

**The Potting Shed
July 2018
No. 45**



Come and join us on 8 September 10:00am – 4:00pm for our Heritage Open Day Sale. The narrow gauge and model railways will also be on show. Tea, coffee and homemade cake will be available.

We shall also be selling plants at the Poppleton Show on the Green, 18 August, 1:00pm - 4:00 pm.

**POPPLETON COMMUNITY
RAILWAY NURSERY**

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Editorial

The last few weeks has seen intense activity at the Nursery, the loan of the truck and the opening of the Nursery for the Bloom! festival and the 30th Anniversary railway evening. Hopefully the display on the station will provide future visitors. While the open days weren't overly busy, possibly due to the heat and the football, the railway evening was sold out and attracted much favourable comment.

Colin and Sue who look after Poppleton station could do with some more help, even for an hour, so why not contact the Nursery and give them a hand.

This is the last Potting Shed before September, here's wishing you an enjoyable Summer, see you in the Autumn.

Railway and building work

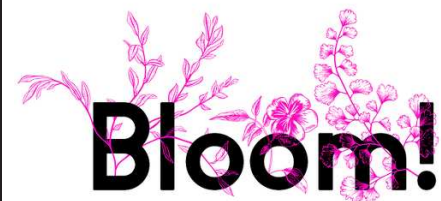
Much of the work the railway group has done has involved preparations for the 30th Anniversary Open Evening. Some work on the track was carried out. The work on the turntable was inspected the week before the turntable and found not to be satisfactory, a temporary fix was implemented for the evening but further work will be required. The locomotives running over the turntable on the evening has given some concern, con-

sequently we have banned locomotives running over it unless absolutely necessary.

Much time, paper and thought was spent on how trains were going to run on the evening, safety and the myriad of things to consider for such an event, we have certainly learnt much when we consider such an event in the future.

After the excitement of the last few weeks its back to normality, we have work to do on the turntable and finish off the carriage shed. Long term thought has been given to the unused truck chassis we have on site, the loan of the brake van has made us think it would be nice to have one of our own. Some of the chassis have better wheels/axle boxes than others so a rationalisation of wheels between vehicles which have heavy use and those that are more static is being considered

Bloom! Festival



Apart from opening the Nursery, the main contribution to Bloom! was the plant-decorated truck being displayed on York Station. The truck was collected from Nursery on the Monday before the festival. On the Tuesday the

truck was moved to the station, the location of the display was next to the buffer stops on platform 3. By mid-afternoon the rest of the display was incomplete but the truck was in place on its track, as there was an England match the authorities and put a metal fence round the display. The display was completed sometime on Thursday. The truck was returned to the Nursery on the Monday after the festival. A photo of truck on the station can be seen on the first page of this issue.

30th Anniversary Railway Evening

To celebrate the 30th Anniversary of the opening of the narrow gauge railway by Geoffrey Smith in July 1988 a railway themed evening was held on the first day of the Bloom! festival. It was decided to hire in Lister No. 3, Greenwood & Batley battery loco and a brake van from the Ripon & District Railway.

The Ripon & District stock arrived the day before the event which gave us a chance to try it out round Nursery.

During the day of the event, everything was set up and last minute problems sorted out. The evening started with the locomotives at the York end of the Nursery. For the first hour four trains — 2 “goods” trains, a passenger train and Terry Stanhope — travelled round the Nursery, all the locos hauled all the trains and round the

loop in both directions. Half-an-hour of photography, the sun put in an appearance, was followed by half-an-hour of driver experience with out-and-back workings with the remainder of the stock before reverting back to running round the loop for the last hour.

The whole evening was very successful with many favourable comments from the visitors — there was something moving on the railway virtually continuously for the three hours of the event. Thanks go to Pat, Jo and Graham for running the refreshments, Jo for cutting the cake and to Neil and his helpers from Ripon. Photographs of the event are on the last page in this issue and on the Nursery’s Flickr site. Stuart Chapman has taken a video of the event which can be seen on YouTube (search for poppleton community railway), it is also linked from the Nursery’s web site.

Poppleton station adoption



There are still just the two of us spending time on the station, Sue and I — no more volunteers have so far come forward, for example from the village.

The very dry weather almost defeated us — some plants have died — but we have a reasonable watering regime back in place now. The water butt has long been empty so it’s back to pushing the water bowser over from the Nursery many times each week!

Thanks for the help we have had with emergency watering and weeding and trying to get a temporary hose pipe link in place.

The work on the Station Buildings—a smart conversion for holiday lettings—seems to be nearing completion.

We are told we are getting some more money from Northern for 2018-2019 so, when it comes, we plan to use it for some soil improvement in our little beds and buying more permanent shrubs. That would mean a lot less bedding plants next year.

We are still hoping Northern will move the notice boards on the York platform as they promised last October which would give more visibility and better access to the flower bed behind.

Colin Wood
Team Leader, Station Adopter Group

Pie and Peas Supper



The Nursery's Pie and Peas Supper will be held on August 15 from 6:00 pm. Further details will be emailed.

The Nursery then...



The photo goes back 30 years to July 1988 and the opening of the narrow gauge railway by Geoffrey Smith, who is nearest the camera on the train. Geoffrey Smith was a presenter on BBC TV's Gardener's World programme as well as being head gardener at RHS Harlow Carr in Harrogate.

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.

Volunteer Coordinator

- Can you spare a few hours each week?
- Do you enjoy meeting and helping people?

The nursery is currently looking for someone to take on the role of volunteer coordinator. The position would be ideal for someone who has good interpersonal and communication

skills, is positive, enthusiastic and well organised.

The job would involve welcoming potential volunteers to the nursery, assisting them in identifying the role that they would be best suited to and helping them to settle in. If you have a friendly personality, enjoy meeting new people and would like a new challenge in your life why not consider applying?

For more information visit the website or contact the nursery by email and we will supply you with a full job description and answer any questions you may have.

Jo Sullivan-Jones Chairperson

... and finally

Last issue of The Potting Shed showed a blue tit on one of Nursery's bird boxes. Your editor didn't see whether the blue tits used the box, however in the last few weeks a pair of tree sparrows has raised a family in the same box.



Nursery stall at Poppleton Sports Day in May

The Bloom! Open Days and 30th Anniversary Evening

