



FRIENDS OF THE GOODS SHED

FRIENDS OF THE GOODS SHED FOGS NEWSLETTER No. 2



NEW TRUSTEES

The Chair of the Board of Trustees, Christine Berry, writes to introduce our new Trustees:

"We were very pleased to appoint four new Trustees and welcome them formally to their first board meeting on 21st October. We hope that they will enjoy working for this inspiring project and know they have many skills to bring to our Board. They are Richard Lark, Douglas Looman, Rob McCorkell and Colin Pearce. They have joined at an exciting time.



Richard is a long standing supporter of the Arts Centre and many of you might have met him as one of the friendly faces running the bar on many big events. He has been keen to be more involved and in particular will oversee our marketing policy, along with giving us the benefit of his practical, pragmatic and business-focused skills.

Douglas Looman



Richard Lark

Douglas is relatively new to Tetbury but has been a frequent visitor to the Goods Shed. He has wide experience as a trustee of large community projects, including work in the arts as a trustee of the Natural Theatre Company in Bath, so we are looking forward to benefitting from some expert advice.

Many people will know **Rob** McCorkell as a Tetbury Town Councillor and currently Deputy Mayor, although he is not on our Board as a Council representative. He is currently serving as a trustee of the Dolphins Hall and Recreation Ground. We are keen to enhance the provision of community and entertainment events in Tetbury alongside the Dolphins Hall and welcome the connection. He is also the festival director of Didmarton Bluegrass Festival, which is now the largest bluegrass music festival in the UK, so watch out for a new strand of entertainment down at the Goods Shed. Behind it all he will become our Finance Director.



Rob McCorkell likes his bluegrass music



Colin Pearce

Colin, who has lived in Tetbury all his life, is a Council member, runs a local business and will help us in any way he can. He has been involved with putting on the wonderful Tetfest of the last few years. He is ready to cast a practised eye on our viability and has kindly offered his practical advice and help too. He is very keen that the Goods Shed should serve our community well and run on solid financial



There are 6 more Trustees. I am Chair and Company Secretary and I oversee the essential army of volunteers who man all events and exhibitions and work in all aspects of running the Goods Shed. John Andrews, a former Chair, is about to retire after being a leading force in setting up the Arts Centre, attracting large donations to our cause just as we needed them and introducing us to artists of all kinds, classical and jazz musicians, speakers on science and nature and exhibitions from the Royal Academy in Bristol. We are very grateful to him for his hard work and hope that he will continue to advise us. Stephen Hirst is a well-known figure in Tetbury, and a Town Council appointed Trustee who has a long term view, having been on the Board since 2003! Claire Jefferies is the busy HR professional who has advised us on all aspects of employing staff and is a strong supporter of comedy and film at the Goods Shed. Simon Rawlins is our accountant who puts in many hours of professional work every month as a volunteer, as well as working in the bar. He set up the cinema nights, which have brought a welcome new service to Tetbury, allowing us to see weekly films of all kinds on our doorstep. More recently Trustee Richard Warrington has been running the cinema committee and making himself very useful on the Development Committee as we try to plan the improvement of the facilities at the Goods Shed. You will have been able to read his article about this in the last FoGS newsletter. Richard has kindly agreed to take over as Chair at the end of the year.

We will need help and energy from all of our Trustees and the tireless David Walker, editor of these newsletters, acting Secretary and rock, as we begin to move forward on developing the next phase of the Tetbury Goods Shed project, which although already a resounding success still needs better facilities to make our visitors' and performers' experience even more attractive."





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NEW DRAIN



Since the Goods Shed opened in its refurbished form we have occasionally had our hearts in our mouths as floodwater has lapped up to the back door. More than once during downpours a gang of stalwarts has gathered, often late at night, with sandbags, pumps and brooms to hold back the tide. The Goods Shed sits at the bottom of a valley and the road at its back acts as a sump. The original drain and soakaway could just not cope with anything more than a light shower but, as it is on Council Land, the Council has now stepped in and created a new drain with a cavernous new soakaway under the gravel by the carriage. We are very relieved that the flood gang can now stand down.

HERITAGE EVENING - 2 DEC 2019

Please don't forget Track Tales, our special event to commemorate 130 years since the railway arrived in Tetbury on 2nd December 1889. We shall be premiering the specially commissioned film of memories of the Tetbury branch and will also have some models of Tetbury station as it was.

RECENT EVENTS

Music. The Dursley Male Voice Choir returned on Friday 11 October to give us another rousing choral evening. The choir is lucky to have two brilliant pianists in the form of their musical director, Barrie Cooper, and Matt Sharpe, the principal accompanist. Both played excellent piano solos, while the choir took a break, and then they joined together in a wonderful four hander. On the 12th the Ironmasters provided the music for a ceilidh which was unfortunately very poorly attended unlike Whole Lotta Led on the following day which was a sell-out. On 26 October Keith James gave a concert of Leonard Cohen's most enduring songs which was much appreciated by the audience. Kiki Dee on 1 November was a sell-out and was an amazing experience for the audience. Kiki Dee herself was most complimentary about Tetbury and the Goods Shed.



The Dursley Male Voice Choir in full flow

Recent events cont...





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RECENT EVENTS



Talks. On 25th September Dr Piers Brendan's talk, Churchill's Bestiary, was about Winston Churchill's conflicting feelings for, and involvement with, all kinds of animals. On 30th October Judith Dimant MBE talked in "London to Broadway and Back" about her years as a producer for one of the world's most renowned touring theatre companies

Cinema. Films in October started with Only You and then Aladdin with Rocketman being a real draw on the 17th with almost a full house. This was followed by Sometimes Always Never, a tragicomedy starring Bill Nighy as Bill Nighy – sorry - as a father who has lost his son (apparently because of the inadmissibility of the word "zo" in scrabble.) Nighy plays his part with a droll sprightliness and deadpan wit but these mask his emotional pain.

Tea Concerts Tea concerts have continued through October and continue to be popular as a venue to meet, socialise and listen to a range of interesting live music.

PIANO SERIES

November sees the official launch and first concert in our much anticipated Piano Series. This has been 9 months in the planning and we are absolutely delighted to be putting on a series of 4 world class piano focussed classical concerts over the next 6 months given on our beautiful Steinway piano. Curated by pianist William Howard, we have managed to secure some of the rising stars as well as some of the leading lights in the classical world today.

Our first concert will be on Saturday 16th November and features the fabulous and highly critically acclaimed Carducci Quartet. They will be joined by William Howard to give a performance of the glorious Dvorak Piano Quintet. We still have some tickets available for this concert though these are going fast!

There is also an opportunity to subscribe to the whole series for a heavily discounted rate of £60 for all 4 concerts. This also includes a special drinks reception on Sunday 10th November to launch the series at which we are delighted that William has agreed to give a short solo performance. Please call the office on 01666 505 496 or see our website for details (search Piano Series). Please note that this is a limited offer. We very much hope to see you at one, if not all of these very special concerts.



CONGRATULATIONS TO JILL DODGE



Jill Dodge is presented with her award by the Mayor

Jill Dodge was nominated for a Tetbury Dolphins "Inspirational Award" to recognise her outstanding work for the community. Jill has been amazing for over 7 years or more, doing everything she can to raise funds for the Goods Shed. She has been running a stall outside the Shed on Saturdays since the early days, selling books and much more, including dahlias and other flowers in the autumn, despite some serious health problems. She does all the traditional fundraising activities, coffee mornings, tombolas, leaflet distributing, cake sales, ticket sales and is personally responsible for raising well over £10,000, all donated to Goods Shed Projects. We are really proud of her and would like to congratulate her. Jill is just bemused that of all things she has been recognised for selling flowers - our very own Eliza Doolittle!





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WHISTLE STOP CAFÉ

The café continues to prosper under the management of Sasha Jenner and her team of professionals and volunteers. Sales reached a record high in the summer and all profits are ploughed back into the Goods Shed so please continue to make full use of the cafe, especially as winter approaches and turnover inevitably drops. The cinema suppers have now been suspended until the new year. In September Ruby Chidley, who had been working as a paid helper since the spring, joined the café team as a salaried employee. She is a great asset and we are proud to have her aboard.



Ruby Chidley has joined the café



U3A

The U3A's October talk on the 17th was given by Douglas Looman, one of our new Trustees. He described the operations of the Wiltshire Air Ambulance for which he is a volunteer. The next U3A talk at the Goods Shed will be given on 20th November (10.00 for 10.30 am) by Brigadier Bruce Jackman OBE MC and will be about the Gurkha Welfare Trust and the history of the Gurkhas. Your editor had the honour of serving in Hong Kong with Bruce and the Brigade of Gurkhas and so can strongly recommend this lecture and its aims. Don't forget that if you would like to come to this and similar talks, join the Tetbury branch of U3A - <https://tetburyu3a.org.uk>

EXHIBITIONS



The photos above are all from Nat Morley's recent "Cut to the Chase" exhibition:team.

We welcome Sue Dyke as the new exhibition stewards' coordinator. If you would like to work as a steward at exhibitions please give her a call on 01666 504276.

An exhibition of woodcut prints and oil paintings, Cut to the Chase, by Nat Morley has hung in the Goods Shed throughout October. Her work reflects a passionate interest in the natural world. Nat says "I see my work as a celebration of my love for wildlife and try to capture a feeling of movement, vitality and humour in my pictures". Certainly her works, including her greetings cards which have also been on sale, have been very popular with the public. On display in November are Steve Russell's magnificent photographs of "Mountains of the Moon". Don't miss his talk on 27th November at the Goods Shed at 7.30pm.

Community Art Exhibition. The entries to the Community Art Exhibition will be on show in the Goods Shed from Wednesday 11th December to 21st December so do, please, make an effort to see this local talent on display. The works will be available for purchase from 12th December.






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FROM THE ARCHIVE

THE MALMESBURY BRANCH LINE

The Malmesbury branch line has a history very similar to Tetbury's in many ways. There were several schemes from as early as 1843 which aimed to put Malmesbury on to the railway system. The first realistic project was the same one that almost put Tetbury on the railway map, an attempt by the Midland Railway (MR) to infiltrate Great Western Railway (GWR) territory. So cunning was the plan that they called the proposed line the Wiltshire and Gloucester Railway or WGR, a clever twist on GWR. It was to extend the MR Stonehouse to Nailsworth branch through Tetbury and Malmesbury connecting at Christian Malford with the GWR line between Wootton Bassett and Chippenham. This railway was authorised in 1864 but the GWR fought back and the railway was never started, or was it? There is some evidence that the tunnel at Malmesbury under Holloway Hill was certainly started and possibly completed under the auspices of the WGR before the WGR was finally dissolved in 1870. Also the station is in an unusual position for a branch line. Usually railway companies saved money by siting a terminus station on the approach side of the town but Malmesbury station was positioned past the centre of the town making it closer to Tetbury, indeed, almost as if it was going to continue to Tetbury.





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An N-gauge model of the Malmesbury terminus. The station is where the fire station now is and the long term carpark is where the goods shed was.

The railway finally began to come to fruition after a meeting of local people in 1871 and the incorporation of the Malmesbury Railway Company (MRC) on 25 Jul 1872, however, by 1874 the share issue had only raised £18,000 of the £60,000 needed so the GWR stepped in to provide the necessary capital as well as all the rolling stock and staff needed. In 1880 the GWR bought out the remaining shares in MRC and the latter was fully absorbed. The initial route of the MRC was from a junction with the GWR Chippenham to Bath line at Dauntsey to Malmesbury, a total of 6½ miles, with a single station, Great Somerford, in between. In 1903 the GWR built the Badminton line to make a shorter route from Swindon to the new Severn tunnel and on into South Wales. This line was 2¾ miles nearer Malmesbury than Dauntsey and so crossed over the Malmesbury branch line near Little Somerford. In 1933, the GWR decided to make the junction for the branch line at Little Somerford and to close the line between there and Dauntsey. This was advantageous for goods and passengers going to London or Bristol but had a bad effect on the trade between Malmesbury and Chippenham. The Malmesbury line suffered an earlier demise than Tetbury. All scheduled passenger services ceased in 1951 and the goods service closed in November 1962 with the line being dismantled in 1963.

Like Tetbury the Malmesbury station originally had a station, a goods shed, an engine shed and a cattle loading dock. Unlike Tetbury it had two run-round lines, one of which ran through the engine shed. All that now remains is the engine shed which is being used as a Kwikfit centre (see photos on the web when you search for "Kwikfit Malmesbury".) For those that didn't know, the station area was on the left bank of the Avon below the abbey in what is now Old Station Mews where the fire station and car park is.

VOLUNTEER NEWS

We always welcome new volunteers and there is something for everyone at the Goods Shed. We run training courses so there is no need to feel that you would not be able to do anything. If you can spare some time to help out please feel free to come to an event and ask any volunteer on duty how you can help; or contact the individuals below:

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 - Sue Dykes 01666 504276

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, Thurs-Saturday), or David Walker, opheliatheboat@gmail.com. 01666 500137, or visit the Goods Shed itself by the long stay car park - for satnav use GL8 8EY.