

The Potting Shed December 2019 No. 52



The Nursery is open on
Saturday 7 December,
10:00am to 3:00pm for our
Christmas Open Day and the
last open day of the year.

Explore the Narrow Gauge
Railway and the last Railway
Nursery.

Sale of Christmas Wreaths
(pre-order required), Table
and Tree Decorations,
Seasonal Planters, Hyacinths
and Perennials.

Tea, Coffee and Cakes.

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06211163

Editorial

Looking back over the last 12 months I think it has been a very successful year for the Nursery. The allotment provided excellent produce, the new toilet block appeared as did a car port roof over G7. There were several successful railway events and open days and we received a Community Initiative Award. Communication with organisations on the big railway has been frustrating for the station adopters but things look as though they have turned a corner. So a big thank you to all who have helped the Nursery over the last year. Looking forward work is ongoing in G7-9 towards having a building within the green house so here's looking forward to 2020. Happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

Membership

Just a reminder to members that your membership is due on 1st January 2020.

Christmas Decorations

We have capacity to make some more Christmas wreaths. If you would like to order one, please email us on pcrn.info@yahoo.co.uk. We have natural door wreaths at £18 and grave wreaths at

£12. There are an assortment of natural and artificial Christmas decorations and the nursery pop up Christmas shop will be open on Mondays, Wednesday and Fridays until the 19th December. We also have bowls of hyacinths three per bowl at £4 each.

Railway and building work

Our major work has been concentrated in the Greenhouse G8. It is proposed to put a building within G8, to achieve this the old heating pipes have been removed by angle grinding them out, The Nursery has bought a large angle grinder to achieve this.

Terry Stanhope has been moved from the Engine Shed and placed on sleepers in the car port. The gear box has been removed to cure a persistent oil leak.



*Terry Stanhope on sleepers
before removal of gearbox.*

Smaller jobs have included painting the new toilet, sealing the stove chimney in the

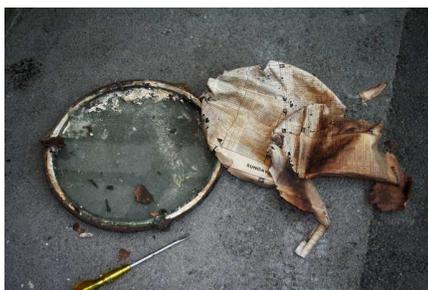
Potting Shed and replacing a drop-down side of truck P2.

Phil Graham has donated 3 token pouches, these are designed to hold the token which the driver has to have for a train to enter a particular section of single track railway. The pouches (there are no tokens) were for the following sections of railway: Horsforth–Arthington, Nunthorpe–Battersby and Wolsingham–Stanhope.



Token pouch

We have removed the glass from old Poppleton station clock and we are investigating whether we can reinstate with a modern electric mechanism and replacement face. Inside the case of the clock was a fragile extract from a 1960–70s York timetable.



Clock glass and timetable



Detail of timetable.

Look North visits the Nursery

Amy Garcia, a Poppleton resident, a visitor to the Nursery and Look North presenter, approached the Nursery about doing a piece about the Nursery for the BBC Look North programme. After a couple of false starts, Amy and cameraman Barry came to the Nursery on Friday 4 October. Over 3 hours Amy interviewed Bob Brook, Paul Botting and several of the volunteers. The resultant 3-minute feature, aired the same evening, was a little gem concentrating on the history of the Nursery and the help given to mental health patients. Unfortunately the BBC iPlayer only retains local programmes for 24 hours, so if anybody has a recording of the programme please contact the Nursery.



Amy Garcia interviews Bob Brook



Barry, Jake and Amy Garcia



Ten Years Ago

Issue 4 of The Potting Shed appeared in December 2009 and consisted of 3 sides of A4 in full colour with pictures. In fact this could be considered to be the first Potting Shed as we know it today. There was much to report with plant sales in July and October. Volunteers had come forward to take up the multitude of jobs including David Thompson as membership secretary. There had been interest from various bodies: Helmsley Walled Garden, York Cares, York House and several heritage railways. Much work had been carried out on the greenhouses and buildings including re-felting the Potting Shed and there was planning for future work on S1, S2 and S7. On the railway all the track had been cleared and we had a visit to Neil Clayton in Ripon to collect a track. A small group from the Probation Service had been working on the

site one day a week. A start had been made sorting out the mountain of paperwork left by Jarvis. There were two essays, one by Stephen Lee asking for ideas and volunteers to move the Nursery along, and one by Paul Botting about Winter at the Nursery looking forward to Spring. There is even a Christmas joke, probably taken from a cracker: What do you call a person who is afraid of Santa Claus? Claustrophobic!

Poppleton station adoption

We have had our meeting with Northern Rail on the station after tea and biscuits at the nursery! Richard Isaac brought his assistant Charlotte Harris with him and also the railway line manager Mick Moxon whose face appears on the poster at the station and who bought us our rain barrel a couple of years back. We were pleased they could spend time with us to see the problems for themselves and discuss some solutions.

Some positive things seem to have emerged and we are looking forward to a new sign and fence by the path side of Platform 1 and the notice boards moved into the waiting shelter, so that our garden is visible again, by mid-January. We hope also to get help to provide timetable leaflets for passengers on our line for the changes from 15 December. (There are hardly any by the way but new timetables start on that day).

The boundary issues be-

tween the flower beds and the privately owned station building and it's space are more complicated and will need some input from Network Rail!

On Platform 2 we are costing up materials for a new fence at the back boundary (once agreed) of what could be a nice flower bed. Northern would probably pay for it but we are not sure we have the skills to do the work. Tree clearance and shrubbery cut back/replanting are also being investigated.

Unfortunately our ideas to make the new passenger shelter green, self sustaining and capture it's rain water for our purposes are none starters for Northern so we are reluctantly resigned to filling up our bowser frequently and taking water over to that side for our plants for the foreseeable future.

Once we see some progress we will try properly to engage with the village through the parish council and the junior school (Northern say they should be able to help us with that too) and make a decent spring planting in the beds and planters. We also need to talk in more detail to ACORP whom we have joined to see what they can do for us, as I mentioned last time.

Finally we re-discovered the old clock case still in situ on the front of the station building very recently. Bob Brook has already started some cleaning up of it. Has anyone got the old clock in their shed—or one very like it we could think about modifying and refitting?

Colin Wood, Adopter's Team Leader.

Small items of furniture

We have some small items of furniture which need new homes, we are happy to take donations for them, You can view at the Nursery, Mondays, Wednesday and Friday between 9:30 and 3:30.

- Three coffee tables come magazine rack
- Pink desk lamp
- Hand fertiliser spreader
- Folding occasional table
- Two folding chairs in carrying cases (new)
- Various CD/DVD storage units some on rotating stands
- Large perspex shoe rack
- Fishing tent
- Hat stand

Help 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.

Aluminium collection

Ann Dixon is still collecting foil, aluminium cans and household cables for snappy. There is a box with all the other recycling boxes between the mess room and sales area at the Nursery. Snappy is a valuable resource for disabled children giving their parents much needed respite and giving the children a space in which to try lots of activities in

a safe environment. Collecting foil can become just another strand of your kerbside recycling, the only extra hassle is having to bring it to the nursery.

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

With the arrival of the new toilets the old toilets have been taken out of use. The old labels on the doors have been removed, which shows what the ladies toilet was in railway days.



Ten years ago the railway group had a Sunday morning outing to the Ripon & District Railway to collect some new track and a point for the Nursery narrow gauge railway. The photos show loading up Neil Clayton's van in Ripon; a waterlogged track back at Poppleton; unloading the track; the track safely stored next to the engine shed.

