

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

## Railfuture L&SE went to the Palace!

Our regular stall – like the rest of the weekend show – was indeed well worth a visit; it felt busier than last year.



It was the first opportunity to display our new banner promoting Hoo Peninsula Railway; designer Alix Gunn.

## Boo – Hoo!

As if tempting fate, the first public outing for the banner was followed within days by the project being officially 'paused'! Medway Council's website now says: "*In the light of consultation, high inflation, significantly increased construction costs and pressures on public spending, the council is proposing to pause its plans to create a new railway station and train service on the Hoo Peninsula. Instead, it is currently exploring the potential for alternative transport options to improve access for residents travelling on and off the peninsula. The preferred option being considered is to improve local bus services to provide better and regular connections into areas across Medway. The planned road investment, doubling the number of road routes on and off the peninsula, and environmental improvements have widespread public support and remain part of the council's vision to support sustainable communities on the Hoo Peninsula.*"

**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:-

~ attending the commemoration on 17 April of a bench at Chichester station in memory of Trevor Tupper, a long-standing member of several rail groups including the former West Sussex Rail Users Association.

~ holding a regular meeting **online** of the L&SE regional branch committee, with increasing focus on organising our own AGM on 22<sup>nd</sup> April and the national AGM and award presentations we're hosting in July.

~ holding a regular meeting of our Herts & Beds Division, in-person in St. Albans.

~ participating in Greater Anglia's second revived annual in-person Stakeholder Forum.

## What has @RailfutureLSE been doing?

Since the early-March edition of *inter-railse* no.57, Railfuture's London and South East regional branch members have, amongst their various other activities:

~ participated in the alternate-monthly meetings of the Uckfield Railway Line Parishes Committee and of the Brighton Transport Partnership.

~ participated in the Southeastern Stakeholder Forum.

~ joined regular meetings of our Sussex & Coastway (twice), Herts & Beds, and Eastern divisions – the first of the former in the new community hub at Bishopstone station, the latter three all **online**.

Also in March, regional branch committee members:

~ held a regular meeting **online** of the L&SE regional branch committee, with thoughts turning to organising our own AGM in April and the national AGM and award presentations which we're hosting in mid-July.

~ participated in an evidence session of the All-Party Parliamentary Group for the South East following our response to their Call for Evidence for their second Inquiry, related to the role of Transport Infrastructure.

~ made submissions to the Planning Inspectorate on a site at Ringmer which is of vital interest to us for a potential new Uckfield-Lewes rail link and is the subject of two appeals on the same site against refusals of planning permission for either 75 or 200 new homes.

**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.

## Britain's Growing Railway in London and the South East: April birthdays

~ Dalston Junction-Whitechapel link into East London line, for preview London Overground services through to New Cross / New Cross Gate, in 2010.



27-04-2010 – first train 378 154 / first passenger train 378 152

~ Dalston Junction, Haggerston, Hoxton, Shoreditch High Street stations, in 2010.

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### Calendar of forthcoming diary dates

**Friday 31 March** Network Rail's Strategic Business Plan for Control Period 7 (2024-29) should have been published by this date.

**Thursday 6 April** **NO** Sussex & Coastway Division evening meeting! **DO NOT** invite non-members!

**Friday 7 – Saturday 15 April** Tunbridge Wells – Hastings '1066' line services suspended for cutting and embankment protection works.

**Easter Saturday 8 April** Nominations close for



Rail User Group Awards; presented 15 July (below).

**Saturday 15 April** Herts & Beds Division morning in-person meeting, in St. Albans. Invite non-members!

**Saturday 22 April** Railfuture L&SE regional branch morning open meeting (invite non-members!) and afternoon members' AGM. Venue: Wesley's Chapel & Leysian Mission, 49 City Road, London EC1Y 1AU. 10.30 for 11.00 start.

**Friday 28 April** Copy date for your campaign news / reports for the London & South East regional branch Local Action column in July's *railwatch* no.176, and for March's *raise* no.160. Send to [londonandsoutheast@railfuture.org.uk](mailto:londonandsoutheast@railfuture.org.uk)

**Monday 1 May** Copy date for your campaign news, letters, articles, photos to appear in July's *railwatch* no.176. Send to [editor@railwatch.org.uk](mailto:editor@railwatch.org.uk)

**Thursday 4 May** Sussex & Coastway Division evening **online** meeting. Invite non-members!

**Sunday 21 May** Nominations close for Railfuture Member (formerly Campaigner) of the Year Award.

**Saturday 15 July** National AGM, in London, followed by presentations of Member (formerly Campaigner) of the Year Award, and Rail User Group Awards.

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

~ 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](mailto:renewals@railfuture.org.uk)

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