

Old Sodbury Times

Issue 104

January 2024

Happy New Year to Everyone

Village Hall News

The last couple of months have seen two Village Hall organised events which both proved very successful. Bonfire Night on Sunday 5th November was very well attended, particularly given the rather 'damp' conditions. Fortunately the rain held off until the latter part of the event, so just those clearing up got wet! This is a donations only event, as always people were very generous, so it proved a successful and profitable night.

On Saturday 2nd December we held a Race Night in the hall. There was a great turn out and everyone seemed to thoroughly enjoy the evening. For those that have not been to one before, it is an evening of recorded horse races with a tote style arrangement for betting on your chosen horse. On a couple of the races, people can choose to club together and 'buy' the horse, giving them a bigger prize if they win. The whole thing is very low key, but people get excited about a recording of a horse race that might have actually taken place 20 years ago!

On a less positive note, we had a car fire in the Village Hall Car Park in November. A Range Rover left in the Car Park for a few days went up in flames on a Saturday Night. Another car parked nearby was also badly damaged. Half the nearby hedge was also burnt and killed. The Range Rover was so badly burnt that the police were unable to find any identification markings so the owner could not be traced. This meant clearing the wreckage was delayed. Since we have also had reports of groups of youngsters meeting in the Car Park and leaving litter, we have started to shut the gate whenever possible to try to deter unwanted visitors. If anyone does see any suspicious activity in the car park please report it to us on OSVH@outlook.com, and include photos if possible.

Looking to the first few months of 2024, we will have the 200 Club Social event on 15 March, open to all 200 Club members and their families. An email will be sent around with further details. Comedy Night has now been confirmed for Saturday 13 April 2024. To pre-book tickets, please email OSVH@outlook.com

Thank you for supporting the Village Hall and we look forward to welcoming you to one of our events in the near future.
Ian Rowland Chair of the VH Committee

Many thanks to Liz Bennett, Roger Maclean, and Peter Ball who have delivered newsletters for many years but are now retiring. We welcome Karen and Jennie to our team, they will be delivering Cotswold Lane and Chapel Lane respectively. *Editors*

The Village Hall Ash Tree

For some months the Village Hall Committee has been concerned about the safety of the Ash tree in the car park.

Some of you may remember that a few years back, it dropped a huge branch.

Fortunately, this happened early in the morning and no-one was hurt.

The Committee had planned to have the tree simply cut back but having sought advice from a number of local arboriculturists and tree surgeons, we have learnt that not only is the tree showing early signs of Ash Dieback, but that cutting it back will increase its risk of attracting more of the disease and thus the likelihood that it will need to be completely cut down within three to five years is very high.

Reluctantly, and for the reasons of safety, we have made the decision to have the tree cut down to ground level sooner rather than later. We intend to plant new trees in its place.

Anne Myers VH Committee

Dates for your Diary:

At the Village Hall

3 Jan	W.I.	7.30pm
7 Feb	W.I.	7.30pm
8 Mar	Promises Auction	7pm
15 Mar	200 Club Social	7.30pm
23 Mar	W.I. Barn Dance	7.30pm
13 Apr	Comedy Night	7pm

At Old Sodbury Wood +Orchard

20 Jan	Tree Planting	10am
3 Feb	“ “	10am

At Millstone Farm, Mill Lane

27 Jan	Tree Planting	10am
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200 Club Winners

November No 137 Mrs P. Wilson £50

December No 91 Dr C. Sellick £50



We have had a wonderful term at **Old Sodbury School**. Christmas time is always a special time for the children who have enjoyed Christmas parties, Christmas lunch and our wonderful Christingle performances of the Bethlehem bandits, in the church.



In November the school marked Remembrance Day with a variety of activities including making poppies, writing poems and visiting the village war memorial. We also learned about the religious festival of Diwali and its importance in the Hindu faith. Oak class had a fantastic afternoon of science fun with Year 12 KLB students that visited us, learning about acids and alkalis; also discovering local history as part of their term's mission. We hope you all had a wonderful Christmas and Happy New Year.

If you have a child starting school in September 2024, please do not forget to get your application into South Glos Council by 15th January.

We are looking for a lunchbreak supervisor Monday to Wednesday from 12-1. If you are interested, please contact the school office.



Old Sodbury School PTFA (FOSSA) update:

FOSSA will now be adding a regular section to the Old Sodbury Times with updates as to events that have happened, what the fundraising has achieved for the school, plus future events coming up.

Firstly a huge thank you to all the local organisations who have supported us so much this year already, without them we couldn't do what we do so please consider these companies first when you make any

purchase! The Jolly Hog - Tesco Yate - Morrisons Yate - Waitrose Chipping Sodbury - Dyson Foundation - Bennos Fruit & Veg - Opulence Health & Beauty - The Bell Inn - The Cross Hands.

Old Sodbury School is a key part of the village and not just critical to our children's future but also to their children's future! In an endeavour to cater to the diverse needs of the children, particularly those with Special Educational Needs (SEN), and to cultivate our children's musical talents, FOSSA has embarked on an ambitious fundraising initiative - the creation of a new classroom.

Over the past year FOSSA has raised enough funds to fund a large number of iPads for the school, enough recorders for every child in the school, a new outdoor speaker, an outdoor play house, books and Christmas presents for every child and helped to subsidise school trips. However this year we are on a mission to raise the funds to help build this new classroom - and we really need the help of the entire village to make this happen! We are organising an 'Auction of Promises' event on **Friday, March 8th 2024 7pm at the Village Hall**. Tables are available in sets of 10 at £25 per cover with a professional auctioneer to help us auction off the generous gifts/donations.

The success of this event will hinge on support and attendance from the village but also kind and generous donations from local business. Please we need all your help to make this happen!

For further information or to make donations, please contact fossa.ptfa@gmail.com - together, let's create the future we envisage—one promising bid at a time.

James Bell Chair FOSSA

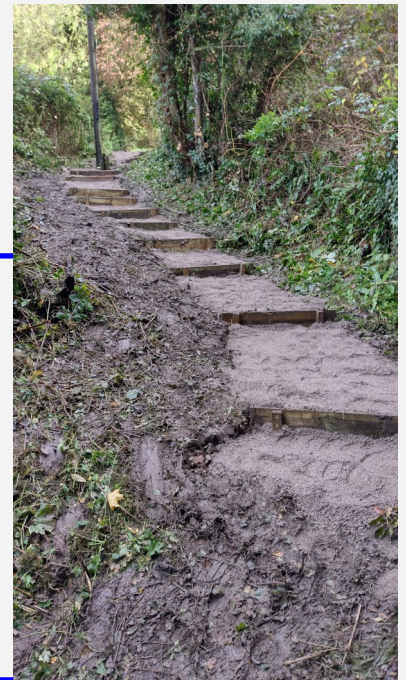
Cotswold Voluntary Wardens

Many thanks to the wardens who have made safe a very slippery footpath from Chapel Lane up the hill to Badminton Road. Steps have been put in on the steepest section using materials supplied by the South Glos Rights of Way Team. A muddy slope is now walkable. Many thanks to the landowners, the Febry family, who gave permission for this work to be done.

It is hoped that in the New Year a similar renovation will be done on the Cotswold Way above the school.

If you notice any problems with footpaths please report it to Richard Wilson on 01454 310540

Richard Wilson Cotswold Warden for Old Sodbury part of the parish



OLD SODBURY W.I.

There was some delicious food and lots of hilarity at our Christmas Party December meeting. We started off with a welcome from our President and a glass of winter fizz, followed by a Christmas buffet. Members then enjoyed entertainment by Richie Newman who regaled us with songs and sketches. There was some very enthusiastic singing in the WI 12 days of Christmas followed by 'You Raise Me Up' and finishing off with a rousing 'We Wish You a Merry Christmas'. Plenty of prizes in the raffle were won, with the proceeds going to St Peter's Hospice in memory of one of our dear WI friends. Presentations of flowers, cups and trophies and gifts for all members and guests were also given out.

Our next meeting on Wednesday 3rd of January will be a talk given by Wendy Clegg who is our WI climate ambassador, she will be talking about how climate change effects us all, the competition will be a recycled item. In February we look forward to having a talk on the Air Ambulance, a very necessary service that provides emergency care in the local area. Though they are part of the 999 service they are a charity and depend entirely on donations.

Book club are currently reading 'The Ladies Midnight Swimming Club' by Faith Hogan. An uplifting story of friendship and living life to the fullest. The craft group are busy organizing some projects to start in the new year. There are many social outings being planned, visits to the cinema, the theatre, lunches and afternoon teas.

Our next big event is the Barn Dance on Saturday 23rd March 2024. A very popular event which has previously been sold out! Music is by the 'Bees Knees' so reserve your tickets now!

If you would like to know more or to come along to one of our meetings, you would be made very welcome. For more information give Sue a ring on 01454 315161

Barn Dance

Saturday 23rd March 7.30pm

at Old Sodbury Village Hall

in aid of W.I. funds

Music by "The Bee's Knees"



Ploughman's Supper

Bring your own drink & glasses

Raffle proceeds to charity

Tickets £15

From Sue on 01454 315161

or any WI member

Sodbury Short Mat Bowls Club Report January 2024

We will be starting the New Year hoping to recruit new members to play Short Mat Bowls on a Monday evening 6.15 to 9 pm. If you are interested in having a go, please come as a visitor to our Village Hall. No previous experience is necessary, and equipment will be provided. Play will resume on Monday 8th January.

We look forward to celebrating the New Year with a meal and skittles at The Old Royal Ship for members and guests. If you would like to know more about the Bowls Club, please contact Richard 01454 321323.

Chipping Sodbury Tourist Information Centre



Located in the clock tower, the Information Centre is an important resource for visitors and locals alike. Supported financially by Sodbury Town Council and Dodington Parish Council it is run by a dedicated team of volunteers who keep it open 6 days a week.

The centre keeps local information leaflets, sells tickets to local events and keeps stock of a variety of items including books, maps, cards and Chipping Sodbury/Cotswold souvenirs. When you are in town come and have a look around, and if you are interested in volunteering for a few hours a week have a chat with one of the friendly volunteers.

Steve Spooner steve.spooner@sodburytowncouncil.gov.uk

Old Sodbury Football Club

The team played Shirehampton as a rearranged game and after a good first half went down 3-0. In the Premier Cup against Winterbourne the lads were out-played and out-fought in the first half and found themselves 3-0 down at half time. In the second half the team found a new lease of life, dominated the half and came back with 2 goals, but couldn't find the equaliser.

Away at Nicholas Wanderers goals from Manager Liam Barrett, Josh Field and Simon Purnell gave the team a 5-2 win. High flying came to the village and went away with three points. It was an even game with Iron Acton winning 2-1.

A draw would have been a fair result

The home game with Chipping Sodbury was called off due to a frozen pitch . On the 9th October the home game against Oldland was also called off; this time because of a waterlogged ground. We hope for better weather in the New Year .

The club would like to wish the village people a Happy Christmas and a Good New Year.

Fixtures

6 Jan	Patchway	A
13 Jan	Cribbs A	A
20 Jan	Shaftesbury	A
3 Feb	Patchway	H
24 Feb	Hambrook	H
2 Mar	AEK Boco	A
9 Mar	Nicholas Wanderers	H
16 Mar	Shaftesbury	H

Sodbury Woodland and Nature Update

As we welcome the New Year, there's a lot happening in our woodland, orchard and beyond. Here's a brief update on the exciting initiatives and projects shaping our natural spaces.

Woodland and Orchard Renewal With an eye on sustainability, we are set to replace 2 trees in the Orchard and starting woodland management by carefully removing guards from dead trees and replacing where necessary to ensure that the vibrant life of the green haven continues.

Deer dilemma in the wood Nature comes with its challenges and Roe Deer have been nibbling our shrubs .Whilst this can encourage bushy growth, it also poses a threat to the establishment of these plants. To strike a balance we are introducing larger guards especially for species like Hazel and Spindle, offering protection and fostering their growth.

Sodbury Common Field Project Over on the Sodbury Common field we have plans to enhance the landscape further. Our focus includes tree planting, with an ambition to introduce hedgerow trees, complementing the wildflower meadow that we hope will blossom from seeds and plants planted last October. This holistic approach aims to create a harmonious blend of flora and fauna promoting biodiversity and enriching this previously un-utilised area.

Elsewhere we are supporting some tree planting in a field off Mill Lane, by a footpath, following a grant obtained from the Forest of Avon.

Andy Sage-Bell

Dates for your diary: Saturdays 20th January and 3rd February Planting at The Woodland and Orchard 10am

27th January Planting at Millstone Farm (halfway down Mill Lane) 10am

For more details contact Richard Wilson 01454 310540 or visit SWaN Facebook page.



The new information board now installed

Please send your news to Pauline Wilson Tel: 310540 Email r.pwilson@yahoo.co.uk or Michelle Dash Tel: 07955 170321 Deadline for March edition is **15th February** For Village Hall bookings go to: <https://oldsodburyvillagehall.com> THANK YOU TO ALL who have helped with this edition. WE WELCOME MORE CONTRIBUTORS **Disclaimer:** Any opinions expressed or implied in this publication are not necessarily those of the editors. Any articles submitted are on the basis that they can be edited and must not be anonymous.