

The Potting Shed June 2020 No. 55



The Nursery is open
10 am to 3 pm on
Monday, Wednesday
and Friday subject to
social distancing.

POPPLETON COMMUNITY RAILWAY NURSERY

Station Road Upper Poppleton
York YO26 6QA

☎ 01904 797623

☎ 07800 501382

✉ pcrn.info@yahoo.co.uk



poppletonrailwaynursery.co.uk

Charity Number: 1148341

Company Registration number:
06211163

Editorial

The relaxation of the lockdown rules has enabled the Nursery to hold its first sales day of the year, the successful plant delivery scheme and the return to work by the various groups, if on a restricted basis indicates that the Nursery is returning to normality after its most trying six months.

Allotment

The veg patch has a selection of produce growing well; including: broad and runner beans, spuds, mange tout, onions, turnips, courgettes, spinach, beetroot and spring onions. Sadly, the French beans have been ravaged by the resident rabbit, so I've started again with Jo's plants and netted them this time. Should have done the same to the rabbit — Anyone partial to rabbit pie?



Jo's idea of 'companion' planting, where bedding plants are integrated amongst the veg, has worked to improve pollination and added colour.



We should have some fruit soon as the strawberry and raspberry plants look good. Maybe some gooseberries next year!



I have a new apprentice gardener to help me — my daughter Elly, who is learning fast, but loves rabbits.

Hope you enjoy the produce as it comes on stream. I'll leave it bagged in 'mess room'. Barry Treanor

Corona Virus Lockdown

At the beginning of the lockdown due to the pandemic the thought was the Nursery would have to take a hit as far as income was concerned.

However due to a few resourceful people (who I won't name—they know who they are) it was decided to take on-line orders for delivery. An

order form was placed on the website and orders came flooding in. This placed a lot of pressure on the volunteers who could actually go to the nursery to put orders together and arrange delivery, but they more than succeeded.

Due to the volunteers who did all this it is pleasing to say that the income their hard work generated was nearly the same amount as it would have been if the Nursery had been open and had the usual open days.

So a **BIG** thanks go to those few extraordinary volunteers that made this happen and worked so hard.

Pat Otterburn,
Treasurer.

Railway and building work

The group has over the last few weeks, restarted our regular Thursday meetings. The Nursery over the last few months started to look a bit ragged around the edges and we have identified certain jobs we can start and still enable social distancing. Posts and rope were set up to enable a one-way system for the sales day, including several posts retrieved from the container on the coal drop site.

Help required

The railway and building group are seeking for members to join the group, particularly with a mechanical

interest. The only requirements are being a member of the Nursery. We meet on a Thursday afternoon between 2 and 6 p.m., you can come as little and often as you want to and you don't need to have experience. Tea/coffee, biscuits and occasionally cake are provided and it isn't all work, we occasionally play trains on the narrow gauge railway.



Railway traffic

In spite of the Harrogate line being run on a minimal emergency timetable, there has been extra traffic in connection with engineering works elsewhere on the line. On 21 May a Colas-liveried Class 70 was seen on route learning seen exchanging the token.



June 6 saw this One-liveried Class 66 also on route learning.



By 21 June this Class 66 hauled train of auto-ballasters was seen heading for Harrogate. All photos taken by Richard Scott.



20 June Open Day

After not having had a sales day since Christmas due to the lockdown, it was decided to have a low key open day on June 20. A one way route using poles and rope was put in place and the further parts of the Nursery and the formal garden blocked off, the old ladies toilet was re-opened as a hand washing station. The route was coming from the car park and going up the south side of the central walkway, barrows and trolleys were available outside the engine shed and the shop area was its own one way system, there were a couple of walk-throughs giving access to the toilets. Opposite S1 the customers turned round to walk back along the north side of the central walkway. The till was under a

gazebo outside the main portacabin. There was no refreshments, model railway or non-plant sales although Loweco could be viewed in the engine shed. Customers were asked to maintain physical distancing with several indicators placed 2 metres apart around the till. The day was fine and sunny and a steady stream of customers resulted in very satisfactory takings.



Safety notice with plants for sale



One way system

Ten Years Ago

The Potting Shed No. 6 was issued in June 2010 as two-sides of A4. It was not up to its usual standard as its regular editor had been ill. The first of the railway barbecues for members and spouses was advertised for 21 July, cost £2. David Farr told of being a temporary station master at Morley Low in 1960. One of the perks of the job was mushrooms grown in the horse manure used on the station's an-

tirrhinums and lobelia. This perk was short-lived as he was moved to Coxwold.

The Nursery was coming to life although it had been difficult to control the temperature of the greenhouses over the winter. An agreement had been made with Northern to look after the plants on Poppleton Station, and plants had been sold to three stations on the Settle & Carlisle line. A toddlers and carers group had met once a month for horticultural activities and the local brownies had made several visits. Building work had been undertaken and the first wagon overhauled at the nursery was nearing completion. We had a donation of equipment from Mr. Jacob Verhoef from the former Dutch Nurseries in Haxby.

Poppleton station adoption

In view of Northern's continuing ban on all activities at their stations, nothing has happened on our station since the last Potting Shed. Consequently, the weeds are now well established and a couple of the bushes in the white tubs have, unfortunately, died. But the bicycle which has been marooned in the waiting room for weeks has finally been liberated! However, the waiting room itself remains closed and social distancing notices and yards and yards of blue tape on the seats have all appeared to make the station ready for the post lockdown new world.

Very recently, Northern

have announced the first steps to allow a limited number of station activities to resume, subject to compliance with a list of rules, most of which should be straightforward for us to adhere to, fortunately. However, Colin Wood will be temporarily stepping back from station activities, for reasons associated with the Covid pandemic, so Richard Scott will be keeping things ticking over for the time being. The immediate need is for another person to volunteer (or, even better, volunteers!) to join us as we need two active volunteers to comply with Northern's rules. Thus, if anybody would like to help please contact Richard (rhs1825@yahoo.com) for a preliminary chat. The work is not strenuous and you will be very welcome! Richard Scott.

... and finally

Some photos of the Nursery after nearly three months of lockdown can be viewed at <https://www.flickr.com/photos/truckintim/albums/72157714693465436>

