

The Potting Shed December 2024 No. 82



**The Nursery will be
open on Saturday 7
December 10:00am
to 1:00pm**

**A Happy Christmas
and prosperous New
to all Nursery volun-
teers and visitors**

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Editorial

Welcome to the last issue of The Potting Shed for 2024. This issue sees Graham Coombs writing about the horticultural work of the Nursery and means The Potting Shed is less railway-centric. Don't forget that membership is due at the start of the new year. Can I wish all the readers of The Potting a Happy Christmas and prosperous New Year.

Membership

Membership is 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.

Gardening work

Autumn has been a time for tidying up after the summer season, clearing old plants and re-potting where needed. Tender plants were moved to the pit houses where there is better weather protection, thankfully before the sudden frost and snow in November. A lot of activity has been in propagating hardy perennials, herbs and shrubs, building up stock for next year. We also have a good stock of native plants grown from seed, including foxgloves, poppies

and primroses, for those seeking a 'wild' garden or border. Some repairs are being made to greenhouse benches and G3 has been cleared ready for glass repairs in December, while work continues on renewing the cold frames at the far end of the nursery when weather permits.

On offer at the moment we have some very nice mixed wallflowers at the bargain price of £1 for a box of six, and the potted Hyacinths are just coming on sale for Christmas. These are likely to go fast so place your orders if you want any.

Graham Coombs

Railway and building work

Once again small jobs have been the order of the day for the railway group. The recent cold still weather has enabled us to have bonfires on the coal drops on two consecutive weeks and has seen a minor inroads into clearing the site.

The fence surrounding the point lever at Bog Junction was in need of tidying up, new wood has been obtained to replace the existing wood.

Visiting groups

As this issue was going to press a visit by the Network Group was imminent and they have shown an interest in a visit in the new year.

Sales days

The Christmas sales day on 23 November coincided with the arrival of storm Bert. Your editor was the first to arrive and open up the Nursery, the weather was bitterly cold with snow & sleet which soon changed to rain. The ground could be described as icy slush with the ramp up to S7, the model railway building, particularly treacherous. It was apparent that the new building is very well insulated as it was noticeably warmer than the external weather. After unlocking the buildings, brushing off the ice and slush and applying salt the ramp was made safe.

The rain continued all day as the temperature increased, the number of visitors could be described as pitiful but some sales were made.

The Nursery will be open on Saturday 7 December 10:00am to 1:00 for the collection of orders and the sale of wreaths and Christmas decorations.

The Railway Decoy

Readers may be aware of the decoy railway goods yard which was adjacent to Common Croft Lane in Poppleton between 1941 and 1943. Full details of the history of the decoy can be

found on the Nursery website.



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A brick hut was built at the decoy site which survived until the 1970s. Your editor remembers the hut but has forgotten its exact location, it's location was on one side of Lords Lane, which is an access road off Common Croft Lane, in position 1 or 2 (see map above). As it was a military building, it never appeared on Ordnance Survey maps. Recently National Grid have been undertaking work for their Yorkshire GREEN project, and closed Common Croft Lane/Lords Lane to widen the access to Lords Lane from Common Croft Lane. Your editor went up to investigate whether in digging out the kerbs they found any building foundations from the old hut. Unfortunately the workman I spoke to said that they had only found many tree roots, so the location of the hut is still unknown...unless anybody out there knows...contact the Nursery if you do.

Ten Years Ago

The Potting Shed No. 26 was two sides of A4 issued in December 2014. York Round Table and the Rotary Club had donated £5,500 in order to buy a new van for sales which was expected to arrive in early December.

On November 20, 2014 the railway group finished laying the balloon loop at the Harrogate end of the site. A "golden spike" was hammered in to complete the loop.



An advertising flag, a large banner and a stand had been obtained through a ward grant.

Some previous Poppleton Christmases

