



'The Potting Shed'

August 2013

Issue No.20

Come and join us on the
14th September from
10.00am - 4.00pm
When the nursery will be
open as part of the
Nationwide Heritage
Open Days

**We shall have shrubs
and perennials for sale
and people will be on
hand to tell you the
story of the nursery**

There will be bric –a
brac, book and video
stalls and our model
railway layout will be on
display and refreshments
will be available for sale

POPPLETON COMMUNITY RAILWAY NURSERY

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Charity Number 1148341

Company Registration
number 06211163

**Our next open day sale
will be on 5th October
from 10.00am – 3.00pm
when we will have
autumn bedding plants
for sale.**

Needs list

Thanks to those people who regularly bring us pots and other surplus items from their gardens. We are particularly interested in 3.5", 5" 2L and 3L pots, please keep them coming. We would still like the following if anyone has some available:

Garden tools and equipment, woodworking tools, maintenance tools, garden plants, shrubs, perennials that you no longer want, carrier bags, used plant pots, candle ends. Small items can be put in the crate over the fence at the nursery if we are closed. Or contact us on email or phone, we have a van and can arrange to collect large items.

Membership

If you would like to become a member please forward your subscriptions to David Thompson, the membership secretary. A form can be

downloaded from our website: subscriptions are: £10 Corporate £5 full membership £2 for students unwaged and over 60's To cope with the postage costs if you cannot supply an email address the minimum subs rate will be £5. For people who do not have an email address and can collect newsletters from the nursery the £2 rate will continue. The nursery membership currently stands at 87 people and two corporate members.

**Send forms to: David Thompson
Membership Secretary** at the
Nursery address

Volunteers needed

We would welcome volunteers to help with all aspect of the running of the nursery please let us know if you can help either on the plant side, the railway or with the DIY maintenance of the site. You can make contact by phone or email. To the Volunteer Co-ordinator Jo Sullivan-Jones. An induction is given when new volunteers arrive so that everyone adheres to the nursery H & S policy.

Insurance

Following an enquiry form a 16 year old to volunteer at the nursery it has been established that we do have personal accident insurance cover from 16 upwards, though it does drop after 65 in increments to a maximum age of 85. If you want more information then contact the Company Secretary though the website.



Nursery Annual General Meeting

The date has been set for Thursday September 12th at 7.30pm at the Railway Nursery. The nursery will be open from 6.30pm for those who want to look round and refreshments will be available.

Autumn hanging baskets

These bring colour and interest to your garden and extend your gardens growing season. By using a combination of upright and trailing plants you can create visual interest that will last through the colder darker days.



Last summers hanging basket making session

On Saturday 5th October we are holding a Winter Open day from 10.00am - 3.00pm. If you would like to make your own hanging basket we will be running a workshop between 11am To 12 o'clock where you can come along and choose from our range of plants and create your own colour schemes and design. You can choose from a mixed basket, including spring flowering bulbs or just have pansies if you wish.

We also make up new baskets or bring in your empty basket for refilling.

Jo Sullivan-Jones

Electrical Work.

The Thursday evening volunteers have continued to carry out repairs and improvements to the site's electrical installations with a view to completing all work before winter in time for a periodic test and inspection.

Hopefully, regular volunteers will have noticed that there is far better lighting around the site and more convenient power socket outlets, reducing the need for hazardous trailing extension leads. Electrical power has been installed into the pit houses (G4, 5 and 6) providing a permanent supply to the sump pump and lighting along the path, likewise a supply has been installed into the boiler room giving a permanent connection for its pump. G5 now has lighting and there is additional lighting in G9 making it easier to navigate the storage shelves.

Current upgrades are being carried out to the G11 (engine shed) supply after which a final new consumer unit will be fitted to the mess room, providing additional RCD protection to this important area. The nursery has been fortunate to receive a

donation of a full set of electrical test equipment and a complimentary calibration of this equipment – thanks to the calibration centre, Stafford. This means that safety all new installations can be guaranteed before we switch them on. In addition to this, our “portable appliance tester” (PAT) has also been calibrated so we are now able to check the safety of portable appliances (anything that plugs into a socket) when required without having to wait for the loan of equipment. On this subject please ensure that any new electrical equipment or any electrical equipment that has become damaged or appears to be unsafe, is given to the Thursday volunteers (FAO Tim or Dave) prior to it being used on site.



Extending the track alongside G11

Facebook

The Facebook page is very popular, for a relatively small project. Over 570 people around the world are now following our

Poppleton Community Railway Nursery



nursery. Americans love Poppleton village and its quaint nursery with its little railroad. People in the former Soviet Bloc countries like our narrow gauge railway and Germans complain if I don't post enough photo's of the nursery model railway. I'm not sure what the South Koreans make of the nursery, however they seem fascinated by our unique little project.

www.facebook.com/pcrntb

Tom Bushell



David Dawson's model of Terry Stanhope loco

Greenwood & Batley battery station trolley. 4096DN

Back in July I found that the NRM was having to empty the last items from it's Leeman Road store by the first week in August. One item that was not required as it was a duplicate, was a battery station trolley as used for moving mail and parcels in many locations in the country. I was very surprised when I was told we could have it for Poppleton and with agreement from the directors it was moved to the

Nursery on 25th July, thanks to Ken and his trailer.



Station trolley being unloaded

It is the worst of the two which the Museum had, so has several bits missing, although it came with many other spare parts. It is intended to be a long term restoration job and hopefully, if we can get it working, it will be useful for Nursery work. In the mean time it will be another attraction at open days. If anyone would be interested in a project to restore the vehicle please contact me. If anyone has one of the Dinky toy models made of these trolleys, or pictures of them in service it would be good to see them.

Bob Brook

WANTED

If anyone has or knows where there are any large Oil drums available for Nursery use please let us know. They must be watertight either plastic or metal, but the outside condition is not important. We are willing to pay a certain

amount for the right drums. We are also on the look out for any spare large water containers/barrels, or any info where we can purchase them at a reasonable price.



The contents of the train now waiting at the nursery is bound for a sale

Station Garden Display

Gardening activity at the station was enlivened this year by the presence of a mole. This little critter took up residence in the flower bed on the York platform shortly after the summer bedding had been planted out at the end of May. There then followed a month or so of open combat during which time the mole would tunnel under the plant roots during the night and I would stomp them back down the following day. Deterrents employed included burying empty bottles (didn't work, obviously) and scattering granules impregnated with castor oil (apparently moles don't like the odour though it wasn't explained on the package how this fact was established). Fortunately, Mr

Mole eventually moved on to pastures new of his own accord (or perhaps the castor oil treatment did work ...) but not before several plants suffered root disturbance. The York bed was planted up with four types of border sunflower intermingled with the grass *Setaria italica* 'Red Jewel' (Foxtail Millet). The best of the sunflowers proved to be the extra dwarf variety 'Big Smile' which could be easily grown in pots. Interestingly, according to Wikipedia, sunflowers are heliotropic during the bud stage only hence the developed flower ends up facing the sun. Colour was provided by the use of *Celosia* super dwarf 'Kimono Mixed' with their vivid pink, orange and yellow plumes. Bedding dahlias were employed in the flower bed on the Harrogate platform and, at the time of writing, these are still flowering strongly.