

Station Adopters Report for Parish Council - May 2021

...On April 27th, Vanessa, Dawne, Ken and I met with Dr Luke Dixon [Bee friendly trust] and Jayne Sumner to discuss further developing the wildlife area. Luke has access to grants via his charity and is making us two wooden planters to go alongside the fence on the platform beside the wildlife area, so we can plant bee friendly flowers. He also gave advice about shrubs we can plant in the wildlife patch. Luke paid many complements to us about the beautiful approach to Bures by train and about our lovely station!

... We had a very successful working party on Friday 7th May and managed to clear the beds of unwanted plants. Unfortunately three of the larger shrubs had to be removed as they had died due to frost so we will need to replace. I purchased four bags of locally sourced compost which we have spread over the beds and this will not only provide much needed feed but also will act as a water retention. Work still needs to be carried out planting up the troughs with flowers.

The Stour Valley footpath sign was fixed in situ on 22nd March to the bottom of the path following a cat scan

...The idea for a mural on the wall of the car park is still making very slow progress and it now appears that Greater Anglia and Network Rail are in discussion ...Alan Neville has just explained to me that Greater Anglia are tenants basically, admittedly on a long lease but still tenants. The asset belongs to NWR. They need the close tie with community rail in NWR Anglia and that is something they are working towards. It isn't unfortunately there at the moment. So, it could take some time to get sorted!

Jan and I with Fred Chrisell on 31st March with a view to him rendering and painting the station wall. It is a job he is willing to undertake and quoted £2,000. Anglia Rail said they will part fund.

A further idea for decorating the wall came from Chris Cousins who delivered the compost and he suggested pargetting the wall, being a traditional Suffolk and Essex tradition and could feature for example an image of St Stephens Chapel, the dragon and sheaves of corn.

.... Whilst it is not possible to arrange meetings with other station adopter groups and the staff from Greater Anglia, online zoom meetings continue to take place and it is helpful to share ideas with each other. We plan to host the next coffee morning in the barn on the common when we get the go ahead.

Mary Turner

On behalf of the Station Adopters