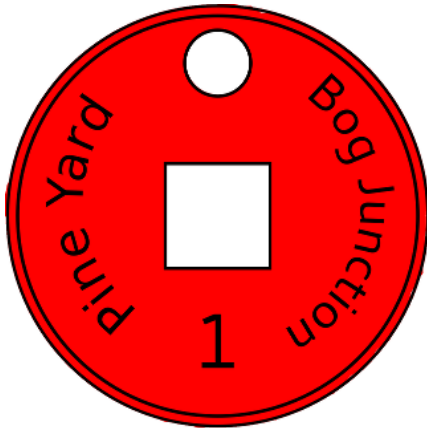




## The Potting Shed September 2020 No. 56



The Nursery is open  
10 am to 3 pm on  
Monday, Wednesday  
and Friday subject to  
social distancing.

### POPPLETON COMMUNITY RAILWAY NURSERY

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**Charity Number:** 1148341

**Company Registration number:**  
06211163

## Editorial

Since the last issue of the Potting Shed there seems to have been much going on at the Nursery much of it is reported in this issue. The Nursery has provided plants for the Disabled Workers Co-op to be used in planters for traffic quietening measures in The Groves. The Thursday afternoon has been steadily working away on the back log of jobs to be done and three young students have been selling things to donate money to the Nursery. Let's hope these jobs can be maintained in what seems to be a trying Autumn and Winter.

## Allotment



As most gardeners will tell you, each year has winners and losers in the allotment and this summer has been no exception. The losers were the small brassicas and carrots which kept the rabbits well fed, whereas the onions, beans and spuds did well, as did the strawberries. Sweetcorn is looking good and should be ready

soon. The companion planting aided pollination and the garden area looks so much better after some hard work by the Wednesday weeding team. I've added some manure to the allotment to try my hand with broccoli over the winter.



Barry Treanor

## Railway and building work

After very little work in the spring because of illness and Covid, we are now meeting regularly on a Thursday afternoon. Numbers attending are between two and six people. We are socially distancing as far as possible with the maximum of two people on any job,

Splitting the work between railway and various building jobs, mainly the new canopy for the toilets, and getting the locomotives working again.



*The basic canopy on the toilets*  
The nursery motorised wagon **Terry Stanhope** is now complete and working with new oil seals on the gearbox but some adjustment is required on the brakes, **Loweco** is working but work is ongoing to the cab roof which had rusted with condensation off the shed roof.

Some work has taken place on the basic chassis of the proposed coach/van.

Jonathan Lloyd came to pick up his large wagon chassis in July, it has been at Poppleton since it was bought from the Abbey railway at the same time as **Loweco**.

We decided we could not progress the railway event on 12th September due to the uncertainty over Covid restrictions and health. We have provisional agreement with the owners of two Locos and the Steam Roller to stage the event on 11th September 2021.



*Loading Jonathan Lloyd's wagon onto his low-loader.*

Further work is required on the track as well as progressing the van.

## Help required

The railway and building group are seeking for members to join the group, particularly with a mechanical interest. The only require-

ments are being a member of the Nursery. We meet on a Thursday afternoon between 2 and 6 p.m., you can come as little and often as you want to and you don't need to have experience. Tea/coffee, biscuits and occasionally cake are provided and it isn't all work, we occasionally play trains on the narrow gauge railway.

## The Nursery has gone peat free

This year we have reached a milestone. The management committee made the decision to switch over to peat free potting compost. As many will know we have been making our own potting compost since the beginning, but we have always used a small quantity of peat in our mixture. After encouragement from several members and some of our own research we have been able to change over to peat free. We still make our own compost but it is from our own compost heaps with the addition of a small quantity of bought in peat free compost additive. We will see how this works and change the recipe if we need to. We don't think it will make much different to our prices, however they will be reviewed in the new year and changes made if necessary.

## 12 September Heritage Open Day

With the ongoing Covid-19 crisis still relevant, this was

a much scaled down Heritage Open Day than previous years. There were only minimal refreshments and parts of the Nursery closed off, and **Loweco** and **Terry Stanhope** only on static display. Nevertheless the favourable weather and the Scarecrow Festival going on elsewhere in the village brought a steady stream of visitors which produced a very successful day.

## Three students from York make money for Nursery



The youngsters took part in North Yorkshire Police's Lifestyle Challenge, designed to get young people involved in community projects over the summer holidays.

Marcus Barker, 13 and Jessica and Katie Milner, 11 and 9, took part in the challenge to raise £300 for the Poppleton Community Railway Nursery. The students held a garden sale selling homemade jams and cakes and selling plants given by Poppleton based nurseries D-Tails and Dobbies.

Marcus said, "It took a bit of organising and we did it all ourselves, ringing companies



asking for donations, making the posters, Dad just did the driving.”

## Ten Years Ago

Potting Shed Number 7 dated September 2010 was 3-pages of A4. There was a lengthy Notes from the Nursery feature looking from the 2nd summer at the Nursery towards Autumn. Autumn bedding had started after a successful summer in which money from sales has been raised. Much work had been done at the Station which was illustrated with pictures. In the greenhouse a propagating bench with heating and a mist line work had been set up and the handcarts and trolleys had been repaired. The garden had been worked on by visiting groups although Manor School's input had to be cancelled due to loss of funding.

On the railway front the second wagon had been restored and work was ongoing on the model railway and the museum.

Plants had been produced for Kirkby Stephen station on the Settle & Carlisle line. Pace PLC had donated £250 for IT equipment and a visit to the Nursery of the Lady Mayor and Mayoress was promised for the Christmas open day.

## Poppleton station adoption

Access to the station was finally granted in the middle of July following four months

during which all activity had been banned by Northern.

Consequently, both the main flower bed on the York Platform (No. 1) and the smaller flower bed on the Harrogate Platform (No. 2) were very overgrown and two of the shrubs on Platform 1 had died, probably due to lack of water.

The main flower bed on Platform 1 has been cleared of all the straggling plants and the bushes have been cut back and/or trimmed as appropriate. Re-planting has commenced and this will continue for some weeks. The two dead shrubs have been cut right down. There are now three shrubs which need replacing (one was removed some time ago). Suitable replacements have been identified which will be transplanted in the autumn once all the old roots have been removed from the concrete tubs — a challenge of some considerable magnitude.

Work on the small flower bed on Platform 2 is temporarily in abeyance pending completion of activity on Platform 1 but the bushes on Platform 2 have all been trimmed, giving a rather tidier appearance overall.

Following representations to Northern, the Amazon Parcel Collection Box which was proposed for Platform 1, and which would have obscured the flower bed, will now be sited in the car park. Northern's prompt response to our request for this resiting is appreciated.



*The Amazon Parcel Collection Box*

Carolyn Watson, Northern's Director of Stakeholder and Community Engagement, visited the nursery and station on Friday 21 August. Following our request, the Waiting Room on Platform 1 was reopened on 27 August.

We have received £300 from Northern to support station activities.

Advantage is being taken of the nursery's recent membership of Community Rail Network to "attend" a couple of their on-line events relevant to station activities.

Richard Scott.

## Annual General Meeting

Due to the current situation regarding the virus, the management committee decided that it could not safely hold an annual general meeting face to face this year. So it was decided that, the financial report, the previous years minutes plus the chairperson report for this year, would be sent out to members, but there would be no election of trustees.

## ... and finally

If anyone is wondering what the red and black object pictured on the first page of this issue, it is a railway signalling token. This gives authority for a train to be on a section of

railway, in this case from Pine Yard (adjacent to the Nursery car park) to Bog Junction (opposite the toilets). When operating more than one train the railway is divided to two sections, the one represented

above and one from Bog Junction to Bog Junction via the balloon loop on the Nursery's narrow gauge railway. When not in use the tokens can be viewed on open days in the Nursery's museum.

## Autumn scenes from the Nursery

