

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

Keith Dyall former L & SE branch Chairman



A photo shown at the reception after Keith's funeral on 19 December, with fellow long-serving Railfuture members Ray King on his left and Howard Thomas to his left, and ex-member David Berman on his right.

The photo was taken in the back garden of a close friend of Keith and another long-serving member, Norman Bradbury – who may even have taken the photo, to be confirmed – a former member of the L&SE regional branch and national committees, and contributor to many Railway Development Society and Railfuture publications, including 'Norman's Notes'!

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

~ on the 7th, 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, slumping to less than 9k in 2020/21 and recovering slightly to over 18k in 2021/22. (On the Abbey line so not to be confused with Garston, Lancs. It reopened on 2nd 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 28th, in 2011, the Dalston Junction-Highbury & Islington extension of London Overground services from Crystal Palace and West Croydon, just four months short of 25 years since the last train through Dalston Junction station on Friday 27th June 1986.

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:-

~ holding 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 July.

~ holding regular meetings of our Sussex & Coastway and Herts & Beds Divisions (**online**).

~ joining a presentation about the MTR / Network Rail / Stellar proposals for Liverpool Street station.

~ participating in an **online** meeting of Transport for the South East's Transport Forum.



South East Councils
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~ responding to a 'call for evidence' invitation from the All-Party Parliamentary Group for the South East (under the auspices of South East Councils) to make a submission to its second Inquiry, related to Transport Infrastructure: "*The South East and 'Global Britain': what role for transport infrastructure in underpinning Britain's plan to trade and grow?*" – "expectations, requirements and concerns related to Transport Infrastructure, particularly that providing access to and from UK Ports of Entry whether air or sea." Railfuture members' contributions for consideration must be sent to londonandsoutheast@railfuture.org.uk by mid-February.

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.

What has @RailfutureLSE been doing?

Since the early-January edition of **inter-railse** no.55, Railfuture's London and South East regional branch members have, amongst their various other activities:

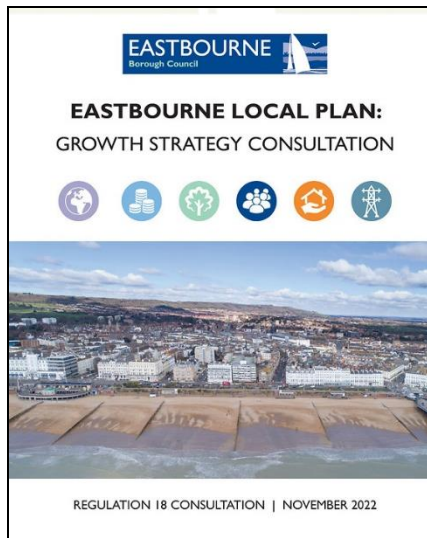
~ participated in an alternate-monthly meeting of the Uckfield Railway Line Parishes Committee.

~ joined regular meetings of our Sussex & Coastway, Eastern (**online**) and Herts & Beds (in-person) divisions.

Also in January, regional branch committee members:

~ participated in Great Western Railway's first **online** stakeholder event with MD Mark Hopwood CBE and senior members of his team.

~ responded to Eastbourne Borough Council's initial Local Plan consultation, on a Growth Strategy.



~ participated in East Midlands Railway's annual stakeholder conference at Trent Bridge, Nottingham.

~ observed **online** a Westminster Hall debate on "Restoring Your Railway Fund."

~ staffed a weekend stall promoting our campaigns for Hoo Peninsula Railway and supporting KenEx (Thames Gateway Tramlink Ltd).



Railfuture London & South East regional branch's Kent Division table at the Erith Model Railway Society exhibition in Longfield Academy.

~ contributed in an in-person meeting of the Southeast Communities Rail Partnership's Stakeholder Advisory Board, at Gatwick Airport.

~ participated in a Network Rail **online** workshop initiating a Strategic Study of the Medway Valley Line and Strategic Advice for Kent <> Gatwick Airport.

~ held a regular meeting **online** of the L&SE regional branch committee.

Calendar of forthcoming diary dates

Thursday 2 February Sussex & Coastway Division evening **online** meeting. [Invite non-members!](#)

Thursday 9 February Office of Rail and Road publish Regional Rail Usage for 2021/22 – "Annual statistics providing passenger journeys data for each Region of Great Britain, including journeys between Regions, within Regions and between England, Scotland and Wales."

Saturday 11 – Sunday 19 February Network Rail's half-term works include suspension of Southeastern services between Dover Priory and Faversham, London Overground services between London Euston and Watford Junction, and Bakerloo line services between Queen's Park and Harrow & Wealdstone.

Thursday 16 February Herts & Beds Division evening **online** meeting. [Invite non-members!](#)

Saturday 18 February Kent Division **online** meeting. [Invite non-members!](#)

Saturday 25 February East Anglia branch afternoon open meeting and AGM, Bury St. Edmunds, Suffolk.

Thursday 2 March Sussex & Coastway Division in-person evening meeting, at Bishopstone station. [Invite non-members!](#)

Saturday 18 / Sunday 19 March Railfuture L&SE regional branch stall at Alexandra Palace during the London Festival of Railway Modelling.

Thursday 30 March "Turning point for the railway." Railfuture national conference, Leeds.

Thursday 30 March Sussex & Coastway Division evening **online** meeting. [Invite non-members!](#)

Easter Saturday 8 April Nominations close for Rail User Group Awards.

Saturday 22 April Railfuture L&SE regional branch members' meeting ([invite non-members!](#)) and AGM.

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 Rail User Group Awards and Member (formerly Campaigner) of the Year Award.

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

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

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