

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

Attracting passengers? Wait for it!

Railfuture campaigning remains akin to train operators remaining under government instruction, to defer all promotional activities until June. However, individual train operators are beginning to refine their messaging:



We look forward to the next two, we hope final, steps, yet to be confirmed, but set provisionally for Mondays: 17 May – rail timetables change as lockdown eased 21 June – all legal limits on social contact removed.

Most rail users (89%) feel confident travelling in safety. Most rail non-users (53%) now do, the best % in 2021! Source: Transport Focus [weekly Tracking Research](#).

“Transport User Voice” – the national watchdog’s monthly newsletter. Click [here](#) to subscribe.

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

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

Britain’s Growing Railway in London & the South East: **many** happy birthdays in May!

~ on the 12th, in 1980: Hackney Central, Hackney Wick; Kensington Olympia<>Willesden, Byfleet Curve.

~ on the 13th, in 1980: Moulsecoomb.

~ on the 13th, in 1985: Homerton.

~ on the 14th, in 1979: West Ham Low Level; Dalston<>Stratford (Camden Road<>North Woolwich).

~ on the 14th, in 1984: Bedford St. Johns.

~ on the 15th, in 2016: Lea Bridge.

~ on the 16th, in 1988: Farringdon<>Blackfriars.

~ on the 17th, in 1982: Watton-at-Stone.

~ on the 17th, in 1983: Dalston Kingsland (first opened 9 November 1850, closed 1 November 1865).

~ on the 23rd, in 2010: New Cross Gate Down Jcn (for full London Overground services on the East London Line and its northern extension from Dalston Junction, Haggerston, Hoxton, and Shoreditch High Street through to Crystal Palace and West Croydon).

~ on the 25th, in 1998: Heathrow Central, Heathrow T4.

~ on the 29th, in 1990: St. Paul’s, later City, Thameslink.

~ on the 29th, in 1994: Mitre Bridge Curve (WLL<>NLL), Shepcote Lane Curve (SWML<>WLL).

~ on the 30th, in 1995: Chafford Hundred.

~ on the 30th in 1999: West Brompton, West Ham High Level.

~ on the 31st, in 1994: Kensington Olympia<>Willesden Junction High Level.

In our founders’ 70th anniversary year, a proud record.

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 has @RailfutureLSE been doing?

Since the early-April edition, no.34, of *inter-railse*, Railfuture’s London and South East members have:

~ participated in GTR’s East Coast Upgrade and Summer timetable [online](#) forums.

~ participated in Southeast CRP’s North Downs Line [online](#) Steering Group

~ participated in Greater Anglia’s [online](#) annual forum for rail user groups.

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

~ held a regional Branch committee meeting [online](#).

~ contributed to an [online](#) meeting of all Railfuture branch Chairs.

~ contributed to an [online](#) meeting of members in neighbouring Wessex branch.

~ participated in the second [online](#) Forums for TfSE’s Inner Orbital and South Central Radial Area Studies.

~ held a well-attended members’ [online](#) meeting and AGM, with members from more distant parts of Britain.

~ participated in a Network Rail [online](#) briefing about the ongoing Access For All works at Eridge station.

What shall we be doing this month?

- ~ contributing in an **online** meeting of the Brighton Transport Partnership.
- ~ contributing in an **online** meeting of the Uckfield Railway Line Parishes Committee.
- ~ holding **online** meetings of our Sussex & Coastway, Eastern, and Kent Divisions.
- ~ holding a regional Branch committee meeting **online**.
- ~ participating in the **online** annual stakeholder Forums for Network Rail's Sussex and Wessex Routes.
- ~ observing the Pre-Inquiry Meeting ahead of July's Public Inquiry for Rother Valley Railway's proposed Bodiam to Robertsbridge Junction Order.
- ~ participating in the quarterly liaison meeting of the Railfuture award-winning Hastings and Rother Rail Users' Alliance with GTR Southern.



~ drafting responses on Tunbridge Wells Borough Council's pre-submission Local Plan (by 4 June) and for East West Rail Company's second non-statutory consultation (by 9 June). See [Current consultations](#).

Our usual **t's and c's apply**: please respond individually as private citizens **without** making any reference to Railfuture, and **contribute your ideas** for Railfuture's responses to roger.blake@railfuture.org.uk who will be co-ordinating the responses on behalf of Railfuture.

Here's one we prepared earlier

Our response to the consultation by Medway Council on "[Future Hoo – new routes to good growth](#)."

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, and which rail users are proud to join and recommend.*

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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Calendar of forthcoming diary dates

Tuesday 4 May "Lessons from the privatisation era and a look forward to the post-pandemic situation." **Online** evening webinar.

Wednesday 5 May "Shaping Zero: Decarbonising Rail." Free **online** lunchtime webinar.

Thursday 6 May "Bletchley Flyover." Free **online** lunchtime webinar.

Thursday 6 May Sussex & Coastway Division **online** evening meeting; speaker invited. **Invite non-members!**

Thursday 6 May "The Politics of Protest in Transport - how can transport planning benefit by hearing from campaigners." Free **online** evening webinar.

Monday 10 May "HydroFlex and the Decarbonisation of the Railway." Free **online** evening webinar.

Wednesday 12 May Eastern Division **online** evening meeting. **Invite non-members!**

Thursday 13 May "King's Cross Remodelling – Enabling and Partial closure stages 1-3." Free **online** evening webinar.

Saturday 15 May Kent / Surrey Divisions joint **online** afternoon meeting. "How a direct Ashford to Reading rail route can benefit Gatwick and avoid the need for a new Lower Thames Crossing." Guest speaker will be Alistair Lenczner of Expedition Engineering. **Invite non-members!**

Thursday 20 May ORR publishes Passenger Rail Performance for January-March 2021.

Thursday 20 May "The HydroFLEX Hydrogen-powered Train Project." Free **online** evening webinar.

Thursday 27 May ORR publishes Freight Rail Usage and Performance for January-March 2021.

Thursday 27 May "Innovative Station Footbridges – the AVA footbridge project." Free **online** evening webinar.

Saturday 10 July Railfuture's "Bridge the gap" stall at Uckfield Festival's Big Day, on Luxford Field, Uckfield.

Saturday 17 July National Annual General Meeting, including Board election results, Birmingham.

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