



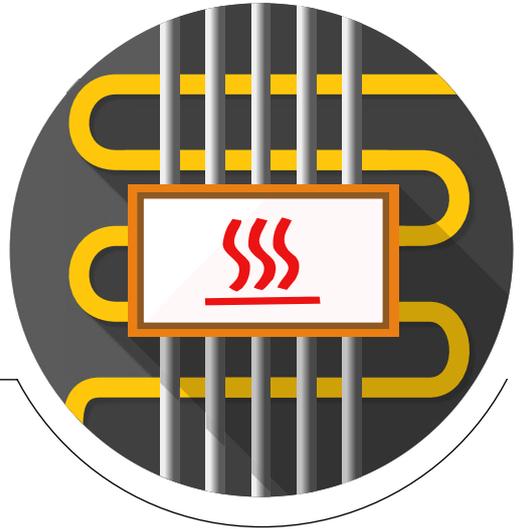
A warm welcome awaits...

THE UNDERFLOOR HEATING system has now been installed and we must wait a few weeks for the concrete to dry out before laying the engineered oak floor.

Meanwhile the roof on the annexe has been constructed and the services to the kitchen and toilets installed. Still to come is the fitting of secondary glazing in the main hall, the installation of sanitary ware, floors, doors and windows in the annexe

and the glass foyer in front of the sliding doors.

Phase 1 is still on schedule for completion by Christmas, at which time it is planned that the Trust will sign a 25-year lease of the building and its immediate surrounds from the town council. We then enter Phase 2, the most important part of which will be the installation of the retractable seating.



Goods Shed business plan

THE TRUST HAS UPDATED its business plan. Its vision remains: to give the people of Tetbury and surrounding area a first-rate, modern arts centre providing an eclectic programme of events and performances of the highest quality.

It will, however, also host a variety of other activities in order to serve the needs of the community and, more importantly, to generate the necessary funds to pay its own way, subsidise local arts and invest in building improvements.

The business plan sees the areas of activities as: live performances of music and drama of all genres, cinema, hire of

the hall by the hour for clubs and social activities, corporate and private hire for events and celebrations, exhibitions, arts and crafts courses, operation of a café and the holding of Sunday farmers' markets and craft fairs. We shall be looking for a full-time Arts Centre Manager to coordinate all these activities.

With the contribution of £136,700 to the town council to help pay for Phase 1 and the purchase of seating, most of the Trust's current capital will soon be spent and it is seeking another £75,000 in Phase 2 to invest in the equipment needed to allow it to run all of its planned activities and to provide working capital.



THERE WAS A GOOD turnout for the presentation to the public of the Trust's progress and its future plans regarding the Goods Shed – although the images of old photos of the branch line were, as often, the most popular item. We met some very interested and interesting people. Maggi Stamp-Loshak took the opportunity to seek out some of the memories of our older visitors (see "Railway Stories" on page 2). Many thanks to the members of Christ Church for letting us use their hall.

Upcoming events

10 November 2016

Bring and Buy Coffee Morning at 3 Northleaze. From 10am.

1 December 2016

Tetbury's Christmas Lights switch-on Visit the Goods Shed stall from 5pm.

17 December 2016

"Bunches and Baskets". Jill Dodge's Christmas decorations. Market Hall

23 December 2016

Carol Service in or near the Shed. 6pm.

1 January 2017

New Year's Walk to Trouble House Halt. Meet at the Shed at 10.30am.

27 March 2017

Performance by Tetbury's Community Choir

May 2017

Performance by Dursley Male Voice Choir

Tetbury Rail Lands Regeneration Trust works in partnership with Tetbury Town Council to manage and develop the town's former railway lands.





DOES ANYBODY KNOW of a decent grand piano that is doing nothing and looking for a good home? Could it be put to good use in the Goods Shed pending the purchase of our own concert



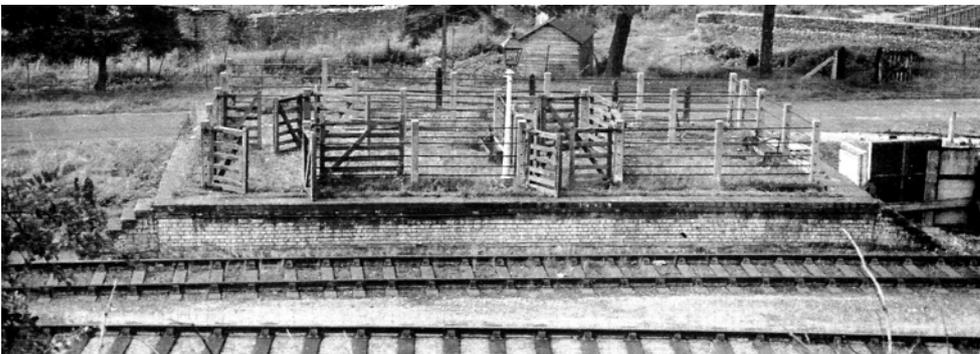
Seat appeal latest

THANK YOU AGAIN for the terrific response to the Seat Appeal. As at the end of October we had over 135 seats sponsored – more than two thirds of the way to the target.

We expect to place the order for the seating very soon which should see it all fitted by March 2017.

If you have not considered it so far, it might soon be too late to be able to have that tangible reminder of someone or something close to your heart. Do you have a great bunch of neighbours? What about clubbing together to have a seat named after your road so there is a permanent memory of that friendship?

From the Archive: The cattle loading dock



THE CATTLE LOADING DOCK was an important element of the Tetbury branch line. It was completed soon after the line opened in 1889, along with the new cattle market at the bottom of Gumstool Hill. When first built it had wooden posts and fencing but much of that was later replaced with concrete and steel.

The recently-renovated platform now has wooden posts and steel pipe railings along the edges. Those at the front are removable to enable it to be used as an outside performance area. Originally the loading dock had a gas lamp post and running water from the adjacent well (see FoGS Newsletter Issue 1), essential for cleaning

up after the animals. The resulting effluent ran into a slurry pit, the remains of which can still be seen to the right of the platform looking from the path.

As many will know, the county boundary used to run along the Splash, which meant that animals from the cattle market in Gloucestershire had to cross over into Wiltshire to catch the train. This caused problems when a movement ban was imposed in one of the counties because of swine fever or other animal diseases, preventing the use of the cattle loading dock. Fortunately the county boundary was shifted in 1930 to the line of the Fosse Way.

RAILWAY MEMORIES

First in a new series reporting memories of the Tetbury branch line:

"I LIVED ON FOX HILL as a girl, next door to the Fox Inn. As a teenager I used to sit on a wall and watch the trains come and go. I watched as troops returning from war filed wearily onto the platform looking exhausted and dishevelled. Some were on home leave, and some were heading to Beverston or Long Newnton, where there were military camps, for rest and recuperation.

"I married an Air Force crew man who rode the bomb turret. He had been sent to Long Newnton for recuperation as he was suffering from exhaustion after too many bombing raids and seeing too many friends lost in aircraft that were shot down as they all flew alongside one another. When we married, our first home was one of the army huts at Long Newnton until a house could be found for us in Tetbury. It was a simple start to our married life but we were warm, dry, comfortable and happy.

"One person, Pat Brain, was always late for her train to work, and if she came running down Fox Hill as the train was just puffing out of the station and round the corner, someone would shout to the driver. He'd stop and reverse to the platform and wait for Pat to climb aboard before setting off again." - RW

Apology

MANY APOLOGIES from the editor for accidentally exposing some email addresses during the distribution of the October FoGS newsletter. It is our policy to keep such information private. The malefactor is suitably penitent.