

Stoat-O-Ween

We chat with Shard to understand how she created it and the inspiration behind it.



Try GTFO with a boat from a TT Hub!



Tricky recalls the First TT Court Case back in Dec 2020.

Glue Disaster - Cookie Arrested - Will the Charges Stick?



Axelle delivers the press briefing. [Photo: Tori]

In a surprising and unexpected twist in events TTFD Fire Chief Cookie has been arrested by the Ponizei on a number of charges including arson and destruction of property.

As I am sure all the citizens of TT are aware, in recent weeks the estate has been ravaged by glue seeping through the portal from the Ponifia Glue Factory. Many ended up stuck in it and had to use the special glue remover to get free.

On the 20 December, Ponizei Chief Axelle Beorn gave a press briefing outside the HQ setting out all the events leading up to the shocking reveal that Cookie was to be arrested. We knew it was going to be a serious briefing when we saw Axelle had even brought out the Ponizei podium.

This whole sorry saga is quite complicated and stems from the Ponifia opening a glue factory near route 9 and then hosting the 'Fixing the Pipes' GTFO event.

Here are the highlights from the detailed press briefing delivered by Axelle:

- **Ponifia Open Glue factory** - "It all started when the INFAMOUS Ponifia decided to invest in a 'state of the art' facility ... a glue factory. We have proof of the Ponifia acts and the glue was developed in their labs."



Cookie's arrest mugshot [Photo: Axelle]

- **Ponifia Kidnap Plot** "The plan was to kidnap innocent bystanders and turn them into glue beasts... rubber clad animals... evidence shows that they planned to keep those captured for 182 days then release them brainwashed with no memories of the past..."
- **The Rebel Theory** "...but their plan backfired as all Ponifia plans do. They failed the formula. And ... please brace ... they created Rebel! Yes you heard right! Rebel comes from a failed Ponifia experiment and the Ponifia decided not to inform the proper authorities..."
- **Pipes begin to Fail** "...but this is not all and it gets worse. The pipes of the glue factory started failing and the Ponifia panicked! What if the Rebel glue got released? An army of Rebel out and about, bumping people! So in a state of panic, the Ponifia decided to enlist everyone's help..."
- **Fixing the glue pipes** - "...and organised an event to fix the glue pipes. Many of you good citizens participated unaware of the true motive. The Ponifia knew the pipes were not fixable but they were saved by a distraction! Someone saved their asses!"
- **Factory Sabotage** - "Someone with the knowledge of glue decided to destroy all evidence of the creation of Rebel by altering the glue to make it non-permanent and spilling it with an explosion and the glue factory blew up!" Axelle then showed security video footage of the saboteur committing the

act. Many in the assembled crowd suggested the perpetrator looked rather a lot like Cookie. Axelle then offered to show further damning proof.

- **The Love Poem** - Axelle then produces a book and flips it open to discuss the contents. It appears to be something of a love letter to Ponifia Godmother Tricky, containing a poem and pictures. "...You see Cookie is secretly in love with Tricky! She blew up the factory to save Tricky from the scandal of the Rebel glue!"
- **The insider** - Axelle then explains how she has further evidence from a Ponifia insider revealed to be Agni, who provided testimony and the love poem.

Axelle concluded the briefing by announcing that Cookie will be put on trial early in the new year - and at the time of writing - with the charges Destruction of Property, Attempted Gluing, Dereliction of Duty and Arson.

This means that the TT court will sit to consider the charges. This is a big deal. Court cases at TT are a rare event and this will be only the fourth court hearing since TT was formed. Please see our special article on the history of court hearings at TT.

The Gazette is a serious publication and does not want to prejudice the case. It is for the court case to establish the facts and determine just how guilty Cookie really is...

Axelle revealed that Demure had also helped with the investigation and as such her and Agni have both been awarded the prestigious 'I am the Law' achievement. Agni, Cookie and Demure were also awarded the equally prestigious 'I fought the law' achievement. Well done to them all and our thanks for creating an interesting and memorable event and we await the exciting conclusion!



Glue enters the estate via the portal. [Photo: Cookie]

A quick canter through the history of court cases at TT

This will be the fourth court case to be held at Tall Tails and they are always a major 'not to be missed' event! The date has not yet been set, but it is expected to be in January.

The cases are usually held in a packed Windmill serving as the court room and visitors (and livestock) are allowed to attend and watch. Once again, the Right Honourable Judge Danaira is expected to preside over the proceedings.

Axelle Beorn and Jane Sorrowman are expected to act for the prosecution and Cookie has hired Ari and m4zi to provide her defence.

Here is the summary of the other court cases held at Tall Tails over the years.

- **#1 - Tricky's Crimson Carnage**
Date: December 2020
Gazette: N/A (Before Gazette Formed)

Sadly the first TT court case happened before the Gazette had launched. It is remembered as the hearing where Jane Sorrowman blew up the windmill but there is more to this story so have a look at the short article in this edition where Tricky reflects on the events leading up to this very first court case at Tall Tails.

- **#2 - Grand Theft Devi**
Date: April 2021
Gazette: [Issue No. 2](#)

It was quite ironic that soon after offering to launch the Gazette, Devi (now Tori) found herself to be the lead story. She was arrested on a number of charges including pony theft and at the court case she was also defended by Jane Sorrowman. The legal fees were paid by the Ponifia on condition she worked for them until her debt was paid. That debt remains outstanding to this day. Part of her sentence was to obtain the flower bouquet achievement which took for a very stressful four months to achieve. There were some fantastic moments in the hearing such as when the defence showed a video which had clearly been doctored appearing to show that [Axelle had stolen the ponies](#).

- **#3 - Pingle & Agni's Drug Extravaganza**
Date: November 2021
Gazette: [Issue No. 10](#)

Pingle and Agni were the accused for this hearing in a controversial case given the involvement of drugs. It was never established why the ponies were given drugs but Agni was cleared and Pingle was sentenced. Agni remains the only person ever found not guilty in a court case and the sentence led to Pingle's first and only foray into being a maid.

And not a court case, but some of us mistakenly thought it had been :

- **Art Attack!**
Date: June 2021
Gazette: [Issue No. 5](#)

I and others thought that the Graffiti Scandal in June 2021 was followed by a court case, but no. It could not be done because it was too close to the 2021 Week of Madness (WOM)

event. Instead, the three perpetrators Lexi, Jane and Leyre were arrested and sentenced to community service, forgoing the need for a court case.

Thank you to Cookie for the fun court case tagline suggestions.

Current & Upcoming Events

First of all Happy New Year everyone! 2023 promises to be another fun packed year at TT!

These are the events currently on our radar:

- **Sumo Winter Championship** - This is planned for Saturday 7th January and as always, the winner gets to take home the famous sumo belt!
- **Cookie's Trial** - The date is to be announced but this will be a court trial held in the windmill to determine whether Cookie is guilty of charges relating to the explosion at the Glue Factory and the subsequent leaking of glue into the TT estate via the portal. Visitors are permitted to attend the hearing but will be searched upon entry.
- **Week Of Madness 2023** - To be announced but likely to be in June. This will be the third year where we bear witness to another Week of Madness jam packed with events including the now infamous Pimp My Cart and the photo competition. Not to be missed!

More events are expected to be announced soon, so please keep an eye on Discord!

The story behind the first ever TT court case

Tricky Trouble kindly took some time to share with the Gazette her memories of the first ever Tall Tails Court Case back in December 2020.

This all happened in the early days of TT before Ponizei v Ponifia was really a thing. The Ponizei wanted to charge Tricky Trouble for leading an "illegal organisation" but didn't have any enough evidence to bring any charges. Always open to a fun bet or challenge, Tricky created a riddle box and put it on her desk to give people a chance to obtain evidence.

Axelle gave this riddle box maximum visibility by announcing it on Discord and so lots of people worked together to eventually solve the puzzles and obtain some evidence. The quest to solve the riddles was called the Grand Ponifia Challenge.

In fact, that very same riddle box was on display at in the Ponifia stand at last years Week of Madness. I didn't know what it was at the time, but now I know it is an important artefact in the history of the Ponifia.

In those days it was called Grand Ponifia due to a little dispute over naming rights (that's a whole different story), but the 'grand' was eventually dropped.

With the evidence now collected, a trial was announced to formally hear the charges against Tricky Trouble. Jane and Moon were appointed as her defence lawyers.

When the trial date arrived there was excitement in the air and the court was packed with curious spectators. The defence were not happy with their defendant constantly talking, so apparently Tricky spent a large majority of the trial gagged!

Jane had the task of delivering the defence closing statement and used that opportunity to blow up the court bringing the proceedings to an unexpected and abrupt close.

So when you see the strict security protocols in place when you arrive to watch the Cookie trial you will know why.

I am sad I missed the Grand Ponifia Challenge but having seen the post explaining some of the clues I am not sure I would have solved any, for instance:

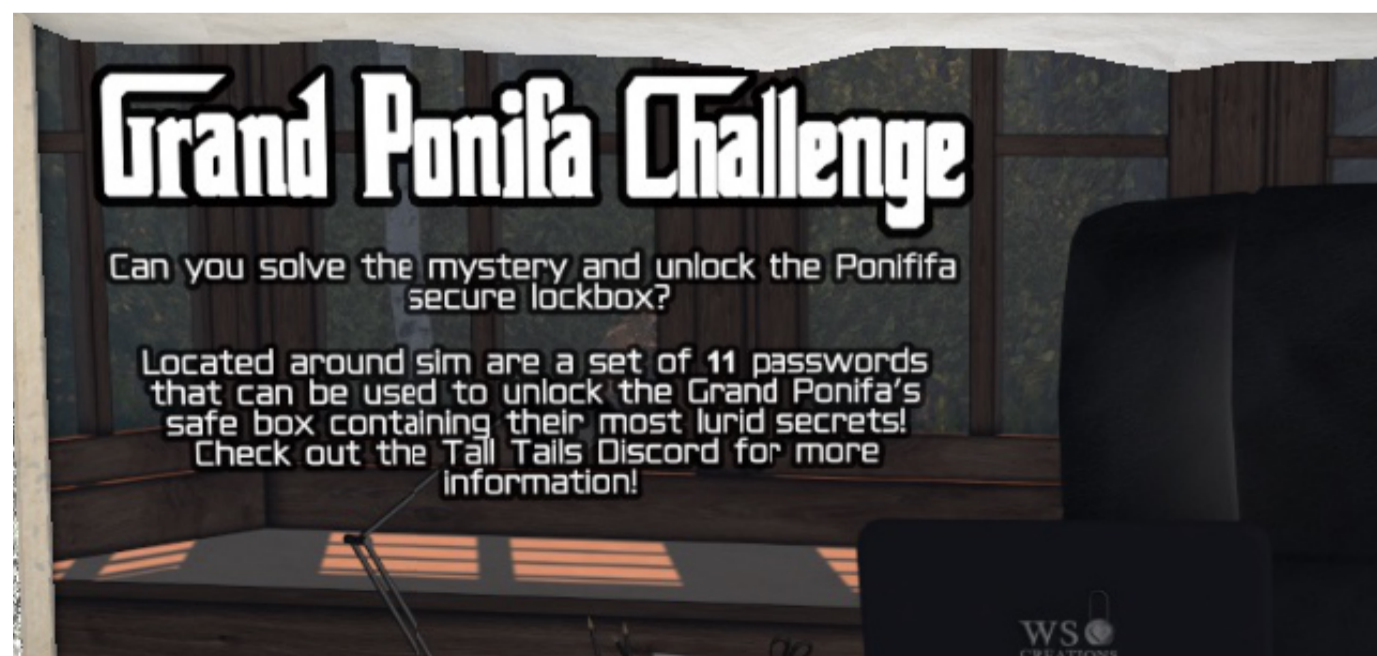
Clue: "I hope that nobody will reveal Insanity's identity. They will know she is the fake one."

Answer: It was a tricky one, but I knew that we have many people here that are able to solve it. The answer is fa0ecc0c-78be-4243-81bc-fc872514d611. It's my alt's uuid. The alt is well known as V, I have changed her name to Insanity and made her look like me.

Clue: "One I threw to the sea, If they found coordinates they will know the password."

Answer: The password was 20/8/115 the coordinates of the bottle that was placed on a beach. The bottle provided the correct format.

Thank you Tricky for sharing some interesting Tall Tails lore about the first court case and the early days of the Ponifia.



The billboard announcing the 'Grand Ponifia Challenge' back in late 2020 [Photo: Tricky Trouble]

The Stoa-O-Ween Experience -An interview with Shard

Tori: Hi Shard thank you for coming in to talk to us at the Gazette!



Its Shard! [Photo: Magic]

Tori: It was quite a while after the experience had opened that Molly asked if I had tried the Stoa-O-Ween experience. I looked at her with a blank, confused face. As you know, I booked a ticket and got on the next ride. I wrote a little article for the last Gazette encouraging those who had not tried yet to have a go as soon as possible!

Tori: For those who have not tried it, you jump down a pony sized hole and are transported to a secret forest. From there you are invited to sit as a passenger on the waiting pony cart and the experience begins. The cart slowly moves forward and the tale unfolds around you. A stoat sat at the back of the cart tells the tale and points out things to look out for as your guided cart continues on its journey.

Shard: I patterned it after a style of theme park ride know as a "Dark Ride" where you basically sit in a carriage that moves along a track, and line of sight is mostly blocked, with the ride telling a story as it moves along.

Tori: So, what inspired you to create this amazing experience?

Shard: Well, I did the Stoa's Halloween Maze last year, and I was going to do something similar again but earlier this year I lost a massive amount of my inventory due to server data corruption. Which included ALL of the project folders of things I had built, scripts I had written, for last.. 16 years? So that has been devastating and left me starting over from scratch.

Shard: Co-indecently the loss of everything includes many things for the Stoats, which is why I was late getting their Christmas event going.

Tori: Oh, that's really awful.

Shard: So, while planning what to do I happened to see a post Axelle made on the Discord server about a story Connie had come up with. Connie had made a cute little story which gave some lore to part of Tall Tails, specially about the flower field. I talked to them

both and got Connie's permission to... embellish it.

Tori: It looks like a LOT of work? How long did the experience take to create?

Shard: The actual building didn't take that long, only a few days, maybe 8 hours or so of real time. What takes so much time is planning it out, finding assets like sound files, writing the code, and other things on the "back end" that make the ride work.

Tori: Who worked with you on this, because obviously you couldn't have done it all yourself.

Shard: Well, it really was mostly me. I got some help from Shay and Cookie in checking out leads on various effects. I got Molly and Axelle to pose for the cardboard cutouts that I think it was Jane who made.

Shard: A few others helped to test the ride experience so I could get feedback from a test audience to make tweaks.

Tori: I will understand if you don't want to answer this and reveal state – I mean stoat – secrets, but how did you create it? Is it all scripted or were the tools you used to help create the animations and movements etc?

Shard: Well, the whole ride system is actually based off scripts I already had for the Stoa Island Railroad, which itself is heavily modified from an "off the shelf" railroad system.

Tori: Do you have any more ideas like this planned?

Shard: You assume that was planned!

Tori: haha

Shard: When I get a good idea, it just strikes and I sort of go into a creative flurry. Doing an entire dark ride has been something I have wanted to do for a long time, as I have always enjoyed going on Halloween rides in SL. It was just the right time where the idea struck and I had the base assets already to do it.

Tori: Have there been other events created by the stoats? Didn't the stoats run a racing day as well?

Shard: Well, the Stoats did the Halloween Maze and also, they ran the Stoa-tree Christmas Tree lot event last Christmas. The Blind Cart Race during the Week of Madness was sponsored by StoaTaco.

Tori: So can you explain a bit about what the Stoa-tree is?

Shard: ♪ "Oh Christmas tree, Oh Christmas tree," ♪ "You'll save a lot at Stoa-tree!" ♪

Shard: It's their tag line. This year is "Stoa-tree II: Return of the Fir. 'This year, the Fir will fly!'"

Shard: Stoa-tree is a stoat themed timed carting event. Ponies will need to complete the track under a certain time limit, those who do

Once upon a time there was a happy little pony who loved flower dressage. Adored it! In fact, she even named herself after the French term for Flower, "Chose Colorée avec des Pétales."

Every day she would practice practice practice on the flower field. She could do 10, 20, 30, 50, 100 letter patterns, even wearing a blindfold and after eleven glasses of wine! She could do them running, she could do them riding a unicorn, she could even do multipony flower all by herself just by running very fast.

But one day...

One terrible day...

Oh no! Pétales had just finished an amazing 250 letter pattern all by herself when suddenly a sinister figure, dressed all in white, appeared at the corner of the field.

"Would you like to go... CARTING?" asked the watcher. "Would I?" exclaimed Pétales, or she would have had she not been wearing a gag, "That sounds delightful!" She stomped once, and found herself bound to a cart, ready to ride.

A few minutes later, she was on the open road, pulling the cart behind her, happy and contented to be so useful. The stranger whipped left, and whipped right, and she tried to keep up with the commands, but as the journey wore on, her confusion grew, and many of the commands took her to the edges of the roads.

A few minutes later, she was crashing into the fences of the sea-side cliff paths, and starting to get nervous. She whinnied in fear, as she glanced over the fence, seeing the waves crashing on the rocks below, but the driver carried on whipping. "Faster! Left, no right! Faster!" cried the driver.

And then... DISASTER STRUCK! She again crashed into the fence! The fence gave way and the cart hung over the edge of the cliff, with Pétales dangling from it above the waves. She turned her head, looking for her driver, but her driver had run away!

There was a bolt of lightning! A crack of thunder! The cart had been struck! It snapped into two, and the poor, poor, pony hurtled to her doom below!

* * *

And that was the end of dear Pétales. Or... was it? Some say that if you go to the flower field, and sit on her favorite letter, the A, and say aloud a pattern, she will hear you. Sometimes a mysterious glowing orb will perform the pattern in front of you, a ghost, they say, of old Pétales. And other times, she will seem to ignore you, but if you try to do the pattern yourself, she will kindly tell you when you make a mistake. Nobody knows for sure, but there are so many stories about the ghost of Pétales, you have to wonder if some of them, perhaps, are true...

The original Halloween tale posted by Connie on Discord in October 2020 which inspired the experience.

can receive the rare "Squeak!" Stoa achievement pin!



Tessa flies like a reindeer! [Photo: Cookie]

Shard: I'd like to do more Stoa themed RP events but timing is difficult for interaction with the majority of TT members and the number of active stoats who can participate has been down since The Flattening.

Tori: Yes... and actually, while on that subject, let's talk briefly about the stoats in general. The stoats have become an integral member of the TT estate ever since they arrived on their environmental platform.

Shard: Well, I think the stoats were here a good bit before then, it just took a while for the humans to notice them.

Tori: I think we saw their environmental signs before we saw them

Tori: I think they also protested about the TT army that Loren formed right?

Shard: There was not a direct confrontation between the Stoats and TT Army, but the Stoats had become alarmed at the militarization of TT and a few army member took to shooting at the stoats. That didn't go over to well with them...

Tori: They also became famous for pirating and sabotaging ships during the TT regatta events right?

Agni: At the only regatta I took part in, I was lost at sea, and a red stoa ship stopped and offered help!

Shard: Yes, the famous first appearance of the "Stoa Boat" is what really brought attention to their existence.

Tori: But the stoats have also known tragedy after the awful environmental disaster known as The Flattening. Of course, the monument to that horror still stands to this day. Is there anything you want to say about that?

Shard: They have not forgotten.

Agni: I have a question about the recent goo oozing around Tall Tails which appears to have leaked through the portal. Did any stoats get stuck and did the stoats have anything to do with it?

Shard: The Stoats have been aware of the trash situation around the Meadows and Pike Mountain for quite a while and keep an eye on it. They did encounter the glue, but their keen sense of smell prevented them from really

blundering into it like the ponies tend too. Still, fur and glue do not mix.

Tori: So, I have heard about a Stoa Island. What can you tell our readers about this?

Shard: Well, Stoa Island is about 1.1km due East of Pike. It's assumed to be where the stoats as we know them originated.

Shard: Stoa Island is an adult residential sim, everyone there is kinky and ponygirl sightings are not rare. The sim itself is landscaped to a high standard and seasonal. The Stoats built the Stoa Island Railroad, which is actually listed on the Great Little Trains of Second Life group and so open to tourists! You can go and take a trolley ride around the sim and see some of the landmarks.

Tori: So, it's not a secret? Anyone can go?

Shard: Yes, anyone can go, just be respectful of the private residences. Standard SL etiquette. There is a clubhouse and beach too.

Tori: How can they find it to visit?

Shard: Well, you can look on the map, it's pretty obvious which sim it is if you look east. In fact, you actually can see TT from Stoa Island. Set your draw distance to over 1000m and teleport over there and you can still cam back to TT and see people. It's a neat effect of SL.



Stoa Island to the right of TT! [Graphic: Agni]

Agni: Yes, that cover art is amazing, I cannot even begin to think how you achieved that.

Shard: Yes, we've had visitors attracted by the sim cover art alone.

Shard: It was time intensive but not technically difficult. I am rather surprised we don't see a lot more art like that on the grid.

Agni: So, I assume you did it with prims?

Shard: It has to be done with prims, textures do not show up on the overhead map view.

Agni: Perhaps we should look to do a more focused piece with the Stoats at some point?

Shard: Yes, if you ever want to do a more in-depth investigation into the stoats that could be fun

Tori: Thank you so much for coming in to talk to us Shard, and I am, glad we could make our time zones work to do this!

Shard: Just... be careful if you ever talk to the stoats directly... they struggle to understand human customs and don't have a mastery of the language so there have been some misunderstandings in the past.

GTFO from a TT Hub by Boat!

The Ponifia GTFO event 'Fixing the Glue Pipes' was a wonderful success, if we put aside the explosion and subsequent glue spill into Tall Tails. Thank you to everyone that attended and helped organise this fun and memorable event.

So we have all done GTFO by pony cart but did you know that you can also try GTFO by boat from one of our TT Hubs?

Get yourself down to the Tall Tails Ponifia "Fisheries" and Adhesives factory and use the provided rezzer to get a cute boat!

Rental Property Focus

Do you remember that lighthouse I featured in the last edition?

Its still available, so you can still be the proud owner of the biggest light on Tall Tails!



It's still a lighthouse. It's still available! [Photo: Tori]

As discussed in the last edition, the weekly rental price varies depending on how many prims you require, so as a guide:

- 200LI is 600\$
- 300LI is 900L\$
- 400LI is 1200L\$

For any questions about this property or rentals in general, please contact Magic Lacroix or Molly Lacroix directly.

Last Pony Caravan of 2022

On Friday 30th December we all enjoyed the last pony caravan of 2022 which was set in the famous Snowlands of Sansara with a wonderful after-party at TT with DJ Steph and DJ Jane. That's the 25th Pony Caravan!

It was a beautiful route and even a griefer at Eesoo Corner™ could not break our party spirit!

Organising these pony caravans is a huge task, which became clear in our interview with the caravan directors in [Gazette issue 9](#).

Magic is now stepping aside as director and I know we will all want to thank her from the bottom of our hearts for all she has done to support this popular and fun event.

Agni and Eesoo will continue as directors as we go into 2023 and I know we will offer them our full support and encouragement.

Maid Cafe opens for business!

A brand new cafe has opened up on the estate near to the Transport hub! Its called the Crooked Cart Cafe and has lots of pictures of TT maids past and present hanging on the walls.

So be sure to do drop in for a hot drink with a fresh muffin or doughnut.

However, as the sign outside curtly warns, "No Ponies Allowed" but there is a water tank and leashing point outside for them to use.

The team are still hard at work on the Transport Hub next door and it is shaping up to be wonderful. We will let you know when its ready to use... but please note - it's not just for taking in glue from the Glue factory!

And thanks to...

...everyone that has contributed to this edition proposing ideas, submitting stories or doing the amazing things I get to cover here.

A big thank you as well to all of the proof readers and reviewers who have the fun of pointing out all my errors and mistakes.

And thank you to my amazing Mistress Tricky Trouble.

And as we have enjoyed our Christmas and New Year celebrations, Cookie is busy awaiting her trial...



The new Crooked Cart Cafe next to the transport hub [Photo: Tori]



Mama Moo Mare in the Xmas spirit! [Photo: M73]



Meanwhile in the Ponizei cell...[Photo: Cookie]



...Cookie waits. [Photo: Cookie]



A huge fire erupts at the Ponifia Glue Factory after the GTFO event. I wonder how this happened? [Photo: Tori]