

The Potting Shed

The Newsletter of Poppleton Community Railway Nursery

Issue Number 3 - August 2009

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Welcome to the third edition of the Poppleton Community Railway Nursery Newsletter.

News from the Nursery

First we must apologise for the delay in getting this issue out, we have all been very busy at the Nursery and the summer is passing quickly. Hopefully we now have someone to produce future issues so the load can be spread and regular news supplied.

So what has happened since the last issue? We took over the lease at the end of March which was too late to start any summer bedding, and as we surveyed the site we found so much that needed doing. Small groups of volunteers have been gradually getting the site presentable and some areas useable. Actually when we find time to stop and look a significant improvement has been made all round: The undergrowth in the car parks and entrances has been cleared and, most of the site has been weed killed; the real horrible job of clearing 3 years of broken glass and seeded thistles from the green houses has been done, although the thistles still grow and there are still bits of glass around; Some glass has been put in two greenhouses ready for use; Sheds have had the woodwork restored and been painted and new felt put on roofs, although there is still an awful lot to do; The railway is being cleared and runs as you will read later.

In our three year plan which was put together at the beginning of the year, we planned to restore from the Portakabin end of the site first, and we are well on the way to achieving the first years targets but there is a long way to go.

In the last few weeks people from the NHS have joined us regularly on the site for up to three days a week, their help and the plants they have brought with them have made a noticeable improvement, it is beginning to look like a nursery again.

The NHS team arranged a plant sale and cream teas day on the site in July, this was well supported and enjoyed by all who attended, as well as raising much needed money for the project.

All this sounds great BUT it has been accomplished by a very small number of volunteers who have given much of their time and energy. If this project is to succeed we need more help, both in the practical side and on admin and business work. You will see below the date for the AGM and we hope you can attend to give your input. You will also see the help needed on various jobs. If we don't get this help there is a serious risk that this whole project will not continue, so please come and get involved, we need you.

NHS Group (TEE Venture)

The NHS North Yorkshire and York Community and Mental Health have entered into a partnership with the nursery and it is an ideal way to help integrate people who are recovering from mental health issues.

We will be joining in all sorts of activities helping to grow and sell plants and maintain the railway nursery. The TEE Venture plant nursery is gradually being moved to Poppleton and various groups of people come together three times a week, Monday afternoon, Wednesday and Friday, to do nursery jobs, mostly pricking out seedlings and potting on at this time of the year, plus some site maintenance and cleaning jobs. Most people have found it an easy move although there have been one or two problems with bus times to iron out (it was taking some people longer to travel to and from the nursery than the time they spent there).

We are looking forward to getting some of the greenhouses into production later on in the year. Up to now the effort has been concentrated on the shrubs and hardy perennials which are beginning to fill the frames and beds dotted around the site. We have discovered that the nursery fence does not keep out rabbits, these little monsters have dug up many trays of plants already, and we've learned very quickly that we have to protect the plants from them.

We hope to meet lots of Poppleton Community Railway Nursery members, so when you come onto the site do come and say hello, or join us for a chat when we are having a tea break.

The Railway

Over half of the track has now been cleared and in a few weeks we expect to reach the end of the line. Two more trucks and a wagon turntable have been brought back to the site. One of the trucks is in good order with a flat top and has already been used to transport materials. When the track is fully cleared more use is expected.

Work has commenced on stripping down a wagon with sides which was left on site. It needs a complete de-rusting and new timberwork, it will then provide an alternative for different loads. The two other wagon chassis will then be overhauled and it is planned that one will be a workbench/tool wagon for use on work around the site, and the other will be a water carrier. This work will take us through the winter period and beyond.

A few of us have been gathering and sharing information on narrow gauge industrial railways in the York area, and we hope, eventually, to have a small display of the information, and some explanations of why such railways where and are still required.

Another quite different job for winter is looking through all the railway documents and pictures of work done by the nursery, which have been kept on site, and making a decision on what should be kept.

We would welcome anyone interested to join us on any Thursday afternoon or evening, or if anyone would like to take on a specific project, please let us know at the nursery.

Annual General Meeting

It has been decided to hold our AGM at Poppleton Nursery on Wednesday 7th October 2009, commencing at 19.00, and the business of this meeting shall comprise:

1. The consideration of the report from the Board.
2. The accounts presented by the Board.
3. The election of the Board from the nominations.
4. The fixing of the Annual Subscriptions.
5. Such other business as may have been specified.

If any member has any business that he/she wishes to formally raise at this AGM please advise the Company Secretary, in writing, at the company address which is Station Road, Poppleton, York YO26 6QA by the 15th September 2009, no other items received after this date will be discussed.

It is anticipated that the board of Directors will be increased to 7 and that the day to day running of the operation will be carried out by the sub committee's that already exist (horticulture, railway and publicity/marketing), we invite parties interested in joining these committees also the Board to contact the Company Secretary (at the company address), again, by the 15th September 2009.

There is also a post box situated adjacent to the nursery main gate where you can also post any of the above.

Any nominations for the Board should be sent to the Company Secretary, Poppleton Community Railway Nursery Ltd., Station Road, Poppleton, York YO26 6QA to be received no later than 15th September 2009.

Web Site

We have been working on a web site for the nursery for the last few months and now, at long last, it has gone live. You will find it at www.poppletonrailwaynursery.co.uk . You will also find a page to contact us so if you feel that you want to contact us for any reason the mail on pcrn.info@yahoo.co.uk and we will get back to you.

Telephone

Poppleton Community Railway Nursery now has a telephone, and the number is 07800 501382. If no one is available to answer the telephone then please leave a message on the answer machine and we will get back to you.

Requests

Can you help in any of the following ways?

We have need of the following items:

- a) Water containers/butts any size but large preferred
- b) Lino or tough floor covering for sheds
- c) Usable wood burning stove
- d) Garden tools in a reasonable condition
- e) Workshop tools in a reasonable condition
- f) Good condition doors or windows

If you have any of the above and would like to donate them please let us know.

Appeal for Help

We have 2 appeals at the present time under this heading and would like to hear from anyone who can help us on the following:

1. Volunteers at the Nursery

We are drastically short of volunteers to help bring the Nursery up to standard, at the moment there are around 6 people which means that the brunt of the work is falling on these few.

If you think you can help us please contact us at the nursery, there is work for all and most of it is light work (weeding etc), also building work.

2. Administration Department

We need help in the administration department helping with all sorts of jobs including:

- a) Production of "The Potting Shed".
- b) Organising Coffee mornings for the months that we are not having plant sales.
- c) Volunteer Co-ordinator to organise the volunteers to the jobs available.
- d) Any Company administration work.

If you think that you can spare just a few hours a week helping out then please contact the Company Secretary at the nursery or via the website.

Plants

Do you have any spare plants or are throwing out surplus shrubs then please let us have them to sell and you could help make some additional money for the nursery.

Future Sales Dates

The following dates have been agreed and the Nursery will be open from 10.00 until 16.00 on all dates except the Christmas sales day will close at 15.00.

Autumn Sale - Saturday 10th October 2009, 10.00 until 16.00.

Winter Bedding Plants and Shrubs will be available for sale.

Christmas Sale - Saturday 12th December 2009, 10.00 until 15.00

Christmas Decorations – Holly Wreaths, Fresh Arrangements, Christmas Cards, Candles, Terracotta Pot Decorations, and Hyacinths etc. will be available for sale.

Please support us at the above sales.