**Parish Council**

**Station Adopter’s Annual report 2024/5**

The works undertaken at the station by Greater Anglia contractors was halted for months, but were finally completed at the end of 2024. The station building now looks much better with boards inset in the window spaces, making the area neater. Artwork has been put up on the down platform windows, making the site look a lot more presentable.

The History boards, of which there are three, are now in situ, and another planted tub placed at the entrance to the station, making that look much more pleasant. *(There had been initial concern about the parts making up the boards, which had been left in Willow Park day centre – which then closed down making it impossible to access. Serendipity played a part in Angela spotting a maintenance man, who happened to have a key, and the parts rescued)*

An electrical cabinet was removed from the Up platform during the works, leaving a bare concrete plinth. We were able to receive a grant from the Community Rail Partnership to purchase a trough to put on this, which is now in situ planted with viburnham and cordylines.

The damage and bare patches left after the maintenance works have now been filled with earth and replanted, natural primroses making a lovely show at the entrance this year. The biggest development for the adopters and Weeley in Bloom has been the renovation of the small brick building to the left hand side of the station entrance, with combination locks, where we can now store so much for use at the station and the village. Many thanks must go to David Outram and Len Cordery, our newest adopters, for helping to repaint the walls and floors and put up shelving. We now have 5 adopters on the team, although we will be losing Alan Bailey later in the year, who is retiring.

2025 is Rail 200 – a celebration of 200 years of rail travel, banners have been put up by Jane our partnership liaison officer, but some have been vandalized unfortunately. We have also suffered plants being pulled from our tubs, and some stolen, but these are always replaced. To celebrate the 200 years a model train is being installed on the Up platform which will have planting on and around it once in place. Weeley in Bloom have paid for this, and so it will be called the Weeley Bloomer 200.

We would like to thank the Community Rail Partnership for all their help and support – we receive £200 in garden vouchers per year towards planting and landscaping, plus the ability to apply for grants should we need them.