

The Potting Shed July 2019 No. 50



Come and join us on 7
September 10:00am –
4:00pm for our Heritage
Sales Day in this our 10th
year at Poppleton.

Explore the Narrow Gauge
Railway and the last
Railway Nursery.
Sale of perennials, alpines,
shrubs and autumn
bedding plans. Tea, Coffee
and Cakes.

After 4:00pm we shall be
operating a series of trains
on the Narrow Gauge
Railway. Contact
Nursery/website for further
details

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Editorial

Welcome to issue number 50 of The Potting Shed and from the view of your editor things seem to be going well. The new toilet block is usable, there is good news from Northern for the Station Adopters group, a successful visit from the Narrow Gauge Society and there is free edible produce from the allotment.

Two years ago a couple, Vicki Pipe and Geoff Marshall, visited all 2,563 railway stations on the national network. As well as putting videos of their journey on YouTube they have written a book about the journey — **The Railway Adventures** published by September Publishing. In the book there is a top 10 list of their favourite station names — number one is Poppleton!

Members lunch

On Wednesday August 14 at 12:30 we will be holding a lunch for members. Everyone is invited, but you do need to obtain a ticket (contact details on front page of this Potting Shed), just for catering purposes, there is no charge. If anyone would like to contribute a sweet then please bring it along, but nothing that needs to be refrigerated. We decided to try a different social event this year to enable others to attend who find evenings difficult.

Railway and building work

The polycarbonate sheet donated to the Nursery from Stage One Creative Services has given us a couple of jobs. A sheet has been fitted at the Harrogate end of G7, this completes the work on the front of G7 but a plan for work on the rear of this greenhouse has been formulated.

A couple of sheets have been fitted at the back of the carport, even though there is a fairly thick hedge behind it will give a shield from wind and rain and provide a better working area in winter on railway trucks. We had to move the water tank so that it was completely behind the engine shed, even though there is access to this water tank from the car port it was decided to turn the tank round so that the tap is at the Harrogate end giving easier access.



Fitted polycarbonate sheet at back of car port

Visit of Narrow Gauge Society

On 12 May the Narrow Gauge Society visited the Nursery

as part of their AGM weekend. This involved an early 09:00 start but the visitors were very pleased and three trains were hauled by *Loweco* and *Terry Stanhope* gave rides for two hours. The visitors were also visiting the Ripon & District Railway and the model railway at Newby Hall.



Stuart Chapman's photo shows Bob Brook driving Loweco on the straight with a flower train at the NGS visit

Open Days

We have had a very successful series of open days and even the end-of-season buy-one-get-one free saw a good footfall.

After having many visitors ask, 'when are you running trains?' we decided to try out a limited train service with *Loweco* and the family wagon. Such operations have to be undertaken with care particularly with children present. A section of track from opposite the kitchen portacabin to Bog Junction was roped off and several out and back shuttles were run every hour. These were very successful, and this allowed the family wagon to be hand pushed when not in use on shuttles.

On the Heritage Open Day

in September, after the normal open day closing time we shall be staying open exclusively for operating trains on the narrow gauge railway — watch the website for further details.



Paul Botting and his dog Pip drive a sales day shuttle

Cacti at Poppleton



The cactus and succulent display now has around 300 plants and I'm hoping to propagate from seed next year although getting good quality known species seed isn't easy. I've joined Plant Heritage as I work towards a potential National Collection status. At my British Cactus & Succulent society show I was very pleased to receive 2 Awards of Merit for cacti and an *Echinocactus* species trophy and 2 class trophies for *Aloe* and *Lithops* succulents, from over 180 entries. I've

helped to rehabilitate a couple of plants for other people and I hope they'll succeed with them, it's always a pleasure to be at the nursery which is so welcoming! If the weather gets as hot as last year I can foresee a need for a shade cloth, since in habitat they get a breeze which doesn't happen in the greenhouse.

Matt Gibbs

Allotment — Pick Your Own

There is much produce available for free on the Nursery's Allotment, so come, pick your own and save money! Onions, beans and peas need picking now

Ten Years Ago

Potting Shed No. 3 did not appear until August 2009, and we will return to it in the next issue of The Potting Shed.



July 2009 — the track is looking tidy, there is evidence of plants growing.



However, many of the buildings required attention, this is rot on the field side of The Potting Shed.

New Toilet Block



Geoff fitting out one of the now-finished toilet cubicles.

Poppleton station adoption

More positive news this time! Northern Rail have kindly given us the money we asked for in our February bid, to buy plants—from the Nursery of course—and undertake some modest improvements on the station for another year.

We have re-connected our rain water butt on the York platform at last—thanks Bob—we can now use the captured rain water to help us, it means not quite so many trips from the tap on the nursery site to the flower beds with our ancient “bowser”. Less strain on the volunteers and the obvious “green” way to do things too!

We would like Northern to think again about water capture on the Harrogate side where they installed a new

passenger shelter last year. No luck so far but they have fixed the two doors of the waiting room on Platform 1 after many months of continual reporting and pestering.

Borrowing an idea from another station we have bought and placed a sunny reproduction 60's British Railways holiday poster for Filey in our volunteer case on the Harrogate side. You can still go there on a Northern Rail train for your holiday. We hope it catches a few eyes.



Most importantly we have replanted part of our flower beds—hopefully a bit more to come—but they do look brighter. Richard and Sue have also been busy tidying and painting up the POPPLETON sign and quite a few of the concrete planters—they look much whiter and brighter!

Future plans include some conversations with Northern about safety white/yellow lines on our platforms, attendance at their conference in September, where we understand they have some new community ideas for us, more safety training—after the unfortunate deaths of two rail

workers in South Wales recently and our giving more thoughts on how to fix the crumbling pesky retaining wall of our main flower bed.

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.

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 giv-

ing 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 appreci-

ated. 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 third of 4 photo supplements **PCRN — The First Ten Years**, this time starting in 2015.



The Royal Scotsman's £11,000 a seat, Grand Tour of Britain passes the Nursery.