

The Potting Shed December 2018 No. 47



Come and join us on 8
December 10:00am –
3:00pm for our Christmas
Open Day.

Sale and Collection of
Orders Christmas Wreaths,
Table and Tree
Decorations, Bowls of
Hyacinths, Shrubs, Bulbs,
Perennials and Seasonal
Planters for sale.

Model & narrow gauge
railway.

Tea, coffee and homemade
cake will be available.

POPPLETON COMMUNITY RAILWAY NURSERY

Station Road Upper Poppleton
York YO26 6QA

☎ 01904 797623

☎ 07800 501382

✉ pcrn.info@yahoo.co.uk



poppletonrailwaynursery.co.uk

Charity Number: 1148341

Company Registration number:
06211163

Editorial

Back in January I went to a fantastic concert at the village hall in Thorner, after the concert I thought that if that was such a great concert I hoped that the rest of the year will be as good. Looking back on the Nursery's year it has been a great year. The standout events were the Bloom! festival and the 30th anniversary railway evening but there have been less exciting advances. Work has been started on greenhouses G7-G8, successful sales, the allotment project on the formal garden (I'm looking forward to some of that produce) and the beginnings of a new toilet block.

On a less successful note the station adopters have had a frustrating year with building work, damage and the hot weather, here's hoping for a better outlook next year.

Allotment



If you've had time to wander into The Garden area of the Nursery, you'll have noticed some changes which will hopefully lead to improvements in vegetable production

and enjoyment of this sunny, quiet area.

Thanks to Jake, the vegetable allotment area is now landscaped. A useful walkway makes it easier to inspect and work the ground and tend the growing crops in four separate areas. The shrubs and bushes surrounding the garden have been pruned and thinned to improve light to the whole area. The old compost has been removed from the three bins in the overgrown corner to allow for further improvements.

A 'Veg Plan' has been agreed with Jo for what to plant and where to grow it. The plan is kept in the kitchen room, with notes to record actions and jobs to do. Sue has also been busy thinning and replanting the existing strawberries to improve the yield next year. We also hope to have raspberries and some rhubarb.

The recent delivery of some excellent farm manure was just in time for allotment and garden soil improvement; a smelly but vital job! Hopefully, the Autumn planted spring cabbage and kale which are planted will benefit from the extra nutrition, as well as the plants to be planted in Spring.

Onion sets and speciality Isle of Wight garlic cloves have also been sown this month to try and get a head start on next year's produce. A new area of ground near the patio has been used because

garlic doesn't like fresh manure. A seed order has been placed in preparation for sowing seeds in the greenhouse in February, which will be planted out when the soil warms up in Spring. Broad & Dwarf French beans, beetroot, spinach, courgettes and herbs are a few of the choices to grow in the newly enriched allotment!

One area of cultivation which presents a challenge is the protection of brassicas. High netting or wire cages will need to be erected to cover the plants as they grow to prevent them from being eaten by pests. The current 'Heath Robinson' arrangement is ugly and only serves to offer minimal protection to the low growing, immature plants.

I'd be grateful to hear from anyone who has any ideas for a solution to this problem. Also, any volunteers who would like to spend some time working in the allotment next springtime are very welcome.

Overall, the garden area has improved from 12 months ago and I am excited about the extra potential to grow vegetables and fruit for sale or eating next year.

Barry



Railway and building work

Work has been progressing on the front of greenhouses G7-G8 (G7??), a new entrance has been knocked through at the York end and the front walls have been tidied up and topped with coping stones. The first of the uprights has been erected, this has taken much time as we are learning as we go along, hopefully having done one the remainder will follow fairly quickly. We are still not quite sure how the roof will fit in front of the door at the Harrogate end.



Our wet weather job, the refurbishment of the truck chassis, has also been progressing. With the help of a visiting group all the axle boxes and wheels have removed and are under cover in the Potting Shed. At the time of writing the chassis needs turning over to complete wire brushing before painted can commence.

The truck used for the Bloom! display (P2) has been

cleaned and oiled and is now safely under cover in the wagon shed. The fence surrounding the point lever at Bog Junction has been removed to allow building of a new toilet block.

Poppleton station adoption



After waiting for Northern Rail to come back to us after the September Meeting they were unable to have with us... nothing happened!

We have written to them again... and still nothing has happened! We will send them another reminder before Christmas.

So we have planted up the beds for winter as best we can, working our way around damaged walls and cables, talked to the owner of the Station House who told us he would re-connect our rain barrel for us; but no action yet.

We are sorry they do not look as good as in previous years but we are now severely hampered by safety issues and difficult access to them.

In the New Year we are going to make a concerted effort to see if we can get more of the Poppleton villagers involved with their “community railway”—let us hope they get a more reliable rail service in 2019—and to see if we can get even a small proportion of the interest directed towards us that Northern seems to show to some groups e.g. at Hebden Bridge and the Calder Valley Line. That said we are very grateful to them for the sponsorship monies for plants they gave us this year.

Colin Wood, Station Adopters Team

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.

The Nursery then. . .



Taken 30 years ago on the open day for the official opening of the narrow gauge railway. This Ruston diesel loco was used on the opening train by gardener Geoffrey Smith.

. . . and now



The growing area became the demonstration plot to show the Nursery’s work and the trees have grown blocking out the view of the house. Taken at the start of this year’s anniversary railway evening.

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.

Volunteer Coordinator

- Can you spare a few hours each week?
- Do you enjoy meeting and helping people?

The nursery is currently looking for someone to take on the role of volunteer coordinator. The position would be ideal for someone who has good interpersonal and communication skills, is positive, enthusiastic and well organised.

The job would involve welcoming potential volunteers to the nursery, assisting them in identifying the role that they would be best suited to and helping them to settle in. If you have a friendly personality, enjoy meeting new people and would like a new challenge in your life why not consider applying?

For more information visit the website or contact the nursery by email and we will supply you with a full job description and answer any questions you may have.

Jo Sullivan-Jones Chairperson

. . . and finally

Once again we are heading for the year end, can I wish you all a very merry Christmas and prosperous New Year.



Cacti

A cactus expert has occupied space in one of the Nursery's greenhouses, below are some of his cacti.



30th Anniversary Evening

A couple of photos of the 30th Anniversary Railway Evening taken by Stuart Chapman, Stuart's video of the evening can be seen on YouTube https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hwj39dC_8TU&t=64s

