

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

What goes round

Welcome back to the world of transport! Former Deputy Mayor of London for Transport (May 2018 to December 2021) Heidi Alexander, now the MP for Swindon South, is our latest Transport Secretary.

Time will tell if her London experience has any bearing on possible franchise re-mapping, of for example the GTR Thameslink / Southern / Great Northern operation, as train operating company contracts are 'nationalised.'



At the opening of Meridian Water station in June 2019
- with a predecessor in her latest role

Usage of Meridian Water is not easy to judge as the [newly-opened station](#) had less than a year in service before the pandemic struck. In 2023-24 footfall was estimated at not far short of a healthy 500k, Stratford being the most popular destination on 34% of journeys. Tottenham Hale was next on 26% and Liverpool Street third on 8%; everywhere else was less than 2% each!



Now in the Department for Transport
- with her two Permanent Secretaries

The day after her appointment, DfT's social media said "we welcomed our new Secretary of State for Transport as she starts work to establish a transport system that drives economic growth, connects our communities and protects the environment." Note just three topics.

What shall we be doing this month?

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

- ~ participating in GTR's end-of-year reception for stakeholders.
- ~ attending a meeting of the All-Party Parliamentary Rail Group on the future for rail devolution.
- ~ participating in Southeast CRP's North Downs Line Steering Group.
- ~ participating in a **webinar** to launch TfSE's new Transport Strategy.
- ~ attending a test run of GWR's class 230 battery train.
- ~ holding regular meetings of our Sussex & Coastway and Herts & Beds Divisions **online**.
- ~ responding to Network Rail Property's consultation ["It's time" for Liverpool Street station](#).

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.

What has @RailfutureLSE been doing?

Since the early-November edition of **inter-railse** no.77, Railfuture's London and South East regional branch members, and / or committee members, have:

- ~ participated in this year's Transport Planning Day event: "The politics of reducing car use in the UK."
- ~ participated in the second in-person Transport Forum of Transport for the South East, Southampton.
- ~ participated in Southeastern's Stakeholder Forum.
- ~ participated in the AGM of Southeast CRP's MarshLink Steering Group.
- ~ attended a meeting of the All-Party Parliamentary Rail Group on GB-Europe passenger rail services.
- ~ participated in Network Rail Property's **webinar** for the latest Liverpool Street station proposals "It's time"
- ~ attended consultation drop-in events in Bedford for East West Rail's latest non-statutory consultation.
- ~ held regular meetings of our Herts & Beds and Eastern Divisions **online**, London Metro in-person.
- ~ held a regular monthly meeting of the L&SE regional branch committee, in-person for a change.

Calendar of forthcoming diary dates



Wednesday 4 December Close of [consultation by Network Rail Property](#) on Liverpool Street station.

Thursday 5 December Sussex & Coastway Division **online** evening meeting. [Invite non-members!](#)



Friday 6, Monday 9 (in Bedford), Wednesday 11, Friday 13 December Public drop-in events for latest non-statutory [consultation by East West Rail](#).

Saturday 7 December East Anglia regional branch open afternoon meeting, Cambridge. Guest speaker Phil Hutchinson, GTR's Head of Strategic Planning.



Tuesday 10 December Transport for the South East starts 12-week consultation on its Transport Strategy.

Monday 16 December Herts & Beds Division **online** evening meeting. [Invite non-members!](#)

From Saturday 21 December Schools' holiday: >95% of the rail network remains open for customers. Time to enjoy your local [heritage railways!](#)

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

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

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

~ 4th, in 1982 – Watford Stadium Halt opened, on match days only (a future Watford Vicarage Road!)

~ 9th, in 2007 – London St. Pancras International's Thameslink platforms A and B opened.

~ 9th, in 2012 – London Overground services extended from Surrey Quays via Silwood Junction to Queens Road Peckham, Peckham Rye, Denmark Hill, Clapham High Street, Wandsworth Road to Battersea Park / Clapham Junction, completing the 'outer circle.'

~ 10th, in 2023 – Brent Cross West opened.

~ 11th, in 2016 – London Marylebone services extended between Oxford Parkway and Oxford.

~ 13th, in 2015 – Rochester re-opens on new site.

~ 14th, in 2008 – Aylesbury Vale Parkway station, and the extended line from Aylesbury, opened (route for future East West Rail – Watford Junction services?)

~ 22nd, in 1994 – Eurotunnel Le Shuttle services for cars commenced.

***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.*

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.