



## **The Potting Shed March 2011 Issue No.9**

Welcome to our latest news publication .

### **EARLY SPING SALE**

Come and join us on the  
26<sup>th</sup> March 2011  
10.00am - 3.00pm

### **FOR A SALE OF**

Spring bulbs, Perennials, Shrubs  
and winter bedding.

There will be a Tombola ,Book  
stall and a model railway layout

### **REFRESHMENTS**

Soup, and a roll, tea and coffee  
and cakes

### **Future Plant Sales**

At Poppleton Nursery

### **Summer Bedding Plant Sale.**

7<sup>th</sup> May 2011

from

10.00am – 4.00pm

### **POPPLETON COMMUNITY RAILWAY NURSERY**

Station Road Upper Poppleton

York YO26 6QA

Tel: 07800 501382

### **Website & E-mail Address**

www.

poppletonrailwaynursery.co.uk

pcrn.info@yahoo.co.uk

### **Needs list**

Thanks to those who donated  
items after the last request, we  
would still like the following if  
anyone has some available:

Workshop stove to heat the  
potting shed, Lino or heavy  
duty floor covering, external  
doors, large water tanks.  
Garden hand tools, 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 fees were due**

**On 1<sup>st</sup> January 2011**

A Renewal Form can be  
downloaded from our  
website: www.

poppletonrailwaynursery.  
co.uk

If you do not renew by the  
end of March your name will  
be taken off our lists.

Subscriptions are:

£5 full membership

£2 student/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 - Can You Help?**

We continue to welcome  
volunteers to help on

buildings and railway restoration.  
We would always welcome those  
who would like to spend time on  
the horticulture side, from  
growing and potting on to  
weeding and general keeping  
things tidy, something for every  
ability with pleasant surroundings  
and good company. The nursery  
will be open 4 days most weeks  
and volunteers are welcome on  
any of those days. Please make  
contact first. We need volunteers  
to take on some of the admin  
jobs such as volunteer co-  
ordinator and meeting secretary

### **Notes from the nursery.**

As I write this we are enjoying  
some rather mild days in  
February, and the cold spell of  
November and December seems  
a time ago.



The nursery stock is beginning to  
come to life with some bulbs and  
flowers ready to sell, and seeds  
sprouting in the propagating  
house. We are still counting the  
cost of plants we have lost in the  
cold which caught us, as well as  
many others, unprepared with  
such an early and prolonged spell.

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# Poppleton Community Railway Nursery



The nursery is in a much better condition than it was this time last year, drainage put in by the Community Payback team has helped keep flooding away. The propagating house has its heated benches working and the stove heated greenhouse is ready to use. Having the stove working in the old Potting shed certainly used up a lot of old wood and has kept it useable throughout the cold. It was lovely to sit in there with a hot drink with the snow outside.

New volunteers have arrived and particularly on the administration side are making a difference. Graham Collett has done much work with grants and it looks hopeful we will be receiving some money shortly. Graham has also agreed to take on the roll of company secretary to sort the paperwork and keep us straight on official matters. Hopefully by the time you read this we will have a volunteer co-ordinator which will fill a long known need to recruit, train and keep our essential volunteer base..

The Lord Mayor's visit in December has certainly been helpful, with her giving us many contacts which will hopefully increase our sales, as well as raising our profile in the York area.

Contacts with York College are being progressed, and we are hopeful that they will take on some of the building restoration on a long term basis, using student groups as a way of training as well as helping the community.

Building work has carried on with our main work shed now being insulated which makes it much easier to heat and a more pleasant working environment, The Old Knottingley waiting room has been cleared of piles of pots and we have found the base timbers to be very rotten, and they are having to be replaced, but it should be a very usable space when finished. On the railway side a new motorised wagon has been given which should be very useful, see details later.

Thanks to all those who have given their time to support the nursery, there are still plenty of jobs of all types available, so if you want to join in you will be most welcome.

I hope you will all find this newsletter interesting, if anyone has any interesting snippets to contribute please write them up and send them to us for future issues. I hope we will see you all at our March sale.

## **Tap, tap on the booking office window.**

*By David Farr.*

Charlie was involved in the dressing up of Malton station on the Scarborough line. It was his job to ferry innumerable plants from the railway nursery at Poppleton, and their subsequent return. It was a nice extra duty all done on overtime on a Saturday afternoon.

We were having a coffee break together as he continued with his story. It was the day of the Royal wedding of Hovingham's own Katherine Worsley. The royal party all coming from London by train. At the end of the day the royal group came back to Malton for the royal train home.

The station was bristling with railway and civil police as well as many railway managers. Fred Newlove the station master was in the centre of everything.

Charlie was in the booking office with the ticket window firmly closed, but manages to get a good view of the Daimlers and Bentleys bringing all the HRH's



and their hangers on. He hears the commotion on the platform as the train arrives.

Suddenly there comes a “tap, tap” on the window which the booking clerk ignores. Again comes the “tap, tap” so the clerk opens up but is only able to see the bottom half of a face, A cultured voice says “Two singles to London for me and my Missis” and then adds “ Mr booking clerk please” as an afterthought. The person pauses then bursts into laughter and stomps away.

The booking clerk leans forward to see who it is, it might just have been a bonofide passenger, from the back he recognises the balding pate of HRH the Duke of Edinburgh as he disappears into the royal saloon.

Likely, unlikely, a joke or lies? I wonder

## **Railway News**

Since the last issue, the nursery has been very pleased to accept two new items of rolling stock for the railway.



First Neill Clayton has loaned us a spare skip wagon which looks really at home at Poppleton, and will be a useful addition to the fleet. Unfortunately it is just too wide to go between the greenhouses in a loaded position and has to be tipped to fit, but it will be useful for the rest of the site and even more so if we extend the railway.

Then just before Christmas we had an offer of a motorised wagon from John Taylor, which we were pleased to accept. It was being built by Terry Stanhope from Clifford near Leeds when he passed away several years ago and has been in store since. It was I understand the last of many motorised vehicles built by Terry, and comprises a small single cylinder diesel engine driving the wheels of an extended skip chassis through a 4 speed gearbox with a separate forward and reverse gear. It has a large flat platform for carrying good loads, and I am sure it will become well used. It will require some work to finish and tidy up but we hope to have it running by late spring. At John’s request it will be named after Terry.



It would be nice to think that these wagons will give us the incentive to do more work on the railway this year, and any volunteers to do this will be welcome.

Another railway items we have been busy on this winter in our “spare time”, is the building of a working model loosely based on the nursery, which some of you will have seen at the December open day. The idea of building it was to be an additional attraction for any stalls and events. We have also been invited to take it to “Narrow Gauge North” a model railway show held at Guisley on 12<sup>th</sup> & 13<sup>th</sup> March. We hope it will give us good publicity as well as being able to sell some plants.

Bob Brook