



# FRIENDS OF THE GOODS SHED

FRIENDS OF THE GOODS SHED F&GS NEWSLETTER NO. 22

A HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL FRIENDS OF THE GOODS SHED



We wish all our readers and everyone who supports the Goods Shed a happy new year as we look forward to an even more entertainment-filled year ahead. We started the year with the traditional New Year's walk along the Tetbury Trail to the Trouble House and back, noting on our way the new apparatus that now creates a fitness trail for young and old. Thanks again to Geoff Turbott, Paul Lockley and Tetbury Town Council for making this happen.

## NEW CHAIR FOR THE TRUST

A new Chair of Tetbury Rail Lands Regeneration Trust has been elected by the Trustees. Mrs Christine Berry takes up the reins from Mrs Julia Hasler who has stepped down after successfully steering the Trust through its first full year of operations at the Goods Shed. Christine is retired and has been a Tetbury resident since 1980. She has thrown herself into working for the success of the Goods Shed Arts Centre since just before it opened in 2017. She has been a trustee of TRLRT and company secretary for much of that time and is also part of the Events Committee which books our wide range of entertainment. She has organised and trained over 100 volunteers at the Shed to staff those events. Delighted to see such a wonderful facility in Tetbury, she does whatever she can to make sure events run smoothly and will now be aiming to consolidate our success, helping us build our reputation as an outstanding arts centre.



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## WHISTLE STOP CAFÉ

The phenomenal success of the café has been great news for all but has given the Trust a minor problem. We are rapidly reaching the VAT threshold and the percentage of our turnover that goes through the café is also going to exceed the limit for what the taxman calls secondary trading. In consequence we have had to set up the café as a commercial company, Whistle Stop Café (Tetbury) Ltd. Although a separate limited company, the Whistle Stop will be wholly owned by the Trust and all profits will be transferred tax-free to the Trust. This will allow the Trust to limit its potential liabilities while still being able to plough back the profits of the café back into the arts centre for the benefit of all the people living in the Tetbury area.



*The Manager,  
Sasha Jenner, in the  
Whistle Stop Cafe*





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## CAROL SINGING IN THE GOODS SHED

On 21st December we had our "traditional" carol singing event in the Goods Shed. If I can count correctly, this was the sixth consecutive year it has been held; how very different this year's event was from the first! In 2013 we were standing on the old raised platform consisting of 3 inch thick pine planks. The roof tiles, with the odd one missing, were clearly visible above us and the only lighting was the string of second-hand Christmas lights dangling across the roof trusses. Bare earth was visible where the trains had run through the shed; a cold wind penetrated into the unheated space. It was very atmospheric, indeed, quite stable-like.



At this year's event we gathered in the warmth to listen to the Avening Band playing our favourite carols. Nicola Clark and Richard Lloyd performed some less well-known Christmas songs for us and then we all retired to drink mulled wine and eat mince pies laid on by Carolyn Witcher and her helpers.

*The Avening Band  
perform at Carol Singing*

## VOLUNTEER PRIZE WINNERS NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2018

Frances Collinson won the Volunteer Prize in November and Steve Shotton in December. Frances has been a regular helper in the kitchen, spending many hours serving and cleaning. She has also worked as a steward for art exhibitions and is a committed supporter. She was very well thought of when a teacher at the infant school before she retired; many Tetbury people will have been taught by her as they started school. Steve is one of our backroom helpers who has been doing excellent graphic design work for this very newsletter as well as working on our web page.

## RECENT EVENTS

On the 18th November the Goods Shed hosted the first of a series of "Open Mic" nights designed to encourage local talent. Anybody is welcome and the £5 ticket lets you experience a plethora of new artistic performances. Furthermore, if you feel the call, you can stand up and let the world (or at least Tetbury) see your special talent. A Christmas Fayre on the 1st and 2nd December was a good opportunity to buy quality local arts and crafts and was very successful. Many traders have already rebooked for next year. Highlights of recent events have been the Eusebius Quartet on the 8th and Elles Bailey on 15th December. As usual the quality of the performances at the Goods Shed was superb.





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## JACK AND THE BEANSTALK.

Following the popular pantomime performed at the Goods Shed by Tetbury Dolphins Dramatic Society in November, Wonder Productions came to the Goods Shed on 2 Jan with their interpretation of Jack and the Beanstalk. Thanks to the success of their show in



The cast of Jack and the Beanstalk

*Joining in the fun on stage will be a lasting memory for some of our young audience.*



2017 last month's performance was a sell-out and was hugely enjoyed by all the children (and adults) who attended. We have already booked Wonder Productions for next Christmas's pantomime so watch out for its appearance and ensure you get tickets.

## EXHIBITION

## SLIGHTLY SHEEPISH



The current exhibition in the Goods Shed is a series of watercolours by Mary Griese. They feature livestock and agricultural scenes, mainly sheep and dogs. They are exquisitely painted and really bring out the character of their subjects. Most are of a size that could easily be hung in the average house and are not beyond most people's budget. You can never plan too far ahead - one of these paintings would make an ideal Christmas present.





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## CINEMA CLUB

Recent films shown have included Leave No Trace, The Bookshop, Mission Impossible – Fall Out, Incredibles 2 and I, Daniel Blake. Special mention must be made of Mamma Mia – Here Go Again, because it was our first film to sell out, and Some Like it Hot because it is such a great film. It was also the first classic film that has been shown at the Goods Shed having been first released in 1959. They don't make them like that anymore! The experience of watching a great film on the big screen with an appreciative crowd around is not to be missed.



## AUDIENCE FACEBOOK SURVEY ANALYSIS

Thank you to everyone who took the time to fill out our Audience Feedback survey at the end of last year. We are incredibly grateful and were very pleased to hear such positive remarks. Just over 200 people responded, of whom, most of you had been more than once which means we didn't put you off the first time!

Over half of you come because you like the events we put on, followed closely by 23 per cent of you who come because you like supporting a local charity, which is wonderful news.

Most of you enjoy the live music, with a close second being cinema and in third place comedy. Joint fourth was children's events and theatre – something which we haven't put on as much this year. We will look into this. Fewer of you enjoy the craft workshops, live talks, and art exhibitions. But we recognise that the Goods Shed should have a vibrant array of events on offer and we will continue to offer an eclectic mix as much as possible, whilst taking into account the entertainment angle which people are looking for.

We then asked you how we could improve. By far, the biggest problem seems to be acoustics. The main auditorium is a huge space and therefore sound issues are inevitable. The other problem is that the space is so flexible – one night we might have cinema, the next classical music. Each of which have different sound requirements. We are sorry for this and we will investigate further what could be done to make things even more comfortable for our audiences.

Secondly, you asked for more 'populist' events – big names, entertainment, and live music. We have fed this information back to our events committee who will take it into account for their future event planning.

Lastly, you requested slightly cheaper bar prices and more drinks on offer behind the bar – we will work on the provision, but we are sorry we won't be able to reduce our bar prices for the foreseeable future as it is an incredibly important income stream for the arts centre.

A few of you also asked for more daytime events, dance and yoga classes and children's events – particularly for younger children and toddlers. A couple of people on social media also asked about the Car Boot Sales we used to run and our intentions for a Farmers Market. We are at the moment unable to bring back the Car Boot Sales. However we already have Aunt Addie's Fruit and Veg Stall every Saturday and would love to be able to add to this provision. If anyone is interested in running a Farmer's Market stall every weekend, or would be able to volunteer to help with the organisation of this we would be grateful to hear from you.

Apart from this – "just keep on doing what you're doing" was the overriding answer, which is music to our ears. Then we had some wonderful ideas from some of you which were lovely to read about and we thank you for taking the time to send these in, including starting a young people's theatre group, offering local hotel packages, discounts when you recommend friends and family and a monthly prize draw for those who join our marketing email distribution list. All excellent ideas and all on the to do list.

Thank you again for taking the time to complete our survey. We are taking into account all of the responses, positive and negative and will do our best in 2019 to accommodate everyone where we can. We do hope you will continue to support The Goods Shed, our staff and volunteers. Happy New Year! – Helen Hyde.



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## GOODS SHED GIFT COUPON

Don't forget that if you need a gift for your intellectual, discerning friends or relations, you can get 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](mailto:office@shed-arts.co.uk), 01666 505496 (Thursday to Saturday).



## PIANO FUND

Although we had a great start with donations to the piano fund we are still a fair way from our target and the stream of funding has faltered. Do please consider funding one of the keys (£88) or just give what you can. Ask for a form at the Goods Shed or go our website where you can give on line.



## FROM THE ARCHIVE

### A STATION MASTER AT TETBURY - HE HAWKER 1870-1951

In the last issue there was mention that Mr Henry Hawker was the station master at Tetbury during the Great War. Thanks to the late Geoff Haines who managed to track down in Gloucester City Library a copy of the book that Hawker wrote about his life (only 25 copies were printed) and through other research, we now know a lot more about Henry. The following is an abridged and slightly edited version of Geoff's paper on Henry Edward Hawker, born 4 August 1870 at South Brent, Somerset, died Stonehouse in early 1951

Station Master Henry Edward Hawker came to Tetbury to be station master in November 1907 when he was 37, following Mr Faulkner in the post. In all he spent 34 years employed by Great Western Railway. The family lived at 38 Long Street and his second daughter, Mary, was born here in June 1910 and baptised by Rev Gabe Jones, the curate, in St Mary's Church, but only 2 years after the birth of the young Mary, sadly Mrs Mary Hawker died suddenly in October 1912 of pneumonia following a drive in an open conveyance to celebrations of Sir George Holford's wedding at Westonbirt. Being better known in Taunton, from whence he came, the funeral took place there with the coffin and mourners being carried by rail "through working of a six-wheel third (brake) from Tetbury to Taunton." Some of the letters of sympathy published in his autobiography "Notes of my Life" are quite moving with particular reference to the "dear little ones", and indicate the family were well respected in the town. Even one of the private schoolmasters, W Goring Bengel, offered half-fees. .... The First World War was, of course, the major event of his time here. We read that Belgian refugees came to Tetbury in 1914 and that Mr J A R Marriott gave a series of lectures on "The War", and George Lowesly-Williams of Chavenage gave tickets to boys and girls to attend. The band of the Gloucestershire Regiment stayed in Tetbury in April 1915. There was a huge hailstorm in July 1915 which broke hundreds of panes of glass at Westonbirt.

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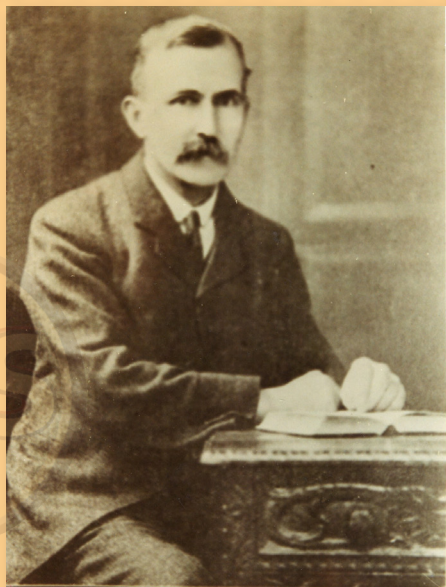
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## FROM THE ARCHIVE

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In August of the same year, to remember the anniversary of the outbreak of war, an open-air service was held in the Market Place. At 1.30 pm a procession of Clergy and Choir marched from the Church to the Town Hall. The Vicar, Dr Thomson led the service, hymns were accompanied on the harmonium by F N Baxter who was Church organist from 1880 to 1925. As always on this sort of occasion children from the National Schools were present and the address was given by Rev G H Doble, the Curate. Three (!) verses of the National Anthem were sung. A similar service was held the following year and quite possibly the next two but by then Mr Hawker had moved on. Mr Hawker records the Tetbury Ecclesiastical Roll of Honour for 1914-15 where it stated that out of a Parish population of 2700, 334 men had joined the Forces. Henry Hawker was a strong churchman and quickly became involved in the life of St Mary's and was instrumental in forming a branch of the Church of England Men's Society in 1909. Another of his joys was music and when he was posted to Stonehouse in 1917 colleagues and friends in Tetbury presented him with a violoncello. 1917 was also the year a new chancel screen was erected in the Church. (Hawker also wrote "A History of the Churches of Tetbury" published in 1949).



1919

As we know, the train was late arriving at Tetbury and only opened for traffic in December 1889. As Station Master, Mr Hawker was quite critical of the station buildings, and in fact, a rebuilding programme began in January 1916 and was completed in September of the same year. The presence of Tetbury Road Station at Coates caused many goods to be delivered there instead of Tetbury until Mr Hawker managed to get the former name changed. There were problems too in the fact the railway station was in Wiltshire and the cattle market in Gloucestershire, the boundary following the stream under Wiltshire Bridge. It meant movement of livestock from the market accepted as from Gloucestershire although actually passing into Wiltshire to be trucked. Indeed this led to a change in regulations for the control of Swine Fever. In subsequent years, they just moved the county boundary. A "highlight" of his time in Tetbury was the railway strike of August 1911. There is little recorded of this event, the reason for the strike being the general concern arising from the relationship between employer and employee. Only two of the workforce of five struck and it was all over in two days. Even the Tetbury Advertiser only gave it a small paragraph when reporting GWR had decided to make a special money grant to staff who had remained loyal. The two who did strike were quickly reinstated and several passengers had given some very good presents to those who had remained loyal. The coal strike of 1912 caused greater disruption, leading to curtailed services with only two trains each way morning and night.

## 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.

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, or visit the Goods Shed itself by the long stay car park - for satnav use GL8 8EY.

