

# Old Sodbury Times

Issue 96 revised

September 2022

## Time for a Change?

By May 2023 Pauline and Richard will have produced 100 editions of The Old Sodbury Times. We feel by then it will be time for someone else to take over the reigns.

Fortunately the newsletter has a number of regular contributors who supply the words and pictures. There is regular support of funds as well to support the printing. It is mainly a case of putting it all together which is not too onerous a task. We would also be on hand to guide and help. If anyone feels there are interested could they please contact us on 01454 310540 or come and visit us.

**Old Sodbury Bonfire Night** Friday 4th November, from 5.30pm

Old Sodbury Bonfire Night returns again this year on Friday 4th November at Sugars Orchard Field (home of Old Sodbury Football Club). The evening will consist of food, drink and music, to the backdrop of a huge bonfire for the villagers and friends of Old Sodbury to get together for another knees-up. As was the case last year, there will not be a firework display.

More details will be announced in the coming weeks, but there will be something for all ages and entry will be free of charge. To stay up to date, please join the village Facebook group, follow the village Facebook page (OldSodburyVillageNews) or visit the website [www.oldsodburyvillagehall.com](http://www.oldsodburyvillagehall.com).

Can you help us?

This event is being run by the Old Sodbury Village Hall Committee, along with volunteers. If you can spare a small amount of time to assist with the event, please get in contact with Darren on 07739 562628 or

[darrenhales@me.com](mailto:darrenhales@me.com)

### **Footpath Improvements**

A number of improvements have been made to the paths from Mill Lane across to Dodington Lane to make them more accessible. Many thanks to the Kingswood Ramblers and S.Glos Rights of Way who recently put them in.

In August **the Friends of Old Sodbury Church** staged the annual concert at Camers Gardens to raise funds for the fabric and upkeep of the Church. This year was the largest and most popular ever staged with an audience of near 250 to hear the Abba tribute band Abba's Angels.

The event, as usual, was a picnic and everyone brought food and drink. Some had brought tables set out with lavish feasts and exotic drinks to enjoy while the band performed.

The weather was kind and as the evening wore on many were dancing to the rhythm of the well known songs encouraged by the performers. It was a fabulous evening.

### *Dates for your Diary:*

#### At the Village Hall

Every Monday Short Mat Bowls 6.30pm

16 Sept Coffee, Tea, Cake 10am -12.30

20 Sept W.I. meeting 7.30pm

26 Nov Xmas Craft Fair 11am -4pm

#### At The Football Field (Sugars Orchard)

4 November Village bonfire from 5.30pm

#### Sodbury Woodland

7 Sept W.I. Visit 6pm

18 Sept Work Party 9am -

Local Walk - Marshfield Hedgerows

20 Sept - Marshfield Church 2-5pm

### **200 Club Winners**

July No 156 Mr P Whyton £50

August No 144. Mr A Sage-Bell £50



## Village Hall News from the Chair, Ian Rowland

On 9th August, for the first time since 2019, the Village Hall Committee held their AGM. The meeting was open to the public, although numbers were limited by summer holidays. The following is a summary of the main points:

Bookings are increasing, since fully re-opening. We have three new groups: a Keep Fit class on Monday evenings, the Govocal choir group on Tuesday mornings and a Kung Fu group on Thursday evenings. There are weekday slots available for afternoons and Tuesday evenings. Bookings for parties also seem to be on the rise, particularly for Children's parties.

The headline work has of course been the new kitchen, the focus of attention for most of the last 3 years. After planning approval in November 2019, we spent the next 18 months raising funds, started work in August 2021 and held our first event in February 2022. The feedback has been overwhelmingly positive and is definitely contributing to an increase in bookings. We were fortunate to secure grants for the bulk of the funds, but it would not have been possible without the many generous donations from individuals. We are enormously grateful to you all.

Other works and investments have included repairs to the main hall floor, the purchase of a contactless card reader, replacement of the hot water cylinder and updates to the website. We hope, shortly, to tidy the area behind the hall, On a longer term 'to do' list are: roof insulation, heating upgrade/replacement, solar PV, replacement front doors, replacement table tops, and possibly Wifi.



**michelle's studio**  
**Classes - 2022/23**

Michelle Dash is an artist based near Chipping Sodbury, with many years experience running art groups for adults. Her small studio classes are ideal for beginners as well as those with some experience and anyone looking for a relaxed and non judgemental environment to make art, learn skills or maybe try something new. Michelle provides informal, individually tailored tuition to help you create unique art projects.

*Currently running:*

**Art Class**  
**Fridays 10.00 -12.30**  
£20 per session including art materials

**Ceramics Class**  
**Saturdays 10.00 -1.00**  
£25 per session including materials and firings

For more information about these and other classes please get in touch with Michelle on **07955170321** or **mishleyart@gmail.com**

Class size is 4 people max. Tea, coffee and biscuits provided. You can book any number of sessions (subject to availability) and pay on the day or book and pay for 5 or more sessions in advance and get 5% discount.



## All About Hedgerows: Nature Walk in Marshfield

Join CPRE Avon and Bristol and the Cotswold Wardens for a walk through Marshfield to spot the flora and fauna of local hedgerows, and learn how to improve hedgerows in your local area.

Join us at 2pm at St Mary's Church Marshfield for teas and coffees before the walk.

Tuesday 20th September  
2-5pm

Walk will start and end at St Mary's Church SN14 8NT  
Parking at Community Centre Car Park SN14 8NZ  
Free to attend, all welcome email [hedgerows@cpreavonandbristol.org.uk](mailto:hedgerows@cpreavonandbristol.org.uk)  
to book your place  
[www.cpreavonandbristol/hedgerowheroes/](http://www.cpreavonandbristol/hedgerowheroes/)

The current energy crisis means running costs have increased significantly. Future works will improve energy efficiency, but we have made the difficult decision to increase charges to cover costs. We recognise this may impact on some users.

The AGM reviewed fund raising events. Village Day in Sept 2021 proved a great success with good weather and a great turnout. This year the Village Day was a Platinum Jubilee celebration which had a good turnout and was a financial success. Comedy Night in April was as usual sold out.

Events planned for the next 12 months include Bonfire Night (4 November), Race Night (in December), the 200 Club get together, Comedy Night (22 /4/2023) and Village Day (June).

In closing the AGM, thanks were given to all those on the Committee for their efforts throughout the last few years, with particular mention to Anne Myers, who almost single-handedly managed the kitchen project, and secondly to Hayley Dash, who, with Anne, sourced the bulk of the grant funding. The hall caretakers, Michelle Dash and Laura Walker were also thanked for their commitment and patience in dealing with many Covid rules and working around a building project.

**New committee members please!** The committee is short of one or two members. Our primary function is to manage and maintain the Village Hall, but we link up with other Village groups to promote community activities and

benefits. If you are interested in joining the Committee, we would love to hear from you. We are looking for people with an interest in our local community who are prepared to put in some time for the benefit of others, and you might find that more enjoyable than you expect! If that might be you, drop us an email to [OSVH@outlook.com](mailto:OSVH@outlook.com)

**OLD SODBURY W.I.**

We have been cruising down the canal on a Thursday afternoon! We had a most enjoyable coach trip to Stratford on Avon where we boarded "The Countess of Evesham" to be served with a delicious lunch. What a splendid treat on a perfect summer day!

In July there was rapt attention by all, to the stories told by our guest Mark Rutherford. Despite a sweltering hot evening he kept us entertained with tales of underground jam factories, of a lady standing in for the Queen on Her Majesty's day off, and finally caring for a demanding new puppy. We were pleased to welcome four prospective new members and look forward to seeing them at our September meeting on Wednesday 20th when Jeremy Hellier will speak to us about "The Missions to Seafarers". Many of our members have been knitting hats to be presented to Jeremy on the evening for those sailors arriving in Avonmouth and needing protection from the cold winds at sea.

A walk is arranged for early September for members and guests who are looking forward to a guided tour of the Community Woodland in the village. Richard and Pauline Wilson have been invited to show us around and we may be able to see the tree that we have sponsored! A Ploughman's Supper will round off the evening.

Our exhibit for Hawkesbury Show has been completed and we will soon know the result of our entry on the theme of "Autumn". Craft group members thoroughly enjoyed making pretty cards using sea glass collected by Myra on the seashore. We were mesmerised by these tiny, shiny, colourful "gems" and created some stunning pictures with them. We look forward to more creative evenings with Myra in the new year.

Book Club members held their last meeting in a member's garden, they didn't enjoy the book very much but they thoroughly enjoyed the lovely tea! Our next book is "The Water Thief" by Claire Hajaj. This is said to be "a searing novel with a profound moral conflict at its heart".

Our WI skittles team are once again in the Avon Federation final defending their title won in 2021. This takes place mid September on a neutral alley in Coalpit Heath. We wish them luck!

Several trips to the cinema have been enjoyed by members, the latest film viewed was "The Fisherman's Friends one and all" – the last 3 films made us cry so hopefully any tears shed at this film were with laughter! Visitors are welcome to join us at our meetings which take place on the third Wednesday of the month. For more information please ring 01454 315161.

Sodbury Short Mat Bowls Club

We have played Bowls on some very warm evenings this summer but despite the heat a good number of members have attended.

A few weeks ago we were pleased to support a Cancer Care Charity fundraising event held in the beautiful garden of one of our members. Everyone was looking for some welcome shade to enjoy a delicious cream tea, while in the background musicians entertained us. We look forward to more social events in the future.

Prospective new members are very welcome on a Monday evening in our Village Hall where we start play at 6.30pm. Please contact Richard on 01454 321323 for more information



*coffee, cake and catch up*

*At The Village Hall*

Come and join us for  
coffee, tea, cake

and a chat with friends at the Village Hall

(all proceeds to village hall improvements)

**Friday 16th September**

From 10am - 12.30pm



**CHRISTMAS  
CRAFT FAIR**

**OLD SODBURY  
VILLAGE HALL**

**Saturday 26th November**  
**11.00am - 4.00pm**

**Coffee and Mince Pies**

Tables available £15 -(which goes towards  
Village Hall improvements fund  
Contact Laura  
ljshepwalker@gmail.com

**Old Sodbury Football Club** The new season is upon us, starting on 3rd September. The first game will be at home so please come along to support us. With some new signings the club are hoping to do well in the Senior Division.

We have played in the Sodbury Sevens and reached the quarter final before losing. Pre-season friendlies went well with just one loss against Paulton. The wins were against Almondsbury and Bromley Heath with a draw against Iron Acton.

Laurence Walker

Fixtures		
3 Sept	Lawrence Rovers	H
10 Sep	Highridge	H
17 Sep	Free	
26 Sep	Longwell Green 'A'	A
1 Oct	Thornbury (GFA Cup)	H
8 Oct	Iron Acton Res	A
15 Oct	Bristol Barcelona	A
22 Oct	Thornbury Res	H
29 Oct	Free	
5 Nov	Chip Sodbury Res	A
12 Nov	Totterdown Res	A
19 Nov	Patchway Res	H

**Sodbury Woodland and Nature (S.W.a.N)** The hot, dry summer has taken its toll on the young trees, particularly where the subsoil has been brought to the surface and compacted by heavy machines. We estimate we have lost 10-20%. So on September 18th 9am onwards we will be going through marking the tree shelters of those which have died. We would be grateful for any help you can give us in doing this. See Sodbury Woodland and Nature Facebook page for details.

The fruit trees, planted early last winter have survived well. With the aid of considerable help from Michelle Dash, through the summer, we have been producing individual labels for the fruit. These ceramic tiles will tell you which are cider apples, how to find your favourite tasting pear, allow you to see the difference between a damson and plum, and tell you what a Medlar is. Many thanks go to Michelle for patiently guiding us volunteers through the production process. (More details of Michelle's studio are on page 2). We hope to put these labels on the trees also on September 18th



This winter we will have a lot more tree planting to do. In addition to planting up where trees have died, we have several local sites in the planning process. With the aid of residents from Chapel Lane, we hope to plant along the southern side of the approach track. In time this will help screen the Network Rail overhead gantries. The Elizabeth II Jubilee Avenue will be extended to 29 trees; it would be nice to make it 35 one tree for every 2 years of her reign. Telephone 01454 310540 for further details.



The drought this summer and terrible hike in oil/gas prices have shown us what happens if we 'return to normal' after Covid. Planting more trees is one way in which we can lock up carbon and save our planet for the future. But we also seriously need to think do I need to get in the car, should I put a pullover on rather than turn on the heating, do I really need that new piece of equipment, how can I repair this broken item. There are many small ways we can all help. Put together they will make a big difference.



Please send your news to Pauline Wilson Tel: 310540 Email [r.pwilson@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:r.pwilson@yahoo.co.uk) or Michelle Dash Tel: 07955 170321 Deadline for November edition is **15th October**. For Village Hall bookings: Carol Rowland Tel: 314923 or [OSVH@outlook.com](mailto:OSVH@outlook.com) THANK YOU TO ALL who have helped with this edition. WE ALWAYS 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.