

**The Potting Shed
December 2017
No. 42**



Come and join us on 9
December 10:00am –
3:00pm for our
Christmas Open Day
for Christmas wreaths,
tree and table
decorations, Also
hyacinths in bowls,
garlands and indoor
wreaths. To order
wreaths phone 01904
797623. Tea, coffee
and homemade cake
will be available

**POPPLETON COMMUNITY
RAILWAY NURSERY**

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Company Registration number:
06211163

Editorial

My transcribing of the Nursery's diaries and other documentation continues to reveal new information about the Nursery's history, we have evidence in black and white that PM Margaret Thatcher walked on a blue carpet when she named a locomotive. The visit of Mike Bowers, see later in this issue, also turned up new information. Several of us are keen to have a similar meeting with the Nursery's last manager Graham Warner.

Railway and building work

The roofing work on S2 has been held up by a combination of holidays, bad weather and other Nursery commitments, all that remains to be done at the time of writing is the fitting of guttering on the railway side and fitting of water collection.

One new task results from the acquisition of the old shelter from Poppleton station. We became aware that the contractors fitting the ticket machine and CCTV were also replacing the shelter, we said that we were interested in it if it could be cut up in a sensible way. The contractors removed the shelter from the station and then divided it vertically into three sections, and then lifted it over the fence onto the coal drops. At the time of writing two of

the sections have been carried over the road and placed between the two portacabins. The roof of one of those sections has been unscrewed and carried to the Harrogate end of the site. The sections are unwieldy and it is at least a 4-5-man-lift with a gentle move on one of the rubber tyred flat trolleys. Our next job is to see if we can get the roof off the remaining section on the coal drop site, to lighten the load for its eventual move to the main Nursery site. We hope to position the sections as a wagon shed on the siding at the Harrogate end of the site. The narrow gauge railway will make it easier to move the sections and we shall be doing this over the winter as weather and man power allow.



The shelter is seen just to the right of the locomotive.



Shelter as left on coal drops.

For bad weather days we have a few other jobs — get-

ting another railway wagon into service and clearing out wood from the greenhouses.

Website

The main work on the web site is the creation of a page for the Poppleton Station Adopters, this is on-going but is not yet live.

Gardening News

As the run-up to Christmas rolls on apace, Santa's elves at the Nursery have been very busy making festive decorations. There are decorated candles and logs which will enhance your table or mantelpiece.

If you prefer something that's growing, we have pots of cyclamen, and containers with other plants in them. Paper-white narcissus are ready—some already in flower. There are also pots of Iris Reticulata which can go in the garden. Hyacinths are coming out of their thick duvet of peat and will be available in pots of three—pink, white or blue.

In another greenhouse is a hive of activity where fresh wreaths are being made — a very time consuming occupation. These are made to order.

But we do have time for getting together over lunch and tea breaks. We catch up on what we are all doing away from the Nursery and “ooh” and “aah” over the latest pictures of grandchildren. Do come and see us. You will be very welcome.

Gill Duxbury

Saturday Sale Date

The Nursery will be open on Saturday 9 December 10:00 am to 3:00 pm for Christmas wreaths, decorations, hyacinths in bowls and garlands. Tea, coffee and homemade cake will be available and the narrow gauge and model railways will be on display.

Poppleton station adoption

Sue Barker and I have been busy recently taking out our summer bedding and planting for winter. We are also continuing to paint white the massive plant pots and the concrete station sign.



However contractors have been busy also and we are trying to keep out of their way while they do their work. This includes fitting CCTV (lots of poles), the ticket machine and its shelter, and a new passenger waiting shelter on Platform 2. Bob Brook and his team have managed to have the old one donated to them and are moving it in sections to the Nursery for future use. Classic recycling!



New ticket machine shortly after installation

Placing the new ticket machine where they did—right in front of our bigger flower bed—was a blow, especially since several of us had worked hard to give Northern several better alternatives—for us and them. However, they have promised to move the notice boards to give a better view of the flower bed and most importantly buy and fit a water butt where we want it next to the station building on Platform 1. We will hold them to it as pushing the water bowser over from the Nursery in Summer is not practical for much longer and “water capture” as they call it, is one of their targets.

We have also been promised another notice board so we can restart our idea of displaying pictures of the station over the last 100 years.

Amazingly it almost a year since we started the Station Adopter Team under the new

Northern Rail arrangements and very soon it will be time to decide what plants we would like for next year from Paul, and put a new bid into Northern for money to pay for them.

We also need more helpers in our team and to try to get more of the villagers and train user's aware of the station and the Nursery. We will dust off some of our ideas and plans for this after Christmas!
Colin Wood Team Leader

Company Group Volunteering Visits

Since the last Potting Shed, we have been very pleased to welcome groups from Benenden Health, Portakabin and the York Cares Operations Group (the latter is a group of company visit coordinators who will encourage staff to form volunteer groups to come to the nursery). They have done great work while enjoying a day in the open air out of the office and we do appreciate York Cares facilitating these visits.

Volunteer Projects

Two of our volunteers — Darren and Jake — have been busy in our woodworking shop, producing a staggering 65 bird nesting boxes to meet three separate orders and building new compost bins for the nursery, while another group of volunteers are steadily building new doors for some of our sheds. As well as nesting boxes, we also produce bird tables and

other small garden furniture to order. Please get in touch if you are interested — but you might have to wait while we finish the current jobs!

Visit of Mike Bowers



Mike Bowers.

Nick Beilby (Head of NYMR York Group and member of DVLRL) contacted the Nursery to say he knew Mike Bowers, who was the last LNER tinsmith, whose father was a friend of Harry Hoyle, the manager of the Poppleton Nursery before the appointment of the last manager, Graham Warner.

A meeting was arranged at the Nursery for Mike, in his 90th year, to look around and tell us anything he knew about the Nursery and particularly about the location of Poppleton's predecessor in the Leeman Road area. Nick arranged for Jonathan Stockwell (DVLRL Archivist) to record the meeting for archival purposes.

A lively discussion resulted, the results of which we will bring you in future issues of the Potting Shed. We are still not sure of the exact location of the Leeman Road Nursery, so if anyone has definitive evidence, could they let us know.

The Nursery then...



This photo, from 2005, shows some of the Nursery staff pushing one of the trucks past the greenhouse G7-9.

... and now



David Dawson is seen driving *Terry Stanhope*, note in the bottom right of the picture, the extension of the narrow gauge railway towards the mainline railway.

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.

... and finally

This is the final Potting Shed of 2017, as we approach the festive season can I wish you and your friends and family a happy Christmas and prosperous New Year.

