

The Potting Shed November 2022 No. 68



**The Christmas Sales
Day is on Saturday 19
November 10:00am to
3:00pm for the sale of
Christmas
decorations and
wreaths. Railways on
display.
Refreshments.
The Nursery will be
open on 10 December
10:00am to 1:00pm for
the sale and
collection of seasonal
orders**

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**Company Registration
number: 06211163**

Editorial

This issue of The Potting Shed is slightly delayed and there are no images due to technical difficulties.

However there is still much going on at the Nursery. Our last two open Saturdays of the year are on 19 November and 10 December. If you still looking for Christmas presents there are wood products for your garden produced at the Nursery.

Can I ask you to read the piece by Jo Sullivan Jones below. It isn't about the AGM but about volunteering at the Nursery. If you or someone you know might be interested in volunteering please contact the Nursery. We would also be interested if you have ideas on how to attract people to volunteer.

The AGM

The AGM was held on 5 October but unfortunately did not attract many people; even I was not there because of illness and couldn't chair the meeting. However it got me thinking and realising that none of the past meetings have been heaving with people.

The term Annual General Meeting does not exactly shout excitement but it is a really good way to get to meet other people, get to know what is going on, celebrate successes, to ask questions, make suggestions and get involved with the development of the nursery going forward.

All members should receive an invitation with an agenda,

last year's minutes and nomination papers via email. Sadly I feel that emails are very easily overlooked and have somehow become too numerous that we tend to be overwhelmed by them. Is there a better way?

Some of the management group have been in post since the nursery began and others followed very soon afterwards, and no one is getting any younger. Some people may think that it looks like a closed shop but in fact we would welcome some new blood. It would be really good to have some new people to shadow these roles with a view to step into them as and when they come up for re-election.

We would love to have your opinions on how to increase attendance and involve more people.

Is there something that we could change to improve things and drum up more interest? Better Advertising? Social Media? Recruitment Day?

Jo Sullivan Jones

The Co-op Scheme

The Co-op Scheme ended on 22 October with a total of £2682.69 which will be used for the shade tunnel and a fruit cage for the vegetable garden.

A new scheme has started which will be used to raise money for a heat mat for the incubation greenhouse and improvements to the electrical supply.

Poppleton Station Adoption

It seems like only last week I was writing about the drought and therefore the problems we had watering our flower beds and pots at Poppleton Railway Station. But now we are firmly into Autumn and seem to have enough rain water for our purposes anyway.

We mainly are just trimming and keeping the displays tidy until the severe frosts “get” our remaining colourful plants and then we will have to think about getting some bulbs planted quickly!

The notice board is still being experimented with before we settle on anything semi-permanent—the display about joining us, the nursery or both has just been updated for example.

Northern are holding a one day conference for us later in November in Manchester so we are deciding who is to go. We hear that the December 2022 timetable will be better than presently so we look forward with hope to fewer long gaps between trains on weekday evenings or mornings before 09:00.

We have been given—after asking—some copies of a children’s rail safety illustrated story book called **Arlo’s Adventures**. We have offered some to Poppleton Ousebank Junior School and have some available for our open days. These are available for a donation to The Railway Children Charity.

House keeping on the station, after a good and effective litter pick the other week, including a loose board, a broken fence rail and fading platform edge lines are on our minds currently and all will be reported and followed up.

Colin Wood

Railway and building work

Painting of the Potting Shed is almost complete and work has moved onto the adjoining boiler house door. Colin King has fitted a new glass on the light outside the Potting Shed.

The external light on the toilets has been replaced with a brighter one, it has been adjusted so that it only comes on for a short time when it detects motion and only during the hours of darkness.

The brake system on *Terry Stanhope* has been fixed so that it does not drop its nut onto the track. This means that it is now a runner. Bob Brook has made low wooden detachable sides for the other flat truck. This will be useful when we have to remove ballast from the track when replacing sleepers.

We were expecting a large group of volunteers from Linbrooke, who provide signalling, power and communications solutions to the railway industry, which would involve them coming on two days. However numbers have dwindled so that only one day is required. We will see whether personnel and time

will enable the group to complete the track work originally planned.

Woodworking group

We have a woodworking group at the Nursery who will produce wood products for your garden. These are made to order, if you are interested pop into the Nursery and order a piece.

- Bird table £40
- Wheelbarrow planter £25
- Auricula theatre¹ £25
- Three bin storage tbc
- Storage for recycling bins £90
- Bird boxes £6

¹ Auricula theatres have been a spring tradition in England since the 1800's; they consist of a wooden showcase on which are displayed auricula primroses (hybrids of *Primula auricula* and *Primula hirsuta*) that have been carefully raised all winter to bloom in the spring.

