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## Annual Newsletter from Tetbury Town Council 2016



This will be my last Annual report to you as Mayor of Tetbury. I will have clocked up two years in May.

Here are some of the things we have, or are going to have, achieved:

Goods Shed - we are now moving ahead with this project and will soon have a lovely refurbished building that Tetbury can be proud of. This is largely due to the Goods Shed team, who through their drive have moved this forward under the careful eye of Natalie, our Chief Executive. Everyone who is a part of this is to be congratulated on their marvellous achievement.

This year we want to look at the area behind the Market Hall. The road needs to be levelled with the pavement, so that it can become an extension to the market hall area and be used as such.

In my last two years in office I have tried to get round and visit shop keepers and attend the Tourism meetings to hear what people want of our town. It is a town to be proud of and has a lot to offer and we need to make it a place that people want to visit and want to come back to. With the help of a new Town Project Manager hopefully we can achieve this.

Signage - we have new signs at the entrances to our Town and with the lovely flower displays round the town we always look very welcoming.

We are delighted to announce that we have formed a partnership with Chatillion sur Indre. This will enable the youth of Tetbury to take part in exchanges with regards to sport and other ventures. We will be sending a group of young people to the "Fete National" in July, which should be a lovely experience. This is all thanks to European money being made available for them.

I can't list all the things I have done - there isn't room, but thank you for inviting me to attend your various events and it's been wonderful to meet so many of you.

Lastly, thank you to everyone who helps to make Tetbury so special. You are a credit to the Town.

*Sandra Ball, Mayor of Tetbury*

**The ANNUAL TOWN MEETING will take place on  
Wednesday 27th April at 7pm in the Dolphins Hall.  
Please come along and have your say.**

## FINANCE AND SCRUTINY REPORT 2014-15



The Town Council continues to invest in Tetbury, to maintain and improve the quality of our community assets.

Our main financial objective is once again to provide support to our community, both in monetary terms in the form of grants to local organisations, as well as funding the all-important improvement and maintenance of those things for which we are responsible.

Tetbury places much reliance on volunteer activity - therefore the Council realises that it has a vital part to play in the funding of vital town activities run by volunteers.

Grants totalling almost £25,000 have been provided to organisations like the Citizens Advice Bureau to provide outreach support for Tetbury, to a number of our Sports Clubs so that they can invest in their provision to the town, to the Day Centres so that they can continue to provide vital care to our senior citizens - as well as to St Mary's School, the Guides and the Youth Pod who provide opportunities for the younger members of our community. Tetbury in Bloom and Christmas in Tetbury also received funding so that they could play their part in improving the appearance of our wonderful town.

We are also responsible for a large amount of Green Space in the town and we take very seriously our responsibility to maintain these areas to the highest standards. During the summer months we increase our number of ground staff, to ensure that all the grassy areas that we maintain look spick and span. A large number of trees around the town are also our responsibility; this year we have carried out a condition survey so that we can put together a maintenance plan to ensure trees are in a safe condition in an attempt to avoid unfortunate incidents of falling branches, or worse. One area of concern is Cook's Pool and following our survey we plan to fell one or two trees that are in a dangerous condition and reduce the size of other trees so that their growth is controlled.

The development of the Goods Shed continues to move ahead, to develop the building into a worthwhile community facility in the centre of the Rail Lands. We are in partnership with the Tetbury Rail Lands Regeneration Trust who have provided so much energetic support to this project that the building and the area around it have already supported a number of events. Rebuilding work is planned to commence in 2016 so that a wonderful new community space can be provided, increasing the facilities that are on offer in the town. Funding has come from a number of sources, the Town Council has successfully applied for a Community Development Loan, the developments around the town have provided money for the project and the Rail Lands Trust have also been hard at work seeking loans for specific parts of the project - as well as providing funding themselves, from a good number of community events.

The town council has worked hard to secure almost £1.5 million pounds for community improvements for the various developments around the town, including the redevelopment of the Dolphins Hall, the Goods Shed and the Sports Centre at Sir William Romney's School.

Our funding to the Tourist Information Centre provides support for the all-important tourism activity in Tetbury. We are at the centre of a number of unique attractions and we have a responsibility to promote our town in partnership with a number of agencies promoting 'The Cotswolds' as a whole.

We continue to hold funds for the future development of the town, a new burial ground, new allotments and the all-important Neighbourhood Development Plan.

Our reserves continue to be healthy and with continued prudent spending we will continue to invest in our town and its people.

*Chair Cllr Stephen Hirst*

## HERITAGE AND REGENERATION

The success and innovation of the Heritage and Regeneration is due largely to the diversity of the committee. We are indeed fortunate to have our wishes made into reality by our hard-working and ever-enthusiastic council team.

As I write this, I have been informed of the sad passing of Derek Jackson, our former Town Crier and the friendly face of Tetbury for many years. It is appropriate that we will be hosting a Regional Town Crier competition in July this year.

We look after the town, whether it be renovating the pavement in St Saviour's Church, installing new "Welcome to Tetbury" signs, maintaining play areas, organising/coordinating events, looking after open spaces, working with the Feoffees, Tourist Information Centre, the Police Museum, Tetbury Chamber of Commerce, the Tourism Group, the Civic Society, the History of Tetbury Society, responsible dog walkers, the many youth and elderly groups - the list goes on. As you can see there is a lot going on, but it's always led by your wishes and needs.

But it is the future and the regeneration of the town which many are most concerned with. The effects of new housing and the loss of businesses and shops in town are also a concern. To assist with this process, we will be recruiting a new Town Project Manager. This is a new role and has been created to both replace the former Tourist Information Centre manager's duties and to expand upon them, into other activities. I must thank Jackie Williams who recently stepped down as TIC manager, for her hard work in the role. The next few years will indeed be challenging and will have the biggest effect on our town in years, but with a Heritage foundation as strong as ours, we will take these challenges and turn them into opportunities.

Thank you to the committee - and special thanks to Jenny Hunt who will have retired by the time this is printed. Jenny's knowledge, friendly and completely unflappable approach will be greatly missed. Please take this as an invitation, to come, sit in, listen, or even take part in your meetings, for your futures, as 'the future depends on what we do today.'

*Chair Cllr Kevin Painter*

## TETBURY TOURIST INFORMATION CENTRE

We have had a steady year here at the Tourist Information Centre, with visitor numbers slightly down on last year, due in part to the weather. We have had good sales of Westonbirt tickets, with all but one concert sold out. We again had Christmas cards from "Cards for Good Causes" - and have agreed to sell them again this year.

We have supported the Goods Shed Project by selling tickets for events and selling the calendars, prints and mugs - all of which went well. With the influx of new residents, we have had many enquiries about services in the town and anticipate many more as the developments are completed. In January we were sad to lose our manager Jackie Williams, who worked tirelessly to raise our profile in the town and who is much missed. A new member of the team has joined us however - Donna Thomas, who is settling in well. We are excited by the prospect of having a Town Manager and look forward to a year full of new potential and ideas.



## PLANNING

In the last year, Tetbury Town Council have received a general flow of planning applications that have gone before the planning committee. These ranged from small- to medium-sized domestic extensions, to one-off houses and a small number of “change of use” applications. No significantly large schemes have come before us in this particular year, so far.

We have three ward Councillors who sit on the planning Committee at Cotswold District Council, two of whom are on the Tetbury Town Council planning committee - and they are very active in looking into planning matters at CDC level. With larger schemes, Cotswold District Council do now seem to be taking more notice of our comments than they have before, but even they struggle with the bigger schemes and the developers’ Agents and Consultants.

We encourage developers to come and chat through their ideas and initial thoughts, prior to submitting any formal applications, and this seems to be working better of late, giving us the opportunity for an ‘off the record’ discussion and allowing the developer the opportunity to ‘tweak’ their initial ideas.

A few weeks ago we had such an informal meeting with a developer who wants to convert The Crown on Gumstool Hill into residential apartments and who was seeking our views. Whilst ideally we would like it kept for its current use, we appreciate it has been unoccupied for a number of years, with many commercial clients looking at the property but none taking the plunge to continue that use. We look forward to further discussions with the developer or to seeing his submitted scheme.

We have since looked at detailed planning applications for Highfield Farm also, and commented mainly on a better use of materials to match the setting of the site and its surroundings.

As you will have seen, some of the previously approved larger schemes are actually being constructed now, which includes the developments off Cirencester Road, adjacent to Springfield’s, the site opposite the entrance to Shepherd’s Way and the Highfield Farm development. You will have also noticed the additional construction traffic in and out of the Town. Personally I think the development opposite Shepherd’s way looks particularly attractive as you enter our Town from Cirencester, the use and mixture of materials and detailing creates much interest and makes a change from the normal standard ‘boxes’ that we all too often see constructed, which could be anywhere in the country.

Some previously approved smaller schemes have been completed, such as the scheme off The Chipping for three apartments, four houses at land to the rear of 19 Market Place, and the single dwelling to the rear of London Road. The Old Youth Club site seems to be taking forever to complete, but will look good when it is finally finished.

The planning committee work hard in looking at applications and on researching them prior to the meetings – and the admin staff at TTC also work hard in responding to the Cotswold District Council by return with our comments and questions/queries.

Don’t forget that planning meetings are open to the public, so if you want to come and speak to us about any applications or just to listen in and look at applications with us however large or small, we’d love to see you.

*Chair Cllr Ian Maslin*

## NEW PICKET HARP ALLOTMENTS ASSOCIATION

At the AGM held recently, a new committee was formed with Linda McQuillan as Chair, Andrew Hailey as secretary and Nigel Waldron as Treasurer. All twenty-eight allotments are currently being cultivated and there is a short waiting list of just three people. If you would like your details to be on the waiting list, please contact Tetbury Town Council on 01666 504670.

## NEIGHBOURHOOD PLANNING GROUP



The Neighbourhood Planning Group has seen some change of personnel during the last year, with new blood offering a fresh perspective. It was decided to employ a consultant to focus on delivery of a Plan ready to submit to Cotswold District, so consequently Liz Beth of LB Planning has worked with us on developing a clear and concise document.

The Group has also produced two documents offering guidance on the design of new development and potential improvements to the Town Centre. These are background Reports for the Neighbourhood Plan. In the end it was not necessary to allocate more land for housing in the Plan, as our allocation has already been effectively made in recent planning permissions. The Plan has policies designating special areas of open space as Local Green Space, and promoting the improvement of the rights-of-way network. Housing policies promote the provision of housing to suit local demand and a local lettings policy for affordable housing.

There will soon be an opportunity for everyone in Tetbury and Tetbury Upton to comment on the draft Plan, as it is anticipated that it will be open for consultation and comment next month.

## POLICE REPORT

Tetbury Police have been involved in a number of initiatives and have targeted different areas of concerns and criminal activity.

- “Test Purchase” operations, targeting sales of alcohol to underage youths.
- A visit from the Police and Crime Commissioner.
- “Operation Switch.” An event held targeting Burglary and offering advice, home & bike security equipment.
- Licensing checks carried out in the Tetbury area in partnership with the licensing department from the Cotswold District Council.
- Helping with the Remembrance Sunday Parade, Tetbury Woolsack Race, Tetbury ‘Wacky Races,’ Tetbury Christmas lights Switch-On event and the Tetbury Summer Fair.
- The execution of warrants in the area as a direct result of concerns and intelligence gained from local residents.
- Speed Checks at various locations throughout Tetbury.
- Work alongside Tetbury Community Speed watch.
- Use of Mobile CCTV Cameras at various location across Tetbury.
- Work carried out alongside Tetbury Town Council, Sir William Romney’s and St Mary’s Schools, the Dolphins Hall Committee and Tetbury Neighbourhood Watch Schemes.
- Supporting Neighbourhood priorities.
- Holding Neighbourhood Consultation Group meetings, where members of the public are invited to come along and talk with the local Policing team, airing any concerns or issues they may have.
- Tetbury Police work in the Town Council offices.
- Holding surgeries for members of the public to attend and meet the local Police.
- Work carried out alongside various Housing associations and Tenants groups.

We would like to thank them for all the support we’ve received from the Town Council, the Cotswold District Council, local groups and businesses and most importantly we’d also like to thank residents for helping us Police Tetbury. We look forward to continuing to work with you in the future to continue to make this a more peaceful and safer place to live and work.

## GLOUCESTERSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR TONY HICKS



*Basic information – County population – circ 600k*

**THE PAST YEAR – 2015/16:** The county spend was £420 million on non-schools and £395 million on schools (including Academies.) We still had to make some savings, but were determined to protect older Adults, the disabled, and children in care. Whilst the overall budget was balanced, overspends did occur with Adult care and in looking after children. We were able to make additional savings though in other areas, without reducing services, by changing the shape of other provisions.

Public Health funding of some £30K was provided in this fiscal year to many local organisations, to encourage healthier living activities with children, youths and adults. The Children’s Fund of some £5,000 was granted to young people.

**THE NEW YEAR – 2016/17:** All the current County services will continue with some £418 million non-school and £400 million schools spend (including Academies.) The over-riding theme in the next year is to spend more funds on vulnerable people. After four years of no increases in the County local tax, we need to increase this next year by some 3.9%. (That’s 2% approved by Government for Adult care – ring-fenced, plus 1.9% as a general increase). We need to recruit more social workers too – and to support children in care, as demand continually increases. We will continue looking for more savings and better ways of delivering good value services to the County’s tax payers.

The breakdown of spend will be: Adult services - £144 million (including help for people with learning disabilities, older people and vulnerable adults,) Public health - £26 million in grants, Children and Families - £92 million (including schools, youth support, and children’s centres,) Communities and Infrastructure - £79 million (including highways, trading standards, libraries, fire services, and waste.)

## TETBURY IN BLOOM

2015 was the tenth anniversary of the current Tetbury in Bloom team. It was another very good year, as indicated by the number of complements received from residents and visitors alike.

We continued to maintain the many communal floral displays to award winning standards and we held our sixth Open Gardens Day on Sunday 28th June, during which an impressive eleven gardens were open to the public. We held a Race Night on Saturday 24th October to raise valuable funds for Tetbury in Bloom and Christmas in Tetbury projects - and we wrote ten articles for the Tetbury Advertiser describing how the flowerbeds had evolved to sustainable planting over the decade.

Thank you to Highgrove Enterprises (our main sponsor), The Feoffees, Tetbury Town Council and to the grounds staff for their support.



## TETBURY RAIL LANDS REGENERATION TRUST

REGISTERED CHARITY NO. 1092160 PATRON: HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS THE PRINCE OF WALES



2015 has been an eventful and productive year for the Goods Shed Project. Our confidence in fundraising and putting on events has grown and the scope and ambition of our efforts has become as panoramic as the set of War and Peace! Our temporary electrical supply was upgraded by Mike and cultural events have included:

- **Our now-traditional Community Walk along the old railway line.**
- **Nicola Clark using the shed as her winter studio.**
- **“A Night of Love” exhibition, at which she sold work spanning from her schooldays, through art school and beyond – raising £1,000 for our funds.**
- **Graham Cleaver and David Walker building a “Tetbury Flyer” train to enter in the Wacky Races.**
- **Nicola Clark and John Andrews organising a big weekend Music Festival.**
- **The Mad Hatters Tea Party & fun dog show, where Sue Stoner “walked on water,” bringing down a lemon cake she had made and wearing a pizza hat!**
- **“Art in the Park” weekend.**
- **The Concert in Christ Church in tribute to Sue Stoner. (Sue, who sadly became seriously ill at this time, was transferred to the hospice. Even when seriously ill she would surprise everyone by being totally animated about news from the shed.)**
- **The Sculpture exhibition.**
- **The marvellous Goods Shed Calendar - thanks to Colin Peacock, Karen Quaddy and Jessica Mallinckrodt for all of their hours of planning and patience.**
- **Christmas coffee morning – in which Jill Dodge raised £1,000. Jill holds the uncontested record for fundraising with us, for this, gaining the Cohens charity money on our behalf, and for her constant offerings from the monthly Boot Sales.**
- **Christmas Carols.**

These events highlighted the need for open space, so with the help of our architect it was agreed that space to accommodate the kitchen and toilets would be housed in a single storey extension. New plans also include automatic raked seating and removal of the stage.

Our fundraising team has been persistent in its efforts and the biggest triumphs have been the awards we received of £50,000 from the David Thomas Trust, £10,000 from the makers of Waggon Wheel biscuits - Garfield Weston, and our biggest donation from a single couple, £1,000 from Louise Verity and her husband Carston of Pollyhesters Design Studio.

Barry Doyle and John Andrews have fundraised on an epic scale and we have all been careful to safeguard funds we have raised from being spent “on the journey.” Our stands have been displayed at every opportunity (at events like the Summer Show and the Tetbury Classic Car Show) and talks have been given to groups such as the Rotarians. David Walker, Graham Cleaver and James Scurlock have been stalwarts, constantly working behind the scenes to keep everything “on track.” I would like to say how proud I am of the Goods Shed Team and to thank them for giving 100% in 2015. Next year we will begin to see the fruits of our labours.

Sue’s death stunned us all. Our team has promised itself to get the job finished in her memory. The photograph on her funeral leaflet showed a young Sue full of visionary spirit - and this image of her will stay in all our minds as we carry her dream forwards until it is done. It was Sue refusing to give up on the Goods Shed that eventually resulted in my being dragged back into the project two-and-a-half years ago, and it has all gone on from there.

## DOLPHINS HALL

Only having become a Trustee and Chair in November 2015 I'm afraid I'm not in a position to give you a great deal of detailed news on the Dolphins Hall - I chair my third meeting this February.

It was sad that after so much hard work had been put into the New Build Dolphin Hall, it had to be put on hold due to insufficient funds and grants available to us. I'm afraid that due to the economic climate that is a general circumstance. Sadly, we have to rely on our own fundraising.

We must move on now and look forward to a complete refurbishment of the Dolphin Hall. A recent Structural Survey has already taken place and that alone assures us that we have the space to expand. We will now talk to architects to put forward ideas as to how best to re-design the inside and the extensions, to accommodate the likes of the Youth Club, Puddle Ducks Nursery School and all user groups - not forgetting to allow for expansion for "new business."

Tea Dances started the New Year for fundraising and are hugely successful. A "Nearly New" Stalls and Bric-a-Brac event was held on 19th March, with coffee and cakes on sale. A Ball has been organised for early Autumn at Westonbirt School, and a large raffle is currently being organised. Tickets will go on sale after Easter. Lots more fund raising is in the pipe line, so keep looking in Kevin Painter's column in the weekly Standard.

Thanks to our Sports Clubs, who are also going to help fundraise for the Dolphin Hall; we will soon be on our way to an unrecognisable new hall. If anyone has any ideas of help with fundraising, we would be delighted to hear from you.

*Chair Cllr Maggie Heaven*

## TETBURY POLICE MUSEUM AND COURTROOM

We continue to supply material for a column in the monthly Advertiser, and our Cold Cases item is proving very popular.

Following reports from our professional museum mentor, we are pursuing renewal of our loan agreements – the first and major one being with Gloucestershire Constabulary. This is currently being progressed.

Additional promotional material was agreed by the Town Council's Health and Regeneration Committee (the Museum's governing body) and a new digital display screen for the front window has been purchased and is now operational, providing essential information even when the museum is closed. Currently being progressed are a display board to be mounted behind the side gate (to hide scruffy yard) and an old-style telephone with audio messages (so visitors may pick up and listen in to callers to the Victorian police station.)

We are looking into removing the vertical blinds from the front window to provide a better view into the museum; however, we do need to install UV film to protect the artefacts. Research is also being undertaken into the possibility of an entry into the Guinness Book of Records regarding our handcuffs and restraints collection.

We were pleased that BBC TV Points West recently used the museum as a backdrop to their politics show item about cuts to police forces. More free publicity like this is always gratifying. New visitors to the museum are also very welcome, as are any willing volunteers!

*John Silvester, Honorary Curator*



## TETBURY TOURISM GROUP

Tetbury Tourism Group were, in October 2015, lucky enough to be given a private loan to purchase a "Shaun the Sheep" for the town - and a dinner was held on the 30th of October in the Market Hall. Supper was thanks to Allium catering, Vinotopia supplied wine with Shaun's own label and the designer Adrian Barclay came to unveil Shaun. After costs, the dinner enabled us to give back £1,000.

A "Shaun the Sheep" trail was held around the town, with thirteen small Shauns in evidence. Thirty-eight children took part and the winner was given a Shaun model to paint to their own design. With donations so far we have £700 to give back. Tetbury Town Council kindly gave us a one-off donation of £300 to help with the cost of the insurance.



## CHRISTMAS IN TETBURY ANNUAL REPORT 2015/16

The Christmas in Tetbury committee comprises a group of private individuals who raise funds for, and make happen, Tetbury's stunning town centre lighting displays and the annual formal official switch-on ceremony.

This year the switch-on ceremony, held on Thursday 3rd December, was bigger and better than ever with over one hundred children and their families taking part in the torch-lit procession from Saint Marys' church to the Market Hall.

As a result of much appreciated sponsorship from Highgrove Enterprises, we were able to add more lighting displays.

Thank you to Katie Rowlett and Santa for helping to switch on the lights, The Tetbury in Bloom team for helping to dress the tree decorations, The Feoffees for the use of the Market Hall, the stewards, Ali Bristow for Santa's wonderful Grotto, the many Tetbury businesses and the Tetbury Lions for their kind donations and Tetbury Town Council for its generous financial support - and to Colin and David for all their assistance with the signage and help on the night.

