



HRH The Prince of Wales to visit the Goods Shed



HRH THE PRINCE OF WALES will be visiting the Goods Shed on Thursday 22 December 2016 to observe progress and unveil a plaque marking the completion of the rebuilding phase of the project.

The Prince has a long connection with the project, which he discussed with our chairman, Will Cook, at a meeting about the Shed in the Royal Oak way back in 1997.

Spectators should be in position before 2.15 pm and should be aware that there will be limited vehicle access to the Station Yard car park.



Building Progress

INSTALLATION of services, plastering and decoration continue apace. The wood cladding over the former railway doors has been painted brown and fixed in position and the main entrance doors have had their inside surfaces oiled.

The oak flooring in the main hall will be laid on Friday 9 December. Unfortunately due to a delay in obtaining glass and connecting gas, the foyer and the fitting out of the annexe are not now expected to be completed before January 2017.

Upcoming events

17 December 2016
"Bunches and Baskets". Jill Dodge's Christmas decorations. Market Hall

22 December 2016
Visit by HRH Prince Charles. 2pm

23 December 2016
Carols in the Shed. 6pm

1 January 2017
New Year's Walk to Trouble House Halt. Meet at the Shed at 10.30am



2 April 2017
Tetbury Community Choir concert

May 2017
Performance by Dursley Male Voice Choir

Carols in the Shed - 23 December



THIS WILL BE THE FOURTH year that we have held "Carols in the Goods Shed" and this will be the first event to be held in the refurbished building. The occasion has grown ever more popular and we have so much to celebrate this Christmas.

This year's Carols will be held on Friday, 23 December from 6pm until around 7pm. There will be mulled wine and mince pies available to give seasonal cheer to what is becoming a major social event. Do come along!

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





That's grand! Jill's seasonal sale raises a cool £1,300

FOR SEVERAL WEEKS before the event Jill's home was an Aladdin's cave with every table and chair covered by the generous offerings of Jill's army of supporters.

On the actual morning mountains of cakes were delivered by the platoon of ladies that had unstintingly applied themselves to their ovens.

All these efforts were rewarded with the magnificent sum of £1,300 being raised for the Goods Shed.



More money was raised by Jill at the Goods Shed's stand at the Tetbury Christmas Light-Up festivities on 1 December.

Pictured left, with Jill, is Aiden Box, the site foreman for the Goods Shed redevelopment, who has given generously of his time to devise a "Find the Golden Brick" competition. If you want your chance to win the £100 prize, make sure you visit Jill's "Bunches and Baskets" stall at the Market Hall on Saturday 17 December.

Beer tasting at the Ormond



THANKS TO ADRIENNE at the Ormond for allowing Nigel of Severn Vale Brewery to hold a beer tasting event on Monday 5 December, with money raised being given to the Goods Shed

If anybody else would like to hold an event in support of the Trust let David know at opheliatheboat@gmail.com and we will help give advance publicity to the event .

From the archive: The diesel railcars come to Tetbury



IN THE 1950s the rise of commercial motor transport and the private car put pressure on the railways as freight tonnage and passenger numbers dropped markedly. In a bid to revive the service British Railways introduced a diesel rail car or "Railbus" service on 2 February 1959.

Four different rail cars operated on the Tetbury and Cirencester branch lines at various times, each doing two days of

work before returning to Swindon for servicing. The rail cars were made by AC Cars Ltd and had 150hp AEC engines.

In an attempt to up the number of passengers three halts were added to the existing stop at Rodmarton station. Culkerton, which had been closed on 5 March 1956 was re-opened along with Church's Hill Halt and Trouble House Halt. The last had always been an unofficial

halt (Beer-crate Halt, see 'Railway Memories' on the next page).

In 1959, a day-return to Tetbury cost 2s 5d (around £7.50 in today's money). Typical loadings (Saturday, 9 May 1959) were: 30 passengers on the 15:55 from Cirencester to Kemble. Then 36 passengers left Kemble for Tetbury. One passenger got on at Rodmarton Halt, another at Church's Hill and another at Culkerton; Trouble House was passed .The 18:05 carried six passengers all the way, none alighting or boarding at halts. At Kemble. 14 passengers boarded on arrival, mainly coming off a local from Swindon.

At this time the Tetbury branch was not as well patronised as had been expected, the early morning, midday and early evening services doing better than the remainder, and very few passengers used the intermediate halts. As we know, the service was terminated on 4 April 1964. All four rail cars were moved on to former Southern Railway branches, then a part of British Railways Western Region.



Contribute to fundraising at no cost to you

THE TRUST HAS SIGNED up to easyfundraising.org.uk The scheme allows anybody to purchase items on line at all the major shopping sites (Amazon, John Lewis, Waitrose, M&S etc) at no extra cost to them.

In fact some sites give you a small discount, but every purchase provides a donation to the Trust. It really is that easy.

We are on the site as "Tetbury Goods Shed".



To find out more about the way easyfundraising helps good causes like the Goods Shed arts centre appeal, visit the 'Giving' page at the Tetbury Rail Lands Regeneration Trust web site:

www.tetburyrailands.com/giving

More than 3,100 shops and sites have signed up to the scheme. They give easyfundraising a commission for each purchase. They turn that into a donation and give it to us. Easy!

Bookings

If you want to book the Goods Shed for your club night or perhaps to run an arts course or event please contact us and we can discuss rates. You can also hold private events there - a wedding reception, perhaps, or a big birthday party.

Share the news

We hope you enjoy the FoGS newsletters. Is there anybody you know who might also enjoy it? Give them an early Christmas present - just let us know their email address and we'll do the rest.



Seat appeal close to its target

NO FIGHTING, PLEASE! As of early December we had 177 seats sponsored – only five more to go. We should like to see the seating fully installed by 28 March 2017 but have still not raised all the money needed. So if you have not sponsored a seat so far, please think about it; time is running out. Contact David Walker at opheliatheboat@gmail.com.

RAILWAY MEMORIES

Continuing the series of reporting memories of the Tetbury branch line, this month's refers to events in about 1948.

"TETBURY STATION used to employ the young lads who had left school but didn't have a job to go to yet. Our boss, the head cleaner was Tommy Lawler.

"We were given about 6d an hour (that's worth around £2 in 2016) and worked an eight-hour shift, so we earned 4 shillings (equivalent to about £17 in 2016). I was 16 when I started at the station. We lads used to clean the engine and the carriages at night. We started work at 10pm and finished at 6am when the engine driver would arrive in time for the first train to leave.

"We could get a ride sometimes and I remember riding back to Tetbury one Sunday night and the driver stopped the train where he'd spotted some mushrooms growing earlier, on his trips to and fro. We all piled off and picked bags of mushrooms, got back in the train and set off home.

"The halt at the Trouble House was a popular one. Men used to get off there and drink at the pub until the last train was due. Then they just had to go over the road to the halt, wave the train down and be carried home to Tetbury." *HWC*

