

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 a festive season edition



Let's begin by celebrating some more local birthdays. Line and station openings in December are quite rare!

- ~ Watford Stadium station opened 4 December **1982**, for match days only; services ceased by March 1996.
- ~ London St. Pancras International low-level station (platforms A and B) opened on 9 December **2007**.
- ~ Aylesbury Vale Parkway station opened, with the 5km extension from Aylesbury, on 14 December **2008**.
- ~ the 6km line extension between Oxford Parkway and Oxford stations opened on 11 December **2016**.

After birthdays, a new birth, due Sunday 8 December:



[Forward](#) with the new West Coast Partnership

As we strive to improve the capacity, connectivity and quality of rail services for established communities, so we seek the same for expanding and new communities. The inaugural [Transport for New Homes Award](#) has a London winner, [Royal Arsenal Riverside](#) – with DLR, Southeastern and Thameslink services only minutes away, and a station on the Elizabeth line still to come! Our challenge (should we choose to accept it) will be to engage with developers, local planning authorities, and Network Rail's newly-devolved Routes to maximise the ease of access to rail services for all new homes.



**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-November edition no.17 of *inter-railse* Railfuture in London and the South East has:-

~ published our response to the Coast to Capital Local Enterprise Partnership consultation on the draft [Economic Profile for their Local Industrial Strategy](#)

~ participated in South Western Railway's Stakeholder Conference (and met the new Wessex Route Director).

## What shall we be doing out there?

TfL launched a third consultation on the [Bakerloo line extension](#), closing 22 December; we'll respond.

**South Western Railway** launched a consultation on [proposed alterations to some late-night services](#), to start December 2020, closing 23 December; we'll reply.

**East Midlands Railway** has published [proposals for the December 2020 timetable](#), consultation closing on 14 February; we'll liaise with other branches to respond.

**Lewes and Eastbourne Councils** have published "[Eastbourne's Direction of Travel: Issues and Options for the Eastbourne Local Plan 2018-38](#)" for public consultation, closing 10 January. See 'diary dates' p.2.

**TfSE** launched its [draft Transport Strategy](#) for public consultation at a conference (pictured below) in Farnborough on 10 October, closing 10 January 2020.



Railfuture branch liaison: London & South East meet Wessex (Vice-Chair Roger Blake, national Chair Chris Page, Charles Burns)

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](mailto: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

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

**Sunday 1 December** Thames Valley branch stall at annual Oxford Green Fair, Oxford Town Hall.

**Monday 2 December** Network Rail public drop-in event for Bexleyheath line February half-term closure.

**Tuesday 3 December** Eastbourne Council public drop-in event for "Direction of travel" consultation on Issues & Options for Eastbourne Local Plan 2018-38.

**Tuesday 3 December** "Local networks enabling the electrification of transport." Free evening talk in Crawley.

**Wednesday 4 December** "Gauging historic infrastructure for the 21<sup>st</sup> century." Free evening talk in London.

**Thursday 5 December** Eastbourne Council public drop-in event for "Direction of travel" consultation on Issues & Options for Eastbourne Local Plan 2018-38.

**Thursday 5 December** Sussex & Coastway Division.  
**Thursday 5 December** "An evening with Lord Adonis." Free evening Christmas lecture in London.

**Saturday 7 December** Bedford-Bletchley Rail Users' Association Christmas meeting, Woburn Sands.

**Saturday 7 December** East Anglia branch open meeting with Dr. Colin Harris, Cambridge Connect.

**Sunday 8 December** First/Trenitalia replaces Virgin.

**Monday 9 December** Eastbourne Council public drop-in event for "Direction of travel" consultation on Issues & Options for Eastbourne Local Plan 2018-38.

**Monday 9 December** Bexhill Rail Action Group.

**Tuesday 10 December** Network Rail public drop-in event for Bexleyheath line February half-term closure.

**Tuesday 10 December** "Challenges managing the Structures Portfolio in Kent/Sussex." Free evening talk in Croydon.

**Tuesday 10 December** Chesham & District TUG.

**Wednesday 11 December** "Dreaming Big: Transportation Infrastructure and inter-disciplinary interfaces on complex mega-projects." Free 'Brunel' evening lecture in London.

**Saturday 14 December** Start of late-evening service reductions and alterations on GTR's Northern City Line.

**Sunday 15 December** Timetable changes.

**Monday 16 December** Restoration, after 35 years, of all-day 6-day services for Cooksbridge, East Sussex.

**Tuesday 17 December** "An evening with Gordon Pettitt OBE." Free evening talk, by the last General Manager of BR's Southern Region and the former Managing Director of Regional Railways, in Woking.

**Friday 20 December-Thursday 2 January** As ever, check the [Christmas and New Year 2019/20 Travel Summary](#) before you travel in the festive period and see where over 20,000 staff will be spending their Christmas and New Year, working on nearly 400 [Christmas Railway Upgrade projects](#).

**Saturday 21 December** Celebration of restoration of Saturday services, after 35 years, for Cooksbridge. Mid-morning event at the station – all are invited!

**Thursday 26 December** First-ever Boxing Day services on London Overground!

**Thursday 26-Sunday 29 December** HS1 Javelin and Eurostar non-stopping through Ashford International.

**Saturday 4-Sunday 5 January** Javelin and Eurostar services non-stopping through Ashford International.

**Saturday 4-Sunday 5 January** All services reduced at London King's Cross.

**Wednesday 8 January** Eastern Division.

**Thursday 9 January** Sussex & Coastway Division, Cooksbridge. Guest speaker Phil Hutchinson, GTR.

**Saturday 11-Sunday 12 January** HS1 Javelins and Eurostar non-stopping through Ashford International.

**Saturday 11-Sunday 12 January** All services reduced at London King's Cross.

**Monday 13 January** Bexhill Rail Action Group.

**Tuesday 14 January** Office of Rail and Road publishes Estimates of station usage for 2018/19.

**Saturday 25-Sunday 26 January** Railfuture L&SE stall at Erith Model Railway Society, Longfield.

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

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

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

Railfuture Limited is a not-for-profit Company Limited by Guarantee. Registered in England & Wales no.05011634.  
Registered Office: Edinburgh House, 1-5 Bellevue Road, Clevedon, North Somerset, BS21 7NP  
(for legal correspondence only). All other correspondence to: 24 Chedworth Place, Tattingsstone, Suffolk IP9 2ND