

## The Potting Shed July 2017 No. 40



Come and join us on 9 September 10:00am – 4:00pm for our Heritage Day. As well as our usual plant sales we are planning something using the narrow gauge railway.

We also be selling plants at the Poppleton Show on 19 August on the Green between 10:00am and 4:00pm.

### POPPLETON COMMUNITY RAILWAY NURSERY

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**Charity Number:** 1148341

**Company Registration number:**  
06211163

## Editorial

With half the year gone, the Nursery is in fine fettle, we have had a series of successful sales days and we now have two working motorised vehicles on the narrow gauge railway — thank you to all the hard working people who have made this happen. Those who don't volunteer thank you for buying your plants from us. Have a great Summer.

## Railway and building work

Since the last issue work by the Railway group has been rather low key. The cover of the point mechanism on the pathway from the car park near the main Nursery gates has been replaced. A slightly different method has been used to the one nearest the car park utilising a plastic cover. The wood supporting the cover clearly had not been touched since it was installed in the 1980s and was rotted through.



*The above photo shows the rotten wood between the rails on the point.*



*The rotten wood has been removed and new wood (a fence post) has replaced it.*

Bob Brook held a private 70<sup>th</sup> birthday party with a railway theme. This enabled us to trial several ideas in a controlled manner, such as diesel loco driving which we may include in future open days.

The next major work will be on the container S2 roof, this is behind the container where you buy your plants from nearer the mainline railway.



*Rotten wood on S2. roof*

## Gardening News

The last month has been very busy for all the volunteers. We have a wider range of plants available which have to be potted on, then moved into the retail area when ready. A hugely popular line has been our hanging baskets, both refills and new, over 70 have been produced by our dedicated team and our customers have

been delighted with them.

Advertising and word-of-mouth is bringing more people to the Nursery, Facebook even alerted one family to the fact that we had pumpkin plants! The wide range of vegetable plants have also been selling well, and, although we don't aim to provide these, we do have some house plants for sale.

Don't think that we will now be sitting back and twiddling our thumbs. There is always clearing and weeding to be done, cuttings to be taken, plants to be re-potted etc. It's like painting the Forth Bridge. *[After it's last major paint the Forth Bridge does not now require continual painting but we know what you mean — Ed.]*

Gill Duxbury

## Sales figures

Our treasurer, Pat Otterburn, tells me that the sales from the beginning of May to the end of June has given us one quarter of our expected yearly income for plant sales.

## Co-op Local Community Fund

The nursery has been very fortunate in receiving a generous award from this fund. It is based on a small contribution from the Co-op each time a member buys something in their shops.

The Co-op donation was £1552.16, which we are using to buy the wood and other materials for our volunteers to

build much needed replacement doors for two of our larger sheds.

A big thanks to the Co-op and especially to our local Poppleton Co-op stores for nominating the nursery.

## 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:

- 14 October
- 21 October
- 28 October

## Nursery Open Days

These will be held on the following Saturdays:

- 9 September 10.00–4.00
- 7 October 10.00–3.00
- 9 December 10.00–3.00

## St. Crux Sale

Once again the sun shone and the buyers came out in force to give us a very successful sale. It was apparent in the middle of the afternoon how empty the bric-a-brac table was compared with the morning. Thank you to all who helped.

## Poppleton Show



Once again we shall be selling plants at the Poppleton Show, 10:00am–4:00pm on 19 August on the Green. If anybody wants to enter any produce, plants or handicrafts for the Poppleton Show, details are available from Cardland in Allerton Drive, Nether Poppleton.

## Poppleton station adoption



So far we have put in quite a few hours during our Monday afternoon sessions to tidy up the larger bed on the York Platform, cut back ivy etc. and plant it with colourful mixed bedding plants from the Nursery which should — rabbits permitting — look brighter over the Summer.

Watering (mainly bowser

pushing) was a bit of a challenge for a few weeks but not as I write this!

We have met again with Northern in the shape of Richard Isaac our Community Officer link. He has encouraged us to look at putting a water butt on the platform and is keenly giving the Nursery and its Open Days some coverage in an internal Northern communication called **The Shed!** He says Northern have had awful problems with their finance system but is promising us our money.

There are more plans being developed but in the meantime always more gardening to do. Monday afternoon is not set in stone as a working time, we could move it to another day the Nursery is open if more convenient. If anyone has any comments drop me an e-mail at [colin.wood9999@gmail.com](mailto:colin.wood9999@gmail.com) Many thanks to Sue Barker, Graham Collett and Ron Healey for their splendid work and enthusiasm and to Paul for his horticultural advice and plant supply.

*Colin Wood*

## **The Nursery then...**



*The above photo taken on 25 March 2009 — three days after obtaining the keys — shows a*

*bare greenhouse, with all of the glass present and only a small infestation of thistles.*

## **... and now**



*Taken a couple of weeks ago, it is the Nursery's main indoor sales area and is full of plants for sale.*

## **David Thompson**

We recently heard of the death of David Thompson. In the early days of the Nursery he was our Membership Secretary and was also a memorable Santa on the first of our December sales days. We send our condolences to his family and friends.

## **Needs list**

- Baskets from old flower arrangements.
- Garden plants, shrubs, perennials that you no longer want.
- 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.

## **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**

We still have copies of our wartime cookery book for sale, £2.50 each or £3.25 posted.

## **... and finally**

The movement of our scaffold tower to fix S2's roof gives some novel views over the Nursery.

