and Havant via Chichester for track and level crossing works.

Saturday 30 November St. Albans City signal box. Free morning technical visit.

Saturday 30 November West of Ifield event, Horsham.

Thursday 5 December Sussex & Coastway Division.

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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