

# The Potting Shed February 2024 No. 76



**The first Open  
Sales Day of the  
year will be on  
Saturday 20  
April, 10:00am to  
3:00pm.  
Sale of summer  
baskets and  
planters.  
Narrow gauge and  
model railways.  
Refreshments.**

## POPPLETON COMMUNITY RAIL WAY NURSERY

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## Editorial

A new year starts and we are looking forward to the year ahead. The year's sales dates have been decided. There has been work on the Nursery garden and we have two new seats on the station. There has been progress on Peggy's Shed and the railway group has several projects ongoing.

## Membership

2024's membership is due from 1 January. If you have not already renewed 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. Subs run from 1 January to 31 December £6 waged and £3 for students, unwaged or over 60s. After 31 March 2024 your name will be removed from the mailing list.

## Sales days

The Nursery will be open on the following days during 2024.

- **20 April, Spring Open Day Sale** 10:00am to 3:00pm. Order summer baskets and planters.
- 27 April, 4 & 11 May Saturday Morning Sales 10:00am to 1:00pm. Early vegetable plants available
- **18 May Summer Open Day Sale** 10:00am to

4:00pm. Bedding plants, perennials and shrubs

- 25 May, 1, 8, 15, 22 & 29 June Saturday Morning Sales 10:00am to 1:00pm
- **6 July Buy One Get One Free on Summer Bedding Plants** 10:00am to 4:00pm
- **14 September Heritage Open Day** 10:00am to 4:00pm
- **26 October Autumn Open Day Sale** 10:00am to 3:00pm. Winter pots, shrubs & perennials
- **23 November Christmas Open Day Sale** 10:00am to 3:00pm. Wreaths, decorations & gifts.
- 7 December Collection of Christmas orders

There will also be a bedding plant sale at Foxwood Community Centre on 17 May, 10:30am to 1:00pm.

Extra sales will be advertised on the Nursery website.

The Nursery is open Monday, Wednesday & Friday 10:00am to 3:00pm.

## Railway and building work

The small group has been carrying out a range of tasks. Progress is being made on the replacement truck for the yellow truck in the station car park.

A replacement drive chain has been fitted to *LoweCo* to replace the slack chain.

However removal of the chain has revealed excessive wear on the teeth of the gear wheel. A replacement wheel will eventually have to be sourced and fitted.

The set of scales which came with the site is being repainted and your editor has a production line repainting the various weights.

With the advent of car parking charges the set of shelves opposite the portacabin has been moved to give more space at the entrance to the site. The space between the shelves and the narrow gauge railway has been cleared including two concrete planters retrieved from the station. The shelves have been moved to give the maximum space on the portacabin side yet allowing passage of vehicles on the narrow gauge railway.



Lights and power sockets are being fitted to Peggy's Shed.

## Station car park and Nursery parking

As mentioned in the last issue of the Potting Shed, parking charges have now been introduced at the station car park

. These are £2 a day with a 50p charge for 2 hours and overnight (4:00pm to 07:59am). Blue Badge holders may park for free, the blue badge must be prominently displayed in the car. Payments are made through RingGo, either through the RingGo app on a mobile phone or through their website at [www.RingGo.co.uk](http://www.RingGo.co.uk) they can also be contacted on 0113 8090070. Poppleton's location code is 35744. The sign indicating these details is situated well above head height and thus not conveniently placed. Your editor noted that on consecutive Thursday afternoons there were five free parking spaces where previously the car park had been full.

At the last Management Committee meeting, it was agreed to mark the Nursery car park to obtain the maximum number of parking spaces and to make provision for overflow parking in front of the main portacabin.

The nursery car park can be very full on some weekdays. We are therefore asking volunteers, where possible, to consider lift sharing or using public transport to attend the site. Thank you for your co-operation.

## Nursery garden

The Garden area of the Nursery has seen a resurgence of activity over recent months.

The soil has been improved thanks to the help of Herb's ponies donating their 'organic matter'.

Onions, garlic and broad beans are in the ground and there are plans for more vegetables this year.

The garden area has received a much needed pruning and tidy up, under the watchful eye of the new Potting Shed.

All we need now is some decent Spring weather and a pigeon scarer!

Barry Treanor

## Station adoption



This has been a quiet period at the station due to the Christmas/New Year break and the ensuing cold and windy weather. There was a photo session in mid-December for the two new benches following which a short article and image was published in *The Press*. Since then we have been weeding and generally tidying up the flowerbeds and disposing of litter. Passen-

ger numbers through the station are now close to pre-pandemic levels but, of course, the number of trains has doubled since then so the upward trend needs to continue to justify the additional running costs. We are looking forward to spring planting to restore some colour to the station after the usual rather drab winter period.

## Ten years ago

The Potting Shed 22 dated February 2014 was 3 sides of A4. Having had occupation of the site for nearly 5 years the work done in those 5 years is reflected in the issue of the Potting Shed to give the features of today's Nursery.

S7 (the building on the loading bay) which was in very poor condition when we took over the site had been jacked up, placed on a brick base, re-boarded and re-clad and a window replaced to provide the museum and model railway building we have today.

The Nursery was asking for transcribers for the manager's diaries and work books found on site.

The railway group were planning future trackwork to extend the narrow gauge railway. This was to involve the Jim Crow rail bender to change the 'handedness' of the point which enabled us to build the balloon loop at the Harrogate end of the site.

Kay Bailey the Neighbourhood Manager — Communities and Equalities from York Council had established a connection with the Nursery which resulted in an article about volunteering in the Council's newspaper **Your Ward**.

## New building (Peggy's Shed)

Since the last issue of the Potting Shed our builder Geoff has been continuing with the building. The roof has been fitted and the insulation and internal walls fitted. The railway group

are fitting the electrical fixtures. It is beginning to look like a finished building and the insulation gives the room a cosiness. On one the coldest days of the year so far, without any heating in the room there was an inherent warmth to the room.

## Cacti

Happy New Year to all. Unfortunately I've been a very infrequent visitor the last few months and even my Cacti are a bit neglected at home. Luckily they don't really grow at all in winter. Sorting out my mother's effects and all after her rapid decline and passing has taken its toll quite a degree. Hopefully I shall be able to resume visits soon though and have a really good tidy up. Kind regards and best wishes to everyone.

Matt Gibbs.

# Peggy's Shed and other Nursery progress



Before the roof went on



Roofing, lagging and walls fitted



Repainted weights

The gear wheel on *LoweCo* with the chain removed

