

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 aboard! #ReturnToRail



What a difference just one more month - including some vigorous Railfuture campaigning - has made!

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

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



As we've all continued to limit our travel, more events have gone virtual. Shown as **online** in our [events page](#) including meetings of four of our local Divisions. You too can join in, with no more than your landline!



[ABFLY](#) held a very successful **webinar** in July, with presentations from four rail industry guest speakers. See them all here: <https://youtu.be/KQxhMY1aDis>

NO railway birthdays for L&SE in August!

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-July edition no.25 of *inter-railse* Railfuture in London and the South East has:-

~ held virtual meetings of three Divisions. Members unfamiliar and / or uncomfortable with the technology can participate with no more than a landline telephone.

~ taken part in virtual meetings of some line Steering Groups, and the Stakeholder Advisory Board, of Sussex Community Rail Partnership - soon to rename!

~ participated in a virtual quarterly liaison meeting between the Hastings & Rother Rail Users Alliance of six rail groups and Southern operator GTR.

~ participated online in the first Network Rail workshop for development of their North and East Kent Connectivity CMSP Study [*West Sussex Connectivity – Modular Strategic Study*] has just been published].

~ participated in a virtual meeting of the alternate-monthly Brighton Transport Partnership.

~ taken part in a virtual meeting of Railwatch's editorial sub-group, preparing for September publication and to include our branch Local Action column; send items to londonandsoutheast@railfuture.org.uk by mid-August.

~ held two fortnightly virtual meetings of your branch committee. Topics included #ReturnToRail, ticketing and fares, and the TfNH report "[Garden Villages and Garden Towns: Visions & Reality](#)".

~ noted the works undertaken by Network Rail to the [Oxted viaduct](#) [including video] and [Eridge footbridge](#).

~ noted the accessibility works at Crawley, announced in September 2017, shown at drop-ins as [works began in January](#), and now due for [completion this autumn](#).

~ participated in the virtual launch by shadow sub-national transport body England's Economic Heartland of their [draft Transport Strategy for consultation](#).

~ observed a virtual meeting of the All-Party Parliamentary Rail Group which received for Members' discussion a presentation on "[Cross-City Connect](#)", a proposal to link HS1 and HS2 first launched in 2015.

~ been unable to attend an alternate-monthly meeting of the now 35-year-old Uckfield Railway Line Parishes Committee due to the pandemic lockdown, and also been unable to have our annual 'Bridge the gap' Uckfield-Lewes campaign stall in Uckfield at the annual Festival's 'Big Day' as the pandemic caused the event to be cancelled – for the first time in its 21 years.

What shall we be doing (remotely)?

We have been invited to join an online meeting of a Parish Council in Lewes District to update them on prospects for reinstating an [Uckfield-Lewes rail link](#).

“Unblocking the Croydon bottleneck” – Network Rail are well into the second round of public consultation on [Croydon Area Remodelling Scheme](#), to 20 September.

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@df.gov.uk

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

Tuesday 14 July Start of consultation on draft Transport Strategy for shadow sub-national transport body England’s Economic Heartland, until 6 October.

until Sunday 2 August Southeastern services suspended around Hither Green for signalling upgrade.

Saturday 1/Sunday 2, 16, 30 August Greater Anglia / London Overground West Anglia services suspended / amended for track renewal works.

Sunday 2, 9 August Hertford East branch services suspended for track, level crossing, drainage works.

Monday 3 August *“Silk Road Special – China to Europe.”* Evening [webinar](#).

Tuesday 4 August *“How we keep people moving safely: COVID pandemic, where we go from here.”* Lunchtime [webinar](#).

Tuesday 4 August *“Human factors in signalling operations.”* Evening [webinar](#).

Tuesday 4 August *“The decarbonisation challenge for rail freight: addicted to diesel?”* Evening [webinar](#).

Thursday 6 August *“Is it possible to predict the future? The strategic planning of the rail network.”* Evening [webinar](#).

Friday 7 August *“Managing change.”* Afternoon [webinar](#).

Sunday 9 August No Stratford-Lea Bridge services.

Monday 10 August Bexhill Rail Action Group [online](#) evening meeting.

Wednesday 12 August *“Recovery and renewal.”* Community Rail Network [webinar](#).

Wednesday 12 August *“How can Britain’s hydrogen economy develop over the next 30 years?”* Lunchtime [webinar](#).

Saturday 15 August Kent Division [online](#) afternoon meeting.

Monday 17 August *“Dealing with conflict.”* Morning [webinar](#).

Monday 17 August *“Platform-train interface.”* Evening [webinar](#).

Thursday 20 August *“Transport development planned and needed in London and the South East.”* Morning [webinar](#).

Thursday 20 August *“Future mobility, an ever-changing landscape.”* Evening [webinar](#).

Saturday 22/Sunday 23 August, Saturday 29 / Sunday 30 August Gospel Oak-Barking line services suspended during track renewals and works elsewhere to strengthen bridges.

Monday 24 August *“Decarbonising transport.”* Community Rail Network members’ [webinar](#).

Tuesday 25 August Herts & Beds Division [online](#) evening meeting.

Friday 28 August Copy deadline for your letters and articles for the October Railwatch no.165.

Thursday 3 September Sussex & Coastway Division [online](#) evening meeting.

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’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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