

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](#).

Tuesday 12 October “Hertfordshire-Essex Rapid Transit.” Evening [webinar](#). See [HERT](#).

Tuesday 12 October “Why travel?” Evening [webinar](#).

Wednesday 13 October “COP26 – is the transport industry accelerating fast enough to address the climate emergency?” Late-afternoon [webinar](#).

Thursday 14 October “How do you decarbonise the transport sector?” Third of four weekly late-morning [webinars](#): “Medium – long term up to 2050.”

Thursday 14 October “Focus on Glasgow COP26 – net zero carbon project integrity.” Evening [webinar](#).

Saturday 16 / Sunday 17 October East Croydon-London Victoria services suspended for re-signalling.

Monday 18-Sunday 24 October “Go Green by Rail” – Community Rail Week nationwide event.

Monday 18 October “Barking Riverside Extension.” Free evening [webinar](#).

Tuesday 19 October “Grid Stability: Maintaining grid stability with changes in electricity generation and usage.” Free evening [webinar](#).

Tuesday 19 October “Gatwick's Northern Runway Project: an Economic Boost and Increased Resilience through Incremental Growth.” Evening [webinar](#).

Thursday 21 October “How do you decarbonise the transport sector?” Fourth of four weekly late-morning [webinars](#): “Infrastructure.”

Thursday 21 October “Focus on Glasgow COP26 – innovations in sustainable materials.” Free evening [webinar](#).

Friday 22 October Copy date for your campaign news / reports for the London & South East branch Local Action column in December's [railwatch](#) no.170, and for December's [railise](#) no.154. Send to londonandsoutheast@railfuture.org.uk

Saturday 23-Friday 29 October Tunbridge Wells-Hastings services suspended for embankment works.

Monday 25 October Copy date for your campaign news, letters, articles, photos to appear in December's [railwatch](#) no.170. Send to editor@railwatch.org.uk

Saturday 30 October Herts & Beds Division morning meeting, [online](#). [Invite non-members!](#)

Saturday 13 November Railfuture national [webinar](#).

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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