

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

## How will rail attract its passengers?



Most, if fewer, rail users now feel confident travelling in safety, at 78%. Non-users of rail still don't, at only 37%. Source: Transport Focus [weekly Tracking Research](#).

"Transport User Voice" – the national watchdog's monthly newsletter. Click [here](#) to subscribe.



"Don't you find these nice new wooden platform seats are not as cold in this weather as the old metal ones?"

## COVID-19 briefing to Railfuture members

Stay abreast with Railfuture's web [articles](#) and [tweets](#).



"Keep this seat free to maintain social distancing when possible" – Chiltern Railways. Other uses are available: <https://twitter.com/depopdrama/status/1347233190730199041>

## What has @RailfutureLSE been doing?

Since the early-January edition, no.31, of *inter-railse*, Railfuture London and the South East members have:-

- ~ been advised by the DfT's Transport Infrastructure Planning Unit of the revised timetable for the Public Inquiry to hear unresolved objections to the proposed Rother Valley Transport and Works Act Order, in July.
- ~ been interviewed about Southeastern's current and future response to the pandemic, by a research agency.
- ~ participated in the **online** meetings of the Southeast CRP's North Downs Line (GWR) Steering Group and of its Stakeholder Advisory Board.
- ~ participated in the **online** meeting of the Uckfield Railway Line Parishes Committee.
- ~ responded to a request for a discussion with a member of HS1 Ltd's Senior Management Team.
- ~ participated in Network Rail's second **online** workshop for the North & East Kent Connectivity Study.
- ~ represented Railfuture in a quarterly liaison meeting with GTR on the East Coastway/MarshLink timetable.
- ~ joined GTR's **online** annual Stakeholder Conference.
- ~ joined in **online** meetings of our Sussex & Coastway, Eastern and Herts & Beds Divisions.
- ~ participated in the All-Party Parliamentary Rail Group **online** meeting on "What's going to happen to demand and the national infrastructure investment programme?"
- ~ contributed in the second **online** workshop of TfSE's Outer Orbital Area Study Forum.
- ~ held two regional Branch committee meetings **online**.

## What shall we be doing (remotely)?

- ~ drafting our responses to [public consultations](#):
  - \* Greater Anglia's December 2021 GEML timetable, closing on Friday 12 February.
- ~ holding **online** meetings of our Sussex & Coastway, Kent and Herts & Beds Divisions.
- ~ joining in the first **online** workshops of TfSE's Inner Orbital and South Central Radial Area Study Forums.
- ~ holding a regional Branch committee meeting **online**.

**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.

## Here's the one we prepared earlier

Response to Wealden's Local Plan: [Direction of Travel](#)

**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.*

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

~ on the 7<sup>th</sup>, in 1966, Garston, Herts. Probably the first new, rather than reopened or relocated, post-Beeching rail station, with c.75k entries and exits in 2019/20. (Not to be confused with Garston, Lancs. It reopened on 2<sup>nd</sup> January 1978 after a 6-year closure, and then closed permanently the day before Liverpool South Parkway station opened on 11 June 2006.)

~ on the 28<sup>th</sup>, in 2011, the Dalston Junction-Highbury & Islington extension of London Overground services from Crystal Palace and West Croydon, just 4 months short of 25 years since the last train on 27<sup>th</sup> June 1986.



Dalston Junction station looking south towards Haggerston, Highbury & Islington tracks through platforms 1 & 4 far right and left

## Calendar of forthcoming diary dates

**Sunday 31 January** Copy date for your London & SE campaign news / reports for branch Local Action column in April's *railwatch* no.167 to address below.

**Monday 1 February** Copy date for your campaign news, letters, articles, photos to appear in April's *railwatch* no.167. Send to [editor@railwatch.org.uk](mailto:editor@railwatch.org.uk)

**Monday 1 February** "Tilbury 2 – new port terminal." Free **online** evening webinar.

**Wednesday 3 February** House of Commons Transport Committee Evidence Session: "The responsibilities of the Secretary of State" with witness Grant Shapps MP. **Online** morning event.  
**Wednesday 3 February** "Going off the rails." **Online** evening webinar.

**Thursday 4 February** Copy date for March's *raise* no.151, to [londonandsoutheast@railfuture.org.uk](mailto:londonandsoutheast@railfuture.org.uk)

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

**Monday 8 February** "Northern line extension." Free **online** late-afternoon webinar.

**Tuesday 9 February** "London to Corby reinstated." Free **online** early-afternoon webinar.

**Tuesday 9 February** "100 ft under to 10 ft above: landslip and underbridge renewal schemes in contrast." Free **online** late-afternoon webinar.

**Tuesday 9 February** "The Hydroflex train." Free **online** evening technical lecture.

**Thursday 11 February** "Learning from the Eastleigh derailment." Free **online** evening webinar.

**Tuesday 16 February** "Derailment investigation." Free **online** evening webinar.

**Tuesday 16 February** "A railway track – for the users, by the users, of the users." Free **online** evening webinar.

**Saturday 20 February** Kent Division **online** afternoon meeting. Invite non-members!

**Tuesday 23 February** "Future Power." Free **online** evening technical lecture.

**Thursday 25 February** "The rail regulator and the civil engineer." Free **online** evening webinar.

**Thursday 25 February** "Decarbonising Scotland's railway." Free **online** evening technical lecture.

**Saturday 27 February** Herts & Beds Division **online** morning meeting. Invite non-members!

**Saturday 17 April** London & South East regional branch **online** AGM – with guest speaker/s.

DfT's [Transport Decarbonisation Plan](#) now due in 'Spring 2021'; email [TDP@df.gov.uk](mailto:TDP@df.gov.uk) for updates.

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

**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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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