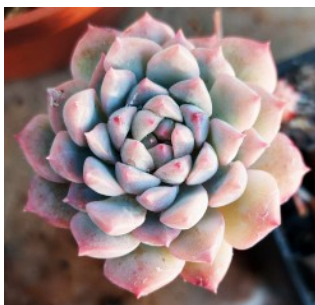


The Potting Shed April 2025 No. 84



**Our Early Spring Sales
Day will be on Saturday
26 April, 10:00am to
3pm.**

View our spring perennials, herbs, alpines, climbers and shrubs, all at reasonable prices.

The Nursery's Loweco and miniature railway will be on display and running, weather permitting.

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

POPPLETON COMMUNITY RAILWAY NURSERY

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06211163

Editorial

Activities at the Nursery are happening thick and fast, we have a slew of sales days coming up and we have had a visit from one of our regular groups with another two visits on the way. There is a progress reports on cacti and the regular horticultural work. Two prize length certificates have been donated to the Nursery.

Volunteering

We are always looking for volunteers to help with the Nursery. We are particularly short of people to help on railway side of the Nursery. If you are interested pop along to one of the sales days and make yourself known. You don't need any previous experience and I am not only asking a male audience so come along ladies!

Sales days

Our Spring Sales day will be on Saturday 17 May 10am to 3pm and our Early Summer Sales Day on 31 May 10am to 4pm.

Visiting groups

On 20 February we had another visit from a group from Network Rail. Always very keen, they helped clean up the area behind the engine shed, work on the coal drop site involved clearing ivy from the container and moving compost.

We are expecting another visit from Network Rail on May 1 and a visit from a group from Siemens on May 14.

Cacti at Poppleton



A springtime hello from me. It's been lovely to spend time with you all at the nursery, having not been much over the winter time due to ongoing family illnesses. I've had a few sessions trying to tidy up my display and chat with people noticing a few flowers on the cactus display.

Mostly it is necessary to withhold watering except for a few of the succulents because of our UK climate and the cacti only got water from the occasional broken pane of glass which caused a few to rot away. I water from the beginning of April after the last one in early October and within 2 weeks there's been some starting to show pink and yellow flowers. Hopefully more will bud up soon and after another week or two of warmer weather I'll refresh them again with a dilute feed. Windowsill *Echeveria's*

at home needed a water at end of March and thanks to the bit of sunshine we've had they're waking up nicely.

Matt Gibbs

Ten years ago

The Potting Shed, dated March 2015 was 3 sides of A4. A new concrete pad outside S9 had been constructed. The conifers at the Harrogate end of the site had been cleared. A range of green Nursery-branded clothing was being sold including a fleece, polo shirt and sweatshirt. Your editor still uses his fleece and I still see other volunteers wearing their Nursery clothing.

Bob Brook was giving talks about the Nursery to local groups. The Nursery had been approached by Open Country to bring a group to the Nursery, Open Country are still bringing groups to Poppleton and this was the forerunner for other visiting groups.

On the narrow gauge railway the balloon loop was being finished off and the ground signal from the NRM had been painted was in position near the car park. *Terry Stanhope* was running but it had not been possible to run the engine on *LoweCo*.

The museum in S7 had been tidied up to present a reasonable display and thought had been given to digitize the railway diaries.

Station adoption



We have had a very respectable display of spring flowers after all and the good weather in early April certainly helped our shrubs and bushes too. Some have been trimmed and fertilized and all look healthy at present.

The additional timber planter on Platform 1 was duly completed from recycled timber (including varnishing and affixing a plaque) by the Nursery's excellent woodworkers Darren and Dave. It was planted up by Jackie Clayton and her family on Wednesday 26 February in memory of her father; it included two rose bushes and a selection of spring plants. Jackie kindly donated to the Nursery for the planter and gave us some additional gifts of flowers, chocolate and wine. Thank you Jackie for sharing with us. Graham Collett mixed some great compost and represented the Nursery on the day. Richard Scott took photographs, copies of which were also sent to Northern see above. The display contributes to the overall feel of the station and we will look after it as

far as watering and restocking is concerned.

We have displayed the Railways 200 logo in our waiting shelters but will not be doing anything particularly for the event—our line is of course not that old! We have volunteered to help staff the display train which we understand is coming to York later in the year but have not heard anything yet.

Future activity includes mandatory Health & Safety Training, putting up a Bee Hotel (Darren & Dave are making some at present for sale) and deciding what our Summer Planting will look like. A visit to nearby Knaresborough station has been postponed as the café there is closed!

We understand that Northern again agreed to our request for funds for this year for planting and for a contribution to a new essential water bowser—the old one is now life expired. We think the cheque is in the post and we thank them for it! Northern are likely to replace our water butt with one the same as on all their stations and will then inspect it and the associated guttering annually. We welcome this but one water butt is not adequate for our needs normally—hence the need to buy a new bowser.

Colin Wood

Horticulture

Plants



It has been a really busy couple of months on the plant front, starting with the potting up of a large stock of new herbaceous plants, including *Acanthus*, *Aconites*, *Anemones*, *Anchusa* and *Aquilegia* – and that’s just the A’s! These were rapidly followed by this year’s summer bedding, mainly purchased in large trays of several hundred ‘plug’ plants, which need to be potted up individually. A major effort by all concerned saw most of this achieved, although an unexpected hold-up in the delivery of fresh compost caused a slight problem. They are growing on well though and should be in good condition for our forthcoming sales days. Also growing well in the warmer weather has been a good crop of weeds, so if you fancy coming in to help with a spot of light weeding you would be most welcome.

Grants

There are a number of organisations in the area that support local charities and we have been successful in recent applications for funding: £650 from the Two Ridings Community Foundation towards replacement of obsolete fluorescent

lighting with more efficient LEDs; and £250 from Charity Lands (Unknown Donor’s Dole) for replacement of life-expired tables. We are very grateful for their support.

Stop the Pigeon!



An unexpected guest arrived on the nursery before Easter in the form of a slightly confused racing pigeon. It seemed to like human company and followed us into the greenhouses, although it didn’t appreciate our attempts to catch it to try and trace its ring. It stayed with us for 4 or 5 days — whether it finally flew on, found a better home or came to a sadder end we do not know.

Graham Coombs

Railway and building work

The railway group is converting one of the railway wagons as another hand-pushed vehicle, this will have detachable handles so that it can also be loco-hauled. Work is ongoing for a display to celebrate the 40th anniversary of the laying of the first narrow gauge rails and also the

200th anniversary of the opening of the Stockton and Darlington Railway. Unfortunately it has not been able to have the display ready for the first sales day of the year, but the visit by the Network Rail group should have it on display shortly afterwards.

A new porch has been built on S7 — the building with the model railway and museum.



Prize length certificates

Jamie, one of the Nursery’s regular volunteers has donated two LNER Prize length certificates to the Nursery. In the era when maintenance of railway track was less mechanised, each length of track would be assigned to a permanent way gang who would be responsible for keeping that section in first class condition. Much in the same way as the best kept station competitions there was a competition for best kept length of track, covering not only track but condition of embankments, overhanging trees etc. The certificates would have been presented to the prize winning gangs. A cut-out metal sign was

also placed somewhere in the section, an example of which can be seen at Gros-mont station on the North Yorkshire Moors Railway.

One of the certificates from 1934 is a first class prize with a score of 90% for the section from Poppleton to Hammerton, the section in which the Nursery is sited. The second certificate is a second class prize from 1938 with a score of 85% for the Saltmarshe section between Hull and Doncaster.

Nowadays track condition is monitored by a series of trains packed with electronic sensors that measure the state of the track at line speed on a regular basis.

Kents Bank Station Library

Kents Bank is a station on the scenic line between Lancaster and Barrow in Furness. Situated on the station is the unique Station Library, which is open Friday–Sunday 10am to 4pm or by appointment. It is largely a reference library containing some 4,000 titles covers all aspects of railways and transport but with an emphasis on social history. The library also sells book at reasonable prices and regular talks are also planned. Further details may be obtained at <https://stationlibrary.org.uk/>

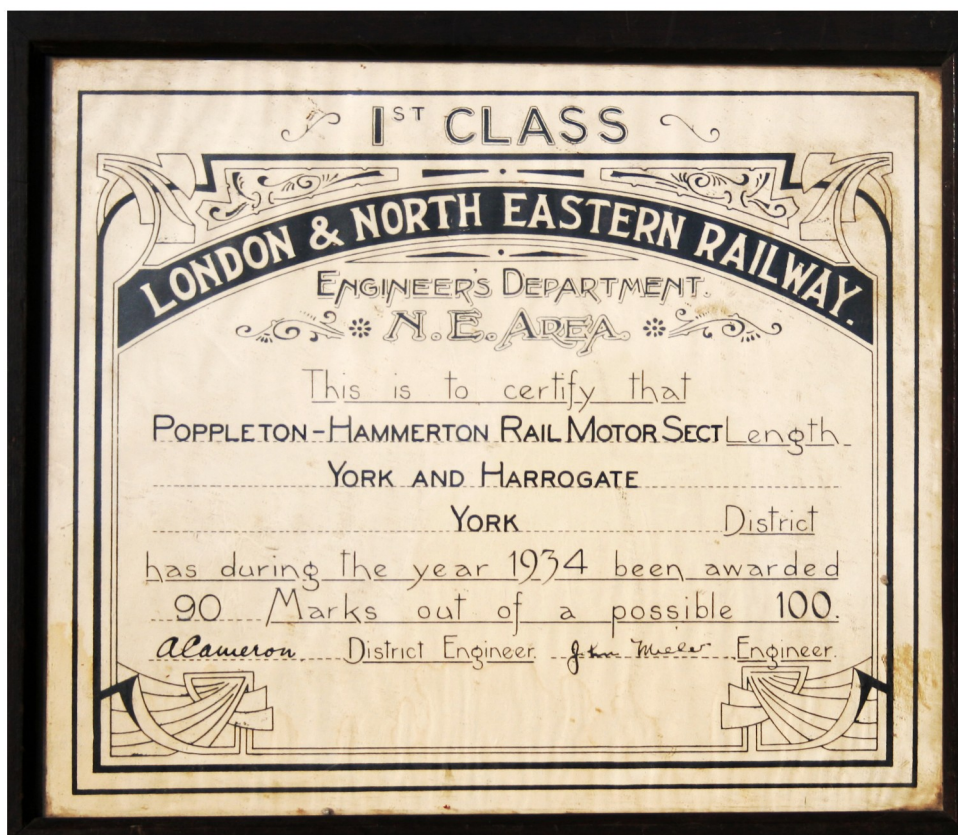
The library has just released its first publication:

NORTHERN RAIL HERITAGE: an introduction to the social history of railways in the North of England.

It available price £5 from Kents Bank Station Library, cheques for £8 (including post and packing) to Kents Bank Library, c/o Station House, Kentsford Road, Grange-over-Sands LA11 7BB.



Launch of Northern Rail Heritage book



Prize length certificate