

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

Attract more passengers back to rail!

As autumn school half-term holiday approaches, some thoughts evolve: journeys to work, journeys to learn, journeys to shop, journeys away to see family and friends – and one of our long-distance operators has launched its own 60-second “Feel Good Travel” [video](#).



“Let’s get back on track”

A large majority of rail users (still 88%) feel confident about travelling in safety, despite trains being busier. Most rail non-users (now up to 63%) are confident that they would travel in safety if they had to go by train. 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](#).

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 September edition, no.39, of **inter-railse**, Railfuture’s London and South East members have:

~ finalised our responses to Lewes District Council’s consultation on ‘Issues and Options’ for its next Local Plan, and to Greater North Kent / AW2E Partnership’s second consultation on ‘Improving transport links between Abbey Wood and Ebbsfleet’.

~ responded for Railfuture to the Call for Evidence by the House of Lords Built Environment Committee for its Inquiry into ‘Meeting the UK’s housing demand’.

~ led on Railfuture’s response to the Call for Evidence by the House of Lords Built Environment Committee for its Inquiry into ‘the Williams-Shapps Plan for Rail – fare reform’ on the future of rail fares.

~ led on Railfuture’s response to Transport Focus / London TravelWatch on LNER’s proposed changes to their ticket office opening hours.

All Railfuture submissions can be found [here](#).

- ~ held regular [online](#) meetings of our Herts & Beds, Eastern and Sussex & Coastway Divisions.
- ~ participated in the official launch of capacity and other enhancement works at Denmark Hill station.
- ~ contributed to an alternate-monthly meeting of the Uckfield Railway Line Parishes Committee, in Buxted.
- ~ contributed to [online](#) SCRP Steering Groups for the Uckfield and East Grinstead lines, the Tonbridge-Redhill-Reigate line, and MarshLink.
- ~ participated in the official launch of a SCRP-backed project next to Farnborough North station.
- ~ observed the All-Party Parliamentary Rail Group on “A Vision for British railways” with MD for First Group’s new Lumo open access services, and MD for Arriva UK Trains which operates established Grand Central.
- ~ represented Railfuture in the quarterly [online](#) Transport Forum of Transport for the South East.
- ~ held two regional Branch committee meetings [online](#).

What shall we be doing this month?

- ~ holding regular [online](#) meetings of our Herts & Beds and Sussex & Coastway Divisions.
- ~ contributing to the [online](#) SCRP Steering Group for the North Downs Line.
- ~ participating at their request in London Assembly’s Transport Committee discussion on the future of rail and transport in London.
- ~ participating in the [online](#) Kent Rail Summit.
- ~ presenting to the Gravesend Railway Enthusiasts’ Society on Hoo Peninsula Railway developments.
- ~ contributing to the next round of Network Rail’s North & East Kent Connectivity Study.
- ~ holding a regional Branch committee meeting [online](#).
- ~ finalising our responses to West Sussex CC’s and Surrey CC’s draft Transport Plans, and MHCLG / DLUHC’s “Creating a vision for the Ox-Cam Arc”.

Our usual t’s and c’s apply: **contribute your ideas** for Railfuture’s ‘single voice’ responses to roger.blake@railfuture.org.uk who will be co-ordinating them, and respond individually as private citizens but please without making any reference to Railfuture.

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.

Britain's Growing Railway in London & the South East: October birthdays

- ~ Arlesey, in Central Bedfordshire, reopened on the 3rd in 1988 after a BBC (Before Beeching Closure) in 1959.
- ~ Kentish Town West reopened on the 5th in 1981 after a fire a decade earlier had necessitated its closure.
- ~ How Wood opened as a new station on the Abbey line on the 22nd in 1988 as the line was electrified.
- ~ new Chiltern services between London Marylebone and Oxford Parkway, via the new Bicester chord and reopened stations at Islip and Bicester Village, began on the 26th in 2015 – a first glimpse of East-West Rail!

Calendar of forthcoming diary dates

Saturday 2, Saturday 9 / Sunday 10, Saturday 16 / Sunday 17, Sunday 31 October Chelmsford-Colchester services suspended for track upgrades.
Saturday 2 / Sunday 3 October Northern City Line services suspended for East Coast Digital Programme.
Sunday 3 October Arun Valley line services via Horsham suspended to complete upgrade works.

Tuesday 5 October "Thomas Brassey - the world's greatest railway engineer?" Free lunchtime [webinar](#).

Wednesday 6 October "Focus on Glasgow COP26 - Delivering Carbon Net Zero – a subcontractor perspective." Free lunchtime [webinar](#).

Wednesday 6 October "Rail Week - Safety on the Rails: Measuring, Modelling and Managing the Platform Train Interface." Free evening [webinar](#).

Wednesday 6 October "Building back better?" Guest speaker: Norman Baker, former MP. Evening [webinar](#).

Thursday 7 October ORR's Passenger Rail Usage for Q1 (April-June) 2021-22 published.

Thursday 7 October "How do you decarbonise the transport sector?" Second of four weekly late-morning [webinars](#): "Short – medium term up to 2035."

Thursday 7 October Sussex & Coastway Division evening meeting, [online](#). [Invite non-members!](#)

Saturday 9 / Sunday 10 October Twickenham services suspended for track upgrades.

Tuesday 12 October "Engaging communities through story-telling and creative projects." Community Rail Network morning [webinar](#).

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

Railfuture Limited is a not-for-profit Company Limited by Guarantee. Registered in England & Wales no.05011634.
Registered Office: Edinburgh House, 1-5 Bellevue Road, Clevedon, North Somerset, BS21 7NP
(for legal correspondence only). All other correspondence to: 14 Ghent Field Circle, Thurston, Suffolk IP31 3UP