

TETBURY GOODS SHED

A R T S C E N T R E

Community, Creativity, Culture - shed-arts.com

FoGS Newsletter Jul 2017

Newsletter Returns

Although we trust you have been receiving your electronic updates on the events at the Goods Shed, after a break of several months we are reviving the newsletter with its more gossipy content about the other goings-on at the shed. We shall initially be lacking the slick graphic design of earlier issues and would be grateful for anyone who could help us add that professional touch. Are you good with a computer or do you know any whizz-kid teenagers who could contribute their skills? Or perhaps you could even take on the editorship of this newsletter. Please let me know.

Whistle Stop Café Opens



The Goods Shed opened its very own licensed café on 11 July – the Whistle Stop. It is managed by an experienced and very welcoming full time manager, Sally Walker. A few downpours on the first day did nothing to hinder the enjoyment of the first customers and the official launch party on Saturday 15 July was a great success. Sally and her assistant, Suzie, are to be congratulated on the fine food and friendly service. The café is currently open 9am to 5pm daily (but likely to be changed), except for Mondays, and serves proper coffee and

delicious refreshments as well as scrumptious breakfasts and lunches. It is child-, dog- and bike-friendly so please give it a try as soon as you can. As well as a covered area there are 6 picnic tables up on the old cattle loading platform providing an idyllic setting in the park lands. Enjoy a virtuous walk or bike ride along the old railway bed and then go the Whistle Stop for your well deserved reward, knowing that all money spent there will help towards further development of the Goods Shed.

Construction News

The main contractor has now long since departed the site and the Goods Shed has all its main structure, fixtures and fittings in place. These include the amazing retractable seats, the secondary glazing and a wonderful new kitchen. There are, of course, many things that we would still like to do: install a stage lighting system, a PA system and restore the old canopy among others. There are also longer term plans that need to be made to add a bar/reception area, replace the current container with proper storage facilities,



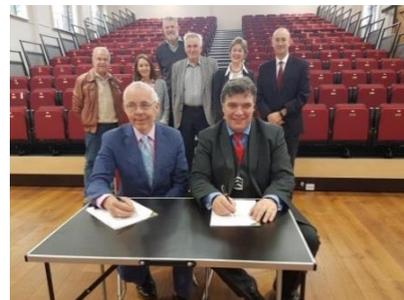
increase the space available for performers to get ready, obtain a dedicated arts and craft studio and install a cinema.

Cinema

You will recall that we have always had plans for a state-of-the-art cinema system for the Goods Shed. At the last time of looking this system cost well over £80,000 and that is a bit beyond our current finances. As a temporary measure the Trust made a bid for the old equipment used at Thornbury and was successful, obtaining it at no cost. We did, however, have to buy a brand new 6m wide, roll-down screen and at the moment we are designing the necessary fixtures to attach this 100kg monster screen to the wall.

Lease and Licence

In a short ceremony back on Friday 28 Mar 2017, Will Cook, as Chairman of TRLRT, signed the lease agreement with Tetbury Town Council for the Goods Shed. The lease is for 25 years and is at a peppercorn rent in recognition of the contribution that the Trust has made to the redevelopment and in the knowledge that any surpluses the Trust may generate will be used to improve the facilities or to support other initiatives in the Town.



We were granted a premises licence in April. Although the licence allows us a closing time of 11pm on weekdays the original planning consent for the Goods Shed dictates a closing time of 10pm and the Trust will be enforcing this earlier time. Another unfortunate consequence of the original planning consent is that we are not authorized to hold private parties.

A Successful Start to the Events Programme

Starting back in March we have had a successful programme of events unfold at the Goods Shed. As of early July we had sold over £25,000 of tickets. The events have included classical concerts, a jazz evening, a ceilidh, choir performances, a one-man theatre production, art exhibitions, children's events, lectures and craft courses. There have also been a couple of farmers' markets with a tea and cake stalls. We have to thank Nicola Clark for launching this programme and mapping out the way ahead throughout the spring and early summer, especially as she did it all on a voluntary basis. In April we appointed Helen Hyde as part-time Arts Centre Manager on a 6-month contract and she has done a wonderful job of organizing the Goods Shed and its volunteers and continuing to arrange an eclectic programme of events. We have advertised for a part-time Arts Director and an Arts Centre Administrator to take over when Helen leaves.

Volunteers

The Trustees would like to thank all the volunteers who have assisted at events and allowed the Goods Shed to put on its great programme of arts happenings. We have all been finding our feet and our organization is becoming more adept. We have instigated training sessions to teach volunteers the elements of being a duty manager, an event manager and a qualified member of the bar staff. We now have a system called Dutyman whereby anybody with a computer who has registered can now volunteer for particular events that appeal to them. If you haven't already, register with Helen Hyde by emailing - office@shed-arts.co.uk - or telephoning 01666 505496 (Mondays and Thursdays).

Easy Fundraising

If you are an internet shopper, do please sign up to easyfundraising.org.uk and nominate "Tetbury Goods Shed" as your charity of choice. It really takes very little effort, costs you nothing but means a lot to the Goods Shed. Those few who have already signed up continue to raise a modest but regular donation to the Goods Shed. There is the potential to raise hundreds of pounds by this means if more people join in. Go to the Goods Shed website and sign up now. We need every penny.

Railway Stories

Continuing the series of reporting memories of the Tetbury branch line:

"Like my sister, DH, I have vivid memories of living at The Crown pub and then next to the Tetbury Railway Station in a bungalow where The Old Rope Walk now is.

The most colourful events at the station were the arrival of special chartered trains bearing maharajahs and their polo ponies and entourage. In 1933 the Maharajah of Jaipur brought 39 ponies and their 51 'syces' (pronounced 'sais'), the Indian name for a groom. From the station they would all walk to Pinkney Court and Farm, so they could use Downs farm at Westonbirt.

I remember the Maharajah of Kashmir arrived in 1935 with 44 ponies and 33 syces. Some pals and I followed them on our bikes to Westonbirt. By the time the first ponies had reached Doughton, the last ones were just disembarking the train! It was always such a colourful affair, with the syces dressed in their traditional Indian costume.

An eccentric character to arrive at Tetbury Station was Prince Monolulu. He was a famous horse racing tipster who dressed in colourful baggy trousers, sashes round his waist, white spats, fancy waistcoats and always a huge ostrich feather plumed hat. He had a famous call "I got an 'orse, I got an 'orse!!" and claimed he was a Zulu prince or chief of the Falasha tribe of Abyssinia. He was in fact Peter Carl Mackay, from St Croix in the Danish West Indies - now part of the American Virgin Islands. He would travel down from London to go to the Didmarton Point to Point.



As a child our annual holiday was to go on the Tetbury Flyer to Paddington. The highlight for us was to spend most of the day in Hamley's toy shop and then go to a steak house for supper before catching the late train home to Tetbury.

My mother took in lots of lodgers, first in the Crown and then in the bungalow by the station. As a lot of them were railway employees, drivers and firemen, they had an easy commute to work!

I remember many troops arriving direct from Dunkirk. The whole town turned out to give them food, drinks, blankets and cigarettes. I helped to hand things out and the troops were dispersed to various local camps." DB.

From the Archive:

The Engine Shed and Goods Shed in 1889

Just before the line opened in December 1889 a reporter from the Tetbury Advertiser wrote a description of the new works. Here is an extract: "... On the opposite side of the railway, further north (of the station), is placed the engine-house, a very strong brick building, 44 ft by 20 ft, capable of receiving one of the engines and tenders in general use on the Great Western line, at the south end of which, on the roof, is erected a large tank, which will receive 4,000 gallons of water. This is supplied from a well sunk 30 ft below the ground or



Tetbury Engine Shed.

290.00 O.D., and it is a moot point whether, in dry seasons, it will not affect the supply of water in parts contiguous to the station. The diameter of the well, clear of the brickwork is 7 ft. It is intended that this well shall supply all the water that is to be used on the station premises, the well which was sunk near the goods shed not having been requisitioned. It will be the aim of the authorities to keep up a full supply of water – especially in view of the proposed cattle-market – the cattle-pens and lavatory offices being constructed with all the necessary sanitary requirements." Those of you who read Issue 1 of

the newsletter in August last year may remember the article about finding the well near the goods shed. From the above it would appear it was constructed but never used. The water tank on the engine shed was supplied from another well that lay between the enginemen's cabin and the rear of the shed. Water was raised by a small surface steam pump, powered by the branch loco when standing inside the shed and beneath the tank.

We trust that you have found the new website – www.shed-arts.co.uk which gives you details of what is on at the Goods Shed and also allows you to buy tickets on line.

Any feedback please to the (current) editor: David Walker, email opheliatheboat@gmail.com or phone Tetbury 500137.