

Old Sodbury Times

Issue 116

January 2026

Happy New Year! Wishing you a peaceful 2026

Dates for your Diary:

13 Jan: Cotswold Guided Walk, 10AM
18 Jan: Tree Planting with SWaN, 10AM
25 Jan: WI Jigsaw Puzzle Race, 1.45PM
29 Jan: Tree Planting with SWaN, 10AM
25 March: WI Barn Dance



Santa managed to make it to the Carols and sing-a-long despite transport difficulties. Apparently the reindeer were resting and there was a great shortage of tractors because so many were taking part in the Horton Tractor Run at the same time. Thankfully one was found and Santa was able to come with treats.

The Crossing and Other Planning News

Plans for our **light controlled pedestrian crossing** are progressing and we expect the proposals to go to public consultation very soon. Yes, it's really happening! The cost of the whole project is covered by the Section 106 payment from Redcliffe Homes in respect of the 35 house development at Brooks Close so should not be vulnerable to the difficult financial position of South Gloucester Council.

Groundshore Ltd acquired and then developed the former **Crosshands Garage** site (opposite the AckAck yard on the A46) which had for many years been used as a scrapyard. Despite being within the Cotswolds Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty this was done without planning permission and the perimeter fencing and hardstanding apparently encroached onto the highway land. There followed a retrospective planning application (P23/01430/F) and much toing and frowing before a final decision in October '25. Permission was granted for a revised plan in which the roadside boundary of the site is moved back from the road, the northern access is closed, access and visibility splays are improved, lighting amended and a detailed planting scheme to mitigate the visual injury is agreed with the SGC. These steps are required to be made within 6 months of the decision so we look forward to things happening soon. *Chris Anderson*



The 200 club winners

November Number 181: Mr R Maclean

December Number 24: Mr A Keller

Old Sodbury School

What a fabulous term we have had at school! The build up to Christmas is always very exciting in a Primary school and the children have enjoyed their Christingle performances, Christmas parties (with an exciting visit from someone very special), Christmas lunch and Christmas breakfast! It's not all about the taking - but the giving too. So they have raised money for Save The Children with Christmas Jumper day, Brain Tumour Support with Sparkle day and the school have created their own "reverse advent calendar" with lots of gifts to The Candle foodbank. We had a whole week for Anti-bullying week when the children participated in various activities including making sock puppets and celebrating individuality. We have also celebrated national Interfaith day across the school celebrating the diversity of faiths in our country and around the world.



Oak class have been looking at local history and after inspiration from the book "What did the tree see?" they examined old maps to work out what our oldest tree might have seen over the past 135 years. They also looked at the names on the village war memorial and researched some of

the soldiers from the village. They visited St John's church in Chipping Sodbury as part of the Crib Festival. They also enjoyed a fabulous day out at the Houses of Parliament where they got to see both the House of Commons and House of Lords in action, including our very own MP Claire Young! We had a fascinating tour of the Palace of Westminster with all its history and some behind the scenes that the public don't get to see. As well as making their sock puppets, **Sycamore** have also been learning to sew to make money holders, participating in a road safety event and making stop motion animations.

Chestnut class have also visited the village war memorial to view the names of the soldiers, and have been learning what a poppy represents.

Hazel class looked at anti bullying week through the eyes of Elmer the elephant, discussing why he (and we) are unique. They also celebrated the Nativity and why Christians celebrate the birthday of Jesus, and how birthdays are important to us.

We hope you had a Merry Christmas and wish you a Happy New Year!

Jenny Jackman

FOSSA/PTFA

Old Sodbury Primary School will be taking part in Challenge Me February, where children can choose a sponsored challenge of their choice to help raise much-needed funds for our school music and SEN classroom project. Please keep an eye out for local children seeking sponsorship, every contribution makes a real difference.

We also loved welcoming our wonderful neighbours to our mulled wine and mince pies event on Friday 19th December, held at the church after Well Done Assembly. Thank you to everyone who joined us.

Looking ahead, please watch out for future coffee and croissants events at school, kindly hosted by the PTFA. We would love our neighbours to come along and join us.

If you'd ever like to support the school whether with time, skills, or a small donation, we'd be hugely grateful.
Emma Doney Old Sodbury PTFA

Sodbury Short Mat Bowls Club Report

BREAKING NEWS! A CHANGE OF TIME! 7PM ! JANUARY 2026

From Monday 5th January we will be starting play at 7pm. This is half an hour later than previously, to give members and prospective new members an extra half an hour before the games begin. We look forward to seeing new people visiting and hopefully joining our Bowls Club at Old Sodbury Village Hall on Monday evenings. We will play from 7pm to 9.30pm with a break for refreshments between games. If you would like to know more about the Bowls Club, please contact Richard 01454 321323.

We look forward to more social events in 2026 starting with New Year celebrations with members and friends. We wish everyone a Happy New Year.
Sue Leah

Old Sodbury WI Old Sodbury WI held their AGM on Wednesday 5th November where our members elected our committee and president for 2026.

We celebrated Christmas at our party for members and their guests on Wednesday 10th December. There was a delicious supper, a Christmas Quiz, raffle, and carol singalong. In January several of our members will be going to see the Chipping Sodbury Panto (Snow White) and we will be hosting a Jigsaw Puzzle Race on Sunday 25.1.26 (see poster for more details).

We are looking forward to a year of interesting speakers at our monthly meetings, our book club and some great outings and fundraising events. Treats planned for next year will be a Barn Dance on the 21st of March with the Bees Knees, a walking tour in Bristol and a visit to a garden.

We meet on the first Wednesday of the month in Old Sodbury Village Hall at 7.30pm. Visitors and new members are most welcome.

Our next meetings are on the 7th of January and the 4th of February
Support the Old Sodbury WI at www.thewiloltery.co.uk

Chipping Sodbury Baptist Church Lunch Club

is looking for a cook for one Thursday a month to cook a two course lunch time meal for about 40 people. These are elderly people who really value the company and a home-cooked meal.

The kitchen is well equipped and there are volunteer helpers to do veg. prep and help as required.

We can pay a very small remuneration.

In addition we have just had to say goodbye to our washer-upper and would love to have a volunteer willing to carry out this very necessary role.

If you know of anyone to take on either role
please contact Pauline Wilson
01454 310540

Old Sodbury WI



Tea & Cakes



Jigsaw Puzzle Race
Sunday 25th January 2026



Raffle

1.45pm for 2.00pm start at the Village Hall

Come and make up a team or make your own!

Teams of 4

£6.00 per person

For tickets, please contact Linzie 01454 320065

wiloldsodbury@gmail.com

Reg Charity No: 1019685



Christopher Richardson remembers his beloved wife Joyce who died suddenly and unexpectedly on 10th November 2024.

Christopher and Joyce, originally from Mauritius, travelled the world with Lloyds Bank before the family settled at The Cliff, Old Sodbury, in 1994. Joyce is survived by her husband and two children, Timothy and Emily.

Thank you Michelle



A huge thank you to **Michelle Dash** who for more than 8 years has been a vital part of the volunteer team that gets this newsletter out and delivered to all the homes in Old Sodbury. Michelle has maintained and coordinated the team of deliverers, making sure that they each receive the number of copies they need for their patch, arranging cover when folk are away and supporting the editor. Her role has been very much in the background and unseen but like others who quietly and generously give their time and effort to the wellbeing and cohesion of the community she has made a huge contribution. Thank you, Michelle.

Michelle has not gone away and will continue to look after the deliveries around her home adjacent to Colts Green. Mike Haskell has kindly taken on the role for the rest of the area and we thank him for stepping forward.

Chris Anderson

Old Sodbury Football Club

After a very successful start to the season the team had its first loss against top of the Prem league team Shirehampton. This Prem cup game was an exciting 9 goal close match which ended 5 - 4 with the winning goal being scored in the last kick of the game.

In the game against Lion FC Liam Cook, the manager, made 2 substitutions in the first 20 minutes of the first half when Lions were in control. Then before half-time the lads scored 2 goals and went on to win 4 - 1.

The Hambrook game resulted in a 2 - 0 loss with the team not reaching their usual high standard.

In the 3rd round of the GFA (Gloucester Football Association) cup Old Sodbury beat Suburban team Phoenix 4 - 1. It was an entertaining and eventful game with 3 Red cards and 7 Yellow cards. Charlie Davies scored a hat trick and was man of the match.

When Old Sodbury played against Chipping Sodbury Reserves in the local Derby, the teams were positioned 1st and 2nd in the league. The whole team and 5 subs gave a superb performance and won 2 - 0.

On 13th Dec in the 4th round of the GFA cup Bristol Barcelona equalised in the last few minutes of the game then went on to win 4-2 on penalties. Old Sodbury's Alfie Andrews was awarded man of the match.

The team, manager and committee are having a Christmas meal together in the village at their local, The Dog Inn.
Laurence Walker

As we go to print, Old Sodbury are second to AEK Boco Reserves in the Division 1 table. But Old Sodbury have 3 games in hand so if they maintain their form they have every chance of gaining the top spot.



COTSWOLDS GUIDED WALKS



STARTS JANUARY 13th 2026

Sodbury Stroll

Why not join the Cotswold Voluntary Wardens on the second Tuesday of each month for a walk around the footpaths of Old Sodbury.

Start 10.00am from Old Sodbury Church.

Join our wonderful Voluntary Wardens on a guided walk through the Cotswolds! The guided walks the wardens lead are a brilliant way to get out into the Cotswolds countryside, meet new people, and many also feature fascinating insights into nature and wildlife, history, and architecture, among many other subjects.

For more information, please visit

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

The term 'hat trick' is first associated with a cricket match in 1858 when 3 wickets were taken with three consecutive deliveries. A collection was held amongst fans and the bowler, H H Stephenson, was rewarded with a hat. Stephenson captained England in 1861 on the inaugural tour of Australia, travelling there on the SS Great Britain.

Chris Anderson

SWaN Update December 2025

Whilst opportunities continue to be explored for additional tree planting within our local area in 2026, we will be looking to replace some of the trees over in the Community Woodland during January and also at the same time hope to put up some additional bird boxes that have been donated and repaired. Unfortunately, the bench installed at the far end of the woodland has been stolen which is disappointing.

Make a note in your diaries if you are able to spare some time to assist:

Sunday 18th January 10 A.M

Thursday 29th January 10 A.M

Meet over at the Woodland and remember to wear suitable footwear / clothing. *Andy Sage-Bell*

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 March edition is **15th February** 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.