

The Potting Shed April 2023 No. 70



**Our Spring Sales
Day is on 22 April
from 10:00am to
4:00pm**

**Spring plants, sweet
peas and Summer
bedding plants will
be for sale, the nar-
row gauge and
model railways will
be on display and
you can walk around
the historic site.**

**Refreshments will
be available.**

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Editorial

Welcome to issue number 70 of The Potting Shed. There has been much going on in what is normally a fairly quiet time. Ground-work for a new building has been undertaken helped by a visit from Network Rail. We have had a visit from the Narrow Gauge Society and several members of the railway group have been to see a loco once resident in Poppleton.

Membership

If you have not updated your membership for 2023, your name has been removed from the mailing list. Subs are £6 waged and £3 for students, unwaged or over 60s. There is an application form which can be downloaded 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 open on 29 April, 6, 13, 20 May 6 between 9:30am and 1:00pm

On 27 May the Nursery will open for its Summer Open Day between 10:00am and 4:00pm

Note: The Nursery will **not** be selling plants at the Poppleton Sports Day.

Ten years ago

Two issues of The Potting Shed were issued in March and April 2013. No. 17 is 3 sides of A4. Brian Horsley and Davie Shannon had cleaned the glass in the greenhouses and the glass gleamed in the sunshine. Composting had been started on the coal drop site and there was a mountain of weedkiller contaminated compost to be shifted over the road to allow the rain to wash out the weedkiller. There was a visit by the Children's Society to arrange a volunteer experience for disabled children. Perhaps the biggest item of news in the issue occurred on 22 February with the arrival of our diesel loco *LoweCo* from the Abbey Light Railway. Building work continued on site with a major reboarding, insulation and painting of the Potting Shed. S7 had been raised, rotten wood replaced and the building place on new brick supports. Gill Duxbury was looking forward to providing plants and having the Nursery open for the Poppleton Garden Trail in June.

No. 18 was 3 sides of A4. The railway took the Nursery's model for the first time to the Narrow Gauge North model railway show, then held near Rawdon. A planned hanging basket had been postponed for 3 weeks to allow further plant growth owing to bad

weather. The Nursery had been awarded £750 by the village council provided other funding could be found towards the cost of a disability accessible toilet building. On 6 April a small group from the LNER Society visited the Nursery. Several of the group had visited in the '90s and were going to look through their archives for further information about the Nursery. A general request for groups who would be interested in talks about the Nursery's history was being sought.

Narrow Gauge Railway Society



On 23 March, a group from the Narrow Gauge Society visited the Nursery. Neil Clayton brought *Wasp*, a motor bike powered chassis, from Ripon for the event. Apart from two test runs of *Wasp* in the morning technical difficulties prevented it running in the afternoon while the group were at the Nursery. *LoweCo* and *Terry Stanhope* ran trains for the group which was very successful apart from several torrential rain showers.

On the following day three members of the railway group piggy-backed on the Society's visit to the Lloyd family's Castleton Railways

near Whitby in exchange for some cleaning of some rolling stock. Among the locomotives at Castleton was *Alne*, a 1940-built Simplex which one of the resident locos at Poppleton while in railway ownership.



Alne at Castleton

Visit of Network Rail Group

On February 24 a group from Network Rail visited the Nursery to do work for the Nursery. This was probably the most enthusiastic certainly I have been involved with at Poppleton and we were slightly overwhelmed. The Nursery's railway group would have liked to get some track work done, replacing sleepers. The weather forecast predicted rain during the day so it was felt that it was not conducive for digging holes, on the day the weather was better than forecast but it was too late in the day to start this, so it will have to wait for another session. The group was split into three, a pair repainted the coach while a second group did horticultural work. The last group were employed clearing the ground works

on the site of the broken greenhouse. The bricks in the base were levelled up and stacked. Concrete covers and paving were removed and stacked around the site. On planning the jobs we thought this would take most of the day, in the event this was all completed by lunchtime. We were then chasing round trying to find jobs for the rest of the day, these were clearing the flangeways on the track and cutting down overhanging trees in the car park.

Railway and building work

The work the group has undertaken has is largely behind the scenes and not very visible. The socket which is used by the soil steriliser has been repaired. Small jobs in preparation for track work have been done — sorting out the track spikes, bolts and fishplates. In an attempt to obtain some ballast, some satisfactory ballast was seen in the York branch of a major retailer, on attempting to order a delivery online the headquarters claimed that they didn't sell it! Enquiries are progressing. As a way of storing some new ballast, Neil Clayton's tipper will be used for storage after delivery.

The group has been helping Geoff Rafton tip hard core onto the foundations of the old greenhouse.

The visit of the Narrow Gauge Society has given us

ideas for improving the way our historic items are displayed. P21 is a short-wheel-base chassis which will never be a runner at the Nursery, we also have the metal base of the turntable near the engine shed which was removed, because heavy road vehicles damaged the top. The use of P21 on top of the turntable will give us an attractive display, the former is undergoing stripping and painting.

One job that has been completed is the refurbishment of the Nursery's noticeboard near the coal drops.



New Building Update



Recent progress on the new building foundations

Following a great working visit by a railway team and much appreciated ongoing support from local builder Geoff Rafton, good progress has been made with the nursery's new building since the last Potting Shed. The site has been cleared and laying the hardcore for the new concrete base slab is well advanced. The next stages will be shuttering the perimeter and blinding the hardcore base in readiness for laying mesh reinforcement prior to concreting the slab.

Poppleton Station Adoption

We have kept the station tidy since I last wrote but with the spring flowers beginning to fade—except a few tulips, the odd primula and forget me knots—it looks as though we will not have good enough weather or mature enough bedding

plants ready to get our full display safely (watching for those frosty mornings!) in the beds for another few weeks yet. A shame of course but we will keep the weeds down.

We plan to paint the large concrete POPPLETON sign again this year. It is on the Harrogate platform but it will need quite a bit more preparation before we get the white paint out.

An abandoned bike was removed quickly for us by ISS once it was reported and we have noticed a modest increase in folk using the train locally but also noted recently a few more last minute cancellations to our trains too! This is not exclusive to Northern of course.

The display cases on both platforms have been filled with historical detail about the line, the station, the nursery, what we do as Adopters and how to volunteer anywhere with us. Both the text and photographs look very good too. Richard has done an excellent job on them and by using laminated sheets we are able to update anything as appropriate. This is much cheaper than having a sheet printed although we do see the displays as being semi-permanent. We hope to have a picture for next time.

...and finally

We conclude this issue with some photographs of the recent Network Rail group visit.

