



## The Potting Shed November 2020 No. 57



The Nursery is open  
10 am to 3 pm on  
Monday, Wednesday  
and Friday subject to  
social distancing.

### POPPLETON COMMUNITY RAILWAY NURSERY

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**Charity Number:** 1148341

**Company Registration number:**  
06211163

## Editorial

Welcome to the last **Potting Shed** of what has been a tumultuous year. On the whole the Nursery has weathered the storm very well. Can I thank all those who have helped the Nursery during the year whether it's actual work or just buying plants from the Nursery. Progress is being steadily made on jobs at the Nursery and as detailed elsewhere in this issue the York-Harrogate line is getting a makeover. Can I wish you and your friends and family a happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

## Membership

Just a reminder to members that your membership is due on 1st January 2021.

## Christmas sales

The Nursery is working hard to bring Christmas cheer to you and your homes. There will be a Christmas shop and an outside stall at the nursery which will be open on Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 10am – 3pm where you will be able to pick up bulbs, seasonal plants and festive items or order items to pick up on our sale and collection day on December 12th from 10am – 1pm. Further details on the website.

## Railway and building work

After a successful return by the Thursday afternoon group, the second lockdown has forced a stop to our activities although there has been a small force doing odd jobs around the Nursery. Before the lockdown we managed to finish the toilet block as is reported elsewhere in this issue. On the railway front a plan for refurbishment/restoration to our trucks. This involves building a brake van, temporary replacement of the skip in the car park for refurbishment — a new chassis will be overhauled to replace the skip. *Terry Stanhope* has had the seals on it's gearbox replaced and reinstalled and is now a runner.



*The new brake van with its basic frame. It is seen on gauging trials to ensure it didn't scrape the greenhouses or wagon shed.*

Although not being done by the Thursday group, we have helped in the refurbish-

ment of the S5 the Knottingley Shed to turn it into a wood-working room. This will involve a new electrical supply and building of cupboards etc.



*New cupboards in S5.*

## Railway traffic

Over three weekends November 22, 28/9 and December 5/6 there will be an upgrade a £9.8m to the railway between Poppleton and Knaresborough to improve reliability and capacity. The scheme is funded by North Yorkshire County Council and the York and North Yorkshire Local Enterprise Partnership and undertaken by Network Rail. The signalling will be upgraded to eliminate token working (see **Potting Shed** 56 for an explanation) and replace with axle counting. The up semaphore home signal has been replaced by a more modern and less-glamorous colour light signal, as shown at the end of this issue.

At Cattal the speed limit will be increased which will enable two trains to arrive simultaneously. If you are thinking of travelling by train between York and Harrogate on the above dates, you are advised to check National Rail enquiries.



*Farewell to the Token — This scene of the token exchange will finish after the current engineering works are complete.*

## Ten Years Ago

The Potting Shed No. 8 was two sides of A4 published in November 2010. It had no pictures and the main content was a report of the recent AGM. There was an announcement of the Christmas sales day on 11 December.

The sales day was bitterly cold, sunny day with snow and ice on the ground. Father Christmas put in an appearance and there were the usual sales of wreaths, decorations, hyacinths etc. but the highlight of the day was a visit by York's Lord Mayor Councillor Sue Galloway.



*Santa Claus meets York's Lord Mayor Sue Galloway at the Nursery's December sales day in 2010*

## New Toilet Block

The new toilet block has been painted and the awning and guttering finished as the photograph shows.



## Ward Grant Application

We have submitted an application for funding to York Council's Rural West Ward Grant Scheme for 2020–21,

It includes some new wheelbarrows and replacement tables, as well as a noticeboard for the entrance. Also included is a PC projector and laptop. These will be very useful for explaining the history of the nursery and its current role to both visitors and new volunteers, as well as company and community groups.

This application was followed with a visit to the nursery by Councillor James Barker and we are considering his suggestion of holding a community event next year.

## Poppleton station adoption

Regular Wednesday afternoon sessions have made steady progress with tidying

up the flowerbeds and planting new flowers and shrubs. The flowerbeds now look very much more presentable compared with the state they were in at the end of the lockdown period in June. New bushes have been planted in the three empty concrete tubs on the York platform.

We are grateful to Northern for sanctioning our bid for £300 to support station activities and our membership of Community Rail Network has been renewed.

We are starting to think about developments for next year but, in the meantime, intend continuing with the Wednesday afternoon sessions to keep everything under control.

### **Aluminium collection**

Anne Dixon is still collecting waste aluminium. She writes:

a) A thank you to everyone who is putting their foil in the box.

b) If it would be easier for anyone to drop their foil in the recycling bins at the supermarkets or filling station near the Wetherby Whaler then it will go to the same cause.

c) Can I remind everyone to do the scrunch test. If you scrunch your foil and it doesn't stay scrunched it is not acceptable as it is plastic masquerading as foil.

### **... and finally**

The engineering works mentioned elsewhere in this issue sees the replacement of Poppleton's up home semaphore signal by a more modern colour light signal nearer the A59 bridge. These rapidly disappearing oases of semaphore signals give character to the railway where they are found. Below is a photo remembrance of the signal. The right photo,

taken by Richard Foster, shows the signal arm being removed. The lower middle shows, on the left hand side, the semaphore's electric and smaller replacement. At the time of writing the post is still extant, but there are still two weekends of engineering works to come. . .

