

Friends of the Goods Shed

Community, Creativity, Culture

FoGS Newsletter No 32 – April 2020



**NORMAL
SERVICE
WILL BE
RESUMED**



**AS SOON AS
POSSIBLE**



Coronavirus and the Goods Shed

Welcome to an unusual issue of the Newsletter. The Goods Shed postponed all its planned events on 16 March in line with the government's advice regarding the Covid-19 coronavirus pandemic. The café stayed open for a more few days as a take-away but had to close on Sunday 22 March, but many thanks to Sasha and Catherine for soldiering on and doing remarkable business with just the two of them and Steve working. There are many challenges lying ahead but we are all determined that the Goods Shed will see them through and embark again on its mission to make the arts available to all in the Tetbury community.

A message from the Chair of the Trust, Richard Warrington:

"These are unprecedented times and decisions have to be made on daily bases which sometimes then have to be changed as the Government brings out new directives, guidance or advice. It continues to be a very challenging time for the Trustees and volunteers of TRLRT - Tetbury Goods Shed (TGS).

The first decision we had to make was to close TGS to all its events and we decided this would be for March and April, but the expectation is that this will have to be extended further - we are just confirming that May, June and July events will also have to be postponed. The key point is that we are postponing and re-arranging, wherever possible, rather than cancelling. The difficulty is that we do not know at this time when events will be able to be put on again - but now, at the end of March, we are hoping that September may be the target date - so new dates will generally be in the autumn 2020 onwards.

At the time of closing TGS to events, we did decide to keep the Whistle Stop Cafe open but within 3 days of that decision the Government announced the closure of pubs, restaurants and cafes. We then planned to offer a takeaway service, which worked very well for 3 days but again the Government banned any groups congregating and no more than 1 outside activity per day (dog-walking or general exercise), so we felt the opportunity to offer takeaways from the Cafe were limited. We considered doing deliveries, but felt that other businesses around Tetbury were more geared up for that service, so we closed the Cafe.

This was very frustrating, but we considered what the Government was asking all of us to do and felt that we did not want to put our staff in the Cafe at undue risk and we also didn't want to encourage the public to venture to the Cafe in contravention of any Government guidelines; another difficult decision.

So, we no longer have any income, however, we have been taking measures to reduce our outlays:

- We have turned down our heating (not off completely, as there are still nights when temperatures could drop below freezing, so we have a system that monitors temperature falls and keeps the heating on at a low level when necessary).*

- We have put the Cafe paid staff on 'furlough', so they will be receiving the 80% pay benefit from the Government when it is available, so TGS is covered.*

• We will be doing the same with our other paid staff, once we have completed the work required to re-arrange the events, dealing with ticket refunds etc. We have decided that we should offer refunds, rather than transferring the tickets to the new performance date, because no one is sure that the new date will happen, whether TGS will actually open again, or whether the artists will still be performing - so we felt it was better to refund now, then promote the new event and sell tickets for the new date, when we are confident it is to go ahead.

• We have been going through our finances with a fine tooth-comb to ensure we reduce any unnecessary expenditure - we have cancelled our cleaners, we have reduced our marketing budget whilst maintaining a social media presence and we have reassessed the IT services we need, and taken several other measures.

• We are applying for the deferral or commutation of business rates.

• We have been selling off stock at price paid, that had been bought for the café and the bar, where it was likely to go past sell-by dates – better to have cash than old stock.

• We are reviewing the various grants that may be available from the Government through our local authority, and any loans that could be considered - some loan schemes appear to come with the need for Trustees to provide personal guarantees, but this position is still under review. At present, we are of the view that we are not in a sufficiently strong position to proceed with a business loan, but we shall keep monitoring the situation closely.

• Arts Council Grants - an announcement has been made by the Arts Council proposing that grants may be available for venues such as TGS, but there are caveats as always, so these are being reviewed by the Trustees to assess whether TGS would qualify.

• We have been advised by our insurers that unfortunately our business interruption cover does not extend to this virus, as it isn't a specified disease. This is still being looked into, but the outcome does not appear favourable.

Even though we are looking at any opportunity to raise funds through 'official channels' and reduce our costs, we may still find that we don't have enough funds to take us through to the end of this very difficult time - we are monitoring the position daily, but any help we receive will enable us to be more secure to combat the situation, as the Covid-19 timeline is unknown. We have therefore been asking for donations from the friends and supporters of TGS, which will boost our reserves and help us to keep our head above water.

At the same time, we are also considering how we can keep TGS to the forefront of our many friends' minds - we are hoping to provide some live-streaming linked to the artists who will be appearing at TGS later this year at re-arranged events, so we are keeping the communication lines open through social media (FB, Twitter, Instagram etc.) and also through local papers, radio etc.

We really want to keep TGS alive - we are clearly in a period of shutdown, but we want to re-emerge stronger and able to provide a wide variety of events for the people of Tetbury and surrounding towns and villages. We were making inroads with new audiences - including the younger groups, not just the retired folk! We want to extend our reach and provide a diverse range, but at all times a high quality, of performances.

We are very grateful that our recent request for donations has had a good response - any amount will help us - we dearly want to ride out the storm and be in business come the new dawn.

Thank-you to all our supporters - we look forward to welcoming you back to TGS in the near(ish) future!

Richard Warrington: Chair of Trustees

Donations

We would like to thank all you who have answered the call for donations in response to the current crisis. I try to send a personal thank you where I can so please do remember to give your details when making a donation. If you have donated and not received a reply of some sort, please accept the heartfelt thanks of the Trustees and all members. If you have not donated so far, please do consider it. You can send a cheque to the Treasurer, TRLRT, The Goods Shed, Cirencester Road, Tetbury, GL8 8EY or make a bank transfer to Tetbury Rail Lands Regen Trust, Sort Code 30-92-06, Ac No 00046815 (giving your name and post code as reference). Another option is to go the Goods Shed website and use the "Donate" facility. And please, if you can, allow us to claim Gift Aid on your donation thereby giving us a further 25% of its value. If you do not have the form, please email me and I will provide – opheliatheboat@gmail.com.

Recent Events

Music. The “season” was rounded off by two wonderful classical concerts and an excellent tribute band, all proving very popular with the concert-goers. On 22nd Feb the London Haydn Quartet played Haydn! Opus 76: No 4 (Sunrise), No2 (Fifths) and No 3 (Emperor) to be precise, needless to say a wonderful, faultless performance. On the 23rd Absolute Bowie gave those of a certain age wonderful memories of the late, great David Bowie. Finally on the 14th March Ivana Gavric gave the third in the series of the special piano series concerts. As well as being full of praise for a magnificent, flawless performance my wife was also keen to note that Ivana wore fabulous dresses.

Talks. At the Shed Talk, Women in Art, on 28th February Lynne Gibson attempted to answer the questions: were there any great women artists? if so, where was the evidence? Where were the art works and were they correctly attributed? Lynne is a freelance lecturer in the History of Art. Originally trained as a fine artist she has taught painting, drawing and printmaking in higher and adult education and lectured as an art historian at the universities of Sussex and Bristol. Her talk was very interesting and thought provoking.

Cinema. Before the cinema had to close we were lucky enough to see on 20th Feb Judy, the story of Judy Garland in London at the end of her career. It featured an Oscar winning performance from Renee Zellweger and was very popular with our local film goers. On the 27th Feb the film was Official Secrets based on the true case of Katharine Gun, a translator working for the British security services at the GCHQ surveillance unit in Cheltenham. In 2003, she was astonished to receive an email making it plain she was expected to find out incriminating personal details in the lives of UN representatives from small countries so that they could be blackmailed into voting for the war in Iraq; a popular and thought provoking film. On 5th March we had Bait, a bit of a marmite film, popular with some but a bit weird to others. Tolkien on the 12th, a biographical film about the early life of JRR Tolkien, was not so popular perhaps because of the mixed reviews it had received.

Get Connected

The current crisis may have made many of us feel isolated and cut off from all art, social and leisure activities. It might have made many wish that they understood social media and the internet a bit better instead of leaving all the techno-stuff to their grandchildren. Help is at hand with a new government supported initiative which is perhaps explained in its own words:

GET CONNECTED - *Communication • Entertainment • Staying Safe*

*We want to empower people who've lived happily for years without technology, to learn to use their iPads and iPhones properly. We all have friends and family who've temporarily had to self-isolate, so we've created a free short self-help video for the Silver Surfers. **GET CONNECTED** is for anyone with an iPhone/iPad who'd like to understand how to access a wide variety of entertainment/communication options.*

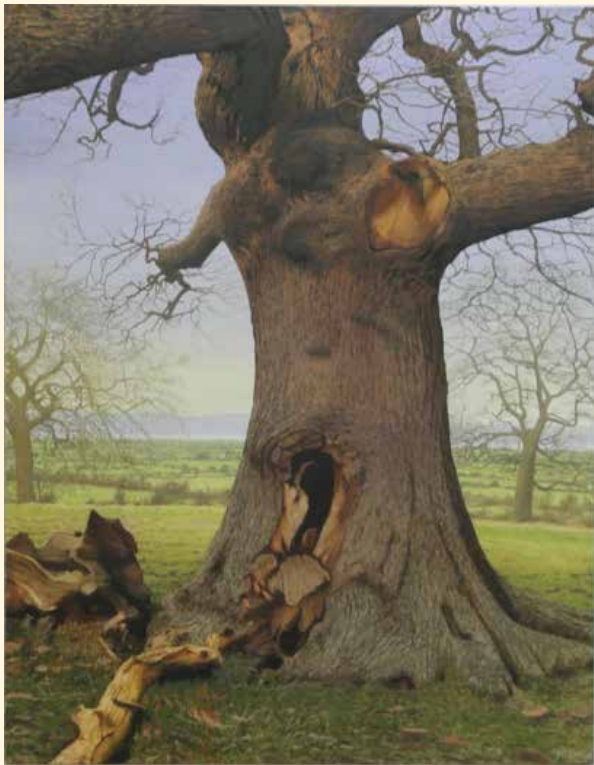
***GET CONNECTED** is a short, 40 minute video, broken into 5 snackable chapters. Watch the whole video in one go, or chapter by chapter. Additionally we have written instructions for each chapter.*

Everything is available at <https://boldnewworld.co.uk/get-connected/>

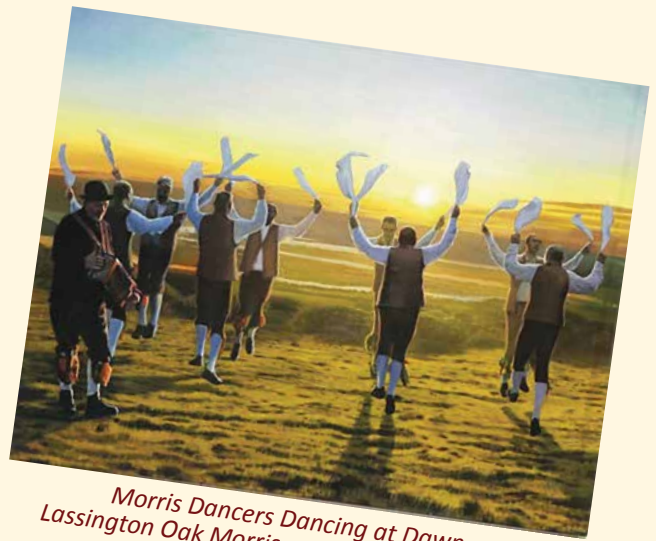
Exhibitions

On display at the Goods Shed from 24 Feb were art works by Rob Collins. This exhibition celebrates some of those things that make Gloucestershire such a great place to live. Rob has made large scale paintings of Gloucestershire woodland, stately trees and delicate woodland flora. There are also large paintings of some of the rites and customs that exist here, cheese rolling, the traditional mummers play and morris dancing on May Hill at dawn on midsummer morning. There are several series of smaller paintings recording the same views at different times of the year capturing the changing seasons. The detail and artistic skill is wonderful to see.

Here are some of the paintings by Rob Collins:



Oak Tree - in the deer park at Ham, near Berkeley



*Morris Dancers Dancing at Dawn -
Lassington Oak Morris on May Hill on May Day*



Cheese Rolling - at Coopers Hill, Gloucestershire

QUIZ

This month's quiz is to see whether you were paying attention when reading previous editions of the newsletter.

1. When did the first scheduled train arrive in Tetbury?
2. What company made the railbuses that were in service on the Tetbury line from 1959 – 1964?
3. What was the name of the military defensive line built in 1940 that passed close by Tetbury and crossed the railway at Larkhill?
4. What used to be on the ground immediately alongside what is now the Goods Shed's (ie Kathryn's) office?
5. How much was a return 2nd class ticket from Tetbury to Paddington in 1896 following the introduction of reduced tariffs. Was it 18s (90p) 24s 6d (£1.23p) or 31s (1.55p)?

Answers to March's quiz.

1. *The Severn at 220 miles is longer than the Thames's 215 miles (but that's without getting into the controversy of whether the source of the Thames should be the start of the Churn at Seven Springs and not Thames Head).*
2. *Leggers' bottom was a complaint suffered by those men who "legged" narrow boats through tunnels, the nearest to Tetbury being the Sapperton tunnel on the Thames and Severn canal. One can only muse about what the condition entailed.*
3. *The three Roman roads that converged on Cirencester were the Fosse Way, Ermine Street and Akeman Street.*
4. *Cullen is a corruption of Cologne from where cullen plates came. They were made of an alloy of copper, zinc, lead and tin and were used to make the memorial plates, or brasses, found on medieval tombs.*
5. *Edward III had his father, Edward II, buried in Gloucester Abbey after he was cruelly murdered in Berkeley castle.*

TETBURY GOODS SHED

ARTS CENTRE

From the Archive

More on the Railway Men of Tetbury

It was very pleasing to recently find that a Tetbury railway man had lived at my current address, 1 Northfield Road, in the 1930s. He was Alfred Charles Eldridge, at that time a fireman. He was born in Kemble on 24 Dec 1901 and entered Great Western Railway (GWR) service on 20 Jan 1918, aged 16. He was promoted to fireman on 6 Jan 1929 and engine driver on 25 Nov 1940. This was the standard progression in those days; twenty years to become a driver was fairly typical. Albert first came to Tetbury in January 1918, had a short spell in Newport before returning in Sep 1923 to Tetbury where he stayed until he became a driver and was transferred to Gloucester with a wage of 12 shillings per day. In 1935 while living in Tetbury he married Gladys May Clarke, a local girl, daughter of James Clarke, a gardener, and Maria Annie Clarke who in 1911 were living in Beauchamp Villa on Back Lane (now London Road). In 1939 when Albert and Gladys are recorded in the National Register as living in Northfield Road (as tenants), Gladys's father is living with them. Albert died in Gloucester on 11 July 1978 at the good age of 76.

We know the details of Albert's service because the GWR records of those who entered its service before about 1935 are now on-line. The records were kept for all uniformed staff and noted their date of birth, rate of pay, promotions, transfers and medical examinations, the last obviously being very important for the safe running of the railways. Most interestingly it also records any accidents they had and any misdemeanours they committed. Albert's "charge sheet" is quite short. On 2 Dec 1929 he was cautioned for "Not being in possession of the wooden train staff when working the 5.58 pm Tetbury to Kemble and the 6.45 pm Kemble to Tetbury." The wooden staff was a requirement on single track railways as, if used correctly, it ensured that only one train was ever running on the line thereby avoiding trains crashing into each other. However, the drivers and guards must have become rather blasé about its possession especially as they knew they were the only engine allocated to the Tetbury branch line.

PROMOTIONS AND RATES OF WAGES				REMOVALS			
Seniority date	Date	Rate	Position	Date	Station	Date	Station
Basic Date 21.9.40. 10/65.56.							
20 Jan 18	20 Jan 18	10/-	Fireman	20 Jan 18	Tetbury		
6 Jan 20	6 Jan 20	11/-	Fireman	6 Jan 20	Newport Dk		
12 Oct 23	12 Oct 23	11/-	Fireman	1 Sep 23	Tetbury		
14 Jan 26	14 Jan 26	11/-	Fireman	25 Nov 40	Gloucester		
1 Oct 20	1 Oct 20	11/-	Fireman				
1 Apr 21	1 Apr 21	11/-	Fireman				
1 Apr 22	1 Apr 22	11/-	Fireman				
1 July 22	1 July 22	11/-	Fireman				
15 Dec 21	15 Dec 21	11/-	Fireman				
1 Apr 22	1 Apr 22	11/-	Fireman				
1 July 22	1 July 22	11/-	Fireman				
25 Dec 29	25 Dec 29	12/-	Fireman				
25 Nov 40	25 Nov 40	12/-	Driver				
21.9.40	21.9.40	8/-					
30.4.45	30.4.45	9/26	R.S.C. bin. 113				
21.9.45	21.9.45	9/86					
1.7.46	1.7.46	12/66	Driver				
30.6.47	30.6.47	12/119	R.S.C. 119				
7.5.48	7.5.48	12/81	R.S.C. 1				
1.1.51	1.1.51	12/96	Driver				
2.12.29	Tetbury Branch	Cautioned	Not being in possession of the wooden train staff when working the 5/58 pm Tetbury to Kemble and the 6/45 pm Kemble to Tetbury.			83261	

GWR service record of Albert Eldridge

Another engine driver, but with a more colourful career, was John Thomas Marshallsay Ford, born on 26 March 1857 in Wyke, Dorset. He seemed to prefer the spelling Foord and there seem to be several variations of Marshallsay but his birth was registered as given above. He worked for the GWR for nearly 46 years from 26 Jul 1876 to his retirement at 65 years of age on 26 Mar 1922. He died on 26 Dec 1934 (aged 77) in Bath. Having worked his way up to engineman 2nd class while based in Swindon on 30 Mar 1904 he was downgraded to branch line duties because of deafness and was transferred to Tetbury. In 1911 he was living in "Upland Cottage" on Oak Hill, now Cirencester Road, with his wife of 6 years, Elizabeth. He appears to have had no children.

Cautioned	Gland of water valve spindle blown out through nuts not being tightened.	£325.00
Fined 5/-	Going away from home leaving no information of where he could be found when required to work a special train although booked as spare man.	£1173
Suspended 2 days & strongly cautioned	Omitting to take water at Swindon, in consequence of which the train had to be left on the main line at Steventon & the engine run to Didcot for a supply thereby causing 25 mins delay to fast express.	£12512
Fined 4/-	Not putting the mud plug in properly in the smoke box.	£525/-
Fined 2/-	Running engine off at catch point.	£324.00
Fined 2/-	Omitting to stop as booked.	£389.66
Cautioned	Causing damage to shed doors	£49.791
Fined 2/-	Allowing firemen to run engine to shed, resulting in damage to Goods shed doors.	£52.400

GWR disciplinary service record of John Ford

His disciplinary record might have made passengers think twice about boarding his train:

9 Nov 1877 - Gland of water valve blown off through not being tightened. *Cautioned.*

22 Mar 1879 - Going away from home leaving no information of where he could be found when required to work a special train although booked as spare man. *Fined 1/-*

9 Dec 1880 - Omitting to take water at Swindon in consequence of which the train had to be left on the up main line at Steventon & the engine run to Didcot for supply thereby causing 25 min delay to fast express. *Suspended 2 days and strongly cautioned.*

12 Dec 1881 - Not putting the mud plug in properly in the smoke box. *Fined 1/-*

3 July 1890 - Running the engine off at catch point. *Fined 2/-*

23 Apr 1892 - Omitting to stop as booked. *Fined 2/-*

16 Dec 1895 - Causing damage to shed doors. *Cautioned*

4 Dec 1892 – (at Tetbury) Allowing firemen to run engine to shed, resulting in damage to Goods shed doors. *Fined 2/-*

23 Feb 1903 – Passing indicator at danger resulting in damage to stook. *Premium deferred 4 weeks.*

19 Jul 1913 – Running without train staff. *Cautioned.*

If anyone knows of any pictures of either Charles Eldridge or John Ford I would be very grateful to have knowledge of them. Also does anyone know what a stook was in a railway context?

Contact me if you have any questions or wish to contribute to the newsletter:
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