



# FRIENDS OF THE GOODS SHED

FRIENDS OF THE GOODS SHED FOGS NEWSLETTER NO. 21



## LEST WE FORGET



It would be remiss not to start the newsletter with the centenary of the Armistice signed on 11 November 1918. I am sure we all have personal connections and memories of those who died in or endured the Great War of 1914-19. The Goods Shed was a collecting point for many of the knitted poppies that have been used in Tetbury to create stunning art works that can be found around the town. Many of our supporters have also engaged in the task of making these poppies, including those for the beautiful cascade of poppies (picture left) that adorns the Goods Shed foyer and which was created by Mary Doyle. The same theme continues on the yew tree in St Saviour's churchyard (picture below.)



Tetbury Mayor, Sandra Ball welcomed 90 knitters of poppies to the Goods Shed on Sunday 4 November. Her guests were surprised to discover that they were invited to a lovely afternoon tea with beautiful china, sandwiches, scones and cakes. The Town Crier and the Mayor both thanked everyone present for their efforts in producing 8,000 poppies.







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## THE GRAND PIANO EARNS ITS KEEP

Our Steinway B grand piano has been put through its paces at several recent events. At the sell-out performance of the Julian Bliss septet at the end of September it showed its jazz paces and then provided beautiful accompaniment to the Dursley Male Voice Choir in early October. More recently it showed its versatility in a performance by the Spitfire Sisters in which their pianist Steve Christie not only did a great job accompanying Anna, Louisa and Hannah, but also gave a seamless medley of popular classic songs.

On November 17 we shall be launching our piano appeal with local concert pianist Jan Vriend playing all four of Chopin's Scherzos and Ballades. Composer and pianist Jan has given several sell-out recitals in aid of the Goods Shed in the past, in which his love of Chopin's music came amply to the fore. We do hope that you will consider sponsoring one or more keys to help us reach our appeal target. You can get your donation form from the Goods Shed.



## VOLUNTEER PRIZE WINNER - OCTOBER 2018

The winner of the two cinema tickets in the monthly draw held for volunteering at the Goods Shed this month goes to Angela Gillespie. Angela works in the kitchen, box office, art exhibitions and even, when we first opened, as a cleaner. She likes to do whatever she can to help, so a worthy winner.

## THE GOODS SHED CARRIAGE - MARY JANE

The Goods Shed carriage is now warm and cosy after the two heat pump systems have been fitted. The chiller unit has also been installed behind the carriage to ease café storage problems.



A panoramic view of the inside of the café in the carriage (for no other reason than that I have a new camera that can take one.)





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## FUTURE EVENTS POSTER

Brecon Quaddy, who does so much behind the scenes to promote the Goods Shed brand and image, has designed a poster to show all the events of a coming month on a single sheet. This should make it easier to see at a glance what is on if you can't get to our website. One place the poster will be display is on the Goods Shed's dedicated noticeboard located by Troopers Court next to Haine and Smith, thanks to the generosity of Rob and Margaret Gibbs.

## GOODS SHED GIFT COUPON

If you are finding it difficult to find a Christmas present for your artistic, intellectual, discerning friends and relations, how about a Goods Shed gift voucher. We can tailor a gift voucher for however much you wish to pay and whatever you wish it to be used for: event tickets, drinks, café, workshops, etc. Just contact Kathryn at the goods shed: office@shed-arts.co.uk or 01666 505496 (Thursday to Saturday).

## EVENTS OCTOBER

On 12th October the Goods Shed was delighted to host the Dursley Male Voice Choir with director of music Barry Cooper and accompanist, Matt Sharpe, who made the first use of the new Steinway at a concert. The choir were wonderful, singing an eclectic selection of songs. The guest soloist, Elisabeth Irvine, also gave a magnificent display of her talents. On the 13th we were all rocking in the aisles to Elvis in Trouble, the Elvis Presley tribute band featuring Darren Boyce.



The Spitfire Sisters, Anna, Hannah and Louise, with Steve Christie

It was an absolutely brilliant evening. On the 27th, we had a comedy night and on the 31st the second in the series of evening lectures. Richard Stamp gave a fascinating talk on the birth of computer graphics. In November we started with the Spitfire Sisters on the 4th with accompanist Steve Christie on the piano. The ladies gave us a taste of the forties and fifties with their close harmony singing but also some very funny songs of their own; another very good night at the Goods Shed. The first ceilidh since before the Goods Shed was opened was held on 10th November with Captain Swing providing the music. We had enough enthusiasts to fill in the dance floor and all had a fun work-out.

There have been several workshops during the last months including Photography, Writing, Gardens and Children's Art. Are you keen enough to sign up or even start a workshop of your own?

EVENTS CONTINUED...







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The young and not so young enjoying the fun of the ceilidh with Captain Swing



## EXHIBITION

## A FAMILY AFFAIR



The current exhibition in the Goods Shed is a series of large scale paintings, drawings and textiles by local artists Victoria Rees and Peter Lloyd Jones. This has been a wonderful chance to see both their paintings and textiles hung together, revealing the influence their fine art has on their textiles.

Victoria has exhibited, alongside a collection of her '45 minute' portrait paintings, a wall hanging - Cunning Little Vixen - created for a production of Janacek's opera and exhibited in The Silk Museum, Lebanon. Also on show are the 'Aria' stole, commissioned by the International Opera Awards, plus a 'sizzling' double stole designed for Garsington Opera's world premiere of The Skating Rink.







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## CINEMA CLUB



Films shown in October included A Quiet Place, Call Me by My Name, Spitfire and The Happy Prince. In November we have had Loving Vincent and Jurassic Park.

We have recently started morning matinees for babies with their mums, dads or carers! The second event on 8 November had 14 adult attendees and at least 15 babies - one pair of twins! This represents an almost doubling of attendance from our first pilot screening which is clearly very encouraging. The film by popular request was 'Mama Mia!' The team drew up a shortlist of films for the parents to choose from and then took a poll to gauge popular demand. Unfortunately we are not yet geared up to cater for toddlers so the policy is still babes in arms only. The next screening will be at 10.30am on Thursday 29 November.

Thereafter we plan to hold these events fortnightly on the 2nd and 4th Thursday of every month (but not 27 December). If you are or you know of a hassled parent who would like to get out and meet similar people make sure



## TETBURY TRAIL

Thanks to the enthusiasm of Geoff Turbott and the support of Tetbury Town Council the park lands now have a fitness trail for those who would like to do a bit more than stroll. Starting at the Wiltshire Bridge end there are various stations which get you loosened up without any great exertion. As one progresses along the old railway to Kemble there are a series of more adventurous pieces of apparatus to test the more wholehearted runners and walkers.



Although the apparatus has been paid for we are still seeking sponsors to help pay for the installation costs. For £300 you could sponsor a fitness station and have either a company's logo or a dedication of your choice displayed very visibly on the apparatus. Contact the Goods Shed for more info, see below.

Another new feature of the park lands are two new boards erected by the council in the picnic area which was recently renovated with solid new tables and benches. One board shows the various walks that can be undertaken from the Goods Shed and the other gives a potted history of the branch line.








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## VOLUNTEER NEWS



We always welcome new volunteers and there is something for everyone at the Goods Shed. 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 - Margaret Gibbs 01666 502622.



## FROM THE ARCHIVE

### TETBURY BRANCH LINE AND THE GREAT WAR

My research has found very little regarding what happened on the Tetbury branch line during the Great War. Stephen Randolph tells us that in early 1914 the original wooden station building began to collapse and, despite some measures to prop it up, by July all agreed that the building had to be demolished. A temporary office was built from which Mr Hawker, the station master, with the help of a newly appointed clerk, Miss Olive Curtis (daughter of guard Tommy Curtis), continued to provide tickets. Olive was almost certainly one of the female pioneers who took up the gauntlet when many thousands of young men left their jobs and volunteered for the army in 1914, leaving the railways desperate for replacements. From the birth registration records, Olive appears to have been born in the first quarter of 1899 making her just 15 when she became a GWR clerk. She probably married Lewis Morris in Tetbury district in 1933, giving birth to Gillian in 1936. Does anybody know any more about Olive?

It must have been difficult to find the men and materials to build the new station buildings but by 1 September it was complete. In 1917 Mr Hawker was replaced by George Johns as station master on the former's transfer to Stonehouse. We also know that Frederick Lock, who was born in Kemble and came to work in Tetbury in about 1930, had joined the army in 1915.



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On the Great Western Railway as a whole, of course, the war had a tremendous impact. Many of its 80,000 employees joined up and 2,524 gave their lives, as recorded on the roll of honour at Paddington. Some of these joined the Royal Engineer railway companies to maximise the use of their skills and experience, but technical abilities were also in much demand by the Royal Navy and the Royal Flying Corps. The company sent a number of engines and rolling stock to support overseas operations. The majority of manufacturing in the locomotive and carriage workshops came to a halt and the GWR turned to making munitions and artillery pieces for the Army. What was left of the pre-war specialist manufacturing capability was used to build more, specifically for Government service abroad. Some of this rolling stock was of completely new design to transport aircraft and tanks. Eventually, GWR men were sent to France to both operate the existing rail networks and to build new ones. All of this and the reduction in maintenance work left the railways in a parlous state at the end of the war.



Throughout the war the GWR had to continue its crucial role of transporting coal from the Welsh mining areas to coastal ports, from where it could be taken to fuel the Royal Navy, which was still overwhelmingly coal powered. The company's ferries were also pressed into service. There were so many train services running on Government service, and so little rolling stock left, that passenger services were seriously curtailed. I think we can be certain that the service on the Tetbury branch also suffered.

The memorial at Paddington Station designed by Charles Sergeant Jagger to the employees of the Great Western Railway who lost their lives in the Great War.



Contact us if you have any questions or wish to contribute to the newsletter: Kathryn Limoi, [office@shed-arts.co.uk](mailto:office@shed-arts.co.uk), 01666 505496 (9am – 5pm, Thurs-Saturday), or David Walker, [opheliatheboat@gmail.com](mailto:opheliatheboat@gmail.com). 01666 500137 (but not 20 Nov – 11 Dec), or visit the Goods Shed itself by the long stay car park - for satnav use GL8 8EY.

