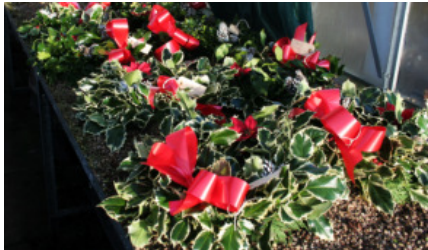


The Potting Shed December 2021 No. 62



The Nursery will open
for the collection of
orders from 10:00am
to 1:00pm on
Saturday 11 December

A very Happy
Christmas and a
prosperous and safe
New Year to all our
members

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06211163

Editorial

This will be the last Potting Shed of the year, can I wish all readers a safe and happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year. Looking back on 2021, in another tumultuous year, the Nursery hasn't done too bad. Sales days have been very successful with odd one not being quite so good which I think can be put down to the weather. Rabbits have been a problem, we have put in a rabbit-proof fence but I suspect we shall always be susceptible to vermin. A successful railway event was held on heritage day even though the expected steam roller didn't arrive, hopefully we can have it on another day. For the station adoption team, communication with Northern has been difficult, hopefully things will improve in the new year. It will be interesting to see how the new 2 trains per hour service operates, one thing can be certain the signal person will spend more time opening and closing the gates.

I am keen to have more input to the Potting Shed from members, so write something about what you would like to see from the Nursery or what the Nursery means to you. I generally plan the issues around the sales days, at the time of writing I haven't got any sales dates, but if you want to have a piece in the next issue send it to me at timelsworth52@gmail.com

timelsworth52@gmail.com before the middle of March 2022.

Membership

After having a break due to Covid in 2021, membership is due from 1 January 2022. Full membership is £6.00, concessions (students, unwaged and over-60s) £3.00, the Nursery will accept donations. Full details including a form may be found on the website.

Sales Days

Subject to Covid-19 Restrictions, the Nursery will hold sales on the following dates:

11 December Collection
of Christmas Orders
10:00am to 1:00pm

The nursery is also open on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 10:00am to 3:30pm.

Allotment

Barry has nothing to report on the allotment — he's looking forward to the Spring.

The Last Charter?

As reported in the last issue of the **Potting Shed** the frequency of trains on the Harrogate Circle is increasing from 1 train per hour to 2 trains per hour from

12 December. This means that there is no capacity for charter trains to run. While they have not been frequent charter trains have brightened up the scene. Older readers will remember the steam hauled Scarborough Spa Express and we have had visits from the Northern Belle and Royal Scotsman luxury trains. On 20 November, which coincided with a Nursery sales day, Pathfinder ran The Northern Star, which will probably be the last charter, from Eastleigh to York, Harrogate, Leeds and return. In spite of passing through Poppleton faster than the regular service trains, it was a bit of whimper, as it wasn't a £10,000 a ticket luxury train and the locomotive was a class 67 diesel, not the most attractive of locomotives.



The Northern Star charter passes *Loweco* en route to Harrogate

Railway and building work

The group has been working on jobs carried out by 1 or 2 people rather than one big project carried out by all. On

the railway a sleeper has been put in under the track on the Harrogate side of the point at Bog Junction. This was discovered after running trains for the Heritage Open Day and the track dipping under the train. On digging under the track there was no sleeper there, whether there ever was one and it has rotted or none was ever there it will improve the ride. We benefited from a visiting group from Network Rail for this job.

Colin has taken on the unenviable job of tidying the engine shed, a job that has been on our list for more years than I care to remember.

Your editor has been wire brushing and painting several of the railway trolleys round the site in preparation for future use. The next one to be done is the "mobile flower bed" outside the mess room, the display has looked rather tired for some time.



On the building front S2, the container nearest the mainline railway, is being repainted and repaired as required. Luckily the paint we are using is a good match for the livery it might have worn in its railway days.



Painting S2

Ten Years Ago

Potting Shed No. 12, dated November 2011, was 4 sides of A4 paper. The Christmas sales day was advertised for 3 December with a Spring sales day on 24 March 2012. Gill Duxbury had written a very entertaining column about her volunteering at the Nursery. She had recently been "translated" onto Management Board and realised that the Nursery was like a swan, calm on the surface while paddling furiously below the water. Gill says that life sometimes begins not at 40 but at 75!

There had been much activity on the Railway. The point at Bog Junction was being installed and help had been obtained from the community payback team, further rail would have to be obtained to complete the projected balloon loop. The then-unnamed motorised trolley had moved under its own power, the diesel engine being replaced with a modern petrol engine. There was a prospect of obtaining some surplus ground signals from the National Rail-

way Museum.



Newly installed point at Bog Junction, December 2011

Jo Sullivan-Jones introduces herself as the new volunteer coordinator, inviting readers to come forward and volunteer at the Nursery. Your Editor was also in a new post as Web Master, my lengthy column detailed a rewrite of the website which was based on an early website of the Chemistry Department at the University.

October 2011 was the 163rd anniversary of the opening of the railway through Poppleton. Tom Russell wrote a short piece explaining that the first railway terminated in Knaresborough after the collapse of the first viaduct. For three years passengers had a substitute bus service to get to Harrogate — there's nothing new under the sun!

Applications for grants had been made to City of Council for disabled access ramps and to Poppleton Parish Councils for computer and office equipment and power tools.

Poppleton station adoption



We have cleared our flower beds of bedding plants and have started planting some more permanent ones like Black Grass and Perennial Wallflowers. Many more from Jo's list, including shrubs, yet to be planted — many thanks to her for her advice and giving us some plant cuttings from her own garden.

Richard Isaac, our contact at Northern has just told us we are going to have a virtual conference on 15 December so we will have one more go at getting our Platform 1 Notice Board from them and erected by their contractor. If we still do not get anywhere we will buy our own. We will also try to enquire further about a defibrillator for the station as that looks like a new project for Northern which they seem keen to get behind.

Sue has rejoined us fitting her volunteering around her work and has among other

things been clearing spiky grasses from near to where customers sit. I am keeping away from the station and nursery for a few weeks because of the delay there has been in giving my vulnerable house bound wife a 3rd dose of the vaccination for Covid-19.

Northern have confirmed the excellent new timetable on their web site. It is doubled to every half hour daily to York and to Knaresborough, Harrogate and on to Leeds from 12 December. This should be very useful indeed. Our own Richard has prepared and erected advance "good news" mini posters and I am making some similar mini departure posters for the changeover date. I have contacted Parish Councils and village magazines. Our modest activities should supplement the timetables Northern will obviously display. The number of passengers using the trains seems to continue to rise steadily.

Some offensive graffiti was cleaned off the York Platform earlier this month by the contractors—a first for us? This may well be a one off occurrence.

We are also talking about and planning when we can do some painting of signs and some pots as these are looking a bit dowdy now.

Colin Wood

... and finally — charter trains at Poppleton



LMS Black Five 45231 Sherwood Forester waits at Poppleton on a Scarborough Spa Express August 2009



57601 Windsor Castle hauls The Northern Belle through Poppleton, May 2021

Not exactly a charter train, 37402 Stephen Middlemore 23.12.1954 - 8.6.2013 propels inspection saloon Caroline through Poppleton,

