

Highlights of the past 12 months have included a reorganisation of buses in the Southwold – Halesworth – Bungay – Norwich corridor, introducing new services for which ESTA had campaigned over several years; and the first detailed survey for decades of demand and potential for an enhanced train at Westerfield, undertaken by local ESTA members.

ESTA's aspirations for the East Suffolk Line and indeed for the neighbouring Wherry Line, are set out in our December 2022 paper, and our March public meeting in Woodbridge was largely devoted to presentations by committee members on how we are working to achieve those aims. That meeting itself was innovative in its format, in that instead of having a guest speaker we heard from our own members.

Fresh ground has also been broken by our efforts to have dialogue with Prospective Parliamentary Candidates in a far more systematic way than in the run-up to previous General Elections. The committee agreed six questions to put to would-be MPs and members have not only written to them but also in some cases held face-to-face meetings with them.

Promoting public transport is an important part of our work and here, again, fresh ground has been broken. In addition to our regular stalls at Woodbridge Regatta and the East Anglia Transport Museum, we mounted stands at events in Halesworth and Blythburgh and at one in Felixstowe. Three new editions of our "Discover" leaflets have been produced for 2024 and last summer we joined forces with the Halesworth Tourism Group to produce a joint leaflet on buses.

We have maintained our level of campaigning through three public meetings, four quarterly ESTA NEWS, our website and 17 poster boards, mostly at stations and meeting councillors and transport professionals. Also not to be forgotten are our social events – one in the summer at Campsea Ashe and one in the winter at Aldeburgh.

We could always do more – such as occasional outings and exhibitions. That depends on volunteers to do things, and offers to help are always welcome.

Thanks are due to all officers and committee members who have contributed to ESTA's work over these twelve months and to all other members who have contributed by paying their subscriptions, participating in our 100 Club, distributing literature or encouraging their friends, relatives and work colleagues to use local trains and buses and to join ESTA.

Trevor Garrod

Chairman

02/05/2024