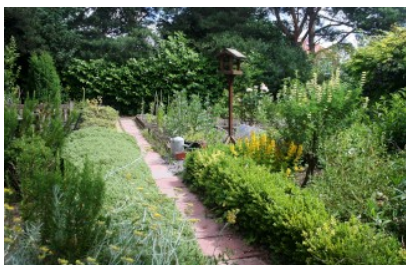


The Potting Shed January 2023 No. 69



Our Sales Dates for the year ahead are now available. Our main sales days are in April, May, July, September, October and November.

Seasonal plants will be for sale, the narrow gauge and model railways will be on display and you can walk around the historic site.

Refreshments will be available.

POPPLETON COMMUNITY RAILWAY NURSERY

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Company Registration number:
06211163

Editorial

Welcome to the first Potting Shed of the year. This issue is rather railway-centric but we do have details of the year's sales dates, so mark them in your diaries. We have a Potting Shed first, a review of a book about railways around Harrogate including Poppleton and there are photos of the Nursery in winter.

Membership

Just a reminder to members that your membership was due on 1 January 2023, After 31 March your name will be removed from the mailing list. Subs run from 1 January to 31 December £6 waged and £3 for students, unwaged or over 60s. 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.

Sales dates

The Nursery will be holding sales days on the following dates:

- **22 April 22: Spring Open Day 10:00am to 4:00pm**
- 29 April, 6, 13, 20 May
6: Morning Sales
9:30am to 1:00pm
- **27 May: Summer Open Day 10:00am to 4:00pm**

- 3, 10, 17, 24 June:
Morning Sales
9:30am to 1:00pm
- **1 July: Buy One get One Free on Bedding Plants Open Day and Sale 10:00am to 4:00pm**
- **9 September: Heritage Open Day 10:00am to 4:00pm**
- **21 October: Autumn Open Day 10:00am to 3:00pm**
- **18 November: Early Christmas Sale 10:00am to 3:00pm**
- 9 December: Collection of wreaths and seasonal orders 9:30am to 1:00pm

Further Railway events and sales away from the Nursery may be added throughout the year, please check website for details.

We are also open on Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 10am to 3pm throughout the year.

Aluminium Foil

Anne Dixon is no longer collecting the foil for Snappy. The lady who ran it has now given up. Thank you to everyone who has supported this over the last few years.

The amount of foil collected over the last 10 years for Snappy is impressive:

aluminium foil	13,623 kg
drink cans	8,931 kg
food tins and	1,585 kg

lids	
household cables	2,333 kg
other metals	2,144 kg
Grand total	28,616 kg
Amount raised	£16,333.47

Foil can now be put into kerbside recycling or recycled at St. Nicks.

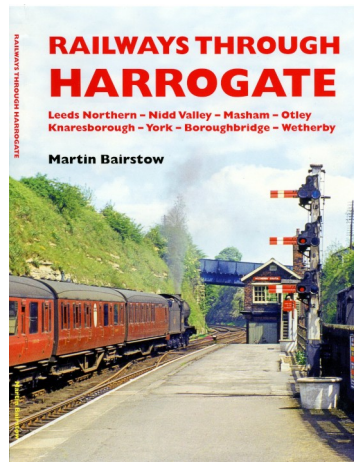
Ten years ago

Potting Shed 21, published in November 2013, was two-sides of A4. Kay Bailey, York City Council's Neighbourhood Manager from the Communities & Equalities Team) was to visit the nursery on 28th November to gain an understanding of where we are currently up to and to explore our future plans.

Gareth Tagger, a third year English student with marketing experience, was working with the Nursery to develop a marketing plan for the nursery to present to our Management committee He was visiting the site at fortnightly intervals to understand what we do and to talk to officers and volunteers about publicise the nursery. Gareth was also to be on site at the main Christmas Open Day on 7th December.

Book review

Railways Through Harrogate – Martin Bairstow.



Before I review the above book I must declare that Martin asked to use two of your editor's photographs of the Nursery in the book.

Martin Bairstow has written over 40 books on railways both in the UK and Europe. This book is an update on two earlier books, *Railways Around Harrogate Volumes 1 and 2*. It is 130 pages, soft bound with extensive photos and maps and covers the history railways radiating from Harrogate. The railways covered are The Leeds Northern; The Nidd Valley Branch and Light Railway; The Masham Branch; lines to Otley and Bradford Foster Square; lines to Wetherby, Boroughbridge and Church Fenton and the line through Poppleton to York. The Harrogate Gasworks railway is covered and there is a section about accidents on the line. There is one minor quibble, on page 18 there is a caption which does not seem to have a picture as-

sociated with it. I would recommend this book to anyone who is interested in the history of railways around Harrogate, even if you have the two previous volumes. It is available directly from Martin Bairstow at 53 Kirklees Drive, Farsley, Leeds. LS28 5TD. £17.95 (p&p free in UK) cheques payable to John Martin Bairstow. Amazon are selling it for £17.50, it is not available at the Nursery.

Railway and building work

Work over the winter period has been a bit patchy due to inclement weather and short days. The finishing of the painting of the Potting Shed has been progressing slowly and we have also painted the door on the adjoining boiler house. We are beginning to think about replacing some of the broken greenhouse glass with perspex. This will be in the easily accessible sections of the greenhouses. One of the recent gales blew down the Nursery's notice board adjacent to the station. The post was not very securely buried so the opportunity has been taken to replace the post, securely concrete in place and generally tidy up the notice board.

In March we are hosting a group from the Narrow Gauge Society who are visiting other narrow gauge railways in the area. We are planning a general spring

clean on the rolling stock and track for their arrival.

The Potting Shed

Our recent painting of the Potting Shed has resulted in the group taking a closer look at this building. Like many of the Nursery's buildings this was second hand when it arrived at the Nursery. It housed the main offices of the Nursery until the arrival of the portacabins.



This article is based on several discussions the Railway and building group have had while we have been painting the building. The building is our mess room particularly in the winter. The building is wooden on a brick base, it must have arrived at Poppleton as a kit of parts, inside there are roman numerals indicating where the various roof girders join the walls.



...and finally

If you have visited the Nursery it was probably in fine weather, probably on one of our sales days. The following photos were taken on one of the coldest days of the year.



We thought that the building might have originally been a signal box. The Nursery arrived in Poppleton in 1941. Martin Bairstow's book (see review elsewhere in this issue) tells us that Poppleton Junction signal box, which controlled the junction from the East Coast mainline to the Harrogate branch, closed in 1941. We wondered whether, due to its proximity, it became our Potting Shed. On consulting North Eastern Railway signalling expert Richard Pulleyn, who provided photos of Poppleton Junction box, we discovered that it was an all-brick box, and therefore not our building. Richard also included photos of a more likely box, Skelton Junction at the North end of Skelton railway bridge. Further consultations with Richard revealed that the dimensions of the box were different to the Potting Shed, also the box closed in 1933 and the Nursery didn't open until 1941. The boxes were modular in structure and there is evi-

ence for boxes were re-deployed in other locations on closure. Having viewed photos of several boxes it was apparent that most of them had sliding windows which the Potting Shed doesn't, it posed the question whether it had been a signal box and was another type of railway building. At the time of writing we still have no idea what the building originally was or where it came from. One interesting feature that could identify its original use and possible location is the very small window to the right of the door, it doesn't open but has it ever opened? If anyone has further information or ideas about the Potting Shed we would be very interested in hearing from you, just contact the Nursery.

One interesting feature your editor discovered was a track near Poppleton Villas, near where Millfield Lane turns right towards the A59 and Beckfield Lane, which crossed railway bridges over the Harrogate branch and East Coast mainline and onto the Ings beyond. It must have closed when the sugar beet factory opened in 1926.

The Nursery in Winter

