

English Regional Transport Association (ERTA)

~ A voluntary unincorporated membership based association seeking to restore strategic missing rail links and improve the environment as a result. ~

	<p>Principal Officer, Great Central and Campaigns Coordinator, Media and Bedford Area Rep.: Mr Richard Pill, 24c St Michael's Road, Bedford, MK40 2LT T. 01234 330090 E. erta.9rails@yahoo.co.uk</p>	
<p>Second Officer, Co-London Coordinator and Northampton – Olney- Bedford Corridor, Stations and Field Officer: Mr David Ferguson, 12 MacDougall Court, North Road, Kew, Surrey, TW9 4EH T. 020-8876-3340 E. daferguson1212@gmail.com</p>	<p>Third Officer, Membership, Recruitment, Administrator and Finance Liaison: Mr Simon Barber, 20 Fitzherbert House, Kingsmead, Richmond, Surrey, TW10 6HT T. 0208 940 4399 E. simon4barber@gmail.com</p>	
<p>West Herts. and Watford Area Rep: Mr Michael Hustwait, 52 Eastfield Avenue, Watford, WD24 4HJ T. 01923 350726</p>		
<p>East Herts. and Hertford Area Rep., Mr Tony Bush 26 Berwick Close, Waltham Cross, Herts. EN8 7PU T. 01992-701485</p>		
<p>Twitter: @ERTAVoluntary @ERTACampaigns @ReopenStations @ERTACobblerLine @ERTAG8Central @ERTAbscrail ERTA on Google Plus/ERTA Voluntary Organisation: https://plus.google.com/u/0/112439282775857662175/posts http://ertarailvolunteer.blogspot.co.uk Website: ertarail.com Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/ERTACobblerLine</p>		
<p>~ Making a contribution towards retention and improvement in better public transport. ~</p>		
<p>ERTA Newsletter No. 11</p>	<p>January-February 2017 Edition</p>	<p>£1.00 where sold</p>

From the Chair...

Annual Review of where we're going and how we need to get there.

The three, yea four main planks we're focusing on going forward for the time being with limited human and other resources are as follows:

- 1. East-West Rail:** Has to be followed, ushered at every step and the cheers and boos accordingly for successes and failures. Good that £110 million is secured from the Chancellor's Autumn Statement for the railway, bad that there's going to be an upgraded highway running parallel – taking land and delivering ever more volumes of traffic to junctions like A1, M1 and M40 as the north-south/east-west trunking systems meet and jam up.
- 2. Northampton-Bedford:** A vital missing link should be done alongside and included in East-West Rail not addendum to or afterthought – what planet are people on who think we can soldier on with town centres gutted and closing down and poorer people priced out and left behind by high tech and digital-on-line market driven delivery order-lines? Transport matters, as does lessening reliance on oil, but cutting demand through choice, not waiting until it becomes scarcer and prices rise and again people are cost-managed between ins and outs.
- 3. Great Central:** There is a role for such a reopening to play. Providing north-south core capacity for West Coast Main Line, reducing the Rugby bottleneck which is holding more freight by -



Caption Above: Mid 1990's and a Class 56 loco awaits to take the London Bin-Liner Train out at Bedford.

rail scope back and free up the M1 which is also at saturation point. It needs a determined team!

4. Local Issues with Local People: The buses, pedestrians, cyclists, other transport matters and issues be they day to day or longer term matter to us. Having them cut or properly managed makes a huge difference to people's everyday lives, choices, reaches and ranges or not.

These options and challenges will require a steady stream of people and other resource to fund the work, enable proper cover and attention. They are not insignificant in opportunity and challenge worth. However last year (2016) we had 3 mainly active persons and others attached in smaller ways. **We need a membership that turns out to meetings and supports us beyond giving a subscription; but gives support and enables potential to be actualised.**

Diary

Month	Event	Date	Time and Place
January	Executive Committee Members may attend but do not have voting rights.	Tuesday 24 th	1pm for 2pm business MK Wetherspoons, 201 Midsummer Boulevard, Bouverie Square, Milton Keynes Buckinghamshire, MK9 1EA
	Antiques Fair	Saturday 28th	10am-4pm, ERTA is having a stall at St Paul's Church, St Paul's Square, Central Bedford, MK40 1SQ. Please come along and encourage us!
February	Northampton Forum	Tuesday 21 st	1pm Costa Coffee, Upstairs, 32 Abington Street, Northampton NN1 2AJ
March	National Reopenings Forum – a chance to compare notes! See ad.	Saturday 18th	Function Room, The Tavistock, 1pm Food and Social, 2-4pm Business, 117 Tavistock Street, Bedford MK40 2SB
April	Executive Committee	Tuesday 25 th	1pm for 2pm business, MK Wetherspoons, 201 Midsummer Boulevard, Bouverie Square Milton Keynes Buckinghamshire MK9 1EA
May	St Albans Forum	Tuesday 23 rd	1pm The Robin Hood Pub, – along from the City Station, 126 Victoria Street, St Albans, Herts., AL1 3TG
June	Oxford Forum	Tuesday 20 th	1pm The Lamb and Flag Pub, 12 St Giles, Oxford OX1 3JS
July	AGM + Public Meeting	Saturday 22 nd	Venue to be confirmed but probably Bedford.

If you wish to come, please let us know so we can look out for you and/or reserve a seat.

**Contact: Membership Secretary, 20 Fitzherbert House, Kingsmead, Richmond, Surrey, TW10 6HT
T. 0208 940 4399 E. simon4barber@gmail.com Please notify a minimum of 48 hours prior.**

Association News:

We have taken the decision to merge our membership rates into just one annual fee for everyone at £10. The various rates served a purpose in the early days but have not sustained the appeal in these times of austerity and Brexit certainty-uncertainty depending on your point of view and place in the spectrum of candidacy to be a beneficiary or loser. Our Executive Committee is the main steering body at the heart of the association which meets to discuss such issues. If you would like to be co-opted onto the EC, please email Richard Pill to that effect: erta.rails6@yahoo.co.uk We do have vacancies. It meets about 4 times a year and has a social and business content to it.

Recruitment of Volunteers Wanted

- Leafletters and Fund Raisers: Man stalls and creatively raise funds for the association. From such funds, do leafleting as and where required. If sufficient funds permit, regular leafleting along the A428 corridor is probably the most necessary to keep our goals in the local public's mind.
- We welcome our new Caretaker Webmaster Mr Harry Mellor. Loraine kindly set it up and made good strides, now we are sustaining it with a new volunteer. <https://ertarail.com/>
- Our aim is to consider candidacy for line reopenings rebuilds and new builds, assess their potential. Making short lists, we aim to promote within our limited human and financial resources.

Oxford-Bletchley Archive Side Show



Top Left Caption: The remnants at Verney Junction circa 1987. Following the 1985 decision to retain a single track between Claydon and Bletchley by slewing and ‘dog’s legging’ to use the best remaining track and mitigate maintenance we have the spectacle of some trains being photographed left or right track-side when operational. Verney Junction was once where the Metropolitan Line came in via the branch from Quainton and on the other side of the twin island platforms was the line to Buckingham and ultimately Banbury. Whether this station will ever reopen again remains a mystery subject to a lot more housing to secure a justification of user potential for it. However any new rail link to Buckingham would have to avoid Padbury (blocked) and bypass Buckingham as the old route is blocked as well sadly, even though the population has grown to 12, 043 at the 2011 Census (source: Wikipedia <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Buckingham>).

Caption Middle Right: Circa 1987 looking south from a road bridge at the remnants of Calvert Station, former Great Central. The two right tracks were used for London waste transfer to landfill. But as well as the link at Claydon Junction heading eastwards to Bletchley for Bedford and Milton Keynes, there was talk in the early days of Chiltern’s 20 year franchise of extending along the Great Central to the nodal point of Lutterworth, a few miles short of what ERTA wish for, for a link with the Leicester-Nuneaton lines. Central Rail wanted the corridor for a Channel Tunnel – East Midlands freight only line and now HS2 wants to assume the area with its passenger only (the flip side to Central Rail 20 years earlier) and a possible maintenance depot around the area.



Bottom Left Caption: Back in 1989 Richard Pill poses for the camera having cycled from Sandy to Bedford, caught the train to Bletchley before setting out with members of the Railway Development Society (RDS) which ultimately finished at Bicester to highlight the East-West Rail glaring gaps and champion them to the media and public at large. Richard poses at Winslow Station in the remnant of the forecourt. The site was saved for a while by virtue of an old oak tree, but later was swept away and a new site for a new Winslow Station has been claimed by Councils in preparation for the return of the passenger train service to Bedford and Milton Keynes respectively heading east and Aylesbury and Oxford heading south and west. From small acorns...!



Public Meeting

ERTA National Rail Reopenings Forum
Saturday 18 March 2017 from 1pm - 4pm
In the Function Room at
The Tavistock, 117 Tavistock Street,
Bedford MK40 2SB (T. 01234 219595)

1pm Buy food and social

2-4pm the Forum's Business including:

- General discussion on East-West Rail, Bedford-Northampton and other local rail and public transport issues including better buses, cycle routes and pedestrian issues. All Welcome! Free Admission

Note: The views of the Forum are for the Forum to espouse, but may not necessarily be and shall not inform ERTA policy necessarily.

Our association is membership based and membership welcome is extended to all supporters. Please fill in the form and send with remittance to: Treasurer & Membership Secretary: **Mr Simon Barber, 20 Fitzherbert House, Kingsmead, Richmond, Surrey, TW10 6HT T. 0208 940 4399 E. simon4barber@gmail.com**

Fill In, Tear Off and Send with Your Subscription.

Please help us recruit more members!

Join ERTA; come to our local Forums and offer time and talent as you may?
Tick if a New Member: _____ Tick if renewing as an existing member: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Postcode: _____ Tel/Mobile: _____

If you wish to join the cost is just £10 per year.

Signed: _____ Dated: _____

Please send completed form to ERTA Membership Secretary:

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<http://ertarailvolunteer.blogspot.co.uk/>