

The Potting Shed April 2026 No. 90



Our first Open Day for the year will be our Early Spring Sale Day on Saturday 25th April.

Perennials, alpines and herbs from our wide selection, and the first bedding plants will be on sale. Craft, book and bric-a-brac stalls, narrow gauge and model railways. The nursery will be open from 10 am to 4pm and refreshments will be available.

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Editorial

Welcome to the first Potting Shed of 2026. The Nursery has been quietly growing plants to sell in our up-and-coming sales days. The railway group has been doing essential work on the narrow gauge railway and the first volunteer group has visited the railway.

It's hard to believe that it is ten years ago since the fitted kitchen was installed and I look back at train services through Poppleton in the past.

Membership

Membership was due on 1 January 2026, 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.

Station adoption

Not much to report this time as we emerge from the Winter into the Spring, We have even had to water a little bit as we have had some very sunny days! Quite a bit of pruning/cutting back has also been done.

The level crossing gates have been renewed we have noticed and Northern are looking into the provision of a few more bike spaces for us — the existing ones are

often full up now and overflow bikes are chained up here and there around the station — but, as ever, obtaining funds for them may be the stumbling block!

We have prepared the POPPLETON lettering for a repaint and maybe we will be spending a little bit of our money from Northern at Dobbies Nursery as an interim to keep the little garden spaces looking bright until suitable Nursery Planting becomes ready for us.

Colin Wood

Sales days

The Sales days for the year ahead are as follows;

10:00am to 4:00pm

- 25 April 2026
- 9 May 2026
- 23 May 2026
- 6 June 2026
- 20 June 2026
- 4 July 2026
- 12 September 2026

10:00am to 3:00pm

- 17 October 2026
- 21 November 2026

10:00am to 1:00pm

- 5 December 2026

Volunteering

In March we had our first group of volunteers at the Nursery. If the diary is to be believed, then this is the first of many in the months ahead. The trio from Network Rail, although small

in number, worked at clearing out on the coal drop site and potting out.



The Network Rail group on the coal drop site.



The Network Rail group ridding soil.

Richard Dean donation

We recently received a kind donation from Richard Dean, one of the former owners of Dean's Garden Centre, of materials left over from their old propagating nursery. This included a substantial quantity of pots, hoses, paving, trolleys and display units which are already proving invaluable to us, not least in the redesign of our shop area. We sincerely thank Richard, and especially for his help in getting the items across to us.

Horticulture

We are just coming out of our busiest growing period at the nursery, with the vo-

lunteers working hard to build up our stocks of plants ready for the season ahead. Firstly we bought in a large quantity of 'bare root' perennials, which have been potted up and are developing well. These include Anchas, Alliums, Agapanthus, Asters, Irises and Hostas. Then our attention turned to bedding plants, with trays of pre-grown plug plants which have to be pricked out into pots or packs. Popular items here include Begonias, Cosmos, Lobelia, Petunias, Geraniums, Verbena and Bocopa. We also topped up some of our hardy and half-hardy plants in this way, such as Aquilegia, Rudbeckia, Delphiniums and Geums. These are augmented by our own sown seed of various flower and vegetable plants, which have also reached the pricking out stage. As well as dealing with the plants, this all needs considerable effort in preparation of compost, clearing and setting up of greenhouse space and then watering and weeding. It is all looking worthwhile though with benches full of healthy plants, some just coming into flower, ready for our forthcoming sales days.

Graham Coombs

Railway and building group

Various point levers on the narrow gauge railway have been painted and their mechanisms oiled. The 'water wagon' P12 has been

moved from the sidings at the York end of the site to the sidings in front of the wood shed. This has tidied up this part of the railway and means that there is now a running line instead of a long siding alongside the car park.



The tidied sidings.

There is steady progress on the new coach with glass windows fitted.

Ten Years Ago

Potting Shed No. 33 was published in February 2016. The largest item in the issue was the finishing of the fitted kitchen. This was provided by Howdens and was put in over four days. This certainly was a major improvement to the Nursery and one which still provides benefits ten years later.

A found clipping reproduced in the issue details how in 1848 passengers buying tickets on the Harrogate line on a Saturday would be able to use the return portion the following Monday but not on the Sunday.

You've never had it so good

A recent receipt to the Nursery was a working timetable from May 1974

including the Leeds–Harrogate–York railway lines. This prompted me to compare the timetables from 1922, 1974 and the present day. The 1922 and the 1974 tables are reproduced at the end of this issue, space precludes me from reproducing the current timetable, it can be found online. Not all stations are shown.

In 1922 there were 8 return services daily between York and Harrogate. Trains from Leeds via Harrogate

would have required a change of train and are therefore not included. The 8:25 from York and 17:07 from Harrogate appear to be non-stop apart from picking up in the morning and setting down passengers in the evenings only at Knaresborough if required. There are no trains before 7:15 or much after 20:30.

Moving on to the 1974 table, York trains generally continue onto the Harrogate–Leeds line. Trains from Leeds which terminate at

Harrogate are not shown. We have 10 Leeds–York via Harrogate trips with several more which run only between York and Harrogate. There are still no trains before 7:15 but a finish after 21:30 is now provided.

Today’s timetable provides generally two trains an hour in each direction with services starting around 06:00 and running through until after 22:30. You’ve never had it so good.

1922

Harrogate	07:26	08:25	08:36	11:00	12:46	15:25	16:54	20:05
Poppleton	08:11		09:18	11:42	13:28	16:07	17:38	20:47
York	08:19	08:55	09:28	11:52	13:38	16:17	17:46	20:57
York	07:15	10:25	12:45	15:22	17:07	17:21	18:20	19:55
Poppleton	07:23	10:31	12:52	15:28		17:27	18:26	20:01
Harrogate	08:15	11:20	13:42	16:18	17:39	18:18	18:59	20:50

6 May 1974

	SO											SO	SX		
Leeds	07:42	08:12			10:52	12:32	13:26	15:16		16:40	17:36	18:14	20:17		
Harrogate	08:03	08:46			11:21	13:04	14:00	15:50		17:08	18:11	18:42	20:51		
	07:15	08:09	08:51	09:48	10:11	11:23	13:06	14:03	15:52	16:00	17:14	18:17	18:48	20:52	20:52
Poppleton	07:42	08:39	09:19	10:15	10:38	11:50	13:33	14:30	16:19	16:27	17:45	18:44	19:22	21:19	21:19
York	07:49	08:46	09:26	10:22	10:48	11:57	13:40	14:37	16:27	16:34	17:53	18:51	19:29	21:26	21:26
York	07:18	08:12	09:49		10:49	12:43	14:05	14:50	16:38	17:18	17:46	18:55	19:41	21:48	
Poppleton	07:25	08:19	09:56		10:56	12:50	14:12	14:57	16:45	17:25	17:53	19:02	19:48	21:55	
Harrogate	07:54	08:48	10:25		11:25	13:19	14:32	15:26	17:14	17:54	18:22	19:31	20:12	22:24	
	08:02	08:49	10:29		11:29	13:21	14:36	15:29	17:16	17:56	18:25	19:32	20:17		
Leeds	08:35	09:20	11:00		12:00	13:52	15:15	16:00	17:47	18:27	18:56	20:03	20:50		

