

The Potting Shed September 2025 No. 87



**The next sales day will
be Heritage Day on
September 13 10:00am
to 4:00pm
Sale of perennials,
herbs, alpiners, au-
tumn bedding plants
baskets and plant-
ers.**

**We shall be celebrating
Pop 40 the anniversary
of the start of the nar-
row gauge railway**

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

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Editorial

The Heritage Sales Day on 13 September is our main celebration for Pop 40 — the start of building the narrow gauge railway at the Nursery. We shall have the model railways on display and have some of our narrow gauge railway vehicles out and some red carpet, outside if the weather allows.

Volunteering

We are always looking for volunteers to help with the Nursery. We are particularly short of people to help on railway side or those who have mechanical knowledge. 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!

The Nursery needs an Advert- ising Organiser

Could this be you? Someone who can take initiative on the weeks running up to a sale to make sure posters are created, checked for the correct information and printed. Then distributed either by email, to a list of contact email addresses, (which we have but needs updating). Making sure that the village noticeboards have the

poster displayed. Ensuring that our local village and church contacts have the up to date information and ensuring the village diary is updated. Contact a committee member or use the nursery email pcrn.info@yahoo.co.uk

Annual General Meeting

The Nursery's Annual General Meeting will be held from 1:30pm on Wednesday 1 October in the new meeting room at the Nursery. Please contact the Nursery if you require and have not received the relevant papers.

Station adoption

We have (we hope) continued to keep the station looking attractive and tidy this season. Some folks have had longer waits than usual on it as the train service has had quite a few substantial delays recently. We have continued to weed and water our bedding plants and replace any that died and have had to provide extra water by bowser when needed to keep our planters topped up. Geraniums and lavender have been our saviours because they have stayed looking good throughout the dry summer. The situation has eased a lot in the last couple of weeks and the old bowser has survived another season. A new one is now on order (thanks to

Northern for the money) but we have decided we will keep hold of the old one—just in case!

The two newest benches have been varnished by ISS (to the delight of a few passengers) and the faulty mechanisms have also been rectified on the two doors to the waiting room on the York platform. We await white lining renewal on the platform edges—it is part of a planned programme apparently.

Jessica Clarke our very able and efficient Northern liaison officer left us at the end of August (she was covering maternity leave) and we will miss her a lot. Although we will continue to get information from Northern and luckily she is staying with the company.

We have undertaken a fair bit of cutting back shrubs and bushes this year but the tree which forms the centre of our flower bed on the York Platform (and used to afford some shelter from the sun) has finally pretty much died so we will have to decide what to do with it this winter!

Colin Wood

Sales days

On what has been a poor sales day compared with the Poppleton Sports, sales at the Poppleton show exceeded those at the Sports, well done Graham and his team.

Our Autumn Sales Day will be on Saturday 18 October 10:00am – 3:00pm.

Visiting groups

A group from Network Rail visited the Nursery on 7 August. The area between the two containers S1 and S2 was given a tidy up with the plastic trays neatly stacked and the skeleton of the old platform barrow relocated elsewhere on the Nursery. The area around the rubber-tyred wagons was weeded and cleared. The group replaced inner tubes and inflate the majority of the tyres on the wagons.

The area at the Harrogate end of the new cold frames towards the poly tunnels was cleared which tidied up the area. It now doesn't seem as though your driving the train through a jungle. See the photos at the end of this issue.

The group from the Ebor Modellers visited the Nursery visited on 31 July for a social visit. A series of trains were run, which gave the railway group ideas for the forthcoming Heritage day.

The York Photographic Group hold their annual exhibition in the Tithe Barn in Nether Poppleton. The railway group suggested inviting them to the Nursery for a social visit. Your editor visited the exhibition and the Photographic Group are visiting the Nursery on 18 August. We are also expecting further working visits from Network Rail and Siemens in the coming months.

Railway and building work

Work is progressing on wagon 16 to build it as a coach. Since the photo below was taken a window has been fitted to the frame on the right.

Work has been done preparing for the forthcoming Heritage Day. The track in front of the Mess Room has been cleared, as this was the first section of track laid 40 years ago. The original Nursery gate guardian tipper wagon is being moved onto this track for the day.



Ten Years Ago

The Potting Shed No. 31 was 2 and a bit sides of A4 from September 2015. The Nursery had setup an account on Twitter with over 180 followers.

The Nursery had a visit from a Sexton Beetle, apparently a pair can bury a small bird on which the female lays its eggs.

On the heritage open day the red carpet was displayed.



The Nursery was selling a cookery book produced in collaboration with University of York students comparing modern recipes with those of World War II. A range of Nursery branded leisure ware could be ordered from the Nursery.

Horticulture

The focus of activity has been on preparing the autumn and winter bedding, with a mixture of home-sown and bought-in baby plants, including cyclamen, polyanthus and violas which are already coming into flower. Bulbs are now being planted and preparations for Christmas are starting, meanwhile work continues on refreshing and re-potting our existing perennials, as well as propagating new stock. We had our usual stall at Poppleton Village Show in August, selling a wide variety

of plants as well as reminding the locals of our presence.



On the maintenance side, the centre bench of greenhouse 2 has successfully been completely rebuilt and looks splendid; attention now turns to the side bench which is collapsing in places.

Network Rail Visit and Forty Years Ago



Tidying up Trolleys



The tidied area between S1 and S2



The skeleton of the platform trolley



Cleared track



Forty years ago – the first track