

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 branch Chairman



As this bulletin was closing for press came the news that our former branch Chairman Keith Dyall had just passed away. May you Rest In Peace, good man.

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

~ Watford Stadium Halt opened on the 4th in 1982, on match days only (to be served again by a new station on a revived Croxley link, at Watford Vicarage Road!)

~ London Overground services extended on the 9th in 2012 from Surrey Quays via a new link at Silwood Junction to Queens Road Peckham, Peckham Rye, Denmark Hill, Clapham High Street, and Wandsworth Road to Battersea Park / Clapham Junction, at last completing London's new 'outer circle' railway.

~ London St. Pancras International's Thameslink platforms opened on the 9th in 2007.

~ London Marylebone services extended between Oxford Parkway and Oxford on the 11th in 2016.

~ Aylesbury Vale Parkway station, and the extended line from Aylesbury, opened on the 14th in 2008 (one day to be served by trains between the re-branded East West Main Line and Watford Junction?)

~ Eurotunnel Le Shuttle services for cars started on the 22nd in 1994.

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?

- ~ participating in a GTR 'catch-up' for stakeholders.
- ~ holding regular meetings of our Sussex & Coastway (seasonal social) and Herts & Beds Divisions.
- ~ enjoying the last West Ealing-West Ruislip service!
- ~ participating in a TfSE **online** Transport Forum.
- ~ holding a regional Branch committee seasonal social.
- ~ pressing the case for the fleet of new Southeastern trains, to replace the >30-year-old Networkers, to make this a thing of the past (at most stations served):



What has @RailfutureLSE been doing?

Since the early-November edition of **inter-railse** no.53, Railfuture's London and South East regional branch members have, amongst their various other activities:

- ~ contributed in the Southeast CRP's **online** Stakeholder Advisory Board.
- ~ contributed in the Southeast CRP's Steering Groups for the Uckfield / East Grinstead and Reigate / Redhill-Tonbridge lines.
- ~ contributed in an **online** meeting of the Transport Forum of Transport for the South East, reviewing the proposed final draft of the Strategic Investment Plan.
- ~ participated in an alternate-monthly **online** meeting of the Brighton Transport Partnership.
- ~ participated in the national Transport Planning Day.
- ~ participated in the annual conference of sub-national transport body England's Economic Heartland.
- ~ contributed in MarshLink Action Group's AGM, where GTR confirmed hourly services for Three Oaks and Winchelsea from next May's timetable change!

~ contributed in the Southeast CRP's MarshLink AGM.

~ run a shared stall in Ashford International station



as part of the Ashford 180 anniversary events, with



~ attended a meeting of the All-Party Parliamentary Rail Group, addressed by the latest new Rail Minister Huw Merriman – MP for Bexhill & Battle.

~ observing **online** the Planning Inspectorate's hearing in Lewes into the District Council's refusal of an application for outline planning permission for up to 68 homes on the same key gap site between Ringmer and Broyle Side as was recently refused outline planning permission for up to 100 homes.

~ visiting the initial public exhibition for the proposed upgrade of Liverpool Street station.



~ contributed to staffing Railfuture's national stall in the National Exhibition Centre, Birmingham.

~ held a regional Branch committee meeting **online**.

~ held regular meetings of our Sussex & Coastway Eastern and Herts & Beds Divisions.

~ noted ORR's publication of estimates of station usage for April 2021-March 2022.

Also in November regional branch committee members:

~ responded to Medway Council's consultation on the draft Development Framework for "Future Hoo."

~ responded to the initial public engagement about redevelopment of London Liverpool Street station.

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.*

Calendar of forthcoming diary dates

Thursday 1 December Sussex & Coastway Division seasonal evening social, Lewes. Invite non-members!

Thursday 1 December "Creating successful stations to meet the needs of the future." Free **hybrid** evening lecture.

Saturday 3 December Thames Valley branch stall at the annual Oxford Green Fair, Oxford Town Hall.

Saturday 3 December East Anglia branch afternoon open meeting, Cambridge.

Wednesday 7 December "An update from Southeastern Railway." Free evening **webinar**.

Tuesday 13 December Herts & Beds Division evening **online** meeting. Invite non-members!

Wednesday 14 December "Trams the lifeblood of cities." Free evening **hybrid** lecture.

Saturday 28 / Sunday 29 January Railfuture L&SE regional branch stall at the Longfield Academy during Erith Model Railway Society's exhibition.

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.

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

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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