

Railway Carriage Grand Opening 12 May 2018



After many hours of work and much overtime the carriage was ready for the grand opening on 12 May. The volunteer carriage team led by Will Cook, who worked Dickensian hours to make the deadline, were still cleaning and painting up until the last day. The carriage now has a smart café/bar in a lovely light-filled space. At the other end of the vehicle is a workshop/meeting area, which is already being booked for various arts and craft activities.



There was a short ceremony at which Mrs Mary-Jane Clark cracked a bottle of bubbly over the buffers to declare the carriage open. Mrs Clark is the daughter of David Thomas and a trustee of the David Thomas Trust which has been so very generous to the Goods Shed. In grateful thanks the carriage has been named "Mary-Jane". The Swindon Brass Band then struck up as the invited guests, many of whom had helped towards restoration costs, were entertained in the carriage with tea and cakes. Many thanks to Grayham, Paul, David, Terry, Tony, Jackie, Karen, Lesley and Graham, Barrie and Mary (and others to whom I apologise for missing them out), with special thanks to Carolyn who not only worked hard on the carriage but kept the workers supplied with wonderful cakes. Finally thanks to Kathryn who generously paid for the presence of the Swindon Band. However, work is not complete; the outside at both ends and the far side of the carriage still need much work. Read below how you can help.



Review of Last Month's Events

Events in May

Last month started with another great comedy evening compered by Matt Roseblade who introduced another team of talented comedians. The Goods Shed was open on Wacky Races Day and Just Jive's Jimmy Hannaway and Sarah Vernon, along with an enthusiastic group of friends, danced on the outside performance area to help draw the crowds. Jill Dodge and her team of volunteers served teas and cakes provided by yet more wonderful volunteer ladies. Who will be the first man to bake and supply a cake, I wonder? Later that week, Tom Carradine's Cockney Singalong was great fun for those who attended.

The next event was Kottos, a very talented group of Danish musicians with an unusual line-up that included a Russian Bayan concert accordion and a lady who played her way through five different recorders, sometimes in the same musical piece! The highlight of the month for many was Andrea Valeri and his guitar. A very amusing personality with virtuoso skill on his instrument, he had his own musical slant on a varied selection of modern and old favourites. What a guitarist. And what a pity that the attendance for him and other performers at the Good Shed is often low because people are wary of trying something new and unknown. Let's all make a resolution to attend at least one event every month. For the Royal Wedding a big screen viewing of the television broadcast was organized with delicious cream teas to accompany it. This created a great communal atmosphere and we hope to expand on this kind of event in the future. At the end of the month the Goods Shed supported Woolsack Day with more sales of tea and cake all provided by our saintly volunteers.

The Thursday night film showings started with a disappointing turnout for Boyhood, then a better attendance for Bridge of Spies, which was an excellent film. Tommy, alas, had a lesser audience but 141 people showed up for The Greatest Showman, obviously something of a cult film for some people. This demonstrated what we can achieve. The audience was not as many for the Death of Stalin which, in the opinion of your lowly scribe, was a brilliant satire, very funny and by some accounts not too far from the truth!



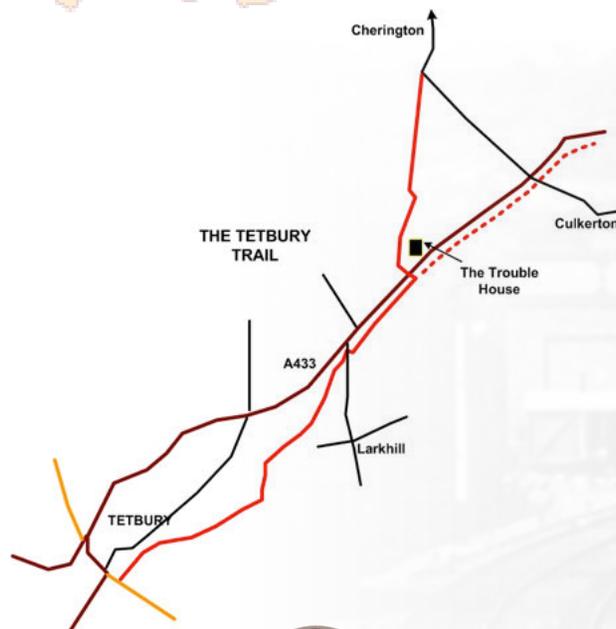
Tetbury Trail

The Tetbury Rail Lands Regeneration Trust has been working to extend the multi-user path known as the Tetbury Trail that mainly follows the course of the old Tetbury to Kemble Branch Line. Following the agreement with Mike Tucker a public bridleway was opened across his land in November 2016. Since then the Trust has been working with the Duchy of Cornwall and Gloucestershire County Council to create a bridleway along the Duchy's section of the old railway line. On 11th May the deed of dedication was complete and the Duchy section of railbed became legally a public bridleway. We are grateful to HRH The Prince of Wales for granting this right of way. Thanks also to the Mid Cotswolds Tracks & Trails Group, the British Horse Society, Heaven of the South Mountain Biking, Nicholas Holden, South Cotswolds Ramblers, Springfields Motors, Lions Club of Tetbury, Roger & Margaret Hill, Corinium Cycle Club and Beaufort Hunt Supporters for contributing towards the legal costs and to David Wilson for constructing the access ramp down from the Newnton Hill Road and removing the fallen tree. Thanks to Mike Tucker for donating the brash and to the Cotswold Wardens for clearing the path.

The small section of land that connects the end of the Duchy's section of railway line to the Trouble House was kindly donated by Patrick and Joanna Keen and has already been dedicated as a bridleway. This links up with the existing bridleway which runs along the left of the Trouble house and then angles off to the right to meet the road between Culkerton and Cherington. Cyclists can turn left when they get to the road and after half a mile meet the NCN 45 which they can follow to Kemble Station and Cirencester.

The Tetbury Trail now stretches for three miles from the Malmesbury Road to the Culkerton-Cherington road and can be used by walkers, riders, joggers and cyclists. We intend to lay a crushed limestone surface similar to the original cycle/foot path section that will be suitable for all users and particularly people in wheelchairs and mobility scooters.

Ever since the old branch line closed in 1964 the railbed has been used informally by local people for walking, riding and cycling. Unlike the Nailsworth branch the railbed was sold off to individual landowners and four years ago a large fence was erected near the Trouble House to stop people travelling further along the line towards Culkerton. If you used this section of the railbed in the past or you would just like to help extend and maintain the Tetbury Trail please get in touch with Paul Lockley, tel: 503785 or email: paul_lockley@hotmail.com.





Volunteer News

"Thank you to everyone who volunteered last month. We are very proud of the fact that we are offering such a diverse range of events and that volunteers step into such a large range of roles. A big thank you to all the volunteers who helped on the 2 bank holidays - both raised substantial funds for the Shed - and also to those who helped at the Royal Wedding event which was a tremendous success.

On the exhibitions front, we welcome Adele Dark, who will be helping to coordinate this area. The exhibition by the costume designer was very well received and the volunteers enjoyed the presentation. The cafe volunteers are enjoying working with Sasha and there has been a great atmosphere with the sunny weather. There will be upcoming training on the coffee machine for anyone interested. There is a steadily growing cinema group of volunteers - thank you to all those who have trained as projectionists - it has proved to be quite an easy task. We are aiming to show children's films during school holidays on a Thursday afternoon - if you would like to help during these times, please let Sally know. The projects group have still got much work to do on the carriage and would welcome anyone who would like to help in the cleaning and repainting work. It's a lovely way to spend a summer's day in the sun. Just turn up at the carriage at 9.30am on any Tuesday but preferably make contact first, see below. We are also looking for cleaning team of volunteers for the Goods Shed. We have a lot of windows and a large wooden floor that needs attention.

We hope you enjoy the upcoming summer. As we are all busy, it can sometimes be a bit of a scramble to find volunteers during this time, so just a gentle plea to check Dutyman.biz occasionally and sign up to volunteer where you are able. We are always keen to get young people involved in Goods Shed activities - do you have any 16+ children or grandchildren who need something to do in the summer? It would look good on their CVs.

If you know of anyone who may be interested in joining as a volunteer, please feel free to pass our contact details on. (Office - Christine Berry 01666 503076) (Events - Jennie Horton 01666 503569) (Bar - Ros Tildesley 01666 502882) (Café - Caroline Morgan 01666 505744) (Projects - David Walker 01666 500137) (Cinema - Sally Battersby 01666 504473) (Exhibition Stewards - Caroline Morgan 01666 505744)



From the Archive

Most people will know that the current long term carpark by the Goods Shed was once where the railway sidings and coal yard used to be. This month's picture shows the 6-ton yard crane on its concrete plinth that used to occupy a part of the site. It was manually operated and the big winding handle can be seen on the near side. The Goods Shed can be seen on the right and to the left is the engine shed. This photo was taken in 1963 and one of the main differences from now is the lack of the very tall trees that have since grown up alongside the cliff face. There is some debate about the lifting capacity of this crane. Stephen Randolf describes it as a 6-ton crane but there are some who think it looks more like a 2-ton crane. Any comments welcome!



Contact us if you have any questions or wish to contribute to the newsletter: Kathryn Limoi, office@shed-arts.co.uk, 01666 505496 (9am – 5pm, Tues-Thurs) or David Walker, opheliatheboat@gmail.com. 01666 500137.