Poppleton Community Railway Nursery

The Potting Shed November 2026 No. 93



Our final Sales Day will be Early Christmas Sales Day on 21 November, 10:00am to 3:00pm

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Editorial

In this quieter period of the year we are looking forward to the Christmas sales day, plants are being moved to shield them from frosts and there is general maintenance on site. We have some facts about the station and a new Nursery dog.

Station adoption

Not much to report this time as the big clear out of the dead box shrubs and re alignment of the remaining planters on the station (some of them are now too damaged to repair/continue with us) is ongoing and we are preparing a report for Northern Rail for them to help us. They have indicated that funds should be be available to help — there will be a lot of replacement plants and compost needed — and we will try to include the fence on Platform 2 (backing on to the coal drops) which needs fairly urgent attention.

We are keeping the two small beds tidy and weed free for another couple of weeks with the geraniums in place as we have had no frosts yet. We will then have to buy some winter flowering pansies to inject a bit of colour for December-March.

New posters have arrived from Northern and we will try to insert these without damaging the platform notice boards. These are getting quite fragile now after years of exposure to the weather, but we do not want to use up our funds on replacing them quite yet.

One or two people with horticultural knowledge have indicated that they may want to join us in looking after the station gardens, which we would welcome. We hope to meet them on a Wednesday afternoon, soon.

Colin Wood
Team Leader, Friends of Poppleton Station

Sales days

The last two sales days, Heritage Day on 12 September and October 17 were quieter then some of our sales days earlier in the year.

On Heritage Day we put the red carpet in the new building. We also moved our new but still unfinished brake van from the car port and displayed it outside S9.

The Autumn Sales day was the quietest of the year in terms of footfall which was a shame as the weather was good.

Our next sales day will be our Christmas Sales day where we shall be selling wreaths and Christmas decorations, the railways will be on display and we shall have refreshments. If you require wreaths on 21 November they should be ordered before then. The Nursery will also be open for collection of orders on 5 December 10:00am to

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1:00pm as well as our regular mid-week openings.

Volunteering

Since the last issue of the Potting Shed we have had 2 volunteering groups from Network Rail and 1 from Siemens. As usual these groups do very useful work at the Nursery.

Amongst the work carried out has been finishing tidying up the area at the Harrogate end of the site, painting container S1, general tidying on the field side of the site, cutting down Laurel in the garden and chopping down on the coal drop site.

Horticulture

It's that time of year where we have been moving all our tender plants down into the pit houses before we have a full frost. As well as being more sheltered, these are easier to heat if necessary. Other work has included potting up more perennial seedlings ready for next year and continuing to clean up and weed the existing perennial stock. We have also been catching up with general maintenance, cleaning gutters and attending to pumps and taps. The focus of activity now moves away from plants for a while as we prepare our Christmas wreaths and decorations for our remaining sales days.

Railway and building group

The group has been running the volunteer groups and carrying out small jobs around the site. The new brake van is making slow progress after its appearance on Heritage Day.

Ten Years Ago

The Potting Shed number 37 from November 2016 was 3 sides of A4. There was a report of the September open day which celebrated the 75th anniversary of the arrival of the Nursery in Poppleton. York's Lord Mayor Councillor Dave Taylor and his wife and the Sheriff of York Jonathan Tyler and his lady attended. Councillor Taylor cut the celebratory cake on the red carpet display and the guests were given a ride on the narrow gauge railway.

On the October sales day a reporter from **The Press** visited and an article about the Nursery appeared in the 30 October issue which is still available online at http://alturl.com/oxr3a.

A generous grant had been received for a start to be made on dismantling greenhouses G7–G9 which marked the start of preparations for the new building. Re-roofing S10 and the west end of the Potting Shed was being carried out, the engine shed was being painted and the wood store constructed. Lack of a mechanical expertise was evident as **LoweCo** was not a runner.

Nursery dog



Reading **The Press** article from 10 years ago with a picture of Paul Botting and his dog Pip reminds me that we now have another regular Nursery dog. Volunteer Maggie Graham regularly brings Oscar her terrier to the Nursery.

Donations and Grants received

The nursery was very grateful to receive the following donations:

- Upper Poppleton Parish Council £500 — for improving site security following the break in.
- Nether Poppleton Parish Council £500 — for improving site security following the break in.
- Poppleton Village Show £750 — in recognition of the value of the nursery's work in helping individuals in improving their health, wellbeing and social welfare.
- Several donations of wood by Stuart Hebden — a friend of the nursery.

The nursery was very grateful to receive the following grants:

- Charity Lands and Unknown Donors of Nether

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Poppleton £300 — kitchen equipment for the community room (building S15)
- Two Ridings Community Foundation £650 — replacement of lighting with LEDs
- Two Ridings Community Foundation £1000 — storage cupboards for S15

We have also applied for a grant of £980 from Two Ridings for a replacement self-priming centrifugal pump for our grey water system and are waiting to hear the outcome.

Poppleton station

Train Map UK (trainmap.co.uk) is an online train map which shows trains on the national rail network in real time. The site also lists many statistics about the railway network including station details. Poppleton is the 1,670th busiest station in Great Britain with 120,384 passengers in 2024-5. You can reach 13 other stations from Poppleton without changing and there are 62 trains a day Monday-Saturday with 51 trains on a Sunday. More journeys are run between Poppleton and York than any other pair of stations: 63,344 a year. There are 12 car park spaces and racks for 10 bicycles. Parking costs £2.20 per day; £8.80 per week. The Harrogate line is approximately 57 miles long with 12 stations with a maximum line speed of 65 miles per hour. There are 5.8 million passenger exits and entries a year across its stations,

Volunteer groups



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New brake van





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