

The Potting Shed April 2024 No. 77



**The Spring Sales
Day is on Sat-
urday 20 April,
10:00am to
3:00pm.**

**Sale of summer
baskets and
planters.**

**Narrow gauge and
model railways.
Refreshments.**

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Editorial

As we approach the first of the year's sales days, there is much going on. We have had a group visit from Network Rail and the tipper at the entrance to the site and we have been donated some railway books.

Railway and building work

The railway group has been fitting lights and sockets in the new building and some painting of the ceiling has been carried out. The woodwork group have replaced the guttering on the sunken greenhouse, this is larger than the previous guttering. The railway is very tight here so it was felt that a couple of gauging runs were required with *LoweCo* and the coach to ensure the guttering wasn't pulled down. These were completed successfully although slow speed will be required on this section. On these runs it was discovered that *LoweCo's* tick-over was too fast. The screw controlling the tick-over is at the limit of it's travel and, although usable in an emergency, this will have to be fixed. *Terry Stanhope* is therefore the preferred motive power.

Station car park

The station car park bays have been repainted including a couple of disabled

bays and bays on the side furthest from the railway.

Sales day

The Nursery's Summer sales day will be on Saturday 18 May, 10:00am – 4:00pm. Buy bedding plants, perennials and bedding plants. Narrow gauge, model railways and refreshments.

Network Rail group visit

On 6 March a group from Network Rail visited the Nursery. As is usual with these visiting groups much work was carried out, not least the removal of the tipper gate guardian which is described elsewhere in this issue. On the coal drop site the compost tips were tidied up and the silver birches pruned. The track opposite the portacabin was tidied and a shelf dug to display the sets of weights and scales when they are finally painted. At the time of writing the group has shown an interest in another visit after the end of April.

Station adoption

We have continued with weeding and tidying the flowerbeds and have trimmed all the bushes in the concrete planters. Some bedding plants have been added to the small Harrogate flowerbed with the main planting to begin shortly.

Litter picking remains on-going!

We have completed Northern's annual safety briefing and submitted our plans for the coming year together with our annual funding request.

Another concrete planter now needs some repairs due to concrete spalling from the rim (not helped by a "person or persons unknown" picking at the loose concrete). The planters have a ring of reinforcement around the top which has inadequate concrete cover. If or when the concrete cracks, water penetrates to the reinforcement causing it to rust. This is an expansive reaction which then causes concrete to flake off from the rim, thus setting-up something of a chain reaction. This is an endemic problem with the planters, unfortunately, so is likely to recur. However, with prompt attention we should be able to keep it under control.

Ten years ago

The Potting Shed No. 23 from April 2014 was 2 sides of A4. Readers were invited to sign up for a hanging basket workshop running for 2 hours on the April sales day. For £10 to cover

materials participants would be instructed in making a hanging basket with a minimum of 10 plants, extra plants could be added.

The nursery had booked St. Crux church for a sales day on 14 May. Help was requested to sell plants, bric-a-brac and books, as well as transporting materials to-and-from St. Crux and providing refreshments to sell on the day. Your editor remembers several St. Crux sales, these were hard work transporting materials but provided necessary income until the on-site sales provided equivalent income without the hassle of transportation.

Donated books

The railway group has received a collection of railway books and a small number of VHS videos from the collection of Jackie Clayton's father. These range from the common to the niche and obscure. If you receive your Potting Shed via e-mail there is a list included with this issue, I shall put up a copy of the list at the Nursery. If anybody is interested in buying any of the books, contact the Nursery.

Nursery gate guardian

Number P1 in the Poppleton Nursery Railway stocklist is the yellow tipper truck which was the Nursery's gate guardian for many years. The exact date when this vehicle became the gate guardian is not known, it is not present when BR held an open day at the Nursery in 1988, but must have been placed sometime afterwards.

As well as being an advert for the Nursery it occupies a parking space which if occupied by a car would have prevented the outer gates of the Nursery being closed. The railway group has been making a replacement for P1, which consists of a skip chassis with a wooden frame topped by two plastic containers with soil for planting. During the visit of the group from Network Rail detailed elsewhere in this issue, P1 was removed and the new vehicle placed on the tidied up track. One of the concrete planters retrieved from the station completes the display containing a shrub in a plastic pot. See the photographs elsewhere in this issue.

Replacing the gate guardian



P1 in 2012



Cutting through the fastening chains



Free at last



Pushing into the Nursery



Outside the engine shed



The replacement

New building

The electrical sockets and lighting have been installed although there is still no electrical connection to the building itself.

There has been some painting to the ceiling.

Network Rail Group visit



Cleaning up the track



Work on the coal drop site