

# Old Sodbury Times

Issue 111

March 2025

## SPRING IS IN THE AIR!

### WE NEED TO TALK ABOUT THE PEDESTRIAN CROSSING

At the Village Hall, Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> March, 7:30pm

Redcliffe Homes are currently bound by the Section 106 agreement to build a pedestrian crossing in the centre of the village. They've suggested several possible plans but all have been deemed unacceptable by South Glos. Council. The Council officers seem determined to vary the agreement, releasing Redcliffe Homes from the commitment in exchange for money with a view to South Glos themselves building the crossing, together with traffic calming. The amount of money they are talking about has increased from £75,000 to £150,000 but that still falls far short of the overall cost according to South Glos. Nevertheless, Officers are recommending acceptance of the variation and the decision will be made by a committee of elected Councillors on 20<sup>th</sup> March. The danger is that the money will be absorbed and we don't get the crossing. IF THE VARIATION IS ALLOWED THERE MUST ALSO BE A COMMITMENT FROM SOUTH GLOS. We can make representations to the Councillors and speak at the meeting.

Come and hear the full sorry story and help plan the way forward.

ChrisAnderson

### Dates for your Diary:

At the Village Hall

7 & 8 March: **SHOWTIME 2025**

8 March: WI Craft & Coffee Morning.

12 March: Village Meeting, Crossing.

28 March: 200 Club Social and star draw.

2 May: Old Sodbury Comedy Night

7 June: Village Day



**WELCOME** to the folk who have moved into Brooks Close:



Old Sodbury Village Presents

## SHOWTIME 2025

Come and be amazed and surprised by the extraordinary talents of your friends and neighbours.

Tickets  
Adults £10  
Children Free  
(Concessions £8)

Friday and Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> March

6:30pm door

7pm performances begin

Bar available  
all evening

Tickets from Jenny Allard: email [jjjnc@aol.com](mailto:jjjnc@aol.com) or phone 01454 313254

"Hi, we - Gemma, Élodie (6) and Rafe (nearly 3) and a cat called Kaiser - have moved in to Brooks Close. We are excited to get involved in village life and enjoy the walks and nature. The kids are in school and pre school in Chipping Sodbury and I work for a philanthropy working to end child deaths from malnutrition. Look forward to meeting you!" *Gemma*

"My name is Blossom, I'm a miniature dachshund and I'm nearly two. I moved to Brooks Close just before Christmas with my grandma (Jessica) and grandad (Simon), as my daddy is away at university. We are settling in well to our new home and I particularly like going to the Dog Inn where the food is delicious! Kevin, the cockerel wakes me up super-early every morning, which is taking some getting used to! I look forward to meeting you." *Jessica and Simon Piper-Thompson*

**The 200 club** Old Sodbury 200 club social event, featuring the **£500 star prize** draw, is on Friday 28 March. A free welcome drink on arrival at 7.30 p.m. and complimentary nibbles as well as a fun quiz. In addition to the £50 and £500 prizes there will be spot prizes for those attending. If you are able to donate a spot prize please contact **Dave Mason** (07930 690439 or [oldsod200@gmail.com](mailto:oldsod200@gmail.com)).

Subscriptions of £15 per number are due during March and reminders will be sent out with a newsletter.

If you're not currently a member of the 200 club, maybe you are new to the village, and would like some more information please contact Dave Mason (details above). There will likely be numbers becoming available soon.

Winner of the £50 prize in January was Number 97: Mrs B Ball and in February, Number 29: Mr Rodney Gleed

## Village Hall News

Hopefully by the time you are reading this, the final making good and decoration after the heating project will be complete. The hall has been so busy over the last couple of months that we struggled to find a suitable slot for the works to take place and had to wait for half term. Our apologies to those regulars that might have been affected by these works, but we hope you find that the end result is worth it. We have also taken the opportunity to upgrade some of the lighting, adding some extra lights in the stage area and replacing and supplementing some of the external lighting and sensors to improve safety at night.

In addition to the numerous private bookings that we have hosted, we have also had a fund-raising Race Night of our own. This was held on Saturday 8 February and proved to be a great success and very much enjoyed. As a result, the hall funds received a much needed boost of nearly £1,000. Our thanks go to all the Committee who helped on the night, but in particular to Dave Mason for the lion's share of the organising.

Future events at the hall include the '200' club social on 28 March. Members should receive their invite by email. "Showtime 2025", a display of previously untapped Village talent is on Friday 7<sup>th</sup> and Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> March. Come and see friends and neighbours as you've never seen them before! (and may never want to again!).

Our annual Comedy Night will be on Friday 2 May with the usual format of sit down meal followed by 3 professional comedians from the national circuit. Always a sell-out, so book early. Tickets at £30 are available from Rodney Gleed on 07983 154083.

If you or anyone you know, might be interested in helping with the management of the hall and other village events, or even just helping with individual events on an ad-hoc basis we would be delighted to hear from you. Please drop us an email on [OSVH@outlook.com](mailto:OSVH@outlook.com) or speak to one of the Committee. Hall bookings can be made online at <https://oldsodburyvillagehall.com>. We look forward to welcoming you to our lovely, warm and newly decorated hall soon.

*Ian Rowland Chair of the VH Committee*

## SWaN Update

Members and volunteers have again been busy over the winter. The planting carried out on St John's Way a couple of years ago has generally taken very well in spite of the wet conditions and poor soil in places, but in January volunteers replaced saplings that had not taken and also extended the planting.



At the same time additional planting of bulbs was carried out in nearby Brandash Park.

In the field on Sodbury Common a great job has been done cutting the hedge on 2 sides of the field, without damaging the hedge trees planted last year and allowing wildlife to flourish in the

uncut sides. Additional planting has also been completed in the field corners, replacing any saplings which did not take and extending the planting areas. The wildflowers planted in 2023 are shown to be doing well, though will take some time to become properly established.

Over in the Orchard and Woodland, some of the fruit trees have been replaced and tree shelters straightened following the winter storms. We have also recently installed a couple of Owl nesting boxes so keep a look out, especially at dawn or dusk and let us know if you spot any new residents!

*Andy Sage Bell*

## Sodbury Short Mat Bowls Club Report March 2025

We enjoyed celebrating the New Year with a meal and a good game of skittles at The Old Royal Ship. Now our members are looking forward to lighter evenings and more games of Bowls. We welcome any visitors to come and play. All equipment is provided and no previous experience is needed.

Charles Dickens said

*"It was one of those March days when the sun shines hot and the wind blows cold: when it is summer in the light, and winter in the shade."*

So with spring in the air and the cold winds of winter behind us why not come along to our freshly decorated Village Hall and join the Short Mat Bowls members for a game. Please contact Richard 01454 321323.

*Sue Leah*

## OLD SODBURY W.I.

A warm welcome back for our members on Wednesday 8th January 2025, albeit with snow on the ground. At our first meeting of the year, we were joined by Claire Callaghan who gave us with some wonderful insights into the world of Physical Health and Wellbeing for Women. Claire is a Chartered Physiotherapist, and she provided us with a fascinating talk on how low oestrogen levels after menopause have an effect on bone health, muscle strength, our pelvic floor muscles, balance and co-ordination. These effects can be mitigated by exercises and attention to diet and supplements. To reduce the risk of heart attack or stroke, we are also advised to follow the CMO's recommendations in 2019 – basically to keep moving! For our monthly competition members brought exercise aids, sharing boxing kits, exercise rings, spinners and squeeze balls!

At our second meeting of the year on Wednesday 5th February 2025 we welcomed Susan Symons back for an interesting presentation on her research and book, *'The Colourful Personal Life of Queen Victoria - Part 2'*. A wonderful insight into the middle stage of Victoria's life and her marriage to Albert. Did you know she spent 1/3rd of her marriage pregnant? We learnt that Albert was a stud amongst the Saxe-Coburg family who married well. An interesting insight into their relationship and Albert's 17-year struggle to obtain a royal title. They had 19 children over 17 years. I personally bought Susan's book, *'Victoria's Daughters'* and I'm looking forward to learning more. Victoria spent 63 years on the throne but after Albert died, she famously quoted 'The world is gone for me'. Our monthly competition was an antique book, and we had such an array of extraordinary books shared by our members.

In other news, our WI team has been accepted for the 2025 Skittles Tournament and is doing very well. Our wonderful book club has just read *'Six Years'* by Harlan Coben and met to discuss it in January. Some of our members have recently attended a ceramic workshop and the Old Sodbury Race Night. We have many more trips and activities booked for the upcoming year.

The Old Sodbury WI are hosting a Craft Fayre and Coffee Morning on Saturday 8th March from 9.30am until 1.00pm. Free Entry and everyone is welcome.

We meet on the first Wednesday of every month. Our next meeting is on Wednesday 5th March at Old Sodbury Village Hall, and we will have a talk on Medical Detection Dogs. If you would like to know more or attend a meeting, do get in touch. You would be most welcome to attend one of our future meetings.

Sam Newick. Old Sodbury WI.  
Publicity. 07534 930 630



Old Sodbury WI

*Spring Craft &*

*Coffee Morning*

**Saturday March 8th**

**Old Sodbury Village Hall**

**9.30am - 1.00pm**

Artisan Craft stalls, books, plants,  
raffle, refreshments

*Admission is free and everyone is welcome!*

Reg Charity No:1019685

## **Mill Lane gets a makeover**

As we go to the printers, Mill Lane is at last receiving attention with major patching and resurfacing.

Sections of the ditches have been dug out though it is not clear where they are expected to drain to. Hopefully the tendency to flood every time it rains has been addressed.

Unfortunately the heavy machinery and vehicles brought to Mill Lane have made a considerable mess of Chapel Lane. Perhaps we can have that resurfaced too! *Chris Anderson*

Mark your calendars and get ready for a day of fun with friends and neighbours, as **Old Sodbury Village Day** returns in 2025, promising a fantastic celebration of local traditions, family-friendly activities, and plenty of entertainment for all ages.

**When:** Saturday 7th June

**Where:** Sugar Orchard Field (home of Old Sodbury FC)

Whether you're a long-time local or new to the village, Old Sodbury Village Day is the perfect opportunity to celebrate our wonderful community. More details to follow...

**OLD SODBURY FOOTBALL CLUB**

The game on the 21<sup>st</sup> December was called off due to the pitch being waterlogged and the 4<sup>th</sup> January game was also called off due to the frozen ground. On 18<sup>th</sup> January Henbury came to the village and ran out 3-1 winners. After taking an early lead the home side were reduced to 10 men when centre back Glyn Pearce was sent off in the 30<sup>th</sup> minute for bringing down the forward and called for stopping a goal scoring opportunity.



A win, at last, away to Patchway 4 – 2. At half time the score was 3 – 0 with goals from S. Clapp, J. Field and J. Dannell. Field added a second in the second half. Top of the table Barcelona came to the village on 1<sup>st</sup> February. After a goalless first half a Lewis Bryant thunderbolt from 30 yards out put the home side in front but the visitors were soon on level terms. Old Sodbury had a goal disallowed, a disputed offside decision, then three goals in the last quarter saw the visitors take the lead only for Josh Field to bring the home side level. In the last 5 minutes Barcelona were awarded a penalty to win what was a good entertaining game. On 8<sup>th</sup> February a goal in the first and last 10 minutes brought a defeat against Bendix. Then on 15<sup>th</sup> February Hillside won 3 – 1 at Old Sodbury. The home side didn't deserve to be on the losing end of this good game. *Laurence Walker*



**OLD SODBURY PRIMARY SCHOOL**

We are all enjoying longer days and being able to get out and about. Hazel class (Reception) have visited Bristol Aquarium for their mission “under the sea”. Chestnut class (Years 1&2) have been learning about “how the weather affects us” which was very appropriate for what felt like all four seasons this term! Sycamore class (Years 3&4) have been looking at “what is underneath our feet” and have been looking at the different types of rocks and had a fascinating visit from a geologist. Oak class (Years 5&6) have been learning about why living things change. Their camouflage moths were incredible! “We then had a challenge to see whose moth would be best suited to survival in our classroom.” See the schools class pages for more photos: <https://www.oldsodbury-pri.s-gloucs.sch.uk/school-life/class-pages-24-25/oak-3>

The whole school celebrated NSPCC national numbers day on 7<sup>th</sup> February. As well as raising money for charity, there was a lot of Maths-themed fun and children (and staff!) dressed up as either their favourite Numbot or as a Times Table Rockstar.



We use TTrackstars as a valuable but fun maths teaching resource. Here are Sycamore rocking out with rock star attitude!

Hazel class enjoyed having Oak class children join them in collaborative learning to help learn about the creatures that live under the sea! The older children helped them create their own 3D models of sea creatures and their habitats. *Jenny Jackman*

Please send your news to Chris Anderson (07860 155528 or [ca@chrisanderson.co.uk](mailto:ca@chrisanderson.co.uk)) or Michelle Dash Tel: 07955 170321  
 THANK YOU TO ALL who have helped with this edition. Deadline for the May edition is **15th April** 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.