

Tetbury Rail Lands Regeneration Trust

Registered Charity No. 1092160

Patron : His Royal Highness The Prince of Wales

Here is a roundup of the progress we have made towards converting Tetburys' redundant Goods Shed into an Arts Centre in the last year:

First and foremost the original drawings have been formalized by an architect, enabling us to submit them for a variation on the planning consent and planning approval has been given.

Following a visit to the Corinium Museum we are considering the refinement of retractable, staged, comfortable seating. This would optimize everyone's experience for film shows, concerts and presentations. The chairs would be housed in a compact storage unit which would keep them in mint condition throughout many years of use. The freestanding chairs and collapsible tables that we would also need for interactive and social events would be stored under the stage. Our target budget to include this marvelous improvement stands at £589,000.

In funding this we have had successes and disappointments. It was a blow to have our Entrust bid deferred. There is a sense that Tetbury is affluent and well catered for already and this is why it has been difficult to attract grant aid. The reality is that we have every demographic group within our community and although we may have smart shops in the town that reflect our royal connection to Highgrove the infrastructure that Tetbury enjoys badly needs updating. We have fewer facilities than most of our neighboring towns. Thanks to Mr Beeching we already have an amazing building complete with plenty of parking. Our funding group has re applied to Entrust in line with their suggestions and has also presented new bids to three other large funding bodies. We are approximately £170,000 short and if our bids are successful full scale work should begin this autumn.

Meanwhile our local small fundraising efforts have surpassed our expectations and we have double the amount we pledged to raise a year ago in the Goods Shed bank account.

Money has come in from the rolling events calendar, individuals who have run events and gifted the profits to the Goods Shed and from donations from individuals and small Trust Funds. I am sure you will agree the events which have been put on by our helpers have been amazing; sculpture show, dog show, cream teas, open garden, concerts, WW2 commemorations, carol service, community walk, art exhibition, etc.

In addition to this there have also been many positive improvements to the Goods Shed thanks to the efforts of our ever expanding army of volunteers. The old platform has been dismantled leaving a small stage to which temporary steps have been fitted. This gives us a big useful hall and we are already making full use of it! We have been provided with a free versatile lighting system and are about to get more power points and emergency exit signs. The floor has been levelled and covered with cheap 2nd hand carpet. The stubborn old ironwork has been removed from the outside cattle loading bay by contractors so it can now be restored to its former glory complete with its original timber posts. The repair of the brickwork will be done by volunteers in the spring so we will soon have our outside performance area ready for use. Finally fire escape doors are about to be fitted within the original main doors.

Plans for the coming year include a dazzling art show, an ambitious weekend music festival and many other events so please keep an eye on our website: tetburyrailands.co.uk Culture lovers will have plenty to look forwards to.

Thank you for your support in the last year.

Will Cook (chairman of the Rail Lands Trust)