

English Regional Transport Association (ERTA)

~ ERTA, starting in Bedfordshire and now continuing across the regions, advocating the advancement of select public transport solutions! ~

	<p>Chair-person, Administrator, Internal Affairs, Membership, Co-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>General Secretary, External Affairs, Grants Applications, Co-Media Spokesperson and Co-London Area Coordinator: Mr Simon Barber 20 Fitzherbert House, Kingsmead, Richmond, Surrey, TW10 6HT T. 020 8940 4399 E. simong.barber@o2.co.uk</p>	<p>Local Government Transport Liaison, Co-London Coordinator and Campaigns Officer: Mr David Ferguson, 12 MacDougall Court, North Road, KEW TW9 4EH T. 020-8876-3340</p>	
<p>Amphill Station Advocacy, Forum and Central Bedfordshire Area Rep., Mr Richard Moynham: 7a Alameda Walk, Amphill, Beds., MK45 2JX T. 01525 791 935 E. club30@live.co.uk</p>	<p>Web, Blogspot, I.T. Oversight and London Co-Officer: Ms Eleanore Pond, 246 Caledonian Road, London, N.1 ONG E. epondERTA@yahoo.com T. 07702 603766 (mobile)</p>	
<p>Twitter: @ERTAVoluntary @ERTACampaigns @ReopenAmphill Blogspot: http://eleanoretrain.blogspot.co.uk/ ERTA on Google Plus/ERTA Voluntary Organisation: https://plus.google.com/u/0/112439282775857662175/posts Facebook: http://www.facebook.com/Cobblerline</p>		
<p>Newsletter No: 1</p>	<p>July-August 2015</p>	<p>Price where sold: 90p</p>
<p>Disclaimer: This newsletter seeks to give vent and coverage of news relating to the windows, efforts and activities of the ERTA for members and wider sympathetic potential reach and ranges of others. It may not necessarily be precise ERTA policy always, but seeks to include the spirit thereof. If you feel anything is 'out to lunch' and worthy of a correction, please do let us know and/or why not write a letter permitting us to publish your observations, facts or counter claim. ERTA editorial reserves the right to restrict responses to the first 150 words, as space is always at a premium. All pictures are the Editors unless otherwise stated.</p>	<p>Good-bye BRTA... Hello ERTA!</p> <p>The AGM of 2015 following the last newsletters invite to all the members was notable for a change of name. We are not a bunch of enthusiasts who spend time merely 'observing' from neither a bunkerised position nor do we seek to over-play nostalgia or the past or over-laud the present. Rather it was felt that our 'Cobbler Line Project' (Bedford-Northampton reopening) crosses 3 regions of Eastern (Bedford), London and Southeast (Olney/Milton Keynes) and East Midlands, Northampton. Our membership is gathered along those areas as well as the East-West Oxbridge arc dimension; a focus on English Regional Transport therefore reflects that better. A fresh start has been brewing; we started in Bedfordshire, but now appeal to the regions. Scotland and Wales are forging ahead with local rail reopenings and rebuilds, contrast English Regions which are lagging behind, whilst development goes in and air pollution to boot as majority of passenger – domestic and freight is road bound locked-in = the true legacy of the 1960's masse closures.</p> <p>There can be no getting away from it and whilst exaggerationalists suggest "we cannot reverse the closures by stealth", the anecdotal of "do something" means just one per region, per Parliament, would be a step in the right direction, local referendums to decide which one, instead of dithering and favouring roads, oil and wasted resource-time scenarios.</p> <p>The campaign work is marching on and only by a growing membership and funding regime, can we succeed in raising the game in a context of blizzard pressure for development minus rail based infrastructure. In 10 years and the curtain will fall, as the longer we delay re-railing, the costlier, harder for routing and opposition may become whilst those who turn to support these goals, will find the way more blocked than the mere blocks they originally made so much fuss about i.e. 'houses v estates'!</p>	

The Secretary's Report

Simon had continued on the campaigns side by writing to Councils and City of London bodies, and Northampton's Brackmills business' and other businesses in the Bedford region raising awareness of BRTA, its campaigns, causes and aspirations and courting funds, resources, volunteers, corporate membership and whatever other leverages may reasonably be afforded to us for a common benefit purpose - a local rail link and associated stations, services and capacity for freight by rail to be more do-able and meaningfully realisable, off main lines which are needed for passenger uses. Among the various letters include local advertising magazines (MK Pulse and Olney Phonebox) newspapers Northampton as well as letters to key people and places, such as MK and Northampton Councils, and Sainsbury's objecting to certain planning applications which could encroach on the old Northampton – Bedford trackbed.

Following the demise of our previous web-master, Eleanore Pond had set up Blogspot extracting information from our previous web-site (now cancelled) and also had added further material.

BRTA led two delegations to Councils earlier this year - Northampton and Milton Keynes; the latter particularly enthusiastic about Bedford – Northampton reopening. Also led informal delegations to Olney Town Council (sceptical) and Direct Rail Services (very enthusiastic).

Your Association's Finances:

	IN (£)	OUT(£)
Subscriptions Received	57.75	
Leafleting (paid by Michael Hustwait): Richard Pill/Leafleting 3 x £20		60.00
Deficit for period	2.25	
	60.00	60.00
<u>Current Assets</u>		
Nationwide old account: transferred	147.69	
Subscriptions added during period	57.75	
Balance at 7th July 2014	205.44	
Income and Expenditure account for the period 7th July 2014 – 2nd April 2015		
Balance brought forward	205.44	
Interest received	0.29	
Travel Fund Receipts	7.00	
Sundry Receipts	15.75	
Travel Payments		53.50
Balance Carried Forward		174.98
Totals	228.48	228.48

If anyone would like to offer to act as a Treasurer for BRTA and also assist with Grant Applications, please contact Simon Barber, Secretary of BRTA on 0208 940 4399. Our performance is only as good as the membership informs.



Class 47 'Cambridge' awaits a clear-away as it couples to a Bletchley-Bedford-Midland Main Line north-wards post 'n' parcels train. Take mid 1990's, these trains have long gone from the Marston Vale Railway and the shunt from Platform 1a to 5 or 6 at Bletchley long closed down to stop any conflict with demand for speed on the fast lines of the West Coast Main Line. The local dynamic is not lost to us though... speed or 'all in one railway' dilemma to resolve.

From the Chair...

The last year was a year of huge effort. Success was the rejection of the 33 houses at Olney; our objections may have made some difference than none! The hanging over of the Sainsbury's threat also at Olney remained to be fought. Good that both Simon and David had formed into a campaigns unit and were engaging councils, councillors, officers and forging links. The disappointment has been a lack of translation to new members, which may suggest many things but if we can accept we are a small voice with a big message and that message is worth its weight if progressed, it is worth our while to hang in for the time being and give a chance for break through. We said good bye to Eric Barber and Harry Maughan, but welcomed new people too, including our growing Northampton Forum. Can we all commit to recruit one new member to the association over coming months please? Membership is our main source of funding and underscores our independence as well as representation behind our advocated schemes. That is the constant. Ours is not to worry about Network Rail or Media agendas, but progressively make the case for what we wish for, secure funding to enable quality products and enough people to share the tasks and enjoy ourselves as we do. If you share that goal, you are in the right place here.

I would like to say it has been a pleasure to meet and work with people. Simon does tremendous hours fronting and leading the campaigns and meetings teams, David, Eleanore, Richard Moynham, our new Ampthill contact, Tim Cole, Pat Mayall and Leonard Lean are good friends to us and many more and we thank Michael Hustwait for his contributions and donations too.

BRTA always was at best a people's organisation, not a one man band and it is my hope that will continue to be the case. I for my part am focusing on more behind the scenes working and bolstering in an advisory capacity behind the scenes. Fresh faces, fresh approaches, fresh ideas – a fresh start. Here's to all our futures!

Where	When	What/Whom
The Swan 1pm Flitwick	29-07-2015	IAMC + 6pm Bedford Area Social/Point of Contact Hour at The Parlour Room, Park Road Methodist Church, Bedford.
The Albion, Ampthill	26-08-2015	Ampthill Forum 5pm
The Dergate	30-09-2015	Northampton Forum 1pm
Upstairs Calthorpe Arms, Grays Inn Road, London, WC1	14 or 21 October 2015	Rail Reopening Consortium
Oxford Parkway Opening Celebration	26-10-2015	Give out leaflets and celebrate with Italian at Oxford Bus Station 7pm.
The Queens Head, Central Sandy, Beds. 1pm	14-11-2015	ERTA East-West and East Bedfordshire Rail Forum
Stir Frys, Croydon with Conway Christmas Bash 4pm	09-12-2015	Social
Watford , Milton Keynes , Northampton rotationally	Between 26 th August and 30 th September	For further liaison and offers to assist; please contact: General Secretary, External Affairs, Grants Applications, Co-Media Spokesperson and Co-London Area Coordinator: Mr Simon Barber 20 Fitzherbert House, Kingsmead, Richmond, Surrey, TW10 6HT T. 020 8940 4399 E. simong.barber@o2.co.uk
Richard Pill has his book and promotion stall twice a month at St Paul's Church Bedford: 01.8.15, 15.8.15, 19.9.15 Michaelmas (St Paul's), 26.9.15, 17.10.15, 21.11.15 Christmas (St Paul's), 13.12.15. http://www.stpaulschurchbedford.org.uk/page4.html T. 01234 330090 / richard.selfemployed@yahoo.co.uk Please keep in touch for any further news or updates. All welcome.		

Is Public Transport as good as it could be, as accessible as it should be?

Come and join our forum on public transport

– On the No. 10 Bus Route

Date: Wednesday 29th July 7pm

Time 19:00

Place: Parlour Room, Park Road Methodist Church,
Beaconsfield Street, BEDFORD, MK41 7SB

**Free Admission, All welcome,
Small Book Stall and a light refreshment.**

~ Hosted by the English Regional Transport Association (ERTA), a voluntary voice advocating better public transport – membership based, it is your association for your voice and cooperation to help get improvements. ~

Further Information

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Fill In, Tear Off and Send with Your Subscription Please!

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 renew your membership, please indicate category:

New Member: £5 for the first year _____

Business/Corporate/Sponsor/Benefactor: £20.00 _____

Fully Waged Adult/Family/Individual £10.00 _____

Concessions: £5.00* _____

(*Students, Low Income Households, or on any kind of Benefit/Pension or Disability)

Signed: _____ Dated: _____

Please send completed form to ERTA Membership Secretary:

24c St Michael's Road, Bedford, MK40 2LT T. 01234 330090 E. erta.rails6@yahoo.co.uk

ERTA... it's what its members make it!