

## The Potting Shed May 2021 No. 59



The Buy One Get One Free on Bedding Plant sales day will be on Saturday 3 July from 10:00am to 4:00pm.

There will be Saturday morning sales 10:00am–1:00pm on 12, 19 & 26 June.

### POPPLETON COMMUNITY RAILWAY NURSERY

Station Road Upper Poppleton  
York YO26 6QA

☎ 01904 797623

📞 07800 501382

✉ [pcrn.info@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:pcrn.info@yahoo.co.uk)



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

Charity Number: 1148341

Company Registration number:  
06211163

## Editorial

In this issue we have reports of the two successful sales days, Matt Gibbs writes more on cacti and there is slow progress on the station adoption and allotment. Things are moving slowly along in difficult circumstances with hopefully some relief in the future.

## Sales Days

Since the last issue, we have held two very successful sales days and also have sold plants at the Tithe Barn in Nether Poppleton. Clearly the relaxation of the lockdown has made people eager to get out, and fine weather on both days has helped.



*LoweCo on display with payment desk behind at recent sales day.*



*Sale plants on push trolley.*

Subject to Covid-19 Restrictions, the Nursery will hold sales on the following dates:

**12, 19 & 26 June** Saturday  
Sales 9:30am to 1:30pm

**3 July** Buy One Get One Free on Bedding Plants Sales Day 10:00am to 4:00pm

**11 September** Heritage Day 10:00am to 4:00pm, followed by Railway Event See website for further details.

**2 October** Autumn Open Day 10:00am to 3:00pm

**20 November** Early Christmas Sale 10:00am to 3:00pm

**11 December** Collection of Christmas Orders 10:00am to 1:00pm

The nursery is also open on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 10:00am to 3:30pm.

## Allotment

I'm afraid I haven't spent as much time working the allotment this year because our new rescue puppy has taken a lot of my time at home.

Anyway, after a very dry May, things are slowly taking shape in the allotment area with broad beans, shallots, onions and lettuce — and weeds — all growing well.

I've even outsmarted the rabbits and pigeons with the help of some old wire barriers and recycled chicken wire

frames from Paul to keep the brassicas protected.

Graham's rhubarb and some gooseberries I found have taken hold and are also doing OK.

So there is some promise of produce for later in the summer and I'm sure Jo will have some more plants from the greenhouse to keep me busy.

The flowers in the garden and shady garden are taking off now making the area a lovely place to sit and relax and listen to the birds — if we ever get time!!

**Usual plea!** Anyone wishing to get their hands dirty and help me grow some veg would be very welcome.

Barry Treanor

## Railway and building work

The Thursday afternoon group is continuing to operate with a steady core of people often boosted by occasional less-frequent attenders.

Work is ongoing on the rabbit-proof fencing and at the time of writing we have completed the fence that faces towards Harrogate, with a short section close to the mainline railway to complete.



*Rabbit-proof fence — the netting is wired to the fence*

*and passes under the tree trunk.*

We have moved the wagon chassis, which is a wet weather job, from the siding near the wood store to under the car port. When we get chance we are wire brushing a section and painting with Hammerite on the same day. This means that there is steady progress instead of a week working on it and then it deteriorating until we can get back on the job.

Tim Brook is wiring up S5 with new lighting and electrical feeds to the woodworking equipment.

Our mechanical guru Colin has returned after a long absence. However he has not been idle, as he has made a new brake for *Terry Stanhope* which is complete apart from minor tweaks.

## The Northern Belle



On 22 May The Northern Belle charter train passed the Nursery en route from Birmingham to Harrogate. In the photo the rear of the train is just passing the Nursery. West Coast Railways, who operate the Belle, have repainted a second class 57 diesel which was on the rear of the train in the matching umber and cream Pullman livery giving the train a smart

and uniform appearance.

## Cacti at Poppleton

The cactus hobby 'scene' from the point of view of plant society members switched on-line during the first lockdown and the British Cactus & Succulent Society was no exception. They have an increasingly popular Facebook page that details online slideshows, travelogues and plant information on Zoom which are interesting and informative, the Australian, German and USA societies have done the same since the cacti hobby is actually pretty big business. They will probably continue monthly since the outreach has been amazing, several I connected with had over 300 people viewing live.

Succulent smuggling has been in the TV news and press recently also. Some endangered plants from South America can fetch hundreds of dollars when offered for sale. *Echeveria*, *Haworthia* and other succulents are very sought after in some parts of Eastern Europe and the Far East.



## *Haworthia hybrid*

Collecting and export of live plants from the wild is banned by CITES and other international treaties in more recent times but still happens, though several illegal traders have been arrested and even jailed recently.

The frosts into late April meant my plants had a slow start to the year but have been putting out some nice flowers in late Spring. (All mine have been legally grown and supplied from UK or EU hobbyists).



Flower forms can be unusual, as per this hairy spined *Neopertheria senilis* (shown above) with hummingbird pollinated blooms.

The Bradford branch of the BCSS is holding it's show on Saturday 19th June at Woodbank Nurseries, Harden near Bingley, West Yorks. for anyone who fancies a ride out, the plant nursery is huge (with a nice café) and very popular. Matt Gibbs

## Ten Years Ago

Potting Shed No. 10 dated May 2011 was two sides of A4 without pictures. The financial report was favourable, in spite of much of the cash flow being in the outward direction. There had been a personal donation and a grant from the York & North Yorkshire Community Foundation which enabled development of the Nursery. There was a membership report noting that membership numbers had increased from 28 in April 2009 to 106 in April 2011. The majority of the members lived in the York area although there were members from as far away as Huddersfield and Leyburn.



*Sales in May 2011*

The growing season was in full flow. The coke boiler in G1 had operated which helped with the propagation. In G10, the propagation greenhouse was fully operational with heated benches, a misting system and additional heating from paraffin heaters. The irrigation water for the Nursery was originally sourced from tanks on the far side of the mainline railway, inaccessible due to the fence. The pipes from these tanks had been found and work started to connect up the existing ir-

rigation system. Even with this system the watering of the Nursery was taking 3½ hours a day, due to low water pressure.

## Poppleton station adoption

Work on tidying-up the flowerbeds is about complete so we are moving on to planting bedding plants in a range of bright colours, aided by the welcome return of Colin to the team. Passenger numbers are steadily increasing but both the signallers and the train crews still miss the exchange of gossip which accompanied token exchange (as do we)! We are still pressing Northern for an additional noticeboard but are also now considering purchasing one ourselves since we seem no nearer to getting a response from Northern than we were two years ago.

Richard Scott

## 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

If you're visiting the Nursery it often pays to keep your eyes open because it's often the small or quirky things that can bring surprises. Below are three photos shot on the last sales day of things around the Nursery.



You have to be quick — five days after the fungus photo was taken there was no sign of it.