

# English Regional Transport Association (ERTA)

~ A membership-based association seeking reopening of select rail lines making for a better environment. ~



**Patron:** Sir Edmund Verney + Others welcome of professional, business or other acumen and of good standing.

~ Making a contribution towards retention and improvement in better public transport. ~



<p><b>Executive Committee, Campaigns Advisor, Membership, Bedford Area Rep. Media Spokesperson and Newsletter Editor:</b> Mr Richard Pill, 24c St Michaels Road, BEDFORD, MK40 2LT T. 01234 330090. E. <a href="mailto:richard.erta@gmail.com">richard.erta@gmail.com</a></p>	<p><b>Vice Chairman, Great Central, London and Southeast, Field and Stations Officer, Local Government Liaisons:</b> Mr David Ferguson, 25 Virginia House, 19 Kingston Lane, Teddington, TW11 9HL T. 020 8977 4181 E. <a href="mailto:daferguson1212@gmail.com">daferguson1212@gmail.com</a></p>	
<p><b>Chief Officer and Coordinator responsible for (Finance, Delegated Meetings, Recruitment and Administration):</b> Mr Simon Barber, 20 Fitzherbert House, Kingsmead, Richmond, Surrey, TW10 6HTT. 0208 940 4399, E. <a href="mailto:simon4barber@gmail.com">simon4barber@gmail.com</a></p>	<p><b>Chairperson for Executive Committee and External Representations:</b> Vacancy exists – offers welcome to entertain. Must be a member first. <b>Bedford-Northampton Rail Link Reopening Project Officer and a Webmaster:</b> Seeking reliable and enthusiastic volunteers – please contact Mr Simon Barber: T. 0208 940 4399, E. <a href="mailto:simon4barber@gmail.com">simon4barber@gmail.com</a></p>	
<p><b>West Herts. Area Rep:</b> Mr Michael Hustwait, 52 Eastfield Avenue, Watford, WD24 4HJ T. 01923 350726, E. <a href="mailto:mhustwait@gmail.com">mhustwait@gmail.com</a></p>	<p><b>East Herts. Area Rep:</b> Mr Tony Bush, 26 Berwick Close, Waltham Cross, Herts. EN8 7PU T. 01992-701485</p>	
<p>W. <a href="https://ertarail.com/">https://ertarail.com/</a></p>	<p>F. <a href="https://www.facebook.com/RichardPill24c">https://www.facebook.com/RichardPill24c</a></p>	<p>G. <a href="https://plus.google.com/+ERTAVoluntaryTransport">https://plus.google.com/+ERTAVoluntaryTransport</a></p>
<p><b>ERTA Newsletter No. 20</b></p>	<p><b>July – August 2018</b></p>	<p><b>Price 90p where sold</b></p>

## ERTA, A Year of Progress!

<p><b>Campaigns:</b> Although chronically short of active people, ERTA has a remarkable reach and range and those active work tirelessly for seeking the forwarding of our aims. We've tabled meetings for Bedford-Northampton, Great Central from Leicester-Nuneaton-Rugby-Calvert, Guildford-Horsham-Shoreham and have contacted numerous bodies and institutions connected to our aims.</p>	<p><b>Meetings:</b> Our meetings reflect our core focus' and seek to draw local people together to then, once joined, take responsibility to act as area reps to seek to recruit more members of the public as members and multiply. Then convening meetings are better peopled and whether objections to development threats or advocating the causes we hold dear; the constituency expression adds weight to the endeavour.</p>
<p><b>Officers:</b> We continue to register at relevant voluntary bureaus to seek to fill gaps in our skills and portfolios such as tirelessly seeking a new webmaster, seeking people to fund raise, organise meetings, take a turn in manning stalls and expanding our reach, range and potential.</p>	<p><b>Opportunities:</b> Despite the fact a minor road will cross the old trackbed at Northampton, if enough rail campaigners seek to pressure the Office for Road and Rail (ORR) for a sensible policy as to the fit of locations and allowing urban and rural level crossings – bridges cost more as do tunnels and are no panacea!</p>

**Simon Barber's Column:** Towards the end of April three of our members (Colin Crawford, Tony Bush and I) led a delegation with the newly-formed East-West Rail Company, which was formed to develop the construction of the East-West Rail project linking Oxford and Cambridge via Bletchley and Bedford, incorporating the present Marston Vale Line (Bletchley - Bedford). We met Will Gallagher, the Company's Delivery Director who was very supportive of what ERTA was trying to achieve. The East-West Rail Company could not initially get involved in the rail branches off the EWR line but Will would certainly note our ideas and see what might be done to assist us. He also said that he understood the point that no building on former railway track and land was approved by local councils which could jeopardise a future reopening of the line and would note the point for the future. He then said that as far as the section from Bletchley to Bedford was concerned, whether EWR used the former alignment or a new one in whole or part, EWR were considering route options include those that come in via Bedford St Johns to Bedford Midland station. When considering the central section route options, whilst they would not have too many stations as this would slow the journey time too much, they do want to improve local connectivity with new stations. Will then said that EWR would probably have to cross the East Coast rail line at a higher or lower level near Sandy and would then come in to Cambridge at around Shepreth Junction. **Editor's note:** The previous newsletter coverage of policy on level crossings is another cost and spanner in engineering terms and whether recovery of the former rail route even with some tunnelling to Trumpington may be another option.



**Caption Above:** It is a concern to us that Stagecoach continues to substitute X5 Coaches with double-deckers on the Bedford-Cambridge leg of the X5 Oxford-Bedford-Cambridge cross-country coach link. ERTA continues to notify all and sundry that this situation needs rectifying.

**Caption Below:** The Bus Stop opposite St Michael's Road, Bedford is served by Stagecoach No. 7, Grant Palmer Nos 21 and 28 respectively. However only Stagecoach timetables are displayed and despite constant requesting, no Real Time Information (RTI) screen = a missed opportunity!





**News and Notes**

<p><b>Other ERTA Events</b> are listed on our website events page, which is updated regularly: <a href="https://ertarail.com/events/">https://ertarail.com/events/</a> Please check and diary as appropriate. Ideally tap into whatever is nearest but feel free to enjoy a day out amongst friends and help people these events, invite others and find a niche where you can help us more. Area Repping is one avenue where you seek to recruit more members for ERTA in your local area. It is light-touch, easy and do-able. Try it!</p>	<p><b>Diary – Notice of Annual General Meeting: ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2018 – TUESDAY 10 JULY</b>          1.00pm food and social          2.00-4.00pm business at The Tavistock Pub (Function Room), 117 Tavistock Street Bedford MK40 2SB Phone: 01234- 219595 <a href="http://www.thetavistockpub.co.uk/">http://www.thetavistockpub.co.uk/</a>          All Welcome. If you would like to serve on the Executive Committee or help us help you and society in any way please let Mr Simon Barber know: T. 0208 940 4399, E. <a href="mailto:simon4barber@gmail.com">simon4barber@gmail.com</a></p>
<p><b>Photography:</b> ERTA welcomes someone to provide pictures for this newsletter and someone to consider being our Photographic Officer, keeping a record of events, people and places we attend or have some interest in.</p>	<p><b>ERTA continues to grow</b> with 29 paid up members at May 2018 and seeks to expand all the time. Our core rail reopening focuses apart from East-West Rail are Bedford-Northampton, Great Central, Guildford-Horsham-Shoreham, Tonbridge-Redhill-Gatwick new curve link, March-Spalding as well as offering solidarity and mutual support with reopenings up and down the English Regions and Borders. Wales and Scotland are forging ahead! More freight by rail is a consideration.</p>
<p><b>Executive Committee:</b> ERTA’s main steering committee is the Executive Committee (EC) which meets roughly quarterly to consider the membership and finances, campaigns and general direction and well being of your association. Members can stand for it at the AGM.</p>	

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**Tear Off and Send with Your Subscription. Please help us recruit more members!**

Tick if a New Member:  Tick if renewing as an existing member:

Membership of ERTA costs £10 per annum. I/We wish to join

Name (Please Print): \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Postcode: \_\_\_\_\_

Tel/Mobile: \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

I/We hereby give consent to our data being used and stored for the purposes of communication with ERTA and its purposes compliant with General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR)

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Dated: \_\_\_\_\_

**Please send completed form and payment to ERTA Membership:**  
 ERTA, 24c St Michael’s Road, Bedford, MK40 2LT (01234 330090)  
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