

Station adopters win awards for their work and dedication

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Greater Anglia has recognised the hard work and dedication of volunteers across its region in its annual Station Adoption Awards.

Greater Anglia's Station Adoption initiative sees local people across the network get involved with their local stations to come up with ideas and projects that benefit their communities.

Greater Anglia's Customer and Community Engagement Manager, Alan Neville, said: "Our station adopters are very special people who achieve amazing things to benefit their communities and make them better places to live with their enthusiasm to bring rural stations to life and restore their links to the communities they serve.

"The adopters know their stations and the needs of their community well, and we are happy to support their aims through small grants and facilitating improvements.

"I am delighted that we can also recognise and thank them through the Adopter Awards – we've seen some fantastic and innovative projects this year despite the pandemic and I would like to thank them all

for their continued hard work.”

Winners included:

Trevor Garrod, adopter of Buckenham rail station and well-known rail ambassador, who received the Judges’ Special Award for dedication to his local railway. He was praised for his knowledge and experience and for his enthusiasm for improving and promoting railway lines in Norfolk and Suffolk.

Greg Chandler, adopter of Brundall Gardens station, won the ‘Personal Contribution’ award for his commitment to the station and the Station Adoption initiative as a whole.

Sandy Burns, Laura Hadgraft and Yvonne Maynard, adopters at Westerfield station, won the ‘Innovation and Environmental’ award for their work to establish a large wildlife area alongside the platforms, planting more than 200 native plants including perennials, grasses and wildflower seed.

The team at Cantley were named the Best Adopter Group for their years of work and dedication to creating gardens at the station and for their perpetually high standards.

Mike Hall, Greater Anglia Welcome Host at Norwich station, was praised for volunteering to help station adopters Pat and Ros Meo at Lingwood station keep the planting and flower displays in good condition. This led to the station winning the Best Small Station award.

St Margaret’s rail station was named the ‘Most Improved’ on Greater Anglia’s network. It has been transformed thanks to the work of volunteers, Robin and Rosemary Jewett, who have decked the station with window boxes and floral displays, which helped to build links between the station and the community.



Ely was named the 'Best Staffed Station' after volunteers and Greater Anglia staff brought the platforms to life with new floral displays and established a wildlife garden.

The Friends of Rayleigh station won the Community involvement award for their plans to establish a new community garden at Rayleigh station using disused land adjacent to it, and for their community consultation that sought to find out resident's views on what facilities and planting the garden should have.

Kerry King and Martin Rayner were named the 'Best Newcomers'. They recently adopted Manningtree station and swung into action restoring and repainting tired woodwork, installing floral displays and bird boxes, raising funds for improvements and working with Greater Anglia to find a solution for watering the flower tubs on the long platforms.

Roydon was named the 'Best Medium Station' recognising the efforts of its station adopter group, who, over the last four years, have transformed the station with the installation of flower tubs, window boxes, hanging baskets and a small garden to the delight of the community.

Images credit: Greater Anglia