

**The Potting Shed
May 2018
No. 44**



Come and join us on 6 June 10:00am – 4:00pm for our Summer Open Day for plant sales. The narrow gauge and model railways will also be on show. Tea, coffee and homemade cake will be available.

We shall also be open for plant sales on 12 May 10:00am – 4:00pm and 19 and 26 May 10:00am – 1:00pm

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Editorial

Once again much has been going on. The bedding plants have arrived and there will be much for you to buy at the Nursery's open days. The wagon shed, although not completely finished, is usable, work is ongoing for the Bloom! festival in July both away from and at the Nursery and we have had an interesting railway sign donated to the Nursery. Various large doors at the Nursery which had acquired holes in them are being replaced by Nursery-built replacements. If you haven't visited the Nursery for some time come down and see the results.

Donation to the Nursery



One of our members, John Parker an ex-CEGB employee, has given an ENGINES MUST NOT PASS THIS POINT sign from Sculcoates power station in Hull. The sign was rescued from a skip while the power station was being demolished. Coal waggons [sic] were brought to the sidings by locomotive and then winched through the tippers for unloading. Hence the need for a

sign. If anyone has a photo of the power station we would be interested in having a copy.

Railway and building work

Work has been continuing on the old shelter, all the pieces are now in place and each section has been bolted together. At the time of writing the building is usable and vehicles can be stored in it, with only a few finishing touches before final completion — these include building a buffer stop and putting ballast on the trackbed to give a safe walking surface.

With the Bloom! railway evening coming up in July work is starting on the narrow gauge track. The turntable will be lifted and adjustment made so that it is level and doesn't rock as much — until this is complete we are restricting rail vehicle use over the turntable. The points have been overhauled and lubricated, there are a few rough sections of track which require looking at and there is root near the track on the walkway from the car park which requires removal as it is a trip hazard.

Gardening News

Hurrah! the bedding plants are now ready. Come to us to fill your baskets and pots. We have a wonderful selec-

tion of plants. But beware of late frosts and very cold nights, these tender plants might need some protection.

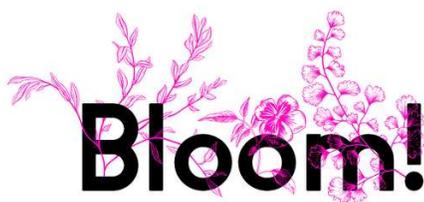
The selection of vegetable plants available is increasing daily, and we have a good range of herbs. (I like to have chopped herbs on my salad.) Also, perennials and shrubs are always on sale. Happy planting.

Gill Duxbury

Donations of aluminium cans

One of the nursery members is collecting aluminium cans and foil, and unwanted cables, to raise money and support for Snappy! There is a collection box with the other recycling box at the Nursery.

Bloom! and railway evening



The Ancient Society of Florists, the oldest florists' society in the UK, is celebrating its 250th anniversary in 2018. In conjunction with York-wide celebrations, the Nursery will be open on 5, 6 and 7 July between 10am and 4pm.

In addition on 5 July between 6pm and 9pm there will be a special railway event to celebrate the 30th anniversary of the opening of the Nursery's narrow gauge rail-

way. The evening will consist of regular railway services, photographic opportunities and a limited chance to have hands on driver experience. The evening which is for aged 16 and above will be ticket only purchased in advance. Send a donation (cheques only/personal callers) suggested minimum £5 with a sae to the Nursery (address on the front cover of this newsletter).

Poppleton station adoption



Not a lot to report for the winter season. I have been away a lot due to my wife's stays in hospital and Sue Barker has been working hard enough for two of us!

Sue has just taken up a full time weekday job at a commercial nursery up the line from Poppleton and as I am getting back a little closer to normal we hope to meet on Saturday mornings to get ready for Summer planting and tidying, although I think we will need some help on the former! We also need to

get one of our big planters back to the platform and restocked for Summer—another big team job I believe.

We have had a good display for Spring. Sue has put in extra colour and with help placed a good timber frame around the border on the Harrogate Platform.

Other aspects of the station give a very mixed picture—fence painting by the contractors and new header boards have smartened it up somewhat. However replacement of the traditional wood with metal gates on the level crossing, all the work going on at the Station House including the boundary fence (albeit a finished holiday let suite of properties should be welcomed), the unfinished job of putting in CCTV and Northern not coming good on the notice board changes illustrate there is plenty to talk to them about in the coming months.

In case some folk have not noticed Northern continue to experience regular one day strikes by drivers and guards. Printed timetables for the 20 May changes will not be available until early June! If you want details of trains after May 20, I suggest you look at the Northern website.

Nevertheless I am talking to Northern again including asking for another modest amount of money for Autumn plantings and a few other requests.

Colin Wood

Team Leader, Station Adopter Group

Transport required

We are keen to have a visiting locomotive for the Bloom! Festival Railway Evening on 5 July. If you have a vehicle capable of carrying 1½–2 ton load and low enough to load and unload such a locomotive, please contact the Nursery (details on the front cover of this issue). Rates and dates are negotiable.

Needs list

- Baskets from old flower arrangements.
- Garden plants, shrubs, perennials that you no longer want.
- Carrier bags

- Garden tools, woodworking and engineering tools and equipment.

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. Now we are owners of a van we can collect large items. We do not want items that are broken, we are not a disposal service.

Jobs

There are lots of tidying jobs at the nursery — any extra help would be appreciated. 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



Sharp-eyed visitors to the Nursery may have seen activity in one of the nest boxes. Here is a picture of a blue tit taken at the last open day.

How the old station shelter was moved



The shelter when removed by the contractors was split into three unequal sections and placed on the coal drops. Although of unequal sizes each section could be lifted by 4–5 people. We removed the roofs of some of the sections, and these could be carried by 4 people or wheeled on a rubber-tired trolley. We found several lengths of rigid plastic pipe on the coal drops and using these we could roll the sections before lifting it onto a rubber-tired trolley and then wheeled onto the main Nursery site for storage in between the two portacabins.

The pipe was used again to move each section from its storage space onto a rubber-tired trolley and then onto the railway truck(s). The first photo shows a section on the rubber-tired trolley before placing on two railway trolleys. The second photo shows the section on the two

railway trolleys alongside the mainline railway. The section had to be moved on the railway trolleys to get the load passed the bulge in the perimeter fence and the Cupressus windbreak. Note the height of the section above the height of the fence.



The third and fourth photos show a smaller section, with roof still on, being moved on one railway wagon. The pipes were used again at the Harrogate end of the Nursery to manoeuvre the sections before finally lifting into place.

Once again the railway has been used to safely transport such bulky items, without it and the extension alongside the mainline railway we couldn't have moved the shelter!

