

The Potting Shed February 2025 No. 83



A wide range of plants and Home-made refreshments will be on sale at each full Open Day.

The Nursery's Loweco and miniature railway will be on display and running, weather permitting at most of the events.

Stalls selling books, bric a brac and a wide range of beautiful handmade crafts.

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Editorial

Welcome to The Potting Shed No. 83, the first edition of 2025. We have a list of the sales days for the year. We also have a first for the Potting Shed, a book review of Isabella Tree's account of rewilding the Knepp Estate in West Sussex. Your editor found the book a very good read.

After many years in store in S7 we have been able to display a North Eastern Railway plan of Poppleton in the new building and there is a link to an interesting railway photography video.

Membership

Membership was due on 1st January 2025, Please forward your subscriptions to the membership secretary at the nursery address. A form can be downloaded from our website. Subscriptions are: Full Membership £6, Concessionary Membership at £3 for students, unwaged and over 60s.

Sales days

As well as being open on Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 10am-3pm throughout the year the Nursery will be holding the following sales days:

- Saturday 26 April: **Early Spring Open Day Sale:** 10am – 3pm
- Saturday 17 May: **Spring Open Day Sale:** 10am – 3pm

- Saturday 31 May: **Early Summer Open Day Sale:** 10am – 4pm
- Saturday 7 June: **Summer Open Day Sale:** 10am – 4pm
- Saturday 21 June: **Summer Open Day Sale:** 10am – 4pm
- Saturday 5 July: **Open Day (Buy-One-Get-One-Free on Bedding Plants) Sale:** 10am – 4pm
- Saturday 13 September: **Heritage Open Day Sale:** 10am – 4pm
- Saturday 18 October: **Autumn Open Day Sale:** 10am – 3pm
- Saturday 22 November: **Early Christmas Open Day Sale:** 10am – 3pm
- Saturday 13 December: **Collection of Christmas Orders:** 10am – 1pm

Sale away from the Nursery:

- Friday 16 May: **Foxwood Community Centre:** 10.30am-1pm

Extra sales or railway events may be added during the year. Please check website for details.

Visiting groups

The visit of the Network Rail group mentioned in the last issue had to be cancelled as there were too few participants, however, a visit from the group is imminent.

Station adoption

Not a great deal to report; we thought that January seemed longer and greyer than usual!

Our wintering flowering pansies did not flower well this year and the Spring bulbs are not out yet either! We have planted a few extras and are holding our breath to see if they (especially the wallflowers) come out. Weeds as ever continue to grow and are taken out weekly! We have also done some cutting back including hydrangeas and have removed the straggly lavender on the Harrogate platform but more to do in the next month or so.

Darren and Dave of the Nursery team have been very busy these last few weeks making a superb large wooden planter for the York Platform. We have, of course, Northern's permission for this, they have just finished varnishing it, then it will be planted up to include a rose and displayed. It is to commemorate a railway man who lived in Upper Poppleton for many years. More details with hopefully photographs next time.

Book Review

Wilding The Return of Nature to a British Farm – Isabella Tree, Pan Macmillan

Sir Charles Burrell, Isabella Tree's husband inherited a failing dairy farm on the Knepp Estate in West Sussex. He decided to sell off

the cattle and equipment to clear debts and allow nature to take over the Knepp Estate. This very readable book tells the story of that conversion from agricultural land to the first major rewilding project in the UK. The couple faced difficulties in opposition from locals, difficulties in obtaining grants which were aimed at just such a project, but help was obtained from similar projects across the world. Much of the conversion was just to stand back from the land and allow nature to take its course, soon resulting in the return of species which had previously been absent. This book is essential reading for lovers of wildlife and those interested in rewilding and biodiversity. This book is not available at the Nursery.

Railway photography

If anybody is interested in photography, particularly of railways, Andrew Shenton has produced a video taking photographs between Knaresborough and Harrogate. The shots taken in low winter light portray Harrogate as a far grittier place than I previously thought. View at:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IG4VdJYdV44&t=46s&pp=ygUOYW5kcmV3IHNoZW50b24%3D>

Railway and building work

The white fence around the point lever at Bog Junction (in front of the toilets) has been replaced and the metal uprights have had a coat of paint. The group has carried out general maintenance including flange clearing and oiling points.

Poppleton 40



The first narrow gauge railway at Poppleton

You've probably heard of Rail 200, a year-long celebration to mark 200 years since the opening of the first public railway, the Stockton & Darlington. The Nursery is also celebrating an anniversary this year, the 40th anniversary of the first laying of the narrow gauge railway. We are hoping to celebrate this later on in the year, so watch this space.

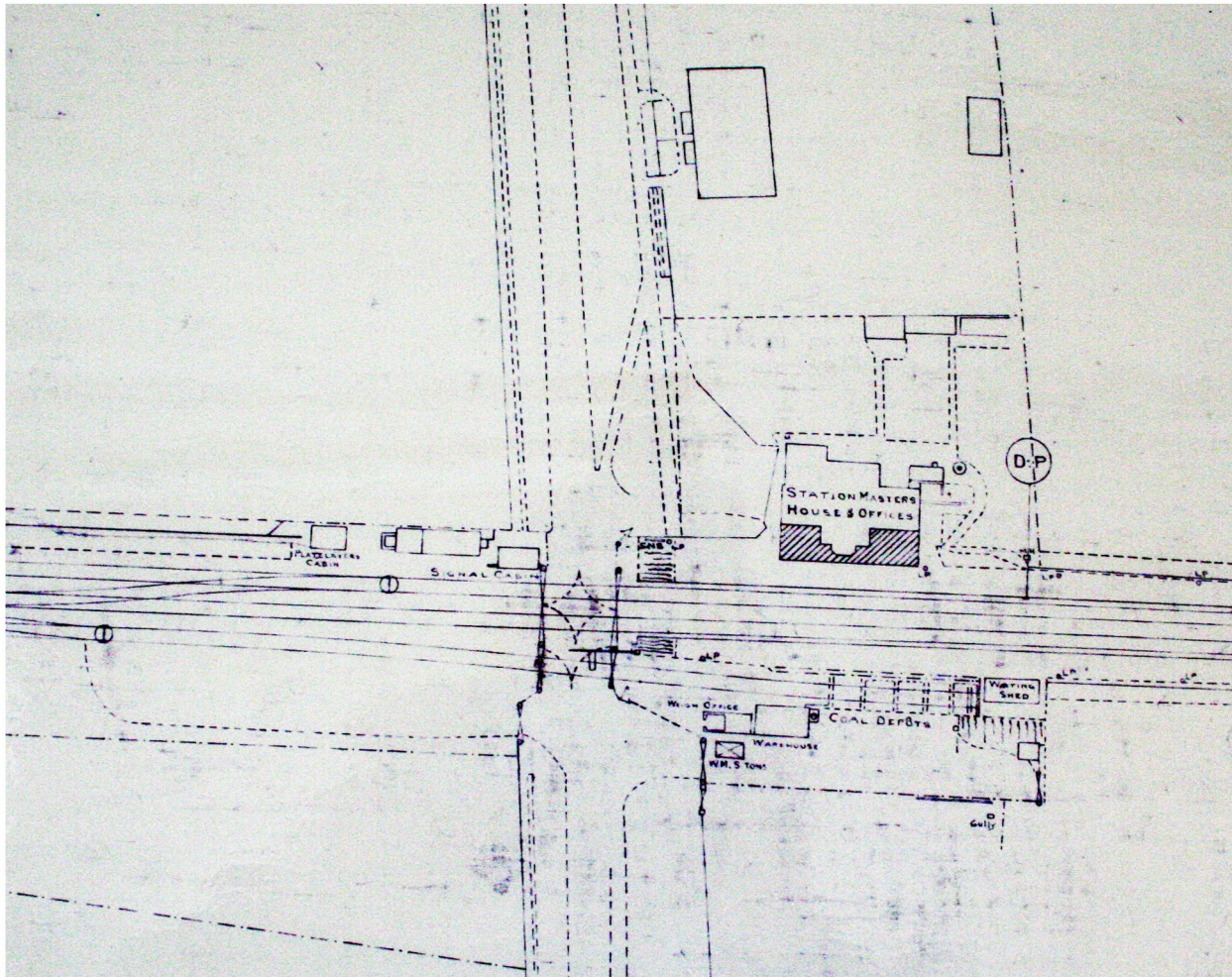
North Eastern Railway plan

Several years ago the Nursery acquired a North Eastern Railway plan of Poppleton station measuring 5 feet by 2½ feet. Soon after obtaining it, your editor had it laminated and the original plan was to hang it above the model railway in

S7. The woodworking group have made a frame for it and it has been hung in the new building. There is no date on the plan but we can date the plan to before 1923. There was no Nursery when the plan was produced although the site of

S7 is where the loading dock is on the plan. There was a siding which ran adjacent to the loading dock over Station Road and ended at the coal drops next to the station. A third pair of crossing gates protects this siding from road

traffic. On the coal drop side as well as the coal drops, there is an office, weigh bridge and a warehouse.



Detail of North Eastern Railway plan of Poppleton station