



# A motorised wagon for Poppleton

by DAVID DAWSON

A model of a prototype locomotive based on a lengthened skip chassis and a lawn mower engine is described by DAVID DAWSON. Photos by David Dawson.



The prototype for this model can be found on the Poppleton Community Railway Nursery in York and is named after its original builder, Terry Stanhope. It is a lengthened skip chassis fitted with a lawn mower engine with chain drive to all four wheels. It has a four speed gearbox for both directions but getting it above second gear can be a bit hairy at Poppleton. I once got it into fourth along the back straight but I don't think I'll do that again anytime soon! The body is a flat bed fitted with two large tool chests. The driver sits

sideways on top of the motor and fuel tank. See *photo 2*.

The model often runs on the layout based on Poppleton in our museum building, (see *SMT 137*) and can be seen on our open days at the Nursery, although it usually lives on my garden line at home. It is mostly scratch built out of plastic card using motor, gears wheels and axleboxes from IP Engineering – see *photo 4*. The motor started life as an IP Engineering Lister from their 'home builder' parts with additional carved plastic card fuel tank, gearbox and

transmission guard. The gear lever and forward/reverse lever are large headed pins bent to shape: See *photo 3*. Throttle and ignition switch are made up from bits of plastic and wire. The audible warning device (bell) was made by flaring out a piece of brass tube over the end of a nail and then using three different melting point solders to assemble it with a handle and fixing bracket. The name plate is made from Slater's plastic letters picked out using a gold gel pen. See *photo 1* on the previous page, which also shows driver Bob. We really must paint the front toolbox on the prototype to match the model! A single AAA battery sits in one of the tool chests and the motor and on/off/reversing switch is in the other.

This was my first attempt at a completely scratch built loco although I don't think I've ever built a kit as designed. It usually causes some interest when it is seen alongside its prototype at Poppleton. Most people come to the Nursery open days for the horticulture and are quite surprised to find it has an internal narrow gauge railway. Visiting children usually can't be dragged away from the model layout. For more information on the Nursery go to [www.poppletonrailwaynursery.co.uk](http://www.poppletonrailwaynursery.co.uk) ■

**Photos descriptions on this page and opposite:**

- 1 – Locomotive model as seen on the museum layout at Poppleton.
- 2 – Prototype loco.
- 3 – Detail of the motor and seat module.
- 4 – Finished loco prior to painting – scratch built, but using gears, wheels and axleboxes from IP Engineering.

