

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

Safety first - keep your distance!



[COVID-19 briefing to Railfuture members](#)

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

As we all continue to limit our travel, more events go virtual. They are shown as **online** in our [events page](#) and include meetings of now four of our local Divisions. You too can join in, with no more than your landline!

Happy railway birthdays in July

1973 – Stevenage. The place: designated as the UK's first New Town in 1946 under the New Towns Act, population now c.90,000. The station, Mk1: an original had opened in 1850, 1.5km north of its successor.



Out with the old – Mk1, just weeks before closure

The station, Mk2: ranked 106th-busiest British station in 2018/19, with 4.8 million estimated entries and exits. It had been hoped that the new platform 5 would be in passenger use by now, since May's timetable. Will the station's birthday on the 23rd be opening day?

1983 – King's Cross Midland City, re-opened after closure in 1979 it was originally opened in 1863 as King's Cross Metropolitan, then re-named King's Cross Thameslink in 1988 and closed on 9 December 2007.

2011 – Southend Airport. Estimated entries and exits of 611k in 2018/19.

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 have we still been doing?

Since the early-June edition no.24 of *inter-railse* Railfuture in London and the South East has:-

~ held virtual meetings of two Divisions; another will do so in July. Members unfamiliar and / or uncomfortable with installation or use of the technology can participate with no more than a landline telephone. Please give it a try and join us! It's been good to see people we haven't seen at meetings!



2017: Reopen Camberwell Station SE5
SE5 Forum for Camberwell is campaigning to reopen Camberwell Station

~ offered our initial advice to a south London group campaigning for better local access to the rail network.

~ taken part in virtual meetings of some line Steering Groups of Sussex Community Rail Partnership.

~ held two fortnightly virtual meetings of your branch committee. Topics have included developing a draft 'prospectus' for the post-GTR era (given an added twist with recent reports of DfT / TfL discussions on Great Northern 'Metro' becoming part of London Overground), and ticketing and the future of season tickets post-pandemic.

~ noted that on 24 June the DfT published the results of the public consultation on [closing Newhaven Marine station](#). From six days before, for less than 2 minutes: <https://twitter.com/i/status/1273618521080152071>

~ participated in the virtual quarterly meeting of the Transport Forum of Transport for the South East, addressing two 'Cs' – Covid and carbon. TfSE's Transport Strategy is due for adoption on 16th July, and our Sussex & Coastway Division on Thursday 23rd July will receive an update presentation. See [S&C Division](#).

~ been unable to attend a parish council meeting in East Sussex due to the pandemic lockdown. They had invited us to visit and explain our view of prospects for [a new rail link between Uckfield and Lewes](#).

What shall we be doing (remotely)?

1 June 2020 “Unblocking the Croydon bottleneck” – Network Rail are now into the second round of public consultation on [Croydon Area Remodelling Scheme](#), until Sunday 20 September. No public events likely until September so a telephone hotline available until mid-July, after the live June weekday chat sessions.



New frontage to East Croydon station, 100m N of existing.

Your comments to roger.blake@railfuture.org.uk who will be taking the lead on Railfuture’s response.

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

For any regular updates on “Decarbonising Transport”, the DfT’s [Transport Decarbonisation Plan](#) due to be published ‘later in 2020’, email TDP@dft.gov.uk

Monday 1 June Start of Network Rail’s second round of consultation on Croydon Area Remodelling Scheme, until 20 September.

Thursday 2 July “What is the judicious mix? (to decarbonise rail traction)” Evening **online** lecture.

Saturday 4-Sunday 5 July East Grinstead / Uckfield services suspended for Oxted viaduct / Eridge footbridge works.

Sunday 5 July Services suspended between Broxbourne and Hertford East for various works.

Monday 6 July Further step-up of rail service levels.

Tuesday 7 July “An introduction to railfreight.” Lunchtime **webinar**.

Tuesday 7 July “Tram-Trains.” Evening **webinar**.

Tuesday 7 July “Human factors in rail.” Evening **webinar**.

Wednesday 8 July Eastern Division **online** meeting.

Thursday 9 July “Electrification in transportation.” Evening **webinar**.

Saturdays 11, 18, 25 / Sundays 12, 19, 26 July Services suspended through Clapton for trackworks.

Saturday 11 July NO Railfuture ‘Bridge the gap’ stall at annual Uckfield Festival ‘Big Day’. Event cancelled.

Sunday 12 July East Grinstead / Uckfield services suspended for Oxted viaduct / Eridge footbridge works.

Monday 13 July Bexhill Rail Action Group **online** meeting.

Tuesday 14 July “Disrupting disruption – improving customer experience when things go wrong.” Evening **webinar**.

Wednesday 15 July “Harnessing social media.” **Webinar**.

Thursday 16 July “The Oxbridge line: East-West Rail and the Cambridge – Milton Keynes – Oxford arc.” Evening **webinar**.

Wednesday 22 July “Managing change.” Morning **webinar**.

Thursday 23 July Sussex & Coastway Division **online** meeting. Guest speaker: Transport for the South East.

Saturday 25 July Herts & Beds Division **online** meeting.

Saturday 25 July-2 August Services suspended in Hither Green area for signalling upgrades.

Sunday 26 July Services suspended between Broxbourne and Hertford East for various works.

July Office of Rail and Road due to publish annual Train Operating Company Key Statistics.

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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