



## The Potting Shed April 2021 No. 58



The Spring Sales Open  
Day will be on  
Saturday 24 April from  
10:00am to 4:00pm,

There will be Saturday  
morning sales  
10:00am-1:00pm on  
1, 8, 15 & 22 May.

### POPPLETON COMMUNITY RAILWAY NURSERY

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**Charity Number:** 1148341

**Company Registration number:**  
06211163

## Editorial

The post-Christmas lockdown has resulted in the Nursery operating with minimal staff again. A number of incidents have happened over the period but have been or are in the process of being overcome. Plant growing and planning of events have been ongoing and the advent of good weather and the prospect of opening after Easter bodes well for the rest of the year.

## Membership

Members who had membership for 2020 have had their membership extended until December 31 2021 at no extra charge.

## Sales Days

Subject to Covid-19 Restrictions, the Nursery will hold sales on the following dates:

**24 April** Spring Open Day  
10:00am to 4:00pm

**1, 8, 15, & 22 May** Saturday  
Sales 9:30am to 1:30pm

**29 May** Summer Open Day  
10:00am to 4:00pm

**5, 12, 19 & 26 June**  
Saturday Sales 9:30am  
to 1:30pm

**3 July** Buy One Get One Free  
on Bedding Plants Sales  
Day 10:00am to 4:00pm

**11 September** Heritage Day  
10:00am to 4:00pm, followed by Railway Event  
See website for further details.

**2 October** Autumn Open Day  
10:00am to 3:00pm

**20 November** Early Christmas Sale  
10:00am to 3:00pm

**11 December** Collection of Christmas Orders  
10:00am to 1:00pm

The nursery is also open on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 10:00am to 3:30pm.

There will also be a Bedding Plant Sale at Foxwood Community Centre on 21 May 10:30am to 1:00pm.

## Nursery News

The 2021 growing season looks much more promising than this time last year but we are still in the grips of the Covid pandemic and have to follow government guidelines in order to stay safe and stop the spread of the disease.

The season will start with the Spring Open day on April 24th from 10:00 till 4:00.

From the following Saturday, 1st May we will have a sale each Saturday from 9:30 till 1:30. We aim to have the bedding plants ready for the second week of May. A full sales list can be found on the nursery website.

This year we are very pleased to say that the nursery will be open for you to visit in person to choose and buy your own selection of plants. Please follow any direction arrows and social distancing guidelines when you are at the Nursery to stay safe.

If you cannot get to the nursery we will be running an online ordering and delivery service or if you would like to order online and click and collect, that is available too, there will be a minimum order of £15 for delivery.

The nursery is also open on Mondays, Wednesdays and Friday 9.30 till 3.00 for you to make your purchases.

You will soon be able to see a catalogue of what we are growing this year, it will be published on the website, there will, as last year, be pictures, prices and ordering instructions for the range of bedding plants, herbs and vegetables that we have to offer. We will be taking orders for hanging baskets, but this year because of time and manpower we have decided to limit the number of wire baskets that we have made in previous years in favour of the modern type of decorative basket with planting only on the top.

Paul Botting

## Allotment

In the words of Monty Don, after such a long cold winter, its great to see Spring has arrived! The Garden area is beginning to come back to life with many of the perennials flowering again.

For the veg, I have followed Monty's and (Local Link) Tony Chalcraft's tip in planting some shallots this week as an allium alternative to all the onions I grew last year. I have also planted some broad beans to repeat last year's success. It's too cold to germinate seeds in the ground just now, so I'll await Jo's greenhouse production line to start.

I've also put in some 2nd early seed spuds in the old flower area of the garden we cleared, which has been improved with my neighbour's farm manure. The fruit bushes in the same area are also showing signs of promise in their 2nd year of being planted.

So there's much to anticipate in the garden for the months ahead, not least winning my annual battle with the rabbits!

As ever, any volunteers who'd like to help out keeping the garden in fine fettle are very welcome.

Barry Treanor

## Happy 150th Birthday



Modernisation of signalling on the national railway network has resulted in Poppleton signal box being one of the four oldest working signal boxes on

the national network. Opened in 1871 making it 150 years old this year. The other three signal boxes are at Bootle and Drigg on the Cumbrian Coast line, north of Barrow in Furness and a box controlling level crossing gates at the tongue-twister station on Anglesey normally shortened to Llanfair PG.

The Signalling Record Society has a 15-minute video on their web site about Poppleton signal box detailing the operation, at <https://www.s-r-s.org.uk/videoPages/Poppleton.php> This was filmed in 2015 before the recent alterations to tokenless working were carried out at the end of last year.

## Railway and building work

After a lengthy absence from the Nursery due to the lockdown, the Thursday group has slowly resumed working. At the time of writing, we have attended on 6-7 weeks with a slowly increasing number of people. Work has been concentrated away from the railway with urgent jobs to get the Nursery up and running. Flooding from the adjacent farmer's field has been a problem, we are installing a drain to connect with the drainage pipe along the hedge, the end of which we found after extensive excavation.

A couple of old strip lights in S9 have replaced older failed lights, the problem now is that with the modern more efficient lights installed users

will now want all the lights replacing!

To combat the rabbit infestation, ivy has been thinned out at the Harrogate end of the site and wire used to block up the more obvious holes in the fence. Although not being done by the Thursday group, we are helping with the refurbishment of S5, the Knottingley Shed to turn it into a wood-working room. Tim Brook is rewiring the building with new lights and feeds to the wood-working power tools.

Just before Easter we got *LoveCo* out and used it as a combined works train to move ivy and photographic opportunity — see last page.

## Website

Work is ongoing for a revamp of the website, however due to Covid and the need for meetings to be online progress is inevitably slow.

## Ten Years Ago

Potting Shed No. 9 published in March 2011 was three A4 sheets. A spell of fine weather was welcome after the cold and snow of the winter. The visit of the Lord Mayor had resulted in many contacts and contact had been made with York College. Drainage had been improved by the Community Payback Team. In

one of the greenhouses heating and benches had been set up. Insulation of the buildings was on-going. On the narrow gauge railway two vehicles had arrived — a skip wagon from Neil Clayton and the motorised skip wagon built by Terry Stanhope. The model railway had been completed and it's first public appearance was at the Narrow Gauge North model railway in Guiseley. David Farr related a shaggy dog story of Prince Philip asking for a ticket to London for 'him and the missus' at Malton after the Duchess of Kent's wedding in York Minster.



*Tim Brook makes final adjustments to the model railway at Narrow Gauge North.*



*Terry Stanhope and Tom showing the model railway at the 2011 Spring Open Day.*

## Poppleton station adoption

There is not much to report, regarding the station. Northern has just given the go-ahead for activity to resume so we have just restarted our Wednesday afternoon sessions. The sporadic weeding activity over the last few months has kept things under control and given us a good basis for this year's planting. New vinyls are appearing with a revised colour scheme for the Poppleton nameboards!

Richard Scott

## Aluminium collection

Anne Dixon is still collecting waste aluminium. She writes:

- a) A thank you to everyone who is putting their foil in the box.
- b) If it would be easier for anyone to drop their foil in the recycling bins at the supermarkets or filling station near the Wetherby Whaler then it will go to the same cause.
- c) Can I remind everyone to do the scrunch test. If you scrunch your foil and it doesn't stay scrunched it is not acceptable as it is plastic masquerading as foil.

## ... and finally

As described in the Railway and building work section, a works train was run just before Easter resulting in the following photographs:

