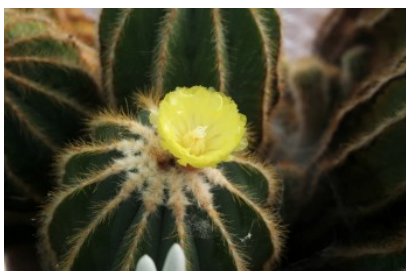


The Potting Shed September 2023 No. 73



**Our Heritage
day sale is on 16
September from
10:00am to 4:00pm
Narrow gauge and
model railways on
display.**

**Sale of perennials,
herbs, alpines, au-
tumn bedding plants
baskets and plant-
ers.**

**Refreshments, bric-
a-brac, books and
crafts**

POPPLETON COMMUNITY RAIL- WAY NURSERY

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Company Registration number:
06211163

Editorial

Welcome to issue 73 of the Potting Shed. The Nursery is gearing up for the run of Sales days towards Christmas. We have had visits from various groups including Network Rail and there are further groups booked in over the next few weeks. The Annual General Meeting is scheduled for early October, this is open to all so come along if you want to have your say about the Nursery. The station adoption group has been keeping the station tidy despite communication difficulties with Network Rail.

Geoff Rafton has made a start on the new building. I hope to have more details in the next issue.

Sales Dates

On 16 September the Nursery will open for its Heritage sale between 10:00am and 4:00pm.

The next sales day will be on Saturday 21 October, 10:00-3:00.

AGM

The Annual General Meeting will be held on Wednesday 4th October 2023 at the Nursery, starting at 1.30pm. The nursery will be open from 1.00pm for viewing and refreshments will be available.

Ten Years Ago

The Potting Shed no. 20 was 4 A4 pages published

in August 2013. On the upcoming sales day, a hanging basket workshop was being run. The Thursday group had been upgrading the electrical equipment on site with improvements in the greenhouses and engine shed. The Nursery had been donated a set of PAT testing equipment.

In July the Thursday group went to the NRM and picked up a Greenwood and Batley battery station trolley which were being discarded by the museum. Ten years on the trolley has had a small amount of restoration, if anyone is interested in restoring the trolley or has information please contact the Nursery.

Work on the plants on the station was affected by the presence of a mole. Several attempts to remove the mole were tried including castor oil, all unsuccessful, eventually the mole moved on.

The Nursery's Facebook page was proving popular, with Americans loving Poppleton with its nursery and quaint railroad. Other visitors were from former Soviet-bloc countries and Korea.

Railway and building work

In recent weeks the numbers of workers has increased for our Thursday afternoon sessions. The painting of the bogie is complete and it has been

placed on the turntable to create an attractive exhibit. Newcomer Graham an ex-signalman from the Mid-Hants Railway has completed wood replacment and painting on P2 and is tidying S7. These have been on the to do list for some time, as has the removal of the brambles from behind the Potting Shed, which was completed when a lack of keys (don't ask) prevented us doing other work. David and Andy have been starting to put a wooden body on one of the chassis. Sam has been painting one of the water bowsers.



Chassis with newly fitted wood.

It is planned to modify the temporary door fitted by the Network Rail group on the container on the coal drop site to allow access to the container. This container is unusual as it was been modified with doors at each end to work in one of BR's electrification trains. It still carries a builders plate.

Poppleton Station Adoption

The station continues to look fine for a little bit longer after some trimming, tidying and watering recently. The mixture of bedding plants and permanent ones such as buddleia and big hydrangeas seems to work well but we will need something like winter flowering pansies soon to fill the gaps when geraniums get hit by frost.

We continue to get favourable comments about our illustrated notice boards, flowers and presentation of the station but we do need to repaint the POPPLETON concrete sign soon.

The damaged and rotten-in-places, wooden memorial bench has been removed from Platform 1 and will be replaced with a new one by ISS at—according to Northern—no cost to ourselves. The similar one on Platform 2 is also in poor condition and has been reported—it may be repairable though.

Contact with Northern has been minimal this year and I understand that the additional staff member is primarily for South Yorkshire and that funding for Community Groups next year is to be substantially cut by the rail industry and the Treasury.

We will of course continue to try to provide the best standards we possibly can with the available resources.

Colin Wood
Team Leader Station Adopters

LoweCo's sand-box covers

In the last issue we told of John Browning's donation of LoweCo's sandbox covers. These have been repainted and placed on the loco.



John mentioned that while retrieving the covers he had taken a photo of the loco as deposited on the scrap line at Barton upon Humber. Several weeks later we received a copy of that photo showing the loco in a rather poorer condition than at present.



Visiting groups

Towards the end of July a visiting group from Network Rail carried out much useful work. Several members painted the inside of the sunken greenhouse. Others carried out remedial work on the container on the coal drop site. The weather hasn't been kind to the container and the main door was rotten and had fallen off its runners. The group removed the door

and covered up the gap with the plastic covers donated to the Nursery several years ago.



Removing the rotten door



The container with the temporary plastic covering, the remains of the door are on the left.

...and finally

Some photos taken ten years ago...



This was the end of the line at the time.



The recently acquired Greenwood & Batley electric trolley