



'The Potting Shed'

February 2014

Issue No.22

Come and join us on the
22nd March from
10.00am - 3.00pm

When the nursery will be
holding an open day

We will have spring
bulbs, summer plug
plants, mothers day
planters, spring
planters, shrubs and
perennials on sale

There will be
refreshments and our
volunteers will be on
hand to chat about the
nursery

POPPLETON COMMUNITY RAILWAY NURSERY

Station Road Upper Poppleton
York YO26 6QA

Tel: 01904 797623

Mobile: 07800 501382

Website:

www.poppletonrailwaynursery.co.uk

E-mail Address

pcrn.info@yahoo.co.uk

Charity Number 1148341

Company Registration
number 06211163

We also begin our two
hour Saturday sales on
29th March through to
the end of June

Our next open days are
on 26th April 10.00am –
3.00pm and 5th July from
10.00am – 4.00pm. At
this sale we will be
running our hanging
basket workshop. If you
would like to book a
place contact the nursery
by email.

Needs list

Thanks to those people who
regularly bring us plant pots.
We have plenty for the time
being, so please don't bring us
anymore for now.

We would be grateful for any
garden plants, shrubs,
perennials that you no longer
want. We can split them and
grow them on for the nursery
sales. Also we need carrier
bags and candle ends. Small
items can be put in the crate
over the fence at the nursery
if we are closed. Or contact
us on email or phone, we
have a van and can arrange to
collect large items.

Membership

Subscriptions were due on 1st
January 2014. If you would like to
become or renew membership
please forward your subscriptions
to David Thompson, the
membership secretary. A form
can be downloaded from our
website: subscriptions are: £10
Corporate £5 full membership £2
for students unwaged and over
60's To cope with the postage
costs if you cannot supply an
email address the minimum subs
rate will be £5. For people who do
not have an email address and
can collect newsletters from the
nursery the £2 rate will continue.

**Send forms to: David Thompson
Membership Secretary** at the
Nursery address

The Nursery Museum

From the early days of the
nursery restoration, a few of us
felt that it would be nice to have
somewhere to keep and show
objects found in the Nursery,
display pictures and file
paperwork for reference. Over
the last few years we have
managed to take over shed S7
(The wooden one on the loading
dock) and use it for limited
displays, storage and the model
railway. But this was in poor
condition and backs on the main
line, so work on it has been hard,
and very much a part time job.
Gradually we have lifted the
building onto a brick plinth,



replaced the rotten floor, covered the roof, replaced rotten outside boarding and clad the outside with feather edge boards. We have replaced one window, and now have finished the insulation and boarding out the interior. We hope by next month to have painted it and have it ready for gradually filling with an interesting display. What is going in and when, will it be complete is still undecided, and good pictures and displays will have a cost. We first intend to list all the historic items in the nursery, although many are too big for the museum. Then we expect to allocate space and gradually clean them up and display the chosen items, as well as placing pictures and creating a reference area. It is expected that the model railway will also be permanently displayed. If anyone feels that they would like to get involved in, listing the objects, preparing the displays or documenting the paperwork, please contact Jo or me initially.
Bob Brook

Volunteers needed

We would welcome volunteers to help with all aspect of the running of the nursery please let us know if you can help either on the plant side, the railway or with the DIY maintenance of the site. You can make contact by phone or email. To the Volunteer Co-ordinator Jo Sullivan-Jones. An induction is given when new volunteers arrive

so that everyone adheres to the nursery H & S policy.

Nursery Diaries

When we took on the lease for the nursery we inherited many years worth of diaries which were left in the office. Most of the information is about the number of plants grown and the weather, but there are some interesting snippets about the working of the nursery from the 1950's onwards. We are looking for people who would be interested in capturing this information electronically so that we can display it as part of the nursery archive. If you can spare some time and would like to help please make contact on the nursery email address.

We will have to use the Jim Crow.

When the Thursday group have completed the fabric of S7, we will be turning our attention to completing the track laying we started over the last two years. A raid down the line side has at last brought all the remaining narrow gauge point bits into the nursery, so our next job is to lay them out prior to assembly. The only problem is the point curves the wrong way for our requirement.



Having examined it we think we can bend it, but it will not be easy. Thus the heading. One of the objects left at the Nursery was a manual rail bender, known to all trackmen as a Jim Crow (see below).



The one we have is designed for main line use so it is really too big and heavy for us, but we managed last year to get some reasonably bends in the rails we laid. It requires a certain amount of skill to bend rail without kinks, and particularly some strong arms



to work the crowbar which turns the screw to bend the rail. If anyone is interested in seeing it being used we will try to demonstrate at the next open day. But better still come down on a Thursday afternoon or evening from March and you can see or help us with the task. We would appreciate any help we can get with ballast moving and track laying. No experience required, but a willingness to learn. None of the small Thursday team are experts, but we have learnt and taken advice from others, and felt a lot of satisfaction when a portion of track is up and useable. Bob Brook.

Woodwork commission



One of our members saw a picture of this display staging in a book and asked Darren our woodworker if he could make it. This is the result. Pretty neat and a great addition to any garden to display pot plants.

Marketing Plan Project

Our York University Internship Student, Gareth Tagger, carried out a survey of visitors at our open day on December 7th. Drawing on this and on his other research, he produced an interim report, which was presented to our Management Board on February 5th. Gareth has put forward some interesting preliminary proposals for raising the nursery's profile, attracting more visitors and generating more revenue. He will be presenting his final report to the March Management Board. A further project with a group of York University students - to design a heritage trail for the nursery - is under discussion for the summer term.

Graham Collett Company
Secretary

Poppleton Community Centre Newsletter 'Centrepiece'

If you are a Poppleton resident, you will probably have spotted our advert in the winter issue of *Centrepiece*. Burn & Company Solicitors are very kindly sponsoring these advertisements for four issues. Look out for our Spring Open Days advert in the next issue!

Hazel Collett Publicity Officer

City of York Council

Kay Bailey (Neighbourhood Manager - Communities & Equalities) visited the nursery on 28th November. Following this visit, a very helpful dialogue has been established with the Council and one of the products of this will be an article on volunteering in the Council's *Your Ward* newspaper. The article -which features the nursery - was written by Kay with a photograph supplied by Tim Elsworth, one of our railway group volunteers.

Graham Collett Company
Secretary

Open Days Posters and Leaflets

Following the success of our Christmas poster, we are preparing a poster for the Spring Open Days (22 March and 26 April). Copies will be available from the nursery by the end of February. Please help us to publicise these open days if you can. We will also be producing two new leaflets - a general one about the nursery and one giving the sales/open days dates for the year. Copies of both will be available from the nursery.

Hazel Collett Publicity Officer