

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 'new timetable' edition

The May timetable change often marks station and line openings/re-openings in '[Britain's Growing Railway](#)' and round-numbered anniversaries (25<sup>th</sup>, 40<sup>th</sup> etc). They are not just an obvious cause for celebration anyway but all the more so where Railfuture can with varying degrees of plausible justification lay claim to at least some of the credit for 'making a difference'.

This month let's hear it for the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the reinstatement of passenger services along the eastern end of the North London Line between Camden Road and Stratford, the 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Bedford St. Johns station, and the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversaries of West Brompton (West London line) and West Ham (high level) stations. Let it not be forgotten either that Mitre Bridge Curve (West London line-North London line south of Willesden Junction high level) and Sheepcote Lane Curve (West London line-South West main line east of Clapham Junction) are also marking 25<sup>th</sup> anniversaries!

## What are we doing out there?

Since the previous, early-April, edition Railfuture has:-

~ held an initial forum, in Worthing, on the theme of "*How to improve West Coastway rail services*". Presentations from the South Coast Alliance for Transport & the Environment (SCATE), West Sussex County Council and Network Rail can all be viewed in our [Sussex & Coastway Division](#) page. Our mid-July Division meeting in Haywards Heath will follow up.

~ published a '[News and views](#)' article about the [alternatives to electrification](#) which is relevant to our generally-electrified regional branch area for the Uckfield branch, MarshLink, and North Downs line.

~ issued six [national tweets](#) including

- deploring the Crossrail blame game
- the alternatives to electrification

~ published [Rail User Express](#) for April. Get it direct to your Inbox as soon as it's published, either as a link or a pdf, just by emailing [ruglink@railfuture.org.uk](mailto:ruglink@railfuture.org.uk)

~ taken up the invitation to have a stall at a City Council election hustings in Brighton, about our [Uckfield-Lewes](#) and [Thameslink 2](#) campaigns.

~ held our annual meeting, with two presentations on "*Developments in surface access by rail for London's six airports*", followed by our regional branch's AGM.

**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.*

Before the early-June edition of *inter-railse* we shall:-  
~ be at the [new Meridian Water station](#) on the West Anglia main line to mark its inaugural weekday peak period Greater Anglia services on Monday 20 May.



The third Lea Valley line track to the new station is the second, after the [reopening of Lea Bridge station](#) in 2016, of three Railfuture campaign targets first set in 2012 in our Fighting Fund-supported [adviser's report](#).

## Calendar of current consultations

DfT's [Extending Pay-As-You-Go \(PAYG\) on rail](#) – published 7 February, closes Wednesday 1 May.

DfT's 'call for evidence' on [Light rail and other rapid transit solutions in cities and towns](#) – also published 7 February, closes Sunday 19 May.

DfT's [Rail Review](#) – published 6 December; see our [article](#) by Policy Director Ian Brown CBE, including our [briefing](#) and [response](#) to the 'initial listening phase'. The 'call for evidence' is open until Friday 31 May.

HM Treasury/Infrastructure & Projects Authority's [Infrastructure Finance Review](#) – "how best to support private investment in infrastructure" – published 13 March, closes Wednesday 5 June.

We're **asking our audience**, that's you, our members! What do you wish us to add? **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.

That's part of our campaigning, folks, not necessarily as some know it however. It's Railfuture's chosen way, extending our influence with informed, insightful and independent analysis and comment. As was noted at the branch AGM, when we know it's really working is when our 'campaigning' becomes 'negotiating' and we can with justification declare that without Railfuture's engagement things would either not have happened at all or turned out less advantageously for rail users.

**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

Full details behind these dates can always be found in our national website's [Events](#) and [Rail dates](#) pages.

**Wednesday 1 May** *"Consensus and leadership: can the tensions be resolved?"*

Free evening lecture in London.

**Wednesday 1 May** *"Cutting the Loop to a New Extension. Northern line - the future signalling solution."*

Free evening talk in Teddington.

**Wednesday 1 May** *"Will a nation of electric vehicles cause the power grid to crash?" OR "Offloading demand on fuel to electricity, too heavy to bear?"*

Free evening panel debate in Guildford.

**Wednesday 1 May** *"Role of the Railway Inspectorate."*

Free evening talk in Reading.

**Thursday 2 May** Sussex & Coastway Division, Lewes.

**Thursday 2 May** *"High Speed 2."*

Free evening talk in London.

**Thursday 2 May** *"Planning to run effective meetings."*

Free evening workshop in Reading.

**Thursday 2 May** *"Powering the South."*

Free evening talk in Horley.

**Tuesday 7 May** *"The Wessex Route Strategy."*

Free evening talk in London.

**Wednesday 8 May** Eastern Division, Stratford.

**Wednesday 8 May** *"Luton Direct Air Rail Transit (DART)."* Free evening lecture in Luton.

**Thursday 9 May** *"Mind the gap: delivering inclusive outcomes through transport systems and infrastructure."* Lunchtime webinar.

**Thursday 9 May** *"Clapham Junction Remodelling."*

Free evening talk in Croydon.

**Friday 10 May** *"The art of being assertive."*

Morning webinar.

**Friday 10 May** Copy date for your campaign news, letters, articles, photos to appear in July's *railwatch* no.160. Send them direct to [editor@railwatch.org.uk](mailto:editor@railwatch.org.uk)

**Saturday 11 May** Herts & Beds Division, St. Albans.

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

**Monday 13 May** *"Brighton line upgrade: unblocking the Croydon bottleneck."* Free evening talk in Croydon.

**Tuesday 14 May** Old Oak Common Crossrail depot.

Free morning technical visit.

**Tuesday 14 May** *"Franchising."*

Free evening talk in West Drayton.

**Tuesday 14 May** *"The regeneration of Abbey Wood."*

Free evening talk in Bexleyheath.

**Tuesday 14 May** *"A history of the Post Office Underground Railway."* Free evening talk in Hitchin.

**Tuesday 14 May** Chesham & District TUG.

**Wednesday 15 May** *"Community Rail in the city"* day.

**Thursday 16 May** Edenbridge & District Rail

Travellers' Association AGM, Edenbridge WI Hall.

**Saturday 18 May** Railfuture national AGM, Cardiff.

**Thursday 23 May** *"Recruiting for diversity."*

Free evening talk in London.

**Friday 24 May** *"Effective negotiation."*

Lunchtime webinar.

**Saturday 25 May** Kent Division, Bat and Ball station.

**Friday 31 May** Campaign for Better Transport,

London group. Non-members welcome, Farringdon.

**Monday 3 June** *"Fundamentals of Project*

*Management."* Morning webinar.

**Wednesday 5 June** *"An overview of Kent County*

*Council's involvement in public transport provision and promotion."* Free evening talk in Ashford.

**Thursday 6 June** Sussex & Coastway Division.

**Monday 10 June** Bexhill Rail Action Group.

**Monday 10 June** *"HS2 overview/Old Oak Common update."* Free evening talk in London.

**Saturday 15 June** East Anglia branch open meeting, Ipswich.

**Saturday 15 June** Thames Valley branch stall at Didcot-Oxford GWR 175<sup>th</sup> anniversary, Oxford.

**Monday 17 June** *"Airport railways."*

Evening talk in Sheffield.

**Tuesday 18 June** Chesham & District TUG.

**Wednesday 19 June** *"Signalling change! Modernising*

*the London Underground."* Free evening talk, Guildford.

**Saturday 22 June** Railfuture annual national summer

conference, Darlington.

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

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