

Station Adopters report 18th September 2023

We have had several working parties where we have deadheaded and planted new flowers and shrubs and have also filled several new planters as well which we have rested on the metal lids which give access to all the wiring underneath. I had previously gained permission for this from the manager overseeing the rewiring at the station in order to improve the appearance of the garden following all the work that has been carried out to improve the appearance. We are pleased that our hard work has brought some life back to the station garden following all the turmoil of the new lighting system. An electric charging point has been installed in the car park but remains covered and is currently inactive. I have raised the issue of how to advertise this but have had no response.

We are still waiting for a sign to indicate that the wildlife area is behind the fence and ticket machine. We have placed several slow worm mats in there in the hope to encourage them back following all the digging of the trenches that took place for the lighting.

We now have an attractive display of the school children's artwork on the subjects of wildlife and climate change. June and Jayne selected pictures which were scanned on to dibond and they have now been fixed on to the fence beside the path alongside the wildlife area with a sign indicating they are from the Bures schoolchildren.

We remain concerned about the central access that people use to get to the platform from the car park which is very muddy when wet and could pose a health and safety issue to people using it. However Greater Anglia are not in agreement with it being blocked off.

Access to water continues to remain an issue for us at the moment as Phil who provides us with free water, still has a leak in a pipe so we are limited to filling up plastic bottles as currently the hose can not be used. Phil has been really helpful in helping us fill the reservoirs regularly in the planters.

We plan to purchase a bird box with a video cam which will be operated by a solar panel which we will locate on a tree near the waiting room. Passengers will be able to access a free app in order to view any activity during the breeding season.

Several station adopters attended a very successful training session recently run by Essex and Suffolk Community Rail Partnership on the subject of dry planting which we are eager to pursue this principle in some of our station planters. Also at this meeting, station adopters from Chappel and Wakes Colne mentioned about the forthcoming celebration next year to mark the 175 year Anniversary of the railway line and viaduct and we have been invited to attend a meeting in November to share ideas how we can assist in the celebration.

Mary Turner
Lead Bures Station Adopter