

Old Sodbury Times

Issue 105

March 2024

Why is everywhere so wet?

Why is Mill Lane flooded, why are the footpaths so muddy and why is the railway line to Paddington closed? It is climate change. The W.I. heard all about it at a talk last month.

We've recorded rainfall here since 1986 when it was exceptional to get 100mm of rain per month, perhaps just twice a year. Since July 2023 seven out of the last eight months have been over 100mm, totalling over 1200mm. That's a metre and a quarter over every bit of land. With the earth warming, more water evaporates from the tropics and it gets dumped on the western seaboard of Europe and Old Sodbury. Of course we could fly away to drier climates and forget about it but we would just be making matters worse for when we get back.

The scientists say we should be locking up carbon by planting trees, keeping permanent grassland, investing in sustainable energy generation. This was emphasised in the South Glos Council Local Plan, the draft of which was on show at the consultation at the end of January. Here in Old Sodbury, Sodbury Woodland and Nature (S.W.a.N) have continued tree planting in the parish (see page 4)

Congratulations to Old Sodbury Resident—Steve Spooner

who has been awarded the S.Glos Chair's Community Award for volunteer work. Steve is Chair of the Tourist Information Centre, Treasurer of S.W.a.N. and Vice Chair of Sodbury Town Council. Amongst the many ways he has helped the community, he has overseen the renewal of play equipment at Old Sodbury and at The Ridings, Chipping Sodbury. Steve has recently successfully claimed a large grant from the West of England Combined Authority (W.E.C.A.) for environment works and is now helping Anne Myers apply for a similar grant for an air source heat pump for the village hall.



Congratulations too to the Bike Hub who have now repaired and brought back in to use their 1,000th bicycle. If you have a bike you no longer ride or need, or a bike your child has outgrown, then please bring it into the Bike Hub contact: yatecommunitybikehub@gmail.com Please don't throw it away. The same goes for any bike related items—clothes, parts etc.



There's a new road appearing in Old Sodbury. What shall we call it? Suggestions to your Councillors

Dates for your Diary:

At the Village Hall:

6 Mar W.I. All about Cats 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 the Church

23 Mar Churchyard Clean 10-12.30

15 June Old Sodbury Village Day

200 Club Winners

January No 119 Mr P.Jones £50
February No 185 Miss A.Couch £50

Back to the mud The Cotswold Wardens have received funding from the Cotswold Way Association to improve the muddy section of the Cotswold Way in Old Sodbury just north of the school. Once the ground dries up, it will be graded, Ecogrid sections laid and gravel put on top. That short section will be fenced off so that horses or cattle cannot damage the path. Many thanks to John Edgar for allowing this to be done on his land.

Richard Wilson

Old Sodbury School are celebrating TWO fabulous inspection reports! We were inspected by SIAMS as a C of E Primary School and received a glowing report from the Diocese. Only a week later we had our long awaited Ofsted report with an overall "Good" assessment. The inspectors were able to recognise what a wonderful and unique school Old Sodbury is with words like, children "flourish and thrive", staff "expertly teach" and children experience a "plethora of wider enrichment activities" We were overjoyed to receive a rare "outstanding" in the area of Personal Development. For further information and a link to the report: www.oldsodbury-pri.s-gloucs.sch.uk/sport/our-community/ofsted

This term, the 'plethora of activities' included the school choir travelling to Birmingham's Resorts World Arena to take part in a concert with 5000 other children in the world's largest children's choir concert.



Our youngest children in Hazel (Reception) class went to Bristol Aquarium to explore their topic "under the sea"

The whole school is currently enjoying Science week. Children participate in lots of science experiments concluding with a science show.

Fundraising for our extra learning space is starting to gain momentum: all the details are on our go fund me page.

<https://www.gofundme.com/f/finish-building-our-much-needed-extra-building>

FOSSA (Friends of Old Sodbury Association)

Thanks to everyone in the village for their support for the Auction Dinner on Friday 8th March. We sold out 100 tickets with three weeks to go and we are still receiving very generous donations daily, leading up to the event. We are hoping this could be an annual event and a great chance for everyone interested the village to get together and have some fun!! **Please look out for the children in the village who are doing activities for sponsorship throughout February please help them any way you can!**

Jason Roberts whose daughter is in Hazel class at the school is completing a sponsored 100 mile run from Chipping Campden to Bath to also help raise funds for the school - How amazing!!! Please can we all help Jason with sponsorship, all promises to fossa.ptfa@gmail.com and we can send out a payment link.

Thank you to everyone who made cakes and helped out at the school disco before half term, it was a hugely successful day where we raised just over £300 for the school. We couldn't do this without the help and support of the community and the parents. **Thank you all so much.** *James Bell (Chair of F.O.S.S.A.)*



January and February are historically quiet for the hall but we are preparing for our regular events, starting with the 200 Club Social evening on Friday 15 March. Members should have had their invitations, if not please contact Dave Mason (davelindamason@btinternet.com). The evening starts at 7:30pm with a drink on arrival, nibbles and a fun quiz. The £500 draw and the monthly £50 draw will be made on the night and there will be spot prizes for those attending.

On Saturday 13 April we will be hosting our annual Comedy Night. Tickets are £30 for a sit down meal followed by a show with three professional comedians. Always a great event with fabulous food and top class entertainment. If you have not been before, you don't know what you're missing! Tickets can be booked through our hall email below or Rodneygleed@hotmail.co.uk.

And then there is Village Day on Saturday 15 June. Preparations are underway, but help is always needed so if you would like to get involved please get in touch. You could join the organising committee or just put your name down to help on the weekend. Any help is appreciated, just drop an email to the hall email below.

We are soon hoping to tidy up at the rear of the hall with a new path and some hard landscaping. We also aim to plant some trees and hedges to replace those cut back recently. Sadly the old ash tree has gone and our thanks to all those that helped clear the wood. We have left a couple of metres of the trunk and are investigating the suggestion for some form of carving to be done. Hopefully we will have more detail for the next issue.

Ian Rowland Chair of the VH Committee All bookings through OSVH@outlook.com

OLD SODBURY W.I.

Our meeting in January gave us some food for thought and a cause for thinking of new year resolutions. It was a fascinating and thought-provoking talk by

Wendy Clegg who is our WI climate ambassador. She spoke about how climate change affects us all, women in general and the underdeveloped countries in particular, due to poverty, limited resources, gender inequality, instability, and insecurity.

The competition for a 'recycled item' produced several entries including a wooden cheeseboard and knitted items. It was won by a beautiful patchwork tea cosy.

Our February meeting was a presentation by the Freewheelers Emergency Voluntary Service, a charity providing an out of hours, free, courier service to the hospitals in the Southwest of England. It is a local group and part of the Nationwide Association of Blood Bikes (NABB). They transport mainly emergency pathology specimens to the Southmead laboratory but also blood products, breast milk, clinical records, medication and equipment on motor bikes. All the riders are volunteers. It was a very interesting, followed by many questions and a lively discussion.

Our next meeting on 6th March will be a talk by Bernard Merrick: 'All about Cats', a look into feline behaviour and how our domestic cats are really wild animals in disguise. The competition is a cat ornament.

Book club are currently reading 'Shuggie Bain' by Douglas Stuart. The winner of the 2020 Booker Prize is a story all about Shuggie, one of three children growing up in a working-class Glasgow family and the brutal challenges his family face. There are a number of social outings planned, visits to the cinema, the theatre, lunches and afternoon teas. The craft group are planning their entry for this year's Hawkesbury Show.

Our next big event is the Barn Dance on Saturday 23rd March. A very popular event, previously sold out! Music is by the 'Bees Knees' with a ploughman's supper, 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 ring Sue: [01454 315161](tel:01454315161)

Old Sodbury Church Clock Thank you to everyone who contributed to the repair of the church clock. Last year scaffolding was erected to repaint the church tower and whilst it was in place, our clock specialist, Timsbury Clocks removed the clock hands for repair and cleaning. The shaft for the hour hand on one face was severely corroded so a new shaft had to be commissioned. The pendulum support spring was also cracked and had to be replaced.

On starting the clock again you may have noticed, it was not long before it stopped again! The mechanism has now been re-adjusted and will be monitored over the next six months. The clock is 140 years old and keeping it in running order is a specialist and expensive task.

The clock requires manual winding once a week. Members of our congregation have been doing this for but with increasing age, are now finding it difficult. We are looking for people to be on a rota to wind the clock (perhaps once a month) so if you are interested in this, please contact [Chris Cooper 01454 549581](tel:01454549581).



Sodbury Short Mat Bowls Club. In January we enjoyed celebrating the New Year with a meal and a good game of skittles at The Old Royal Ship for members and guests. Now with Spring on the way we look forward to more members joining us and playing some good games of Bowls. There have been concerns for some time about the low number of players at our Bowls club, so we are considering a later start time of 7pm. This may be more convenient for some and encourage new members.

If you would like to know more about the Bowls Club, please contact Richard 01454 321323.

Barn Dance

Saturday 23rd March

7.30pm

at Old Sodbury Village
Hall

in aid of W.I. funds

Music by "The Bees Knees"



Ploughman's Supper

Bring your own drink & glasses

Raffle proceeds to charity

Tickets £15

From Sue 01454 315161

Old Sodbury Football Club

After a six week layoff, due to wet pitches, the team got underway playing Cribbs away. In a close game both sides settled for a goalless draw.

At yet another away game the lads put in a great performance against Shaftesbury, winning 2-1. Under lights on a 4G pitch we could have been two up in the first ten minutes but Shaftesbury are a high flying team with a goal difference of 39 and they took control of the game. Their goalkeeper Richard Guest brought off four outstanding saves. Then on the stroke of half time Shaftesbury scored.

In the second half, the manager for the day, Steve Clapp, made a change. This proved a good move with Darren Bell scoring. Another change brought its reward with Jordan Miller netting the second which turned out to be the winning goal.

The rearranged game against Chipping Sodbury was a proper local derby game with solid tackles, good football and a few bookings. Old Sodbury let a 2-goal lead slip with the result being 2-2. Patchway came to the village and deserved to win their first game of the season 3-0 in which the home side put in a poor performance and was well below par on the day. On the 17th February the home game against Thornbury was called off due to the pitch being waterlogged. *Laurence Walker*

Fixtures

24 Feb	Hambrook	H
2 Mar	AEK Boco	A
9 Mar	Nicholas Wanderers	H
16 Mar	Shaftesbury	H
30 Mar	Greyfriars	H
16 Apr	A.E.K.	H
20 Apr	Cribbs	H
23 Apr	Oldland	H
27 Apr	Patchway	A



S.W.a.N Report As the winter season starts to give way to the promise of spring, and despite the extremely damp conditions, our dedicated volunteers have been busy bees, nurturing and enhancing our natural spaces. Here's a roundup of what we've been up to:

Orchard Revitalisation: Thanks to the hard work of our volunteers, a few of the fruit trees have been replaced and mulch applied to the trees, providing vital nutrients and moisture. Stakes and tree shelters have been repaired following the winter, safeguarding our young saplings against the elements and nurturing them as they mature into majestic trees.

New Hedge Beside Camers Track: Members of SWaN rolled up their sleeves and braved the mud to assist Forest of Avon and the Cotswold Wardens with the planting of a new hedge alongside the track, part of the overall new pasture trees and small woodland blocks



OLD SODBURY CHURCHYARD WORKING PARTY

We are having a churchyard working party on

Saturday 23rd March: 10 am - 12:30pm

Your help would be much appreciated to help keep God's Acre looking good for the village and all the walkers on the Cotswold Way.

Please bring gardening tools, suitable gloves & appropriate footwear.

***Bacon rolls and cakes** will be provided mid-morning.*

Expanding

Green Spaces:

With the help of

Forest of Avon, a significant number of trees have been planted on the picturesque land at Millstone Farm in Mill Lane. These will contribute to the beauty of the landscape, carbon sequestration and wildlife habitat.

On the Sodbury Common field, where the wildflower meadow was planted last year, 28 trees have now also been carefully planted within the hedgerows plus an island in the middle of the field, enriching the biodiversity of the area and enhancing its ecological resilience. Stay tuned for more updates and upcoming events, and remember, every small action makes a big difference.. *Andrew Sage-Bell*

Please send your news to Pauline Wilson Tel: 310540 Email r.pwilson@yahoo.co.uk or Michelle Dash Tel: 07955 170321 Deadline for May edition is **15th April** 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.

Guest Editor Chris Anderson