



## **The Potting Shed September 2011**

### **Issue No.11**

#### **AUTUMN SALE**

Come and join us on the  
8<sup>th</sup> October 2011

10.00am - 4.00pm

#### **FOR A SALE OF**

Perennials, Shrubs and  
Winter Bedding Plants.  
There will be a Tombola,  
Book stall and our model  
railway layout

#### **REFRESHMENTS on sale**

tea ,coffee, cakes  
and soup and a roll

#### **Future Plant Sales**

At Poppleton Nursery  
**Christmas Open Day  
Sale.**

**3<sup>rd</sup> December 2011**

**10.00am - 3.00pm**

### **POPPLETON COMMUNITY RAILWAY NURSERY**

Station Road Upper  
Poppleton York YO26 6QA  
Tel: 01904 797623  
Mobile: 07800 501382

**Website:** www.  
poppletonrailwaynursery.c  
o.uk

**E-mail Address**  
pcrn.info@yahoo.co.uk

#### **Needs list**

Thanks to those people  
who regularly bring us pots  
and other surplus items  
from their gardens, please  
keep them coming.. We

would still like the  
following if anyone has  
some available:

**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**

A form can be  
downloaded from our  
website: subscriptions  
are: £5 full membership  
£2 for students  
unwaged over 60's £10  
corporate membership  
Please include an email  
address if possible as  
this is the most cost  
effective way of keeping  
in contact with people.

**Send to: 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  
or with the DIY You can  
make contact by phone  
or email. An induction is  
given when new

volunteers arrive so that  
everyone adheres to the  
nursery H & S policy.

#### **Annual Meeting**

Notice is hereby given that  
the **Annual General  
Meeting** will be held on  
**Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> October  
2011** at the Poppleton  
Community Railway  
Nursery, starting at 7pm.

The nursery will be open  
from 6pm for viewing and  
refreshments will be  
served.

#### **A G E N D A**

1. Chairman's Welcome
2. Apologies for  
Absence
3. The Nursery Year
4. Presentation and  
Adoption of Accounts
5. Appointment of  
Directors  
(nominations for  
Directors should be sent  
or emailed to the  
Company Secretary at  
the address below **to  
reach him by 1<sup>st</sup>  
October**)
6. Appointment of  
Officers
7. Any Other Business

#### **A Ballast Measure**





The pictures above shows one of the railway artefacts which have been found on the Nursery site after Jarvis left the site. What looks like a beer tankard with an oversize handle is a ballast measure. In the era before track maintenance was mechanised and the state of the railway was monitored electronically using modified HSTs, a length of track would be maintained by a team of men known as lengthmen and a ballast measure would be an essential item of their equipment.

On curves the outer rail of the track is raised or canted above the level of the inner rail to allow the curve to be taken at speed. Over time and the passage of traffic the cant of the curve will decrease and it is the job of the lengthmen to monitor and maintain the correct cant. A special spirit level was used to measure the cant at each sleeper over the length of the curve. The spirit level was calibrated in 'measures of ballast', and the number of 'measures of ballast' was chalked on the rail side at each sleeper. Small rail jacks were then used to lift a section of the rail together with the sleepers. The 'measures of ballast' were then collected using the

ballast measure and spread evenly underneath each sleeper, the jacks were removed and the process repeated over the length of the curve. When completed the original cant of the curve would have been restored.

### **Nursery News**

Over the summer we have had several organisations join, The first was the Crossroads project which aims to help young people from disadvantaged backgrounds they come on a monthly basis. A group from the Children's Society (PACT) join us successfully over the summer to take on a project tidying an area of the nursery, they also joined in with other nursery tasks and from the feedback I'm sure they will be along to help again. A group from Daniel Yorath House in Leeds joined and have made a great impression on the poly tunnel area which was so overgrown in weeds that we couldn't see the plants. And lastly the HEAL green gym has been set up. People who need to exercise after

health problems, but who don't like going to a gym. They are encouraged to garden with the support of staff from York Council. Quite a novel idea . It so pleasing to see the nursery used for such a diverse number of uses.

We were also greatly helped when York Collage undertook the rebuilding of the entrance to the pit house (G4,5 & 6) we hope that they will be coming again to help provide disable access to several areas of the site.

Work to repair the rot in the back wall of the old potting shed is now complete. It entailed propping up the roof whilst cutting away the rotted timbers and replacing with new, adding insulation, a new window and the re-boarding the interior wall. The outer wall was weather boarded so it look very good, pity we cant see it. From the nursery.

Nursery sales have run very smoothly thanks to our band of volunteers since 1st May we have sold over £4,000 worth of plants, well done and still nine months of the financial year to go.

Repair work continues on the irrigation system and the glass as needed. S5 (Knottingly Shed) has now been made structurally secure and nearly water tight. S8 has been kitted out in style with benches and shelving to make it a serviceable workshop to deal with the nurseries woodwork needs in the future.

G3 repair will start soon so that we can bring it into use growing plants rather than storing plant pots., its rather slow as there is much preparation to do on the nursery for the coming winter.

If any members want to come along and help you would be most welcome, just email or call the nursery.