

The Potting Shed April 2022 No. 63



The Spring Open Day
will be on Saturday 23
April, 10:00–4:00pm.

Sale of shrubs,
herbaceous
perennials, alpines &
herbs.

Spring plants, sweet
peas and Summer
bedding plants. Bric a
brac and book stalls,
model and narrow
gauge railway.

Tea, coffee and
homemade cake on
sale

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Editorial

Welcome to the first Potting Shed of 2022. Much has been happening at the Nursery with plants to sell, a range of items from the woodworking group and the chance to donate money to the Nursery by shopping at the Co-op.

A few weeks ago, in the middle of that nice warm spell, I spent my regular Thursday afternoon at the Nursery. For a couple of hours I never thought about my problems or the mess the outside world seems to have got into... you don't see me list those, which just proves that the Nursery is a little oasis. So if feel like helping at the Nursery, and forgetting the troubles of the world, why not come on down.

Membership

Membership was due from 1 January 2022. If you haven't renewed the rates are: full membership £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:

April 23 Spring Open Day
10:00am–4:00pm

April 30, May 7, 14 and 21

Saturday Morning Sales
9:30am–1:00pm

May 28 Summer Open Day
10:00am–4:00pm

June 4, 18, 25 Saturday
Morning Sales 9.30am–
1:00pm

July 2 Buy One get One Free
On summer bedding
plants 10:00am–4:00pm

September 10 Heritage
Open Day 10:00am–
4:00pm

October 22 Autumn Open
Day 10:00am–3:00pm

November 19 Early Christ-
mas Sale 10:00am–
3:00pm

December 10 Collection
of Christmas Orders
10:00am–1:00pm

In addition the Nursery will be holding a bedding plant sale at Foxwood Community Centre on **20 May** 10:30am–1:00pm. Additional events and sales days will be advertised on the web site.

Co-op Local Commu- nity Fund

The Nursery has signed up to the Co-op Local Community Fund to raise money for a shade tunnel. Co-op members who shop at the following stores:

- Upper Poppleton Co-op
- Petrol Great North Way
- Petrol Skipbridge

for every £1 spent 2p will be donated to the Nursery. If you are not a member of the Co-op you can visit

<https://membership.coop.co.uk/causes/60495> to enrol. If you do not use the above stores you can also visit the above website to choose the Nursery as the project to donate to if you shop online. You must ensure that you scan or swipe your membership card when making purchases.

The Nursery has just received its first payment from the Co-op and at the time of writing the amount raised stands at over £420. The scheme runs until 22 October, so there is still time to raise some money.

Network Rail group visit



On 18 February a group from Network Rail visited the Nursery. The enthusiastic group were able to carry out several jobs including clearing up wood from the G8 greenhouse, tidying up the middle room of the Potting Shed and chopping down silver birch trees on the coal drop site for Christmas decorations.



Network Rail group visit

The Last Charter?

Not quite the last charter, but your editor noted that an engineer's train was booked to run through Poppleton after the last service train on December 24, 2021 in connection with engineering work in Leeds over Christmas.

The two-trains per hour service seems to be running quite successfully with none of the problems predicted by some of our more informed members.



Occasionally trains do cross at Poppleton as the above photo shows. On the left is the occasionally-used 185 class heading for York and approaching is the staple 170 class heading for Harrogate.

Wildlife

We are still plagued with rabbits, in fact a dead rabbit was recently found just inside the engine shed. A robin has decided to build her nest on the Greenwood and Batley trolley at the back of the car port making it difficult to extract the newly painted railway truck.

Woodworking group

Our woodworking group will make ornamental wheelbarrows and bird tables to order. They make good presents, enquire at the Nursery if you are interested.



Railway and building work

Our group activity has been curtailed by sickness, bad weather and other commitments and the list of jobs is virtually the same as listed in the last **Potting Shed**. Nevertheless wagons have been painted, S2 has been painted and Colin has been tidying up the engine shed and making improvements to *Terry Stanhope*. We are expecting a visit from another group from Network Rail and preparations for track work are ongoing so that

the group can come in and finish the job.

Ten Years Ago

The Potting Shed No. 12 was published in April 2012 and was 3 sides of A4. A sales day was advertised for 28 April together with further sales days through the year. The winter had been milder than the two previous and Spring had come early and the bulbs at the Nursery and on the station were looking attractive. The extension to the lease had been delayed because we had been asked to take on the coal drop site on the opposite side of Station Road. Although work has been done on this site in the last ten years, as can be seen from the current photos at the end of this issue the site looks very similar.

The restoration of Greenhouse G3 had been completed, this was the last of the large greenhouse to be restored apart from G7-9, although work had started on the latter. On the railway a point lever had been obtained from the NRM as well as a ground signal which had been painted and put in place. *Terry Stanhope* had brakes fitted and the group were looking forward to extending the track.

The Nursery was entering the Yorkshire in Bloom competition and an initiative to trial opening on Sundays for volunteers.

Poppleton station adoption

Our small group is struggling a little currently with other commitments and health issues to do some work every week but the station continues to look spring-like presently with a reasonable planting of bulbs, primulas etc. which we are keeping watered as needed.

One of the concrete planters is in need of repair for which we have the materials and we have made a start on painting the others. We hope to finish this soon, moving on to the station sign which also needs refreshing.

Northern have kindly granted us funds for plants for this financial year and enough to buy our own Adopters Notice Board on the York Platform. Although the actual money has not arrived we are obtaining quotes for this.

We have plans to replant for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee using red, white and blue plants and hope we can achieve this as well as putting up our new notice board with details of our group and a first go at including a brief history of the line, by the deadline! If all this goes to plan the station overall should look good.

Train Service

Of secondary importance to us as the Adopters, but we want to clearly encourage as much new use of the line as possible. On the plus side the service was doubled in mid-December when a half-hourly daily day

time service was introduced. We did what we consider good publicity for this excellent improvement in the Community and Parish magazines and produced our own laminated departure times on signs on each platform. Full timetables are available to potential customers on the Northern Web Site and its App.

Northern unfortunately have declined to put any timetable posters on the station, we have asked them multiple times, and they do not produce paper pocket timetables, they have had Government permission to do this since the start of Covid. The two "next train" electronic train indicators have not been working for months despite reporting the fault multiple times — indicators are operational at nearby stations. We understand, a few cuts to be made to the timetable in May to improve reliability as Covid-19 continues to take its toll on staff availability. It would seem that the basic half-hourly service remains in the day time 7 days a week but reduces more quickly in the early evening and has some long gaps in service later on.

Perhaps Great British Railways will do better with publicity for rail services when they get established!

Colin Wood

... and finally

The Coal Drop Site is part of the Nursery that has not had much mention in these

pages. Sited on the opposite side of Station Road to the main Nursery, as its name states it was the place where residents of Poppleton could obtain coal. Generally this was run by the station master and he would retain any profit. The 1892-1914 25 inch Ordnance Survey shows a third railway track which ran from the Nursery over the

present car park and Station Road and onto the coal drop site rising up to pass over 4 coal drops. Just inside the site was a weighbridge controlled from a building on the left, where the wooden container now sits. At the end of the track there would have been a set of buffer stops and beyond the shelter on the Harrogate-bound platform. Coal would

be delivered by the daily pick-up goods train and its loco would shunt the coal wagons across the crossing and over the coal drops. The coal would be discharged into the drops for further distribution, the empty wagons returning on the pick-up goods. The 4 drops would be for different classes of coal or coke.



The Coal Drop Site looking towards Station Road. The building controlling the weighbridge was where the brown container in the background now is and the coal drops are on the right hand side.



The coal drops, one of the drops still has coke in. The track ran across the top of the drops at platform level.