

The Potting Shed May 2016 No. 34

**Come and join us on
21 May from 10.00am
– 4.00pm to celebrate
our new kitchen.**

**There will be
refreshments on sale**

**Our short Saturday
Sales continue until 2
July 10.00am
–1.00pm**

Our next open day is
on 2 July where we
are running a buy one
get one free sale. We
shall also be selling
plants at the
Poppleton Sports day
30 May 1:00 – 4:00 pm
on The Green in Upper
Poppleton.

POPPLETON COMMUNITY RAILWAY NURSERY

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poppletonrailwaynursery.co.uk

Charity Number: 1148341

Company Registration number:
06211163

Editorial

As you can see **The Potting Shed** has a new look, I have taken over some of the editorial work on the Nursery's newsletter. I have ideas to expand the content of the newsletter to give you, the membership, news of the people who are directly involved in the running of the Nursery and the jobs they do. To kick things off I am starting a new regular feature Nursery Characters, which will profile the people who work at the Nursery, and I am going to be the first profile.

Nursery Characters

Tim Elsworth



I have recently retired after 40 years in the Department of Chemistry at the University of York, including IT, web work and departmental photographer. I have lived in Poppleton all my life and developed an interest in railways as a juvenile trainspotter which evolved into over 30 years as a guard on the Keighley & Worth

Valley Railway and a Friend of the NRM. It was through the latter that I was contacted about the meeting at the Nursery in the last week of its railway use. I took a back seat while the lengthy negotiations were going on to reopen the site. I volunteered to be official photographer and started to take photographs 3 days after the Nursery opened. Since then I have photographed the changing face of the Nursery and its remarkable rebirth. I took over the web site several years ago and the photography and web site go hand-in-hand. I am also transcribing the Nursery diaries into an electronic format, these date from 1959 to 2004.

I don't have green fingers but I can be found on Thursday's and most open days working on the railway and the model railway. In the next few months I hope to expand the photographic display in S7 to show some of the historic railway images we have of the Nursery.

St. Crux Sale, Tuesday 3 May



The sun shone and through-

out the day we had a steady stream of buyers giving the nursery over £1000, thank you to all who helped or donated items for sale.

Publicity



Poppleton Community Railway Nursery
The Nursery, Station Road, Upper Poppleton, York, YO26 6QA

May Open Day
Saturday 21st May 10:00am-4:00pm

A variety of perennials, shrubs, alpine, vegetable plants, herbs, bedding plants and planters will be available

Celebrate the opening of the new kitchen & mess room with a drink and piece of homemade cake

See the nursery railway
Visit the model railway

Please see the web site for more details of Open Days and Sales Mornings
www.poppletonrailwaynursery.co.uk, email peter.info@poppleton.co.uk, or leave a message on 01904 797523
Twitter @PCRNPublicity

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Registered Charity No. 214177

Posters for the May 21st and July 2nd Open Days are now available. They are distributed by our volunteers to 11 sites in Poppleton, to shops and other outlets in Acomb, Clifton Moor and Askham Bar and to the following locations in York City Centre: Tourist Information Office & York Explore Museum St, Friends House & U3A Office Clifford St, Bar Convent & St Bede's Blossom St and the Priory St Centre, Priory St.

If you know of any other locations who would be willing to display a poster — either in the City Centre or within easy reach of the nursery - please pick up a poster or download a copy from the nursery web site www.poppletonrailwaynursery.co.uk.

[co.uk/](http://www.poppletonrailwaynursery.co.uk/)

A new supply of our general leaflet about the nursery (1000 copies) is now available. If you can help to publicise the nursery, please pick up a few copies.

75th Anniversary of the Nursery



On September 10 we celebrate the nursery's 75th birthday. From its opening in 1941 through to the present day we will try to put on a photographic presentation from our archive. We would also like our visitors to bring any photos relating to the nursery history so that we can copy them and add them to our record. We would also like help if people can name some of the people and events on our photos. More information later in the year about this event.

Model railway exhibited at Narrow Gauge North



On Saturday 7 March the Nursery model railway was exhibited at the Narrow Gauge North model railway show at Pudsey Civic Centre. In the weeks up to the show improvements were made to the model to reflect the prototype including a carport and doors on the sunken greenhouse. Once again the extension was used, including extra sidings and a car park, to connect with Neil Clayton's Ripon Light Railway model — a short length of track representing the 25 miles between the two sites. The layout was very well received by the public with many visitors saying they will visit Poppleton, we sold some plants and daffodils and we have received invitations to attend other model railway shows, which the railway group will consider whether we can attend.

Railway and building work

The railway and buildings group has been concentrating on small jobs over the winter. The mobile work bench has finally been finished, it includes a wood and detachable metal vice and it will mean that a work bench can be reasonably close to jobs around the nursery.



Mobile work bench

Three new trucks/chassis have been obtained and work has started to get these usable. One of the trucks was ex-HM Prison North Sea Camp, Freiston, Lincs and had been under the sea for some time and consequently was heavily corroded. Pictures of the trucks can be seen in the stock list section of the web site.

The truck used for the display to commemorate the start of WW1 has been converted to a celebration of the 75th anniversary of the nursery. The first open day of the year saw the commencement of the site's new insurance policy which covers use of motorised railway vehicles on the two foot gauge railway, although not for the carrying of members of the public. Although *Loweco* is still not operational, we have used *Terry Stanhope* on open days, to transport plants between the sales area and the car park. We are offering, for a fee, to operate supervised driving sessions on *Terry*. If any members have any expertise, no matter how small, on simple diesel engines we would welcome their advice to get *Loweco* working, come and see us on a Thursday afternoon or on an open day.

Work has started on the first of our re-roofing projects — S10 and at the time of writing this is about two-thirds complete. On the coal-drop site there has been investigations into the drainage due to flooding, despite extensive rodding we have been un-

able to find the routes of the drainage.

Do you Tweet?

The nursery's Twitter account is now attracting new visitors and we have over 300 "followers" to date. If you or your family or friends use Twitter, please follow us @pcrnplicity, and "like" or re-tweet our messages to help spread the word.

Grants and Donations

Applications for grants totalling £900 towards materials for refurbishing our toilets and providing additional hand-washing facilities were submitted to Upper Poppleton and Nether Poppleton Parish Councils and to the Charity Lands and Unknown Donors Dole of Nether Poppleton in November and December. Upper Poppleton has kindly approved our application and the £300 grant will be paid later in the year. The Charity Lands and Unknown Donors Dole of Nether Poppleton have kindly donated £300 towards the project. Many thanks.

We are also most grateful to those who have donated equipment or materials to the nursery. Special thanks are due to Mrs. Jay Slater for a good quality laptop computer and to Mr. David Howlett for a range of garden tools.

Insurance

We have now moved our insurance cover to Aviva and

Axa, arranged through Ernest R. Shaw Insurance Brokers of Birmingham. This has the twin benefit of providing us with a more comprehensive policy and allowing us to use powered operation on our narrow gauge railway at an acceptable cost. We anticipate increased interest by railway enthusiasts!

Saturday Sale Dates

This year we will be open between 10.00am and 1.00pm on Saturday mornings for sale of shrubs, perennials and bedding plants on the following dates:

- 14 May
- 28 May
- 4 June
- 11 June
- 18 June
- 25 June
- 8 October
- 15 October
- 22 October
- 29 October
- 17 December

Nursery Open Days

These will be held on the following Saturdays:

- 21 May 10.00–4.00
- 2 July 10.00–4.00
- 10 September 10.00–4.00
- 1 October 10.00–3.00
- 10 December 10.00–3.00

Needs list

- Baskets from old flower arrangements, we can recycle them for Christmas decorations.
- Garden plants, shrubs, perennials that you no longer want. We can split them and grow them on for the nursery sales. Also if you are pruning an interesting shrub we'd love a small quantity to propagate from.
- Carrier bags
- Plant pots particularly these sizes 3½", 5", 2 litre pots and 6 packs. All pots can be put into the crates by the nursery gates.
- Garden tools, woodworking and engineering tools and equipment.

Small items can be put in the crate over the fence at the nursery if we are closed, or contact us on email or phone. Now we are owners of a van we can collect large items.

Annual General Meeting Date 2016

The nursery company annual general meeting will be held on Wednesday 5 October at 2.00pm at the nursery. Please put the date in your diary.

Jobs

There are lots of tidying jobs at the nursery and we are beginning to get ready for spring

— any extra help would appreciated. There are numerous repair and maintenance jobs on-site, and we need members with DIY skills to take them on. Please do contact us.

For sale

Cookery book

- A recipe book which compares wartime and present day recipes celebrating the fact that the nursery was a product of wartime Britain, they are on sale at a cost of £2.50 each or £3.25 posted

All items cheques to Poppleton Railway Nursery at the address on the front of the news letter.

... and finally



The above photo shows the usefulness, in ease of use and safety, of the two-foot gauge railway. This wood was delivered to the railway the day before the 23 April open day and placed on the flat trolley. On the Saturday it was easily, and safely, moved to the Harrogate end of the site and during the afternoon moved again where the wood was unloaded into one of the green houses.