

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

“Please, mind the gap”

(aka ‘the platform-train interface’)



See ‘platform train interface’: <https://www.rssb.co.uk/en>

Professor Bridget Eickhoff, Principal Infrastructure Engineer at the Rail Safety and Standards Board, gave a superlative presentation to the regional branch members’ annual meeting held in Wesley’s Chapel & Leysian Mission on City Road, London on Saturday 30th April. Her presentation “Towards step-free journeys: the challenge of platform-train interface” which was given to an audience of near-30 in the room plus another dozen or so online is now available for reference on the [branch’s website page](#).

The members’ formal AGM after lunch noted the full set of reports of the regional branch’s various activities during 2021, which is also available online: <https://www.railfuture.org.uk/London+and+South+East>

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.*

Rail User Group Awards 2021-22



Among the nominations are two from within our regional branch area, both from East Sussex, namely the Cooksbridge Station Partnership (Cooksbridge Area Rail Action Group) for Best Campaign and the Lewes Rail Users Group for Best New Group.

Coronavirus insight

Confidence about feeling safe when using trains, in relation to Covid-19, has continued to recover, now up to 89% of rail users and to 69% among non-rail users who would feel safe if they had to make a train journey. Source: Transport Focus weekly [Tracking Research](#).

What has @RailfutureLSE been doing?

Since the early-April edition of *inter-railse* no.46, Railfuture’s London and South East regional branch members have, amongst various other activities:

- ~ participated in a Southeast CRP North Downs Line CRP Steering Group meeting.
- ~ participated in Greater Anglia’s annual forum for rail user groups.
- ~ held regular **online** meetings of our Herts & Beds, Eastern and Sussex & Coastway Divisions.
- ~ held a regional Branch committee meeting **online**.

Also during April, regional branch committee has:

- # co-ordinated and submitted our response to Luton Rising’s ‘Future Luton’ statutory consultation.
- # contributed to a letter from our national Chairman to the Minister of State in the Department for Transport responsible for rail and accessibility with observations and examples for the next Access for All programme, in Control Period 7 from April 2024 to March 2029.
- # noted Lewes District Council’s Planning Committee’s latest rejection of a fourth planning application for outline permission in part of the gap between Ringmer and Broyle Side, for up to 68 homes on the same site as was refused last year for up to 97 homes.

All Railfuture submissions can be found [here](#)

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 shall we be doing this month?

- ~ contributing to a meeting of the Transport Forum of Transport for the South East.
- ~ participating in an alternate-monthly **online** meeting of the Brighton Transport Partnership.
- ~ contributing to an alternate-monthly meeting of the Uckfield Railway Line Parishes Committee.
- ~ holding regular **online** meetings of our Eastern, Herts & Beds and Sussex & Coastway Divisions, plus an in-person meeting of our Kent Division in Faversham.
- ~ contributing to a meeting of the Transport Forum of Transport for the South East to review the consultation process for the draft Strategic Investment Plan.
- ~ holding regional Branch committee meetings **online**.

Britain's Growing Railway in London & the South East: many happy birthdays in May!

~ on the 12th, in 1980: Hackney Central, Hackney Wick; Kensington Olympia<>Willesden, Byfleet Curve.
~ on the 13th, in 1980: Moulsecoomb.
~ on the 13th, in 1985: Homerton.
~ on the 14th, in 1979: West Ham Low Level; Dalston<>Stratford (Camden Road<>North Woolwich).
~ on the 14th, in 1984: Bedford St. Johns.
~ on the 15th, in 2016: Lea Bridge.
~ on the 16th, in 1988: Farringdon<>Blackfriars.
~ on the 17th, in 1982: Watton-at-Stone.
~ on the 17th, in 1983: Dalston Kingsland (first opened 9 November 1850, closed 1 November 1865).
~ on the 23rd, in 2010: New Cross Gate Down Jcn (for full London Overground services on the East London Line and its northern extension from Dalston Junction, Haggerston, Hoxton, and Shoreditch High Street through to Crystal Palace and West Croydon).
~ on the 29th, in 1990: St. Paul's, later City, Thameslink.
~ on the 29th, in 1994: Mitre Bridge Curve (WLL<>NLL), Sheepcote Lane Curve (SWML<>WLL).
~ on the 30th, in 1995: Chafford Hundred.
~ on the 30th, in 1999: West Brompton, West Ham High Level.
~ on the 31st, in 1994: Kensington Olympia<>Willesden Junction High Level.

Calendar of forthcoming diary dates

until mid-May London Underground's Northern line closure between Moorgate and Kennington continues.

Saturday 30 April – Monday 2 May, Saturdays / Sundays 7/8, 14/15, 21/22 May Services suspended / amended on West Anglia Main Line around Bishops Stortford for major track-works.

Saturday 30 April – Monday 2 May, Sunday 8 May, Saturdays / Sundays 21/22 and 28/29 May – services in Tonbridge and Sevenoaks areas suspended / amended for major track-works.

Sunday 1 – Wednesday 4 May Services suspended between Barnes and Richmond for re-signalling work.

Wednesday 4 May "How and why railway safety has improved since the Clapham Junction Rail Crash." Free evening [webinar](#).

Thursday 5 May Sussex & Coastway Division evening [online](#) meeting. [Invite non-members!](#)

Wednesday 11 May Eastern Division evening [online](#) meeting. [Invite non-members!](#)

Saturday / Sunday 14/15 May Railfuture L&SE stall in the Guildhall at Faversham Festival of Transport. [Invite non-members!](#)

Saturday 14 May Herts & Beds Division morning meeting. [Invite non-members!](#)

Saturday 14 May Kent Division afternoon meeting. [Invite non-members!](#)

Monday 23 – Sunday 29 May Community Rail Week.

Thursday 26 May - ORR publishes Passenger rail performance Q4 2021/22 (January-March 2022).

Saturday 28 May – Sunday 5 June Schools' half-term holiday.



Monday 20 June start of 12-week public consultation by Transport for the South East on their draft Strategic Investment Plan.

Sunday 5 June Railfuture L&SE "Bridge the gap" campaign stall at Uckfield & District Lions Club's Jubilee Picnic. On Luxford Field, via Civic Approach or Library Way off High Street, Uckfield, East Sussex, TN22 1AL.

Saturday 9 July Railfuture L&SE "Bridge the gap" campaign stall at Uckfield Festival's Big Day. On Luxford Field, via Civic Approach or Library Way off High Street, Uckfield, East Sussex, TN22 1AL.

Saturday 16 July National AGM, with presentations for Railfuture RUG Awards and Railfuture Campaigner of the Year. Venue: close to Bristol Parkway station.

Thursday 21 July joint L&SE, Wessex, and Thames Valley branches' [online](#) meeting with speaker invited from TfSE on the draft Strategic Investment Plan.

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

railfuture

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

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