Old Sodbury Times

Issue 121 November 2026

COMMUNITY FIELD NEEDS OUR HELP

Football Club asks for help

Despite a stunning start to the season (see back page) Old Sodbury Football Club need our help.

The recreation field, known as Sugar Orchard, has been wholly maintained by the football club for over 50 years and latterly also the pavilion. Both are also used by the residents of Old Sodbury for village events and by Old Sodbury School's children, all free of charge.

Early this year an experienced contractor did an excellent job installing drainage but the weeks of drought that followed severely damaged the pitch. It should have been ready by now for the new season but is still fenced off and being treated. Hundreds of pounds are needed to bring it back up to standard. Meanwhile the club are also having to hire pitches elsewhere at £100 + a time.

We know how much the village values having this lovely open space and up to now we haven't asked residents to contribute to this community facility but we now need your urgent help. We are asking for urgent donations to help cover this unexpected expense. Can you make a personal donation? Could one of the village organisations please do a fundraising event for us?

If you would you like to donate please contact Laurence Walker on 01454 310980 or sueandlaurencewalker@hotmail.com for details of how to make a bank transfer.

Crossing update

It sometimes feels like reporting on the progress of a moribund snail as I tell of the latest news about our Pelican Crossing. The update from SGC on 13th October is:

"The full construction package, including the traffic signal design for the new crossing is currently being finalised and is expected to be completed by the end of October. Once the design package has been signed off, it will be issued to our Operations team, who will review the information and programme the works into their construction schedule." *Chris Anderson*



Dates for your Diary

27 Nov. Coffee morning at Village Hall
21 Nov. WI Christmas Fayre at Village Hall
28 Nov. FOSSA Christmas Fayre at the School
20 Dec. Carols on the Green
and lots of dates for tree planting etc. see back page

Carols on the Green- Sunday 20 Dec



As in recent years we are planning to have a Village Carol singing event on the last Sunday before Christmas, 20th December. It will be on The Green at 4.30pm (after the Church Carol Service) and open and free to all. Bring the family! There will be mulled wine, hot chocolate and mince pies and if he can fit it into his schedule, we might even get Santa! Make a note of the date, but further details and song sheets should be dropped through your door nearer the time.

Lydia Pitt

We welcome Emma, Nick, and daughter Sophia (aged 2) together with Lynne, Emma's mum.

"We have found our dream home after a long search and we are now settling in at The Old Stables, on Catchpot Lane. We are accompanied by our pack of King Charles Cavaliers!" Emma travels the country to show two of her Cavaliers and she also fosters rescue dogs.

200 Club Winners

September £50 winner. No. 2. Mr A Denman
October £50 winner. No. 10 Mr C. Crocker

OLD SODBURY C of E PRIMARY SCHOOL



After a sad farewell to our Year 6 students before the summer holidays, we welcomed 15 new happy faces into our Reception Class and a lovely hello to a new family that have moved into the village.

We've had a busy first term and the children have all been able to get back into the Forest for lots of activities before the weather turned. Hazel class have been learning all about themselves and why they are special as well as making art in the trees. Chestnut class have been learning about the UK and have also enjoyed a live online performance from author Julia Donaldson and illustrator Axel Scheffler. Sycamore are learning about Europe, creating their own stories based on the book "The Barnabus Project" and creating 3D shapes in the forest. Oak class have been learning about how we are connected to the world, including learning Spanish.



We have also had some wonderful whole school projects including Harvest Service at the church with donations to the foodbank, Mental Health day where we all wore yellow and Art Week where there were lots of art and craft activities happening across the school. *Jenny Jackman*

The school has just joined the Severn Federation Academy Trust. The Trust embraces 9 other local schools and according to their ethos, "We are a family of schools, committed to our partnership, yet retaining our separate identities and individuality. We collaborate, seeking out the best practice … to provide robust challenge and support." We wish the School well in this new relationship, working closely with all other schools in the trust, to learn together and to build strong and supportive links. *CA*

Coffee Mornings

Last Friday of each month
except December

10:00 - 12:00 at the Village Hall

All Welcome! Particularly welcome are our new villagers

If you can help by setting up, washing up, making/donating cakes or biscuits, please contact: Anne Myers 0779 069 8976

FOSSA It has been a wonderful start to the school term, welcoming its newest members and all enjoying the fabulous new classroom. Harvest was celebrated with a fantastic service in the church, with songs and poems performed by all year groups. There was more fun at the Autumn Disco, with plenty of dancing, games and laughter!

The PFTA is excited to be organising its annual Christmas Fair on **28th November**, from 11am to 3pm. There will be a fantastic selection of stalls, a BBQ, a bar and a special visit from Father Christmas! Everyone is welcome, and entry is free. The PFTA has turned its fundraising to an exciting new goal: a brand-new kitchen to help nourish the children and staff. You can support this wonderful community school via the dedicated payment link below or contact the school for bank details: https://pay.sumup.com/b2c/QBFA7N09

Every contribution, big or small, is hugely appreciated and will help make a real difference. *Old Sodbury Primary School PTFA*

The Guardian reported on 16th October that our bench in the churchyard looking out over Sodbury Vale scored a perfect 10/10 on Instagram account "RateThisBench". We're inclined to agree, the view is fabulous. A perfect place to remember the good in this troubled world. *CA*

Sodbury Short Mat Bowls Club

Our Bowls Club are delighted to welcome Liz and Suzanne who have recently joined as new members. On some Mondays we have needed to roll out two mats which is always an interesting challenge for everyone.

We are happy to welcome more visitors to play on any Monday evening 6.15pm to 9pm.

We will be holding our AGM shortly when members will discuss our next social event and how we might arrange some in house competitions when we have more players to take part. Our best wishes to members past and present for the festive season.

Anyone interested in joining may contact Richard 01454 321323.

Sue Leah

The Cotswold Wardens have noticed some Cotswold Way walkers going up the main road to reach The Cross Hands. Highly Dangerous. We have designed some notices that will be put on the village green and at the start of **Hill Lane** to direct them up that way. If you see anyone going to walk up the main road please direct them up the much safer route. *Richard Wilson*

Arnold Denman

Arnold Denman of Camers Barn passed away peacefully at home on 7th October at the age of 90. Arnold and Dorothy moved to Camers with their family in 1984 and have been long supporters of the village and the church via their charitable trust and garden events.

A memorial service will be held at the Memorial Woodlands, Earthcott Green on Thursday 12th November at 2 pm.

James Allard

We remember James Allard who died in August. Born in 1977, into a local family at Frome Farm, James went to Old Sodbury Primary School, Bristol Grammar School and the London School of Economics. As a youngster he worked in the Dog Inn and took part in the " Boyfriend" production, amongst others, at the Village Hall. He is sadly missed by his parents, Jenny and John, his wife Karen, his children Oliver, Emily and William and brothers Nicholas and Charles and also by his many friends.

Old Sodbury WI News

We had a wonderfully interesting meeting in September, learning all about beekeeping from Jane Jones, one of South Gloucestershire's dedicated bee keepers. What hard-working little insects they are — flying long distances to gather pollen and create honey. Our ladies were delighted to take home packets of bee-friendly seeds, ready to sow and help ensure our gardens are blooming havens for our busy pollinators.

Simon from the Bath Astronomers, gave us an interesting talk on *Stargazing and Astronomy*, the Planets of the Solar System. We were lucky with the weather and had lovely clear skies. Simon had set his telescope up in the car park and we got to see bright stars, constellations and all sorts of deep sky objects using the smart scope. The highlight of the evening was the view of Saturn, all its rings and its moon Titan through the Big Meade telescope.

Our book club are reading *The Nightingale* by Kristin Hannah — a moving novel about two sisters torn apart by war in 1940s France. With the film adaptation due next year, a trip to the cinema will certainly be on the cards.



Preparations are also well underway 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 wioldsodbury@gmail.com. *Linzie Clark*

Village Hall Update After the success of our Race Night in September, we would normally now be promoting Bonfire Night. Unfortunately, this year we have decided not to go ahead for the sake of the Football Field. As reported on the front page the incredibly hot and dry summer has delayed the recovery after the drainage works. It was therefore decided to postpone our event and give the ground a better chance. Apologies to all who were looking forward to the event, or who had been storing up their wood.
We hope to be back next year.



On 15th September we hosted a **basic life skills** course for regular village hall users and villagers. It was delivered by Luke MacCullum, an Urgent Care Practitioner and a GP practice trainer. Participants learned how to recognise the signs of life-threatening emergencies and how to respond; he demonstrated CPR, use of a defibrillator, and how to assist chocking adults and children. A helpful and informative, evening lightened by Luke's amusing anecdotes! Thank-you Luke! And thank you to Anne Myers for organising it all.

Activities in the Village Hall continue to thrive with a number of regular weekday clubs and the weekends in high demand for parties. Details of the clubs and the availability are on the website: www.oldsodburyvillagehall.com. We look forward to hosting you soon!

Ian Rowland for Old Sodbury Village Hall

Old Sodbury Football Club **What a start to the season!**

Old Sodbury started the season with a dramatic 8-1 win against Cribbs who had just been relegated from the County league. The first half was an even 1 - 1 then Seb Woodward and Alfie Davies came on at half time and scored 2 goals each and the rest followed.

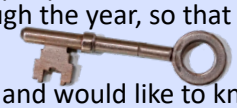
In the game against Olveston the team won 5 - 3 with Archie Williams being the star man and the next Fixture against Winterbourne saw a comfortable 6 - 0 win for the Old Sodbury lads. They went onto win 3 - 1 in the League cup against a tough Pucklechurch side and a 7 - 0 win against Halley in the GFA cup

In an exciting local Derby both Iron Acton and Old Sodbury were unbeaten and the game culminated in a 3 - 3 draw. In the game against Shirehampton, Old Sodbury won2 - 1 with a last minute penalty. Both these games were "home" games for Old Sodbury but had to be played at Sunnyside Lane fields, Yate because the home pitch is still unuseable. Playing away, another outstanding game against Patchway saw Old Sodbury win 5 - 3 on penalties and the latest game against Bristol University was a 4 - 1 win for our village lads. *Laurence Walker*

Lychgate Appeal: £12,052 raised so far from donations, fundraising, pledges from Charitable Trusts, via Just Giving and Gift Aid with two grant applications outstanding. Our target is £20,000. **So please contribute if you can**. Cheques payable to "St John the Baptist Old Sodbury PCC" can be put in the donation box in the church. *Joy Fussell*



Old Sodbury Church are short of village people to be on the Key Rota to open and close the church through the year, so that it can be accessible to visitors.



If anyone is interested in being involved and would like to know more, please call Joy on 01454 314074



S.W.a.N. The summer drought was tough for the planted trees in the community orchard and woodland. They haven't grown much but they have mostly survived. They will have put on root growth searching for moisture which will help them in future years.
Looking ahead, there is lots of maintenance to be done (come and get some **free and productive exercise** amongst friends). The next new project is planting up the area cleared beside Badminton Road, opposite Sodbury House Hotel. **Come and plant a tree and enjoy a hot dog on New Years Day.**

We have community work mornings (all 10-12am): Please come and help! Everyone, no matter how young or old are welcome

Friday 6th Nov: Hedge trimming, weeding/tidy up. Meet at the Village Hall

Sunday 8 Nov: Community Woodland meet by the railway bridge.

Tuesday 24 Nov: New Orchard planting by Badminton Road opposite Sodbury House Hotel.

Sunday 13 Dec: Tree Maintenance on the Common Field on Sodbury Common

Tuesday 15 Dec: Community Woodland work meet by the railway bridge.

Friday 1st Jan 2027: **Trees and Hot Dogs** - Plant one and eat the other, opposite Sodbury House Hotel *Richard Wilson*

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 January edition is **20th December** 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.