

# Old Sodbury Times

Issue 117

March 2026

## Pedestrian Crossing moves another step forward

The plans for the proposed light controlled crossing on the A432 near the junctions of Chapel Lane and Cotswold Lane are now out for consultation with a closing date of March 5<sup>th</sup>. ([https://consultations.southglos.gov.uk/Old\\_Sodbury\\_Ped\\_Crossing/consultationHome](https://consultations.southglos.gov.uk/Old_Sodbury_Ped_Crossing/consultationHome)). After many years of campaigning and all the toing and froing between Redcliffe Homes and South Gloucestershire Council I believe the proposals offer the best option for a crossing in the centre of the village. **Please find the time to support or identify concerns with the proposals; follow the link above and click on the “respond ...” tab.** After the consultation, the process will depend on the comments received. The money has been received and South Gloucestershire Council officers have indicated that they anticipate being able to proceed and complete the project in 2026/27. In other great highway related news, South Glos Council officers have indicated that they now support the removal of the ‘overtaking lane’ on the hill up from The Dog. It seems likely that this will be done at the same time as the crossing. It is not yet clear what the new road markings will be on the wider section. *Chris Anderson*

### Dates for your Diary:

Fri 13<sup>th</sup> March: 200 Club Social  
Sat 21<sup>st</sup> March: WI Barn Dance  
Fri 27<sup>th</sup> March: Coffee Morning 9:30-12  
Sat 18<sup>th</sup> April: Comedy Night  
Fri 24<sup>th</sup> April: Coffee Morning 9:30-12  
Sat 6<sup>th</sup> June: Village Day

### Squatter moves in to new home

Owl nesting boxes were installed in the community woodland last year but Claire Hamilton spotted a squatter. If an owl moves in, they might find dinner two!



### Old Sodbury Church Summer Teas

On Sunday afternoons between May and August, we host Teas in the church, often with musical entertainment. It's an opportunity for locals, visitors and walkers to enjoy refreshment, our ancient church and the spectacular view. We are looking for new volunteers to help serve the Teas once or twice during the summer. If you could help, please call or text Joy on 07788 695911.

### Money to spend

The development at Brooks Close came with a commitment by Redcliffe Homes to pay contributions to the proposed pedestrian crossing, now in progress. There are also commitments to pay contributions towards Education improvements/enhancement (£311,001.00), the local library (£1333.02) and off-site open space (£123,651.46 capital spend plus £80,812.94 towards future maintenance). The amounts are subject to inflation increase.

Regarding the open space fund, there is a proposal to renew the fort and add some equipment to the Old Sodbury playground facilities at Sugar Orchard Field. This is being worked on by Sodbury Town Council. Another proposal pursued by Steve Spooner would see the overgrown unused allotments beside Badminton Road (opposite Sodbury House Hotel) cleared for renewed use as allotments. Also, the recently cleared ground between the road and the allotments, would be prepared for planting of shrubs and trees. This would initially involve clearing the ground of the dense blackthorn and brambles by a contractor and SWaN (see the back page) would take on the sourcing, planting and maintenance. Further ideas about how to improve our community environment and how the improvements can be maintained would be very welcome. Let your Councillors or SWaN have your ideas.

Incidentally, if you are interested in an allotment, please contact The Badminton Estate, [estateoffice@badmintonestate.com](mailto:estateoffice@badmintonestate.com)  
*Chris Anderson*

**The 200 club** Old Sodbury 200 club social event, featuring the **£500 star prize** draw, is on Friday 13<sup>th</sup> March at 7:30 pm. There will be a free welcoming drink on arrival and complimentary nibbles. In addition to the £50 and £500 prizes there will be spot prizes for those attending and a fun quiz. If you are able to donate a spot prize please contact **Dave Mason** (07930 690439 or [oldsod200@gmail.com](mailto:oldsod200@gmail.com)). 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 103: Mrs Elaine Snook and in February, Number 185: Mrs A Couch.



**OLD SODBURY SCHOOL** What a lovely start to 2026 it has been. We said a sad farewell to a family that moved away, but a happy hello to two new pupils. As the days get longer (and drier we hope!), we look forward to spending even more time outside enjoying our beautiful village and surrounding areas.

Hazel Class have enjoyed their very first school trip to Bristol Aquarium with their theme "Under the Sea". They have been making paper hearts to show that God's love is all around us, and as part of their drawing club, they have been adding wonderful pictures to their writing on the book "Barry the Fish with Fingers"

For their mission, Chestnut class are learning all about our sponsor school Childcare Primary in Uganda. How we are the same, and how we are different. The children have written letters to our friends there and are eagerly waiting for their replies.

Sycamore have been exploring the question "Would you rather live in a City, Town or Village". They have been studying the different types of maps, how they work, and then



making their own before deciding. Despite the rain, they have managed to enjoy some time in the forest learning about and creating a museum for hedgerows. Children have also completed their level 1 cycle training, learning about how to look after their bikes and how to be safe on the roads.

Oak class have been finding out about the importance of Zakat as a pillar of Islam and making posters to explain.

They have also been coding microbits to make step counters and have had great fun learning bucket drumming in music.

We are getting very close to being able to proceed with our new building and are very excited to get this wonderful breakout space. Thank you to everyone who has so far been involved in supporting us.

Whether that is popping a token in our box in Waitrose, supporting an event run by FOSSA, buying a raffle ticket or offering to lend a hand. If you would like to be involved in some way, please contact Mark Fisher on Church Lane.

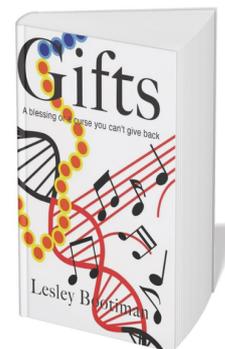


## Village Hall Comedy Night

Our ever popular annual Comedy Night returns **Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> April** in the Old Sodbury Village Hall. The evening starts with a **two-course meal** and is followed by a series of three Comedy Acts from the national circuit. If you have not been before, get in quick as this always sells out. This is a great event to get a group of friends together or just come along and meet up with other locals. Tickets are £30 per head and available by contacting **Rodney Gleed on 07983 154038.**

'A rare and beautifully written family saga in which a secret legacy haunts each generation' describes Lesley Bootiman's (Byrne's) first novel, "Gifts".

Congratulations to Lesley who lives in Coombs End. "Gifts", just published, is a story of fear, betrayal and a love that survives the cruelest separation inflicted by Huntington's Disease. Available from all good booksellers, including Sodbury Book Garden in Hatherell's Yard.



**Old Sodbury WI** meet on the first Wednesday of the month in Old Sodbury village hall. A lovely hall with plenty of parking.

We are looking forward to our March meeting where our speaker is Rachel from the Tetbury Flower Company. She is going to be telling us all about her experiences as a flower farmer. I'm hopeful we will pick up some tips so we can grow our own lovely blooms this year! We are also going to visit in the Autumn when the dahlias are blooming.

Our book club is currently reading *Whistle in the Dark* by Emma Healey. A wry, poignant, and masterfully drawn story that explores the bonds and duress of family life, the pain of mental illness, and the fraught yet enduring connection between mothers and daughters. *Whistle in the Dark* is a story of guilt, fear, hope and love that explores what it means to lose and find ourselves and those we love. I'm sure it will give us lots to talk about.

Our craft group meets monthly and there are a number of social outings being planned, a friendly skittles match, trips to Kew gardens and Sherbourne Castle, visits to the cinema, the theatre, lunches and afternoon teas.

Our next big event is the Barn Dance on Saturday 21st March 2026. A very popular event which has previously been sold out! Music is by the 'Bees Knees' with a ploughman's supper, so reserve your tickets now!

If you would like to know more or to come along to one of our meetings, you would be made very welcome. For more information give me a ring on 01454 320065 or email [woldsodbury@gmail.com](mailto:woldsodbury@gmail.com)

*Linzie Old Sodbury WI*



Old Sodbury WI  
*Spring*  
**BARN**  
**DANCE**

Featuring The Bees Knees Barn Dance Band  
**Saturday 21st 7.30pm - 11pm**  
**March**

**OLD SODBURY VILLAGE HALL**  
Tickets £15 including supper  
BYO drinks  
To Book Tickets  
**Linzie 01454320065**  
[woldsodbury@gmail.com](mailto:woldsodbury@gmail.com)  
Charity No:1019685

### Village Hall Update

The Village Hall is attracting more bookings with overall revenue growing since the kitchen makeover. The new heating system has been widely praised for the improved comfort. So, please think of us if you are looking for a venue for a celebration, training events, displays or classes. Details are at: <https://oldsodburyvillagehall.com>

You may have noticed a white container near the football field. It has been purchased by the Village Hall for storage of the equipment used in the field for Village Day and Bonfire night, saving numerous trips with trailers. We are waiting for the ground to dry before moving it behind the clubhouse. Many thanks to the football club for allowing us this facility.

We are sadly losing one of our caretakers in March. Michelle has been with us since just before Covid and has worked as a great team with Laura. We wish Michelle the very best as other strings to her bow take precedence. If anyone missed the advert and might be interested in a few hours a week, please contact Ian on [ian\\_rowland@outlook.com](mailto:ian_rowland@outlook.com). *Ian Rowland for OSVH*

### Sodbury Short Mat Bowls Club

Members and friends recently enjoyed an excellent social evening with a meal at The Old Royal Ship followed by a game of skittles which was quite competitive and great fun.

In January we announced a new starting time of 7pm for playing our Short Mat Bowls. Every house in the village should have received an invitation with their Old Sodbury Times, to come as a visitor to any of our Monday sessions. We have had some interest and the opportunity is still open to anyone who is interested to come along. We will be reviewing the later start time in due course so watch this space!

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

The team were away to Mangotsfield for the first game of the new year. In a close first half the lads were 2 - 1 up then they went on to dominate the second half with Alfie Andrews scoring the 3rd goal taking the score to 3 - 1 and winning 'man of the match.' Against bottom of the table Cribbs the team had a 5 - 0 lead by half time and finished in a 6 - 0 victory with Charlie Davis , Seb Woodruff and Callum Rogers all hitting the back of the net.

After 3 open weeks the game against Hanham was postponed due to a waterlogged pitch.

In the home game against top of the table AEK BOCO the Village side took control for most of the game but failed to score until ten minutes from the end . The final score 2 - 1 did not reflect Old Sodbury's strong performance.

There were over 100 supporters at the game and the team would like to thank them for their encouragement and to thank Southern Plasticlad for their continued support. *Laurence Walker*

*As we go to print, I see that Old Sodbury had a 4 - 0 victory in their away match against Bedminster Down. CA*



**Saturday 6th June**

### Old Sodbury Village Day

Midday - 5pm at Sugar Orchard Field, followed by live music and bbq at The Dog Inn.

Save the date and join us for a village get together, which includes live music, dance, food, drink and lots of village activities.

For anyone wishing to be involved or after more information, please email [darrenhales@me.com](mailto:darrenhales@me.com)

The village community thrives with people taking part, finding friendships and forging a sense of belonging. You can contribute to the health of your village and your own wellbeing by joining in.

## Your village needs you just as you need your village

Every issue of this newsletter has calls for participation. You will always find a welcome.

### Dog mess menace

I've heard complaints that there has recently been a spate of dog mess left on pavements, and verges, particularly on Chapel Lane. Whoever is responsible will know who they are, so please clear up after your pooch.

### SWaN

I thought it might be useful, especially for our newer residents to confirm what SWaN is all about:

Firstly, it stands for **Sodbury Woodland and Nature** and is a group of volunteers established initially to manage and oversee the planting of our Community Orchard and Woodland. This is land previously owned by Network Rail during their work to realign the River Frome and instal the new aqueduct as part of the main line electrification work. The fields are beside the railway line, adjacent to the Frome Valley Walkway, over the railway bridge from Brooks Close. With help from our local communities in Old Sodbury, Chipping Sodbury and Yate, we planted in excess of 5,500 trees in the area, starting in 2020. There is an orchard of fruit trees, a wild flower meadow and a larger area of native woodland, when it grows.

SWaN is responsible for maintaining the Orchard and Woodland and regularly replaces any trees which have not taken, along with additional planting. In January we up-righted tree shelters and put in new stakes where the winter storms had caused damage, as well as installing some bird nesting boxes.

SWaN's activities are not restricted to this one area however. We have also planted a wildflower meadow, along with trees on Sodbury Common, as well as along St John's Way, Taggets Copse (on the Frome Valley walkway), the Ridings and various other locations.

Follow Sodbury Woodland and Nature on Facebook to keep an eye on future planting and working party events; we would love to see more of the community getting involved. *Andy Sage-Bell*



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

THANK YOU TO ALL who have helped with this edition. Deadline for 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.