

Old Sodbury Times

Issue 120

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LEST WE FORGET

OLD SODBURY MEMORIAL Lychgate Appeal Launched

The Lychgate at the entrance to the Churchyard was built in about 1920 to commemorate those who gave their lives in the First World War. Their names are carved into the beams along with the caption "To the Glory of God and in Loving Memory of the Men of this Parish who gave their lives in the Great War 1914 – 1918". After World War II, the names of five more Men were added.

The Lychgate is Grade II listed and The Cotswold Way passes through it so it also stands as a significant feature to our beautiful village. To many walkers on the Cotswold Way it is almost a gateway into the village. But it is in a poor state. Some of the timbers, of solid oak, have rotted or weathered badly during the past hundred years and there are signs of stress under the weight of the Cotswold Stone tiled roof. As with all things worth preserving for future generations, money is needed to effect repairs. An appeal has been launched, led by the church, and donations can be made via JustGiving using the link: <https://www.justgiving.com/campaign/davidhartley?> or the QR code below



Dates for your Diary

8 Sept: Sodbury Stroll
19 Sept: Race Night at Village Hall
13 Oct: Sodbury Stroll
21 Nov: Craft Fayre, Village Hall
27/28 Nov: Wreath Making (page 2)

Interestingly, South Gloucestershire Council have a war memorials section on their website listing those it says are named on the Lychgate but it does not completely match.

Frederick Charles Batten is listed but his name is not included amongst those carved into the Lychgate. He was the son of James and Mary Batten of Frome Bridge Farm, certainly a son of this parish. He had emigrated to Australia and when war came he joined the Australian Infantry. He was just 31 years old when he fell in France and has no known grave.

Tom Phipps was a Corporal in the Home Guard and evidently a son of Old Sodbury. He was also 31 years old when he died on 27th February 1941 during the bombing of the Parnall Aircraft Factory in Yate. 51 people were killed at the factory that day.

Perhaps their names should be added to those recorded on the Lychgate.

Chris Anderson

CROSSING UPDATE

No objections were received to the Statutory Notice which closed in July. That is excellent news because if there had been any objection, the officers would have had to prepare a report for a review and decision. That not being necessary, the detailed construction drawings are being prepared and I am told that our crossing is expected to be built "this financial year", that is before the end of March 2027.

We should remember that not long ago the speed limit through the village was 60 mph and there were numerous accidents, with three fatalities in 1991. Pauline Wilson suffered an accident while pregnant in 1986 and began a campaign with Maggie Maclean and others. They surveyed, produced reports, went on national radio and made a thorough nuisance of themselves. The limit was eventually reduced to 40 mph in the winter of 1993/4. It was at last reduced to 30 mph in about 2013 in response to photos of children trying to cross alongside juggernauts. Thank you to all who so doggedly fought for it.

Chris Anderson

NO OBJECTIONS

200 Club Winners

July

£50 winner Number 185 Mrs A Couch

August

£50 winner Number 39 Mrs Pam Fitt

Old Sodbury School Report (19th Century)

The School was started in about 1840 to educate the children of 'the labouring, manufacturing and other poorer classes' but there is little information about the early years. In 1864 there were no children over 9 years; older children were expected to work. By that time the old school was considered to be unfit. It had one classroom for all ages, a stone floor, whitewashed walls and one coal fire not lit until mid-October and no fire after mid-April. A school Inspector described it as cold and poorly lit. The pupils' spelling was 'rustic'.

A new school was built during the Harvest Holiday of 1869 and started again in September. Harvest Holiday was one month usually from mid-August but varied each year with the harvest. The children were expected to go out to the fields to work. The only other holidays were a week at Christmas, half a day on Good Friday and a day at Whitsun.

Behind the school were gardens where the boys learnt how to grow vegetables. The girls spent a lot of time sewing, there was even a sewing mistress on the staff.

School was not free; Farmers and Tradesmen paid 4 shillings (about £30 today) per quarter and Labourers paid 2d per week. If you had more than one child at school the cost was reduced.

Punishments varied; Elizabeth Jenkins was caned in 1883 for writing 'immoral language'. In 1870 James Goddard was expelled for 'insolence and bad behaviour'. In 1878 Charles and Minnie Midson were withdrawn, having gone to the Workhouse.

At the end of their schooling the children were sent off to work. George Scull left to work at the Brewery. Thomas Lock (aged 10) went "to keep the Turnpike" (to manage and collect tolls) at Coombs End. In 1868 Priscilla Grise and Ruth Slade, both 10 yrs old, left to go into service. Elizabeth Slade was sent to London to be in service.

In 1878 the employment "for profit" of children under 10 years was prohibited and children over 10 years could only be employed with a certificate of sufficient attendance at school. Except children living more than 2 miles from an "efficient school, or during the 6 proclaimed weeks of harvest and other necessary operations of husbandry". Attendance varied especially when there was very cold weather or farm labour was needed. Sadly the School Log records a number of children who died.

It wasn't all hard. It is reported that on 27th December 1877 "the children had their annual School Feast.... After tea, prizes were given.... and a number of magic lantern pictures were then exhibited, to the great delight of the youngsters. At last each went rejoicing home, with his hands full of cake and oranges."

In 1895 there were 80-90 pupils at the school. This shot up in 1899 to 150 when the tunnel was being built, then returned to 80-90 by 1903.

Thanks to Richard Wilson who relied on research by John Edgar and from "The Fly Leaf", a forerunner of this publication.

SODBURY STROLL

The Cotswold Way Wardens continue to lead the regular monthly walks on the second Tuesday of the month, beginning from Old Sodbury Church at 10am. The circular route is about 5.5 miles (8.85 km), taking about 3.5 hours and requiring moderate fitness. There may be some steep slopes.

Wear weather appropriate footwear and clothing, take a drink, a snack and suncream. Check the day before that the walk is happening.

<https://www.cotswolds-nl.org.uk/exploring/guided-route/sodbury-stroll-8/>

WREATH MAKING WORKSHOPS

WITH ELLIE WICKS FROM GABLE STUDIOS

FRIDAY 27TH NOVEMBER at 7pm
SATURDAY 28TH NOVEMBER at 10am

ALL MATERIALS PROVIDED

GLASS OF PROSECCO AND MINCE PIE INCLUDED

OLD SODBURY VILLAGE HALL

SCAN QR CODE TO BOOK
OR GO TO EVENTBRITE & SEARCH FOR
'WREATHMAKINGOLDSODBURY2026'

Sodbury Short Mat Bowls Club

On pleasant summer evenings our members have continued to meet at the Village Hall 6.30pm until 9pm on Monday evenings for a friendly game of Short Mat Bowls. Occasionally we roll out the mat in a different position which presents a new challenge for everyone and the unpredictable results can cause considerable amusement!

Our Summer Party took place for members and friends in August when we enjoyed lots of sunshine and delicious food.

It was an excellent opportunity for past and present members to catch up and spend time together.

Now that Autumn evenings are approaching, we would welcome any visitors or prospective new members. We have equipment available and no previous experience is necessary.

If you would like to know more about the Bowls Club, please contact Richard Gilpin 07860 334191.
Sue Leah

Old Sodbury WI

Claire from Evolution Fitness certainly put us through our paces with her seated Pilates session at our last meeting — thank goodness for cake afterwards to restore our energy levels!

From hive to honey and hawking hornets, we're very much looking forward to welcoming Jane from the South Glos Beekeeping Association at our next meeting when she'll be giving us an insight into the fascinating world of beekeeping.

It was a hot day in August when we enjoyed a wonderful trip to Sherborne Castle and Gardens. The tour of the castle was made all the more interesting by our very informative guide. The castle was built by Sir Walter Raleigh in 1594 and he lived there in exile until he was arrested for treason in 1603. Sir John Digby bought the castle in 1617 and it was extended and modernised over the years, always carefully respecting the antiquity and historical associations of the original house. It is still the Wingfield Digby family home and it contains important collections of furniture, porcelain and art.

Our book club's summer read is *The Moroccan Daughter* by Deborah Rodriguez — a story woven with friendship, love, family, tradition and a few secrets. It promises to be a wonderful discussion for our ladies.

If you are at the Hawkesbury Show on 29th August, be sure to drop in and see our craft exhibit in the competition entitled 'TV Dramas'.

We're also preparing for our Christmas Fayre on Saturday 21st November, 9.30am–1.00pm in the Village Hall. Expect a lovely variety of local artisan craft stalls, books, plants and of course refreshments.

If you'd like to find out more or join us at one of our meetings, you will be very warmly welcomed. We meet on the first Wednesday of each month at Old Sodbury Village Hall — a lovely hall with plenty of parking.

For more information, you can find us on Facebook or email woldsodbury@gmail.com.
Linzie Clark

INFERNO

Well what an evening! This is not only my opinion, the concert was so good. We were a bit jammed in because 300 people were there with all their chairs and tables, but it didn't matter.

The group, Inferno, started at 6.30pm and from the word go you could feel the atmosphere. It wasn't long before people got up and started dancing in front of the stage.

But it was the second half that really got everyone going. There must have been at least 100 people up on their feet, from the young to the not nearly so young. Inferno clearly responded to their enthusiastic audience and got us singing and acting out the songs. They were taking photos of us!

During the second half there was a magical sunset, reflected on the shiny costumes of the Group.

And then it was over but we had had such a memorable evening.

Thank you to The Denman family for allowing us to use their lovely garden, and thank you to all the people connected to the Church for all their hard work both leading up to and during the concert. It was all very well organised. *Pauline Wilson*



Old Sodbury Football Club

With the hot dry weather the drainage work is still not complete. The contractor will be topping up and re-seeding so we will not be able to use the pitch until October at the earliest. Thank you for your cooperation and could we please ask everyone to continue to keep off the newly drained areas.

With the new season starting at the end of August the team have been playing friendlies away. In the game against Mangotsfield Rock the lads were 1 down at half time but went on to win 5 - 1. Against Filton, who narrowly missed being promoted into the county league, Old Sodbury lads had a great result winning 3 - 2.

They then went on to a crushing win 9 - 0 against Phoenix with Charlie Davies scoring his 2nd hat trick to date. The team's training and fitness became apparent when they were 2 goals down against Wotton under Edge then came back to win 4 - 2. Alfie Davies, just back playing after a knee injury, scored 3 goals showing a very promising start to the season. Another friendly against Henbury Rockleaze was drawn 0 - 0. The latest game was away to Wessex Wanderers and the lads won 1 - 0.

The first home league game against Cribbs will be at Winterbourne Academy at 2.00 on 29th August. *Laurence Walker*



Join us for a night of horse racing
on the big screen at
Old Sodbury Village Hall

OLD SODBURY RACE NIGHT

Saturday 19 September
7 pm start
7.30 pm first race
8.30 pm buffet supper

Tickets £10, includes buffet supper and first drink
Tickets available from:
The Dog Inn or Dave Mason 07930 690439

PLEASE KEEP OFF THE GRASS (PITCH)

As noted above, the football pitch has been drained, top-dressed and re-seeded so it is important that everyone keeps off until it is re-established. Unfortunately, people have been going onto the field which has necessitated remedial work and expensive fencing. Please do keep off and remind children not to go onto the pitch until the fence comes down.



Christmas Craft & Coffee

Morning

Saturday 21st November
9.30am - 1.00pm

Old Sodbury Village Hall

**Artisan Craft Stalls,
Books, Plants, Raffle,
Refreshments**

Admission is free and everyone is welcome



Please send your news to Chris Anderson (07860 155528 or ca@chrisanderson.co.uk)

THANK YOU TO ALL who have helped with this edition. Deadline for November edition is **15th October** WE WELCOME MORE CONTRIBUTORS
For Village Hall bookings go to: <https://oldsodburyvillagehall.com> **Disclaimer:** Any opinions expressed or implied in this publication are not necessarily those of the editor. Articles are accepted on the basis that they can be edited and they must not be anonymous.