

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

Remember, remember, 30th October

Meant fixing (not blowing up!) the foundations, Treasury and a plot – the Plan for Change (December 2024). The Autumn Budget 2024 had followed the Chancellor of the Exchequer's July statement on her government's public spending inheritance. A year on, the Spending Review will end on 11 June 2025 and set resource (day-to-day) departmental budgets until 2028/29 and capital departmental budgets until 2029/30. For rail?



The Chancellor of the Exchequer's [Spring Statement](#) on Wednesday 26 March spoke about "revitalising the [Oxford Cambridge Growth Corridor](#)" and on 25 March the Rail Minister had confirmed Chiltern Railways as the operator of [East West Rail services](#).

There might well be some discussion as to whether or not the new Oxford-Bletchley-Milton Keynes services really will be "the first East West Rail services" – is Chiltern Railways' [Evergreen 3](#) already forgotten? Bicester-Oxford Parkway (originally proposed as 'Water Eaton Parkway') opened in October 2015 then Bicester-Oxford in December 2016. They might lay legitimate claim to honours for first and second spots.

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

~ in 2010, on the 27th, Dalston Junction, Haggerston, Hoxton, and Shoreditch High Street stations.

~ in 2010, on 27th, Dalston Junction-Whitechapel link into East London line, for preview London Overground services through to New Cross / New Cross Gate.



27-04-2010 – first train 378 154 / first passenger train 378 152

Through services via New Cross Gate Down Junction to Crystal Palace and West Croydon began on 23 May.

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?

London and South East regional branch members, and / or committee members, will be:-

~ holding our regional branch's annual open meeting, with guest speakers, and members-only AGM.



~ holding a regular meeting of our Herts & Beds Division, [online](#).

~ participating in SCRP's North Downs Line Steering Group, meeting in Shalford.

~ participating in GTR's [online](#) forum for Community Partnerships.

~ participating in Greater Anglia's in-person forum for Rail User Groups.

~ holding a regular monthly meeting of the L&SE regional branch committee, [online](#).

What has @RailfutureLSE been doing?

Since the early-March edition of **inter-railse** no.81, Railfuture's London and South East regional branch members, and / or committee members, have:

~ attended DfT roadshows in London, after the earlier Call for Ideas, to support the development of an Integrated National Transport Strategy for England (which, note, we took to mean an Integrated National Strategy for Transport in England, not a National Strategy for Integrated Transport in England!) The five workshop themes were: economy and growth; housing, development and place; sustainability and climate; user experience (including accessibility and inclusion); and health and well-being.

~ run the regional branch's campaigns stall at the annual London Festival of Railway Modelling in Alexandra Palace.

~ participated in Southeast CRP's Oxted / Uckfield / East Grinstead, Tonbridge / Redhill / Reigate, and MarshLink lines' Steering Groups.

~ held regular meetings of our Sussex & Coastway and Eastern Divisions [online](#), and of our London Metro and Herts & Beds Divisions in-person.

~ held a regular monthly meeting of the L&SE regional branch committee, [online](#).

~ submitted the composite, tri-branch Railfuture response to Transport for the South East's survey 'Your voices' about its refreshed Transport Strategy.



~ submitted Railfuture London & SE regional branch's response to Medway Council's consultation on the [Hoo Peninsula: Community Infrastructure Framework](#).

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

Wednesday 9 April Herts & Beds Division evening meeting, [online](#). [Invite non-members!](#)



Saturday 12 April Annual open meeting with morning speakers on [Essex-Kent Superlinks](#) and [KenExTram](#), followed after lunch by our members-only [L&SE AGM](#).

Friday 18 – Monday 21 April Easter weekend.

Thursday 1 May Sussex & Coastway Division evening meeting, in-person at Haywards Heath Methodist Church, Perrymount Road, Haywards Heath, West Sussex, RH16 3DN. Network Rail speaker invited. [Invite non-members!](#)

railwatch

Thursday 1 May Copy date for articles and letters for July issue no.184 of our house magazine Railwatch.

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

Website: [Welcome to Railfuture](#) Twitter: [@RailfutureLSE](#)

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

Thursday 15 May Joint East Anglia / East Midlands / Lincolnshire regional branches afternoon conference, Peterborough.

Thursday 15 May London Metro Division evening meeting, in-person. [Invite non-members!](#)

Saturday 17 May Herts & Beds Division morning meeting, in-person in St. Albans. [Invite non-members!](#)



Saturday – Sunday 17-18 May Kent Division campaigns stall at Faversham Festival of Transport.

Full details in our [Events](#) and [Rail dates](#) web pages.

Railfuture is 'in the news' / 'making the news' / sharing 'news and views'

~ Stay abreast of Railfuture members making, not just watching, things happen in our website [media extracts](#).

~ Stay abreast of Railfuture making, not just reporting, the news through our [press releases](#).

~ Stay abreast of Railfuture's and others' reports and thoughts published in our [website articles](#).

~ Railfuture is active on [Twitter](#) / [Facebook](#) / [LinkedIn](#).

Railfuture publications by email

~ All members – individual, joint, affiliated organisation eg rail user group or similar, or a business – are being encouraged to receive [Railwatch](#) direct to their Inbox immediately on publication by logging-in at [Member services](#); it's accompanied by branch newsletter [railse](#).

~ All members can receive Railfuture's regular monthly newsletter [Rail User Express](#) and occasional [Rail Action](#) bulletin direct to their Inbox upon publication.