

The Potting Shed September 2024 No. 80



**The Heritage Day Sale
of Bedding Plants is
on Saturday 14
September, 10:00am
to 4:00pm.**
**Sale of perennials,
herbs, alpines, au-
tumn bedding plants
baskets and planters.**
**Narrow gauge and
model railways.**

POPPLETON COMMUNITY RAIL WAY NURSERY

Station Road Upper Poppleton
York YO26 6QA

☎ 01904 797623
07800 501382
pcrn.info@yahoo.co.uk

poppletonrailwaynursery.co.uk

Charity Number: 1148341

Company Registration number:
06211163

Editorial

I hope you have had an enjoyable summer.

At the Nursery we have had some interesting visitors, your editor has been looking for a locomotive which used to be at Poppleton and a group sold some plants at the village show.

Ten years ago a couple of members wrote articles about the wildlife at the Nursery, can I extend an invite to our members to write an update about wildlife now.

Our sales days resume with Heritage Day and don't forget the AGM on 2 October.

Annual general meeting

The annual meeting will take place at the nursery at 1:30pm on Wednesday 2 October 2024. The meeting papers will be distributed to members with voting rights, by email. We will use the new building for the meeting. The nursery will be open from 1:00pm for refreshments. Members are welcome to look round the site.

Nursery visitors

Peter Scott compiles a list of Minor Railways which consists of every known Standard Gauge Railway, Narrow Gauge Railway, Miniature Railway, Tramway and Cliff Railway — which offer rides

to the public. In 1991 he visited the Nursery to view the narrow gauge railway. In July he re-visited the Nursery.



The photos show the 1991 visit and the visit in July.

Copies of the Minor Railways book can be obtained for £5.00 incl. p&p from <http://www.minorrailways.co.uk/>



At the July sales day Anthony Coulls, Senior Curator of Rail Transport and Technology at the National Railway Museum, popped into the Nursery for a visit. This was a social visit and Bob Brook and your editor gave him a tour of the Nursery particularly the narrow gauge railway. He thoroughly enjoyed his visit particularly the cakes.

A trip to Leighton Buzzard

Between 1994 and 2000 the National Railway Museum loaned the Nursery a

diesel loco. This was a 1937 Ruston which had been used at Naburn Sewage Works. In 2000 it returned to the NRM and it has since been loaned to the Leighton Buzzard Railway (LBR). A trip to the midlands enabled your editor the opportunity to try and obtain a photo of the locomotive.

The mid-week timetable at the LBR consists of three trains 10:30, 12:30 and 2:30 each taking 1½ hours. We arrived in plenty of time for the 12:30 departure, the ticket seller wasn't sure of the loco's location but he thought that it was at Stonehenge Works. The journey takes you from Page's Park station and runs the length of the line, a distance of 3 miles, through housing before reaching open country. At the far end of the line there are no platform facilities, just a run-round loop. After running round the train returns to Stonehenge Works where 25-minutes is available to have a look round and perhaps buy something from the café before returning to Page's Park.

Our loco was a 1917 Baldwin 4-6-0 778 built for the War Department.



After a pleasant journey to the far end of the line we stopped at Stonehenge Works. I collared the train

guard and asked if he knew the location of the Ruston. He wasn't sure but we could have a walk round the yard to see if we could find it, he did tell me that he didn't have his keys with him. After an unfruitful walk round the yard and looking into several buildings he said he would go and find someone called Steve. He finally managed to phone him and locate him on the platform. I told Steve that I wanted to see the Ruston, I was also conscious that the 25-minute station stop was ticking away. Steve and I returned to the yard and after getting his keys we looked into several more buildings none of which contained the Ruston. Like the guard, Steve wasn't sure of the location of the Ruston but thought it could be in one of the shipping containers on site. The first container opened contained the Ruston but it was the middle one of two other locos. The container had no lighting and a very narrow walkway down one side, so photography was going to be a challenge. One thing that Steve said when he identified the Ruston was it had a plate on which was put on by the NRM for the 2004 Railfest. I therefore attempted to take a photo of this plate. It was only when I got back to York and loaded it to my computer that I realised I had a viewable photo.

As you can see it's not a great photo but you can identify that it is the NRM's Ruston. Below it is a pic-

ture of the Ruston obtained from the web.



After many thanks to Steve and the guard there was just time to return to the platform and catch the train back to Page's Park.

If you are in the Leighton Buzzard area I can highly recommend the railway. It is a delightful line with a fascinating history. As well as the mostly internal combustion locos displayed at Stonehenge, there is the running shed at Page's Park in which the steam engines can be viewed.

Railway and building work

Railway work has been carried out slowly. David Dawson has finished truck no. 3, this gives us 3 flat trucks with low sides which are removable. Most of the wagons now have painted numbers and the newly acquired stencils are being used for lettering on the new gate guardian.

Track stabilisation was done on the track near the sunken greenhouse where the mechanical digger had been over the track installing the electrical feed for the new building.

The group has work lined up for the groups coming to the Nursery. A general track tidy around the points and car park entry at the York end of the site. We are hoping that the Network Rail group will be able to fit a door to the container on the coal drop site.

Station adoption

Routine tidying and weeding of the flowerbeds continues to occupy us and the recent spell of dry weather has revived the routine of dragging the water bowser across from the nursery to keep the water barrels topped up. However, we have been rewarded by a fine multi-coloured display of flowers with our hydrangeas being the star performers. It has also been gratifying to receive many appreciative comments from waiting passengers.

ISS have repainted one of the brown benches and we have attended Northern's on-line briefing concerning preparations for Rail200, the industry-wide celebration, due next year, of 200 years since the Stockton & Darlington Railway which was opened in 1825.

Ten Years Ago

The Potting Shed No. 25 from August 2014 was 4

sides of A4. Wildlife at the Nursery was heavily featured with two articles, one by Tim Brook and one by Gill Duxbury. Chaffinches, Greenfinches, Goldfinches, Goldcrests and Dunnock were amongst the birds mentioned and Tim had built a nestbox to encourage the Kestrels to nest. Gill's article concentrated on the insect population mentioning caterpillars, moths and wasps. It would be interesting to know of the wildlife population 10-years on, maybe one of our volunteers would like to put pen to paper.

There had been a reduction in time that NHS staff could provide for mental health patients at the Nursery. £500 had been donated from the City of York Council Rural West Ward for a pavement flag and stand. Another £500 had been obtained from York Vikings Rotary Club which was put into a van fund. Money was being raised for a replacement van.

A group from Lloyds Bank IT department had visited the Nursery. They dug out for a point for the narrow gauge railway, painted S7 and removed paint from the engine shed. Gardening work included tidying up the garden area, weeding the poly tunnel and dressed and potted plants alongside G10 and G11.

A week later a group from PTEG did further weeding and removing old wood from the cold frames.

Sales days

On 17 August a team from the Nursery had a stall at the Poppleton Show on The Green. Just shy of £120 was raised.



The Autumn Sales day will be on 26 October 10:00am-3:00pm.

