



The Potting Shed May 2011 Issue No.10

SPRING SALE

Come and join us on the
7th May 2011

10.00am - 4.00pm

FOR A SALE OF

Perennials, Shrubs and Bedding
Plants. There will be a Tombola,
Book stall and our model railway
layout

REFRESHMENTS

tea and coffee and cakes

Future Plant Sales

At Poppleton Nursery

Summer Open Day Sale.

9th July 2011

10.00am – 4.00pm

POPPLETON COMMUNITY RAILWAY NURSERY

Station Road Upper Poppleton
York YO26 6QA
Tel: 07800 501382

Website: www.

poppletonrailwaynursery.co.uk

E-mail Address

pcrn.info@yahoo.co.uk

Saturday Sales

The nursery will be open from
10.00am – 12.00pm for bedding
plant sales on : 14th, 21st, 28th
May 4th, 11th, 18th, 25th June
and 2nd July

Needs list

Thanks to those people who
regularly bring us pots and other
surplus items from their gardens,
please keep them coming.. We
would still like the following if
anyone has some available:

**Workshop stove to heat \$10,
Lino or heavy duty floor**

covering, external doors,
large water tanks, any garden
hand tools, carrier bags, used
plant pots, 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

A form can be downloaded
from our website:
subscriptions are: £5 full
membership £2 for students
unwaged over 60's £10
corporate membership Please
include an email address if
possible as this is the most
cost effective way of keeping
in contact with people. **Send
to: Membership Secretary**
at the Nursery address

Volunteers needed

We would welcome
volunteers to help on
buildings and railway
restoration. We always
welcome those who would
like to spend time on the
horticulture side, from
growing and potting on to
weeding and general keeping
things tidy, something for
every ability with pleasant
surroundings and good
company. The nursery will be
open 4 days most weeks and
volunteers are welcome on
any of those days. Please
make contact first. By phone
or email. An induction is given
when new volunteers arrive

so that everyone adheres to the
nursery H & S policy. We do need
some volunteers to take on some
specific jobs such as volunteer co-
ordinator and meeting secretary,
contact us if you can help.

Treasurers Report

As we approach our financial year
end I am pleased to report a
healthy financial state – not
hugely profitable but with
finances well under control.
Since joining the ranks of the
PCRN I have always striven to
keep costs sensible whilst giving
every encouragement to take on
new projects to enable us to grow
and sell more (and keep the
railway carriages running – should
that be pushing!).

Having started the Nursery with a
£ 5,000 donation from Northern
Rail we have for the 3 years of
operating always tried to keep
that figure in mind – so that while
we have never actually made a
profit on our operations, by
budgetary controls (matching
expected Income with costs of
our operation) we have always
managed to get back to near this
amount by the end of our
growing/sales year in January.

I should like to thank Mrs
Maureen Butcher for her very
kind donation, which along with
the recent grant award from York
& North Yorkshire Community
Foundation means that we are
now able to make extra efforts in
developing the site.

Cash flow at the moment is
mainly in the outwards direction



but that of course is what we expect at this time of the year and I am confident that we will have another successful calendar year where we can match our expenditure to our incomings. Were not getting rich but we are getting better and that is likely to continue if we can get a few more volunteers to help with the growing cycle.

Paul Emmott

Membership Report

At the end of April 2009 membership stood at just 28 but at the end of April 2011 it had increased to 106. Some members have unfortunately not renewed and are about to be deleted from the database. If you have not renewed your subscription for the current year you are therefore advised to do so without delay. The majority of members live outside Poppleton and although many live within the City of York boundary, others come from as far afield as Leyburn, Tadcaster and Huddersfield. Some members attend the Railway Nursery on a regular basis while others visit only occasionally. In addition to ensuring the continuation of the Railway Nursery, members are also able to support its work in various ways; financial, horticultural, working on the narrow gauge railway in many ways and generally maintaining the site. Members also receive a 10% discount on all purchases of plants and are able to purchase plants from the Nursery at any time that

it is open. A regular, interesting newsletter (The Potting Shed) gives news of how events and the site are progressing. Members are also able to watch the progress of the Railway Nursery. In the last year or so a great deal has been achieved and most of the site is now operational. Many of the greenhouses are in use and the narrow gauge railway is now functional.

David Thompson

Notes from the Nursery.

Well, the growing season is now well under way with some plants being grown from seed at the nursery and some bought in from a supplier of plugs in Thirsk. Most of the volunteers are now busy pricking out or potting on. We have a lot more plants this year because we have managed to get the coke heating boiler in G1 to work so we have heat to help with the propagation, another innovation this year is that G10, the propagation greenhouse, is fully operational with bench heating and misting system plus additional paraffin heating as required. Work on the greenhouses is continuing with repairs to broken glass in G1, G2 and G12 and hopefully, before long, the completion of glass repairs in G3 which has yet to see any use due to the

amount of damaged glass. Repairing is a slow business as there are on two people doing these repairs and they are also responsible for all aspects of growing and sales so things have slowed down a bit.. When we took over the nursery there was a defunct irrigation system using pumps on both sides of the railway but we only have one irrigation tank within the nursery confines which was partially brought back into use during last year's growing season, mainly G2, G3 (not in use), the cold frames and poly tunnels T2 & T3. The remainder of the site was fed from tanks on the opposite side of the main line which we are unable to access, Without any plans of where services are located we eventually, this year, found the pipe runs from these tanks and now work has started to bring the remaining irrigation system into use. The pumped system is required as the mains water pressure is so low at certain times of the week that we are only able to use one watering line and watering the complete nursery is taking approximately 3.5 hours per day to complete. As you can appreciate all the above is taking a lot of time, so, if you feel that you could help us in any way please contact the nursery either by telephone or email at the address shown on the website or just pop in and see us when the nursery is open.

Tony Nunn