

## Station Adopters Report to Parish Council

We have held working parties each month this year, 11th Jan, 8th Feb and 8th Mar which have all been very well and enthusiastically supported, with lots of planting, weeding cleaning and tidying and sharing coffee and cakes! See photos below following the recent working party. The bulbs we planted are all emerging and many are blooming. We have planted round the base of several trees, in the tubs and hanging baskets, in the flower beds and we have created several small beds in the grassy area.

We have recently been donated 2 x £25 vouchers, one each from the railway and Alan Crowe and we will soon be receiving £200 of vouchers from Network Rail to cover us for the year for flowers etc. I contacted Perrywoods who is our nearest garden centre and they have agreed to donate £50 for plants and flowers so we hope we will be able to provide the village and commuters with a colourful display this year! We are considering planting a honeysuckle clematis and lavender along the side of the waiting room and we are all planning to meet for coffee at Perrywoods in the next few weeks to have a meeting to decide and plan what else to plant as we are entering the garden into this year's Open Gardens! This idea has met with lots of support from Jayne Summer and Alan Neville who have suggested they could do a promotional stall at the station over the weekend on 25th May.

On Friday, 6 of our team turned out for the working party at the station and met with June Povey who is the new Community Rail Support Officer. She had heard such positive reports from Alan and June, and asked to meet the group and was very impressed with the work we have done so far. There were discussions about displaying some more historic photos of Bures in the waiting room as well as advertising local walks including where to see the dragon! A new noticeboard was erected last month and we are considering approaching the school to display some of the children's art work and a poster advertising Open Gardens.

I have had further discussions with Alan Neville about the water supply to the garden. The new neighbour is very happy for us to access his water and Ron has offered to run a pipe under the platform but Alan Neville is seeking further advice and permission for this to go ahead. Furthermore I have a number of times reported my concern regarding the need for the trees to have branches felled as some are hanging precariously low above parked cars, electricity and telephone lines. Again he has to seek permission for this as it has to be done by Network Rail and both are proving to be a very bureaucratic process! When the weather is more conducive, we will repaint the yellow strips on the paths leading up to the platform.

Ken and I missed the working party on Friday as we represented the group at the Spring adopters coffee morning in Chelmsford where we met other station adopters from the area. We promoted our open gardens event which met with much interest and also agreement to advertise it along the line.

New carriages are currently being built and later this year we will be having three but so far no date has been set.

Greater Anglia are doing a promotion of station adopters on the concourse at Liverpool St Station on wed 15th May when they will display a replica of The Mayflower which they will transport from its home in Harwich. Our group have been asked if we can assist volunteering at the event.

Mary Turner on behalf of Bures Station Adopters