

The Potting Shed March 2020 No. 53



Due to the Corona
Virus Outbreak All
Sales Days have been
cancelled until further
notice.

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

Nursery arrangements during the Corona Virus Outbreak

The Management Committee have agreed the following actions to protect members, customers and visitors during the outbreak. In doing so, it took account of both government and NHS advice.

- 1. Strict hygiene procedures have been introduced across the nursery, including regular handwashing** Notices to this effect have been posted in the toilets and in all key locations.
- 2. NHS/Converge Volunteer Groups** It has been agreed with the NHS that the current arrangements will continue, but will be limited to existing group members.
- 3. Independent Volunteers** The nursery needs to keep in operation as we are a business as well as a charity and our sales income is important. But it will be for individuals to make their own decisions as to whether they come to the nursery. Anyone who is feeling unwell or has any ill health symptoms should not come to the nursery until they are fully recovered. Should your symptoms indicate a possibility of Corona

virus, you should immediately seek advice from NHS 111 Online at: <https://111.nhs.uk/> or if you do not have internet access call 111.

- 4. Company and Other Volunteer Group Visits** All group visits will be cancelled until further notice. York Cares (who facilitate most of our company groups) are being advised.
- 5. Open Days and Nursery Sales** All Sales Days have been cancelled until further notice.
- 6. Sales at Other Locations** All Sales Days have been cancelled until further notice.
- 7. New Nursery Members** We welcome new members but that they will not be able to volunteer during the current outbreak.

Graham Collett, Trustee and
Company Secretary on behalf
of the Management
Committee.
18 March 2020

Editorial

You don't need me to tell you that we live in trying times, but life at the Nursery goes on. As well as the usual reports the railway team successfully displayed the Nursery's model railway at Narrow

Gauge North in Pudsey and there have been some interesting charter trains on the York-Harrogate line.

Membership

Just a reminder to members that your membership was due on 1 January 2020, After 31 March your name will be removed from the mailing list. Subs run from 1 January to 31 December £6 waged and £3 unwaged. There is an application form which can be down loaded from the website, or just put your money in an envelope with a covering letter in the nursery mailbox.

Narrow Gauge North



Getting the Nursery's model railway to the Narrow Gauge North model railway show in Pudsey has been a series of fits and starts. In early January Bob Brook revealed that he was seriously ill, now successfully treated and hopefully on the way to full recovery. As Bob's car was the car which transported the baseboard, unlike the Peterborough show several year's ago we wouldn't be able to claim expenses to hire a van. A trial to see if the baseboard would fit into the Nursery's van was successful and we were on again. Several improvements and general tidying up of the layout was carried out and

then the Corona virus came on the scene. Would the show be still on and would we feel safe in going? A last minute e-mail from the show's organisers that the show was still on and the very small number of reported virus cases we decided to go ahead. On the Thursday before the show the van was filled with the majority of the layout with the remainder ready to load up in your editor's car on the Saturday morning.

David Dawson, Richard Scott and your editor met at 7:30 on the Saturday morning at the Nursery before an uneventful drive to Pudsey. We were all set up by opening time of 10:30. We had hoped to join up with Neil Clayton's Ripon & District Railway as we had in the past but with an underlying medical condition of Neil's, he felt it was safer if he didn't attend. There was a definite fall in numbers of attendees from previous shows and several exhibitors had decided not to attend as well. Nevertheless, we had many favourable comments including an ex-YTS person who had built the narrow gauge railway at the Nursery in the 1980s. This was the first time we had exhibited the railway with radio-controlled locomotives, apart from a few niggling faults this was very successful. The show closed at 4:30pm and we were back at the Nursery just after 6:00pm. Typing these notes a week after the event with the whole country in lockdown, we were very lucky for the show to go ahead on the last weekend of

normality.

Railway and building work

Since Christmas with Bob Brook's absence from the Nursery and the Corona virus, the railway and building group have only been doing small jobs. Much of the jobs detailed in the Christmas issue of the **Potting Shed** have been on hold. Several years ago the Nursery bought a power washer, the group has been using it to clean the glass on the greenhouses, a job that has required doing since we took over the Nursery in 2009. In the old gents toilet the internal partitions, the urinals and wash basin have been removed. The plastic flooring has also been removed, on initial inspection the underlying wooden floor is in better condition than anticipated although further inspection is required. The main portacabin has received a new door and the door to S1, one of the old railway containers has received attention.



Book Club

The new Poppleton Nursery book club run for us by Con-
verge, part of the Tees, Esk
and Wear Valley Mental Health
Foundation Trust, has just
come to the end of a ten week
run. It has proved a worth-
while addition to the activi-
ties offered to people suffering
from mental ill health. They
all appreciated the venue and
didn't mind the potting shed
as a base to read in. We
met together for an hour and
a half on Thursdays and the
session comprised a mixture
of book reading, poetry and
discussion. The theme for the
ten weeks was appropriately
for the nursery 'journeys'. We
rounded the afternoon of with
more chat and a cup of tea
in the nursery kitchen. Hope-
fully we will come back and
run more sessions during the
year, watch out for the adverts
if you want to join in.

Charters on the Pop- pleton line

Since Christmas there have
been several charters us-
ing the York-Harrogate-Leeds
railway line, which shows the
attractiveness of the line with
the viaduct at Knaresborough
and the views towards the
Dales between Harrogate and
Leeds. In February the North-
ern Belle luxury train passed
through on a circular tour tak-
ing in York and Hull. In March
the Branch Line Society, who
have visited the Nursery, used
the line to return to Carnforth
on a 3-day tour after spending

the previous day in the Don-
caster area.

The most interesting char-
ter ran on 18 January, The
DRS 20 Farewell started in
Bristol and ran to York where
two class 20 locomotives were
attached to haul the train to
Crewe via Harrogate, Leeds.
The two locomotives, 20302
and 20305, were built by En-
glish Electric in 1961, were
operated by DRS and their last
jobs were used on the rail
head treatment trains last Au-
tumn. This would probably
be their last revenue earning use
on the mainline.



The photo shows the train
just after passing the Nurs-
ery. The enthusiasts waiting
on the A59 were often in dan-
ger from traffic on the road.

Ten Years Ago

Issue 5 of The Potting Shed
published in March 2010 was
3 A4 pages. The winter of
2009-10 had been extremely
cold but the workforce had
survived. The ravages of the
winter had shown up fur-
ther faults in the buildings.
The drainage or lack of it
on the site was being discov-
ered. Mice had been eating
croci but other bulbs had sur-
vived and the plants were be-
ing grown for the forthcoming
sales. A programme of five
sales days were advertised for
2010. Much of the paperwork
left by Jarvis was being sorted

for keeping or disposal. There
was a series of photos show-
ing the jobs done by the nurs-
ery when in railway ownership
including one of a worker on
top of a large inspection tower
showing off a platform light at
Pannal. Over £200 was taken
at the December sales day.

Poppleton station ad- option

After our 2019 meeting with
Northern we prepared the site
at the entrance to the York
Platform and ISS (Contractors)
built a new short section of
picket fence, painting it white
in January. For now they seem
to have left the old sign in place
but the previously broken down
approach has been smartened
up. They have also moved the
two notice boards into the wait-
ing room thereby at last giving
us clear space to work on our
main flower bed.

We are hoping that the
other display case we re-
quested for our own use will
soon go on the wall there too.
Then we can launch it as a
"History of the Station" dis-
play.

Extra timetable dispensers
have been provided in the
waiting room and we have
had no trouble in keeping them
replenished with timeta-
bles from York.

We have not heard any
progress on the boundary is-
sues we raised nor about re-
newing platform fencing near
the "coal drop". We have
thanked Northern for the work
so far and have reminded

them of the outstanding actions. They changed hands recently being taken from Arriva and handed to the State. Our Community Contacts have remained the same and surplus funds from the money they granted us last year have enabled us to buy a battery hedge trimmer. We have requested funds for the cost of our plants from the nursery again this year and are waiting their response.

The white lines along the platform edges were very recently painted after I spoke to some ladies undertaking Guide Dog Training at the station who requested it.

We have drawn up our plan for planting bedding plants this year. We are hoping to brighten up our beds as soon as the spring bulbs fade. Colin Wood, Adopter's Team Leader.

Mike Bowes Conversation

In 2017 Mike Bowes, a tinsmith with the railway, visited the Nursery. He had visited the Nursery with his father and also knew of the location of the nursery in the Leeman Road area. The transcript of that conversation can be read from the history page of the Nursery website.

Aluminium collection

Ann Dixon is still collecting foil, aluminium cans and household cables for snappy. There is a box with all the other recycling boxes between the mess room and sales area at the Nursery. Snappy is a valuable resource for disabled children giving their parents much needed respite and giving the children a space in which to try lots of activities in a safe environment. Collecting

foil can become just another strand of your kerbside recycling, the only extra hassle is having to bring it to the nursery.

Jobs

Due to the Corona Virus arrangements the Nursery is closed until further notice.

... and finally



Fountain with apologies to Marcel Duchamp and "R. Mutt".

As mentioned in Ten Years Ago 2010 was very cold and snowy, here are some photographs taken in Nether Poppleton of those snowy conditions.

