

The Potting Shed May 2019 No. 49



Come and join us on 1
June 10:00am – 4:00pm
for our Summer Sales Day
in this our 10th year at
Poppleton.

Sale of Books, bric-a-brac
and plants at St. Crux,
York, 10:00am to 4:00pm,
Wednesday 22 May.

Our Buy One Get One Free
Sales day will be 6 July
10:00am – 4:00pm.

We shall also be open between
10:00am and 1:00pm on 11,
18, 25 May, 8, 15, 22, 29
June.

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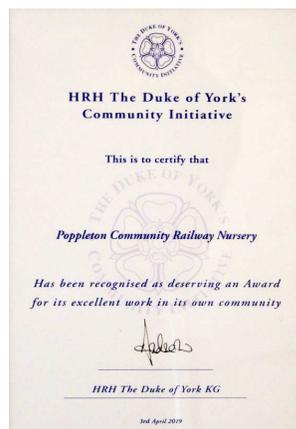
Charity Number: 1148341

Company Registration number:
06211163

Editorial

The tenth anniversary of the Nursery has certainly had a great start with a bumper open day in March and the presentation by Prince Andrew of his Community Award to the Nursery. As Jo details in her article about the presentation of the award below, the award isn't for the select few who went to the presentation but to all the volunteers who have helped with the Nursery over the last ten years.

Duke of York's Community Award Presentation



The Nursery was very honoured to have been given the Duke of York's Award for Community Initiative and on Wednesday 4 April, four of the Nursery volunteers made the journey to Catterick Garrison for the presentation ceremony by HRH Prince Andrew, Duke of York. Representing the

nursery were Gill Duxbury, Jake McKelvie, Pat Otterburn and Jo Sullivan-Jones.

We arrived in good time and passed through security without any hitches, while we waited for all of the other award winners and the Duke of York to arrive coffee was served. This was followed by a light buffet lunch of sandwiches, quiche, breaded chicken and lots more made by the Garrison catering staff and very enjoyable it was too!

At 1:30 the Duke of York was heralded in by the sound of a bugle and the presentations commenced. There were around 200 guests from 23 charities and groups receiving awards for a whole host of services which benefited communities from all over Yorkshire. A few familiar ones from our region were SNAPPY, St. Nicks and the Rotary club of York.



After the presentation the Duke chatted with each of the groups asking questions about each organisation. We also spoke to the Lord Lieutenant of North Yorkshire, Mrs. Johanna Ropner who ex-

pressed an interest in visiting the nursery and to one of the Deputy Lieutenants: both were extremely impressed with Jake and his achievements both at the nursery and in setting up his own gardening business.

We were not allowed to leave the ceremony until after the Duke had departed so while the Duke was doing his rounds more coffee, scones, doughnuts and cake were served.

At 4 o'clock the Duke bade farewell and returned to his helicopter and left Catterick Garrison.

We returned, proudly with our Award to York. An excellent achievement and well deserved, given to us because of the contributions made by all of the hard working and dedicated volunteers who give their time and skills to making the nursery the place that it is. A supportive, tranquil place where each volunteer is valued and able to learn new skills, meet new people and have fun! Thank you all for your hard work and efforts.

Jo Sullivan-Jones

Railway and building work

Since the last Potting Shed only minor jobs have been completed. The guttering on G7 is now complete, final fitting out is all that is required for completion. We have a plan for the roof on the remainder of this greenhouse but nothing has been started. We have been given permission from

Network Rail to remove the old water heating pipes from this greenhouse.

On the railway front, the new truck has had its refurbished wheels fitted and is now a rolling chassis. It is intended to make this into a brake van and one frame end has been temporarily fixed to the frame. Your editor saw a nice two-foot gauge brake van at the Great Steam Fair at Beamish which has given us ideas.

On 12 May we are having a visit from the Narrow Gauge Society in connection with their AGM, work is ongoing in preparation for that visit. We are also having a visit from someone from Neville Hill Traction Depot in Leeds to see if the railway apprentices at Neville Hill can carry out work on some of the railway projects at Poppleton.

Open Days



Visitors and payment queue at March open day

Our first open day of the year at the end of March dawned bright and sunny. From the 10:00am start the staff on duty were continually busy throughout the day. There were even queues for visitors paying for plants. Even though we were only open for

5 hours, it was our most successful open day at Poppleton and rivalled one of the St. Crux open days. As an experiment the truck with the drop-down sides, P2, was fitted with a seat and visitors could push the truck along a short length of roped-off track. This went very well and we will repeat this at future open days.

At the April open day numbers were lower due to the showery weather. At this open day, and not for the first time, the Nursery was a clue on Radio York's Finders Keepers treasure hunt. The photo below shows Radio York presenter Julia Lewis interviewing the Nursery's Jo Sullivan-Jones live on air.



Ten Years Ago



Inside S9 on March 25 2009, the Whitby wheelbarrow and the reflective strips on Bob Brook's jacket can be clearly seen.

Issue 2 of The Potting Shed

came out in April 2009 and consisted of 6 A4 pages. The great news was an agreement had been made with Network Rail and insurance was in place. The board were involved in a complete survey of the site. The contents of the ex-NHS Coach House nursery in Rawcliffe which was closing down were being moved to Poppleton as space allowed. Projections were given for what the Poppleton Nursery will be able to grow and the craft work that will be produced and these have been achieved in the last 20 years. A membership form was included with rates for different categories starting at £5 for full membership. Stephen Lee wrote an article about getting involved at Poppleton starting with an article from The Guardian in 2006 which is still available on their website. Bob Brook wrote a piece about the narrow gauge railway concentrating on how the stock was disposed after the Nursery was closed.

If you are interested in past issues of the Potting Shed are all available on the Nursery's website.

New Toilet Block



Poppleton station adoption

On the plus side the small amount of exposed cabling has been buried now by contractors and we have been able to plant up that bed again on the Harrogate platform. No action on the York platform means that we still have problems with access because of the crumbling wall and no solid fence on the main bed. We still have no water provision on the station but, within safety constraints, the 3 of us Richard, Sue and I will continue to plant, cut back and renew at the station and push the water bowser over to it when needed! I always report faults on the station to Northern as I find them. Rectifying them seems slow. Current major ones are the waiting room doors and an information screen out of order.

Our team plan to visit a couple of Adopted West Yorkshire stations soon to see how they do things and what we can learn from them. If we get our bid for some modest funds from Northern for this year we will see what can be done about improving the environment. We have not heard anything yet about the money but believe that is the case for all Northern stations and that news is imminent.

A new timetable begins on 19 May and we have placed new copies—available well in advance—in a dispenser on the station. There are virtually no changes between York and Harrogate but there are extra trains between Leeds and Har-

rogate.

Colin Wood

Help required

- **Can you help at a railway event at the Nursery?** We are looking for a couple of people to help our railway group on Sunday 12th May in the morning. We have agreed to welcome a visiting group of about 30 people from Narrow Gauge Railway Society who are holding their AGM in Yorkshire. We will be running trains, and the model railway, as well as refreshments and visitors looking about the site. Training will be given if required.
- **Glazing repairs** The nursery would really benefit from someone who could take on the glazing repairs on the greenhouses. We have a large amount of glass which now needs replacing. Someone who knows how to cut glass would be ideal, but not essential. Most of the Nursery glass is bought in standard ready-cut sizes. This is an intermittent job tending to be concentrated in the late winter or spring after the bad weather. There is some working at height from a step ladder. Contact Paul on pcrn.info@yahoo.co.uk if you can help.

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

Free with this issue is the second of 4 photo supplements **PCRN — The First Ten Years**, this time starting in 2012.



Left: Gill Duxbury, Pat Otterburn, Jo Sullivan-Jones and Jake McKelvie at the Nursery before the presentation of the Duke of York's award.

Right: Bright sun lights up the Nursery with threatening clouds in the background.