



The Potting Shed October 2021 No. 61



Our Christmas sales
day will be on
Saturday 20 November
from 10:00am to
3:00pm.

Orders can be
collected on 11
December
10:00am–1:00pm

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Editorial

This issue of The Potting Shed is slightly later than anticipated due to computer problems. Instead of covering the Heritage Sales Day this issue will also cover the Autumn Sales Day as well.

Sales Days

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

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.

Heritage Sales Day

We were supposed to have steam roller, *Yorkshire Lass* attending on the day. However the week before the roller failed with leaking tubes, so was unable to attend the Nursery as well as the rally at Scampston. Hopefully we can have it for a future event.

Our other visiting engine was Lister No. 6 from Neill Clayton's Ripon & District Railway. When we have had Neill's engines at Poppleton in the past they have arrived on a flat-bed truck with

a crane, this involves expense which we didn't want to pay. Luckily No. 6 is light enough to travel on Neill's trailer, unlike *LoweCo* it does not have weights on and what weights it does have are dummies made of wood. It is light enough for Neill to load it on his trailer with roof-mounted crane. Poppleton does not have such luxuries, so a ramp of rails had to be constructed with plenty of wooden packing to unload the loco.



*Unloading R&D No. 6 at
Poppleton*

When we loaded No. 6 to return to Ripon, we used *LoweCo* and a couple of wagons to push it up the ramp with your editor driving *LoweCo* which was very successful. I knew watching those **Train Truckers** programmes on the Yesterday TV channel would be educational!

No. 6 has been converted and had its Lister engine replaced with a stationary petrol engine that drives through a governor. It does not have an accelerator, once the gear, direction of travel have been selected and the clutch released the governor controls the speed of the train.



No. 6 with Neill Clayton's tipper

On the actual sales day during the day trains were run on two roped off sites: on the straight track next to the mainline and opposite the Portacabin into the car park, every hour with a transfer of locos between the two sites also every hour.



Driver's eye-view from No. 6

There was a steady stream of people visiting the Nursery during the day. After 4:30pm two separate trains and *Terry Stanhope* ran over the whole narrow gauge layout with some double-heading. Poppleton's Scarecrow Festival

which was running the same weekend probably brought us some visitors on what was a very successful day with over £1000 taken.

Autumn Sales Day

The Autumn Sales Day on 2 October was a much quieter day. The weather was not very good and it started raining after 1:00pm. Although there were some visitors, takings were just over £200.

Railway and building work

Most of the work has concentrated on work for the Heritage day. Remedial work on several of the points on the the narrow gauge railway including replacement of the wooden decking and clearing of flange ways ensured the narrow gauge railway was fit to run. The completion of work on the brake on *Terry Stanhope* means that it is now a runner after months unavailable. Work on the Greenwood & Batley electric trolley has started with items removed for refurbishment. The conversion of S5 into a wood-working building means that a box of spares for the trolley will be labelled, assessed and placed into better store in S9.

Ten Years Ago

The Potting Shed No. 11 was 3 sides of A4 published in September 2011. There was a description of one of the

more unusual items displayed in our museum in S5. Looking like a large rusty beer tankard, it is a ballast measure and was used to measure ballast to put under railway sleepers to restore the cant of the track on curves after the cant had dropped caused by the passage of trains.

There had been visits to the Nursery from the Crossroads Project, the Children's Society (PACT) and a group from Daniel Yorath House in house had cleared the area around the poly tunnels. A HEAL gym had been setup to help people to exercise through gardening. York College had rebuilt the entrance to the sunken greenhouse. The rot in the back wall of Potting Shed had been repaired including the fitting of a new window. Repairs to S5 (the Knottingley shed), S8, the irrigation system and the glass had been carried out. Work was anticipated to start on G3.

Sales at the Nursery had be very successful with an income over £4000.

Poppleton station adoption

How time flies. We have started cutting back the main tree on the plot and some of the shrubs as autumn is upon us!

Next jobs are removing some of the over provided buddleia roots and those bedding plants mentioned last time as their life is ending. Their replacements will probably be a combination of shrubs and

some winter plants to give some colour—we will see.

Passenger numbers on the trains continue to go up each week—more cars in the car park—maybe the fuel situation is contributing—while possibly foolishly the numbers of passengers wearing face masks is rapidly diminishing.

We are back to the situation we thought we had with Northern two years ago—they have now agreed to our request for a NOTICE BOARD on Platform 1 (the York direction), they say they have spares and are happy to fit one to the fence for us. We

are more than happy to fill it with words and pictures to add a little bit of station history and details of our group to the experience of passengers or anyone reading it. In talking to ISS informally—they would fit it for us—they see lots of problems! So it may take some further small steps and more persuasion before we succeed. We only include these details to let you know how difficult we have found getting things done on the station as of course we have little direct control of it; we always have to get Northern's permission before we make a move.

Colin Wood

We have seen in the prospective timetables starting in December that the service on the Harrogate line will increase to two trains per hour in each direction, although we have not heard anything from Northern.

Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting will be held on Wednesday 6 October 2021 at the Nursery from 1:30pm.

... and finally — photos of Heritage Sales Day

