

The Potting Shed December 2023 No. 75



**A very Happy
Christmas and a
prosperous New
Years to all volun-
teers and visitors to
the Nursery**

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Editorial

This will be the last Potting Shed of 2023 so its appropriate to look back on the year. There has been a series of successful sales days, often exceeding expectations. Visiting groups have undertaken jobs which have benefited both the groups and the Nursery. We have a new potting shed and the new building, known as Peggy's Shed, is progressing. The railway group have hosted a visit by the Narrow Gauge Society and our first photo charter, and there has been an influx of new volunteers. On the big railway the adoption group makes slow progress with the station and the station parking has been tightened up with the advent of charges. See the photo review of the year at the end of this Potting Shed.

Can I personally wish you a Happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

Membership

Just a reminder to members that your membership is due on 1 January 2024, After 31 March 2024 your name will be removed from the mailing list. Subs run from 1 January to 31 December £6 waged and £3 for students, unwaged or over 60s. There is an application form which can be

downloaded from the website, or just put your money in an envelope with a covering letter in the nursery mailbox.

Railway and building work

Small steps are being taken to replace the yellow wagon in the station car park. A chassis is being prepared and wood cut to make a frame onto which will be placed two large plastic planters retrieved from the wagon body on the coal drop site. The existing wagon is essential as it prevents anyone using that parking space and thus preventing the Nursery outer gates from being closed. For this reason the existing truck will not be moved until there is a replacement truck. As an alternative temporary display one of the concrete planters retrieved from the station may be used.

LoweCo has been taken out of use to undergo maintenance and placed at the back of the engine shed. *Terry Stanhope* will be the motorised vehicle for regular use, it has seen little use of late.

The set of scales and weights has been moved into the Potting Shed where it will be wire brushed and painted as an attractive display.

Station car park



A small group from the Nursery met with Ian Clark from Upper Poppleton Parish Council on 18th November.

The main focus of the meeting was on options for parking in the future, we understand that Northern are planning to introduce charge from Monday December 11th of £2 per day charge for parking. There will be a concessionary rate of 50p for residents, limiting parking to 2 hours. The same scheme is being introduced at nine other Northern stations, although not at Knaresborough.

The charge could affect volunteers and customers at times when the nursery car park is full, although it remains to be seen whether the charge will deter some people from using the station car park (which is the aim of the scheme).

New potting shed



A new potting shed constructed in a sheltered position in the garden. This was very kindly donated last Spring to our Nursery by a volunteer's friend in Acomb. All our volunteers gave support to parts of this project, from dismantling at the donator's home, transporting to the Nursery, laying a new concrete slab base, building & refurbishing the shed, and re-painting with fresh preservative & wood-stain. This will be used for multiple duties, including preparing vegetable and flower seedlings for the garden.

Sadly, a suggestion of using it as a Summer Bar was not approved...!!

Work has been going on on site to improve the signage for volunteers & customers.

Station adoption

ISS, as regular maintenance and cleaning contractors to Northern, have been busy recently renewing parts of the white wooden fence on Station Road and some parts of the gates to the station car park which are left permanently open. They also said they would try to speed up the schedule for white painting of the platform edges as I have reported a few times.

Their other recent contribution has been to replace the two time expired and damaged wooden benches (one on each platform) with handsome new ones and also to remount the plaques rescued from the old ones. They were paid for by

Northern and they also represents a photo opportunity for us. Our contact Liam Haxby at ISS has not got back to us yet but we have recently found a new way to try to contact him/move things on! Watch this space in Potting Shed.

We are doing our bit removing dead plants and leaves, pruning back shrubs and have recently repainted the concrete POPPLETON sign in bright white. Repairs and a little painting are also ongoing on some of the giant planters.

The timetables change nationally on 10 December (until 1 June 2024) but we have only very minor changes on our line and our good, frequent timetabled service in both directions is maintained. New laminated summary departure sheets will be prepared and posted on the changeover day on each platform as Northern (although they are printed) seem not to put up paper timetables here.

Coop Community Fund success!

The nursery will be receiving a grant of £1,229.36 through the Coop Local Community Fund for 2023. This follows our success last year in receiving over £2600 from the Fund.

Part of the grant money has already been used to buy a portable defibrillator, which is installed in the main cabin. Advice on using it is included and is

also being circulated to current volunteers.



The payment is based on sales by Coop members at their local Coop stores, or at other Coops where they have chosen the nursery as their deserving cause. A big

thank you to all members and friends who have supported us again this year.

Ten years ago

The Potting Shed No. 21 published in November 2013 was 2-sides of A4. On 28 November Kay Bailey Neighbourhood Manager from the Communities & Equalities Team was to visit the nursery to gain an understanding of where we are currently up to and to explore our future plans.

Gareth Tagger, a third year English student from the University with marketing experience, was working with the Nursery to develop a marketing plan to the Management committee. He

was visiting the site at fortnightly intervals to understand what we do and to talk to officers and volunteers about how we can better publicise the nursery.

New building

The walls of the new building have been added, the roof is watertight but the outer roof still needs to be added. A start has been made on the electrical wiring. As the building is beginning to look like a completed building, management is considering the use for the building.

Don't forget — Membership is due on 1 January 2024

...and finally 2023 in pictures

