

Bures Station Adopters Report for Parish Council Meeting 15th July 2019

- Our team worked hard to purchase and plant up the tubs and flower beds for Open Gardens at the May Bank holiday and was helped by a £50 donation from Perrywoods Garden Centre and vouchers donated by Greater Anglia. The weekend was a huge success with many visitors who passed very positive comments. Essex and Suffolk Community Rail Partnership had a stall at the station promoting rail travel, walks and things of interest in the local area.
- A new member of staff Stuart Freese has recently been appointed and has responsibility for maintenance of the stations and will arrange to visit Bures to consider painting the waiting room, cutting the overhanging branches on the trees in the car park, replacing some of the fencing and updating notice boards.
- Three of our team attended a station adopters coffee morning in Chelmsford on 14th June. It was reported that the new trains are currently being tested in Derby and then will be phased in but no date has yet been given for The Gainsborough Line, there are to be three carriages with air conditioning. CCTV will be introduced in the future to all Stations and this will be monitored centrally in Romford.
- On Wed 15th May, Christine and Mary assisted Greater Anglia at their stall at Liverpool Street station where an 18ft model of the Mayflower was displayed on the station concourse brought down from Harwich to celebrate the 400th anniversary. The stall was a huge success and promoted rail travel around East Anglia. We distributed packs that included walks in the Stour Valley and The Bures Dragon which attracted considerable interest.
- On Saturday evening 29th June, Anglia Rail organised a Music Train in their promoting of travel on the Gainsborough Line between Marks Tey and Sudbury. It was a great success and had a bar and live music and was well supported by many Bures residents. Another Music Train will be planned for next year. There are other events scheduled in the Anglia region, including a bucket and spade train to Walton, and a cockney singing train.
- A ticket machine has been installed at the station car park but we were given no prior warning. Jenny and I have raised our concerns to Alan Neville regarding poor communication and the likely impact on parking in the village. A flat rate of £3 will be charged.
- Working parties at the station garden continue once a month and in between, we keep each other informed when we have watered etc.