

## The Potting Shed September 2022 No. 66



**The Nursery will be open on Saturday 22 October, 10:00am–3:00pm for our Autumn Sales Day Sale. Autumn bedding plants from the new season range will be on sale.**

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### Editorial

This issue comes shortly after after the funeral of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth, the Nursery remembered Her Majesty with a wreath on LoweCo on the Heritage Sales Day.

At the Nursery we have a had a very successful sales day and a very productive visit from volunteers from Semiens. The station adoption team are improving the look of the station.

### Co-op Local Community Fund

The Co-op Local Community Fund is open until 22 October.

Visit <https://membership.coop.co.uk/causes/60495> for details and to enrol. At the time of writing the fund stands at over £1200.

The Nursery has already applied for £1000 from next year's fund to purchase new heat mats for our incubation greenhouse and the related electrical work.

### The AGM

The AGM will be on Wednesday 5th October at 1.30pm at the nursery. Papers will be issued closer to the date, including nominations for Trustees.

There are currently six Trustees, who have general oversight and responsibility for the running of the nursery.

Most of us have been in post for several years and it would be good to have some new trustees with new ideas.

To find out more, please have a word with any of the current trustees or officers.

Graham Collet, the Company Secretary and a trustee, is at the nursery on most Wednesdays and would be happy to provide more information.

### Sales Days

The sale at the Poppleton Show was not as successful as the Sports Day and the team felt that maybe a slightly different type of stall with fewer plants would be more appropriate.

The Heritage Day sale took place at a very difficult time two days after the death of Her Majesty the Queen. A wreath was carried on *LoweCo* as a memorial. The day was very successful, your editor felt that people wanted to get out after two days of bleak news.

The highlight was the visit of the steam roller *White Rose* postponed from last year. The roller arrived on a low loader and was unloaded in Dobbies Garden Centre car park before steaming across the A59 and reversing through the car park and onto the Nursery site.



Many thanks to Derek Rayner and his team for bringing *White Rose* to Poppleton.

Over £1000 was taken in sales of plants and refreshments.

## Visit of Siemen's Group

On 15 September we hosted a group from Siemens to do voluntary work. This was the largest group who have visited the Nursery. We had prepared a number of jobs for them to do and, as usual with such groups, they were very keen to work.

Those volunteering for horticultural work cleared cold frames at the Harrogate end of the Nursery and potted-on plants. Another group cut down the hedge in the ornamental garden.



The remainder of the group worked on the narrow gauge railway. The remaining sleepers were moved from the coal drop side to the main Nursery, Chassis P4, which had previously been loaned to the Railway Museum, was ex-

tracted from the wood store siding and placed in front of the engine shed and partly painted with black Hammerite. An exploratory dig was made to locate the sleepers adjacent to the Mess Room portakabin. One of the two sleepers was replaced, the extracted sleeper was rotten and had probably been there since the 1980s. The new sleeper has been packed but a further dig will be required to bolt the rail to the sleeper. This will be done when the second sleeper is replaced and we have the personnel for the job.



*The excavated sleepers, the one furthest from the camera was replaced*

Another group brought concrete posts from the coal frames and used them to support the wooden fencing next to the Nursery's car park, which had become wobbly.

A big thank you to Siemens for volunteering. All the volunteers thoroughly enjoyed their visit and the jobs done have benefited the Nursery.

## Ten Years Ago

Potting Shed 14 was 2 A4 pages issued in September 2012. The Nursery had achieved Registered Charity Status which would enable the Nursery to obtain grants. £2000 had been obtained for disabled ramps and rails for the toilets from York Vikings. £750 had been received from Poppleton Parish Council for office equipment and power tools.

*Terry Stanhope* had had a new engine and braking system fitted. On the horticultural side we were still getting to grips with quantities of plants to grow. A rain collecting system had been built to collect water from the greenhouse roofs. Cladding and waterproofing the Potting Shed was carried out and the shop space was extended. A barbecue was held for volunteers attended by 40 people. Finally we were told that the village was called Popeltun in 972 and Popeltune in the Doomesday Book of 1086.

## Railway and building work

Much railway work has been carried out by Semien's group described elsewhere in this issue. We have, however, carried on with the painting of the Pot-

ting Shed and replacing rotten wood. The 3-mile post has been wire-brushed and is waiting for a coat of yellow paint, detailed line and letter painting will follow.

While shunting for the Heritage day a nut was found on the track. Due to its green colour it was thought to be from *LoweCo*, on further inspection it had fallen of *Terry Stanhope's* brake assembly. *Terry* has been stopped until a longer bolt and a locking nut can be fitted to prevent it happening again.

## Poppleton station adoption

Our flower beds are looking fine for a little while longer, particularly the thriving geraniums, and we are making a start on putting shrubs into the small bed on the Harrogate Platform now that we have cut back some more of the undergrowth—we thought a short Lavender Hedge and some herbs would be nice.

We are continuing to water where essential and rain water in our butt (and even some in the otherwise empty litter bin bags!) is supplemented by as little as possible brought over from the Nursery in these “short-age of water” times.

Lynn joining us has made a big difference to what we

can achieve on Wednesdays—so thanks again to her.

We are still experimenting with final formats for our main notice board as the Knaresborough printers no longer seem to be an option for us. We have details of how to join our little group, or the Nursery (or both) displayed along with a brief history of the line and a couple of “interim” photos.

Colin is liaising with Poppleton Ousebank Junior School about a rail safety story book suitable for that age group (*Arlo's Adventures*) after Bob brought it to our attention. We hope to get plenty of free books for the top year at the school and a quantity to give out at events courtesy of the Community Rail Group we are members of. This is particularly topical given the very recent upgrading of the automatic barrier level crossing on Millfield Lane.

We reported the rotten ends of the passenger waiting shelter very regularly just prior to and during Covid (quite large wooden and glass affairs) and during w/c 12 September a team were busy replacing them with specially made new ones. Once painted they should smarten up the Station's appearance complimenting our work of earlier in the year.

Weed killing and planning including for Winter planting and Spring bulbs ought to be our next tasks!

Colin Wood

...and finally



In the previous issue of the Potting Shed we showed you the above piece of wood which we found in one of the ex. Railway containers. We were surprised that it had smoothed curved edges and thought that it might have come, not from a container but, from another type of railway vehicle. Closer inspection of container S1 reveals the presence of similar curved smooth edges as the photo below shows.

