

**The Potting Shed
May 2017
No. 39**



**Come and join us on
20 May 10:00am –
4:00pm for our next
Open Day.**

**We also have a sale at
St. Crux church in
York on 10 May
between 10:00am and
4:00pm.**

**We shall also be open
on Saturdays 13, 27
May and 3, 10, 17, 25
June between
10:00am and 1:00pm.**

**POPPLETON COMMUNITY
RAILWAY NURSERY**

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Charity Number: 1148341

Company Registration number:
06211163

Editorial

Since the last issue of **The Potting Shed** we have had two very successful open days, the model railway has been exhibited at the National Garden Railway Show in Peterborough and Loweco is operational again.

Railway and building work

Throw your hats in the air, give a toast and give three cheers to Peter Lister a friend of one of our railway members who has overhauled our Lister locomotive Loweco so that it is operational. Many frustrating days have been spent by Tim Brook trying to get the engine to work. The various diesel engine experts we have consulted all said that the engine timing was not the reason it wouldn't work, yet that was the reason. There are several minor repairs to fix but Tim is now able to look after the loco now and in the future. As a reward for his work, Peter Lister has been given a year's subscription to the nursery.



On the same day that Peter

was fixing Loweco, the remainder of the railway team were getting the model railway ready for its trip to the National Model Railway Show in Peterborough. The organisers of the show provided expenses for the hire of a van and accommodation/meals for three people in Peterborough. The van was collected and loaded on the Friday morning and we set off for Peterborough just before lunchtime. On arrival at Peterborough we were able to drive the van right up to our display spot and the layout was all set up by 5:30pm. On the following day final adjustments were made to the layout before the doors opened at 10:00am. The layout was much appreciated by the visitors to the show including the Nursery's last manager Graham Warner, and we gave out many leaflets. The show closed at 5:00pm and we were all packed up in the van before 6:00pm. Bob Brook travelled back to York by train on the Saturday night while David Dawson and Tim Elsworth stayed over on the Saturday night. An easy run back to York and everything was back at the Nursery around midday. At the April open day there were two sets of visitors to the Nursery who had been to the show in Peterborough — here's hoping for more. The official video of the show is viewable at <https://goo.gl/G2n1Qc>, Poppleton is shown around

the 6:40 minutes mark.



David Dawson setting up the layout next to the hired van



The nursery layout at Peterborough



The refurbished mess room on the layout

Publicity

Many thanks to the Discovery Hub at York St. John for working with us and promoting the nursery on Twitter. If you Tweet, please follow \@PCRNPublicity and join our 473 followers.

We are very pleased to receive regular mentions of our Open Days in the Handy Mag and Your Local Link. Our adverts in the Centrepiece (Poppleton Community Centre's quarterly newsletter) — kindly sponsored by Quality Solicitors of Poppleton — con-

tinue to attract interest and new customers. Our thanks go to member Lesley Leathley, who has been helping to "spread the word" about the nursery.

We also appreciate the co-operation of the Bar Convent, St. Bede's, Friends House, U3A, Visit York and the libraries, supermarkets and other locations (including several in Poppleton) who display our posters and leaflets.

Graham Collett



Gardening News

For the past month there has been a flurry of activity in the greenhouses and the potting shed. In every available space bedding plants are growing and flourishing. This year we have an even bigger selection of plants which have been grown on from plugs or seed sown at the Nursery.

The variety of perennials is even greater this year. If you have an unusual or interesting plant and are happy to give us a piece, we would be most grateful. Some members are very good at taking cuttings.

We also have a wide variety of vegetable seedlings (including tomato plants), herbs and alpines. We look forward to seeing you at our sales days.

Gill Duxbury

Sales figures

Our treasurer, Pat Otterburn, tells me that the sales figures for the last financial year, May 2016 – April 2017, have been the highest since the Nursery opened. Thanks go to all those worked so hard to make this happen and may the upward trend continue.

Funding

We are most grateful for a grant of £400 from the Charity Lands and Unknown Donors Dole of Nether Poppleton towards our planned disabled persons' toilet.

Big thanks to the Co-op Local Community Fund, Co-op members and especially customers at the Poppleton Co-op stores for voting for the nursery, thus giving us a brilliant contribution to our funds.

Graham Collett

Saturday Sale Dates

The Nursery will be open between 10.00am and 1.00pm Saturday mornings for sale of shrubs, perennials and bedding plants on the following dates:

- 13 May
- 27 May
- 3 June
- 10 June
- 17 June
- 24 June
- 14 October

- 21 October
- 28 October

Nursery Open Days

These will be held on the following Saturdays:

- 20 May 10.00–4.00
- 1 July 10.00–4.00
- 9 September 10.00–4.00
- 7 October 10.00–3.00
- 9 December 10.00–3.00

St. Crux Sale



Our annual event at St. Crux will take place on Wednesday 10 May. We need your help to make it a success.

We need a team of drivers to collect from the Nursery on Monday afternoon and deliver stuff to St. Crux on the Wednesday morning around 8:00am and people with cars to come back at 3:30pm to take things away and back to the Nursery. We also need a team to set up the site in time for sales to start at 10:00am. Another group will help on the stalls, refreshments, books, plants and bric-a-brac. We would also be grateful for any donations of books, bric-a-brac and cakes. Contact the nursery — see the

details on the front of this newsletter.

Paul Botting

Poppleton Station Re-adopted



Following safety training and handing out of some official new bright orange safety tabards we have been finally given the green light for Poppleton to be a fully fledged Northern Community Station by Richard Isaac their Regional Community & Sustainably Manager on 30 March.

We have applied for some money for plants, shrubs, paint etc. from Northern—despite encouraging words we have not got it yet!

Colin Wood, the previous adopter under the old regime, is leading the sub-group of the PCRN and has ideas for possibly more schools involvement with the station and, with the Poppleton History Society, a permanent display of photos etc. in the waiting room. Northern also indicated they would help us with designing and funding to print a new volunteer leaflet to increase awareness of the station and PCRN in the villages but that needs more thought later in the year.

Colin still reports any problems he sees to the Carillion

fault line and they have responded quickly to some but now the Station House is on the market are not actively involving themselves with it.

Northern say they have some improvements listed for the station including a new passenger shelter on the Harrogate platform, a new notice board and ticket machines. CCTV and a train announcement system do not appear on the list so far.

More practically Colin hopes, as a start, to get going on some tidying up of the three main beds and then turning to seasonal planting. This will probably be at least once a week from May.

Rachel did a superb job on the station but stood down at the end of last year and waiting for the final go ahead from Northern and the recent death of Colin's Mother has delayed things a little.

If anyone is interested in joining him — day not yet decided — please let him know by e-mail at colin.wood9999@gmail.com

Colin Wood

The Nursery then...



Taken in March 2009, three days after obtaining the keys to the Nursery

... and now



This slightly wider view taken this year shows the blinds fitted to the new wood store.

Needs list

- Baskets from old flower arrangements, we can recycle them for Christmas decorations.
- Garden plants, shrubs, perennials that you no longer want. We can split them and grow them on for the nursery sales. Also if you are pruning an interesting shrub we'd love a small quantity to propagate from.
- Carrier bags
- Garden tools, woodworking and engineering tools and equipment.

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. Now we are owners of a van we can collect large items. We do not want items that are broken, we are not a disposal service.

Volunteers

We continue to attract new volunteers to the nursery and

really appreciate their hard work in keeping our large site running.

We are now into the company team building and volunteering "season" and have already welcomed groups from Minster Law and Aviva. We do appreciate their fantastic efforts which make a significant difference to the nursery.

Graham Collett

Jobs

There are lots of tidying jobs at the nursery — any extra help would be appreciated. There are numerous repair and maintenance jobs on-site, and we need members with DIY skills to take them on. Please do contact us.

For sale

Cookery book

- A recipe book which compares wartime and present day recipes celebrating the fact that the nursery was a product of wartime Britain, they are on sale at a cost of £2.50 each or £3.25 posted

All items cheques to Poppleton Railway Nursery at the address on the front of the news letter.

... and finally

It is becoming a regular occurrence for a charter train passing through Poppleton to coincide with an open day at the Nursery. The April

open day saw Northern Belle's regular train to the Harrogate Flower Show, this year from Chester. Here we see the train passing the Nursery en route to Harrogate.

