

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

Lucky Lewes!

En route to a meeting of Lewes Town Council's Planning Committee, Railfuture's national Chair Chris Page and fellow Director and Vice-Chair of London & South East regional branch Roger Blake presented representatives of [Lewes Rail Users Group](#) with the certificate of commendation given in Railfuture's revived [Rail User Group Awards](#) (last run in 2018).



Dr. Janet Baah and Vic lent of Lewes RUG receiving their certificate, in the Best New Group category, from Chris Page, with RUG Awards organiser Roger Blake.



The Awards had been announced in Bristol on Saturday 16 July, following the national AGM there.

Later, Lewes Town Council's Planning Committee received our most up-to-date [presentation](#) giving our assessment of prospects for a Lewes-Uckfield rail link.



A vigorous discussion of our distinctive growth-based approach followed, and the formal record of the meeting is viewable in the Town Council website [here](#).

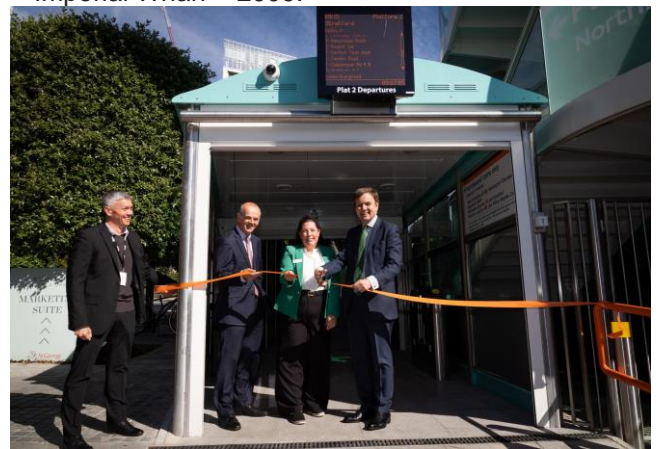
Our vision for rail: *A railway system that provides services which travellers and freight forwarders want to use, and which offers more journey opportunities to more people and more freight.*

Coronavirus insight

Confidence about feeling safe when using trains in relation to Covid-19 has risen to record levels, going to 94% of rail users and to 78% among non-rail users who would feel safe if they had to make a train journey. Source: Transport Focus weekly [Tracking Research](#).

Britain's Growing Railway in London and the South East: happy September birthdays

- ~ London Fields, Welham Green – re-opening after a fire, and opening new, respectively – 1986.
- ~ Channel Tunnel Rail Link phase one to Waterloo International (via Fawkham Junction and Southfleet Junction) – 2003.
- ~ Shepherd's Bush – 2008.
- ~ Imperial Wharf – 2009.



Additional access to northbound platform 2 opened in June.

What shall we be doing this month?

- ~ contributing to an **online** meeting of Southeast CRP's MarshLink Steering Group.
- ~ participating in a Network Rail seminar on their North & East Kent Connectivity Study.
- ~ participating in an **online** meeting of the Transport Forum of Transport for the South East.
- ~ representing Railfuture at a reception held by the Centre for London ('London's independent think-tank').
- ~ holding a regional Branch committee meeting **online**.
- ~ holding regular meetings of our Sussex & Coastway, Herts & Beds and Eastern Divisions.
- ~ contributing to an alternate-monthly meeting of the Uckfield Railway Line Parishes Committee.
- ~ participating in an alternate-monthly **online** meeting of the Brighton Transport Partnership.
- ~ participating in the Summit to be held in Ipswich by sub-national transport body Transport East.
- ~ participating in the annual Southeast CRP joint meeting of the Tonbridge-Redhill / Reigate and Oxted-Uckfield / East Grinstead Steering Groups.

Also in September, regional branch committee will be:

~ submitting comments to the Planning Inspectorate for the appeal against the refusal by Royal Borough of Kensington & Chelsea, against officers' advice, for redevelopment around South Kensington Underground station which would include some provision for step-free access for the sub-surface lines.

~ submitting comments to the Planning Inspectorate for the appeal against the refusal by Lewes District Council 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 97 homes.

What has @RailfutureLSE been doing?

Since the early-August edition of *inter-railse* no.50, Railfuture's London and South East regional branch members have, amongst various other activities:

~ learned as a result of a private visit to Chester Cathedral to see Pete Waterman's 'Making Tracks 2' that railway engineering contractor Thomas Brassey, the unsung hero of 19th-Century railway-building, has L&SE connections! Born near Chester with a bust in the cathedral and a plaque at Chester station which he built, he also had a hand in building Welwyn Viaduct.



In addition, he built the branch line to Ongar. He died in 1870 in the Victoria Hotel, St. Leonards and is buried at St. Laurence's Church in the village of Catsfield which is three miles south-west of Battle. There is now a revived [Brassey Society](#).

~ held regular [online](#) meetings of our Herts & Beds and Kent Divisions.

~ visited the Ashford International Model Railway Education Centre who are leading preparations for the [station's 180th anniversary](#) celebrations in November; as a result, Railfuture will have a working display in the foyer of Ashford International station that weekend!

Also during August, regional branch committee has:

~ responded to another application for outline planning permission in Ringmer, Lewes, for 75 new homes on the same site recently refused for 200.

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.*

Calendar of forthcoming diary dates

Thursday 8 September Sussex & Coastway Division evening meeting. [Invite non-members!](#)

Saturday 10 September Herts & Beds Division morning meeting. [Invite non-members!](#)

Monday 12 September Close of Transport for the South East's consultation on their draft Strategic Investment Plan.

Wednesday 14 September Eastern Division evening meeting [online](#). [Invite non-members!](#)

Thursday 15 September ORR publishes Passenger Rail Performance data for April-June 2022.

Thursday 22 September Salisbury-Exeter RUG AGM, Yeovil. Guest speakers Mark Killick (Wessex Route Director, Network Rail) and Claire Mann (Managing Director, South Western Railway). [Invite non-members!](#)

Thursday 22 September ORR publishes Freight Rail Usage and Performance data for April-June 2022.

Saturday 24 September Railfuture East Anglia branch afternoon open meeting, Norwich. Presentation on East Anglia Rail Strategy. [Invite non-members!](#)

Thursday 29 September ORR publishes annual Rail Safety statistics for 2021/22.

Saturday/Sunday 19/20 November Railfuture L&SE regional branch stall for "Ashford 180" celebrations.

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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