

# Old Sodbury Times

Issue 110

January 2025

## WISHING YOU ALL A VERY HAPPY NEW YEAR!

**PEDESTRIAN CROSSING UPDATE** What a great response to the 'call to action' last month. Our community made 137 comments on the proposal to vary the Section 106 agreement. Thank you everyone. One message comes through loud and clear: Old Sodbury desperately needs a proper pedestrian crossing. Now the decision on the Application will have to go to Committee. Redcliffe Homes complain that my article was emotive and inaccurate. Emotive, yes. Inaccurate? Well, perhaps. It's complicated.

But there is nothing complicated about the covenant in the S106 Agreement; unless South Glos agree otherwise, it requires Redcliffe Homes to build a controlled crossing near to the junction with Chapel Lane. But a controlled crossing there, whether a Zebra or signal controlled, is not straightforward. There are the junctions of Chapel and Cotswold Lanes, the petrol station exit, all with turning traffic, the narrow pavement up alongside The Dog, and not least, the speed of the traffic. But all these considerations were present before the S106 Agreement was signed and before Redcliffe Homes bought the site, thereby taking on the covenants. And the wording of the Agreement does not cap the ultimate cost. Redcliffe Homes say that the accusation that they are 'backtracking on commitment' is factually inaccurate. But they are seeking to escape from building a crossing by paying money for traffic calming. You decide whether or not that's backtracking. What we don't need is lots of money spent on fancy "gates" (£10k a pop apparently) and paint on the road which will have little effect on traffic speeds and the pedestrian crossing kicked back into the long grass for another 40 years.

Official guidance exists for the design of pedestrian crossings and one near the centre of the village might breach some of the requirements. That is unless the traffic speed is substantially reduced and/or the junctions of Chapel and Cotswold Lanes also become signal controlled. Perhaps the road needs a 20mph limit and speed cushions. Perhaps the 'overtaking lane' on the hill above The Dog should be removed. These are considerations for Highway Engineers but the goal **must be to provide a safe controlled crossing in the centre of the village**. I propose that once we know more, we should have a village meeting to decide how to proceed. **Look out for the date.** *Chris Anderson*

### Dates for your Diary:

At the **Village Hall**

Wed 8 Jan: WI Meeting

Sat 8 Feb: Race Night

Fri 7 March: Showtime

Sat 8 March: Showtime

Sat 3 May: Comedy Night



## Showtime 2025

The show will GO ON!

We have a great cast: singing, dancing, comedy

+

### ABEA comeback

Rehearsal dates, all in the Village Hall

Jan 12th, 19th, Feb 2nd, 9th, 23rd, all from 10—12 noon

Feb 15th 3pm—6pm

March 2nd 3.30pm—7pm, March 4th 6-9pm

### Performances

March 7th and 8th evenings



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

## OLD SODBURY RACE NIGHT

Saturday 8th February

7pm start

7.30pm first race

9pm buffet supper

Tickets £10

includes buffet supper and first drink

Tickets available from:

The Dog Inn

Dave Mason 07930 690439

### A warm welcome to the Clifford family who say:

"We moved into Chapel Lane in November and have felt very welcomed since! We know the area well as our children, Finlay, Charlie & Lilah attended Old Sodbury Primary School with Lilah still in attendance until July 2025.

We are so looking forward to a life in Old Sodbury and thank you to all who have welcomed us! Kellie, Carl & family!"

### The 200 club £50 prize winners

November: No. 124. Mr G Davis

December: No. 118. Lucy Culverwell



### TRIBUTE TO JEREMY ROSS 1960—2024

Jeremy was brought up in the village and had health problems from the age of 18 months, however he never once complained about them, and he had a very supportive family around him. Although he moved to Yate after marrying Rachel he was still an integral part of the village. Jeremy was a very active member of the Village Hall Committee, and later became Chairman. He will be best remembered for taking part in the Pantomimes and Cabarets in the Village Hall, over the past 20 years plus, he will be especially remembered for his roles as the Pantomime Dame, and not forgetting his performance as the Sugar Plum Fairy.

In 1994 Jeremy had a kidney transplant which improved his quality of life, he then organised the first Old Sodbury Bike Ride in 1996 as a thank you in memory of his organ donor, which has since been an annual event, he also took part in the Transplant Games. There is so much more I could say about Jer, but it would fill most of the Newsletter.

Jer passed away in October and leaves behind his wife Rachel, their sons George and Charlie, and his siblings Duncan, Sarah and Kristy. He will be greatly missed by his many friends and colleagues.

"See you when you're older Jer" *Rodney Glead*



### Village Hall News

The Village Hall had relied on oil heating and the whole system was beginning to creak (literally!) so we needed to look at our options.

We were made aware of grants being available from the West of England Rural Fund for 'Reducing CO2 emissions'. This seemed like a great chance for a more sustainable solution. Supported by Sodbury Town Council and in particular the assistance of Councillor Steve Spooner, we successfully bid for a grant to replace the old heating with a heat pump system.

Our project has been awarded £35,827 from the West of England Rural Fund, which is funded by the UK government through the Rural England Prosperity Fund (REPF) and administered by the West of England Mayoral Combined Authority. Rural England Prosperity Fund is part of the UK Shared Prosperity Fund.



Funded by  
UK Government



The UK Shared Prosperity Fund aims to improve pride in place and increase life chances across the UK investing in communities and place, supporting local business, and people and skills. For more information, visit <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/uk-shared-prosperity-fund-prospectus>.

The project is now virtually complete and the main heating system has been running for a couple of months with positive feedback from several groups and events. We have also put additional insulation in the roof to make the most of that precious heat and have some new doors. We now just have some making good to complete in the New Year. Our thanks to Steve Spooner for his invaluable assistance, and as ever to our 'in-house' Project Manager, Anne Myers for all her hard work.

If you or anyone you know might be interested in helping with the management of the hall and Village events, we have a vacancy on the Committee. Please drop us an email on [OSVH@outlook.com](mailto:OSVH@outlook.com) or speak to one of the Committee. Please come along and meet us, there is no obligation to join. We would be delighted to hear from you.

Bookings can be made through the Hall website: <https://oldsodburyvillagehall.com>. We look forward to welcoming you soon.

*Ian Rowland Chair of the VH Committee*

Early in December the South Glos Owl and Bird of Prey Conservation Group came and installed 2 Barn Owl Nesting Boxes on the Community Woodland. They were greatly aided by Andy Williams and his tractor carrying the equipment and heavy boxes over the wet ground to the allocated spots. Note that Barn Owls are legally protected so please do not disturb them in any way either in the boxes or nearby their location.



In November SWaN members planted about 80 trees and shrubs and 100 wildflowers in a park off St Johns Way, CS. If you own any land where you would like native trees or hedges planted, please contact *Richard Wilson* 01454 310540.

**OLD SODBURY WI** It was our AGM at our November meeting where our new committee for the next year was elected. Our long-standing president Sue stepped down and a new president elected. One of our members shared with us all about her work in the Occupational Therapy department at Southmead Hospital, along with some of the gadgets that make life easier for some of the patients. Who would have thought you could get babygrows with magnetic fastenings for mothers who have trouble with fastening conventional ones! It was a fascinating insight into the work they do.

We had our Christmas Party in December starting off with a glass of fizz followed by a fabulous selection of food and also some delicious puddings brought by our members to share. Cups were awarded and we had a Secret Santa with gifts for all, and quite a challenging quiz! There were plenty of prizes to be won in the raffle and we rounded the evening off with some carols and well-known Christmas songs, with a rousing 'We Wish you a Merry Christmas to finish.

Our next meeting, a week later than usual is on Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> January where we have Claire Callaghan coming to give us a talk on 'Physical Health and Wellbeing for Women'. Claire regularly contributes to magazines and podcasts so we are looking forward to being energised and inspired!

The Book club are reading 'Six Years' by Harlan Coban, a gripping thriller with plenty of plot twists and turns and an unexpected ending. It should prove an interesting discussion when we have our next meeting and New Year supper.

We have lots of interesting speakers planned for next year and some outings being finalised too. If you would like to know more or to come along to one of our meetings, you would be made very welcome. *Linzie Clark*

**OLD SODBURY PRIMARY SCHOOL** What a wonderful time Christmas is!



The children have enjoyed so many lovely Christmas activities. They spent a long time rehearsing for their Christingle performances in the church - all lit up with beautiful candles representing the light of the world. We have had our wonderful Christmas Fair, a Christmas breakfast with lots of singing, Christmas lunch and Christmas parties during which we had a very special visitor handing gifts to the children. As we move into Term 3 we are looking forward to longer days and getting back out into our fabulous outdoor areas. The whole school produced 20

cribs for the Chipping Sodbury Crib festival and the children worked in teams of all ages to make them. Our year 6s were then able to visit the church to see theirs and all the others on display. You may have even seen some featured on the local tv news!

In non-Christmas news, Chestnut class went to Blaise Castle to the museum and to see the Victorian toys as part of their topic on toys through the ages. Sycamore class went to the Bristol museum to see the Egyptian exhibits for their topic. Oak have been making stop motion videos and have been exploring Islamic art whilst Hazel have been enjoying their drawing club and spending lots of time in our Forest school.



**The national deadline for applications for children starting school in September 2025 is 15<sup>th</sup> January.** If your child is starting school, please make sure you have completed your application to the council in time.

*Jenny Jackman*

**Sodbury Short Mat Bowls Club  
Report January 2025**

The Sodbury Short Mat Bowls Club wishes everyone a happy and healthy New Year.

If you have made a New Year's Resolution to join a local social activity then come and join us! We are happy to recruit new members to play Short Mat Bowls on a Monday evening 6.15 to 9 pm.

If you are interested, please come as a visitor to our Village Hall. No previous experience is necessary, and equipment will be provided.

Play will resume on Monday 6th January 2025

We are looking forward to celebrating the New Year with a meal and skittles at The Old Royal Ship for members and guests. If you would like to know more about the Bowls Club, please contact Richard 01454 321323.

*Sue Leah*

**OLD SODBURY FOOTBALL CLUB** The club would like to thank Richard Wilson and the Cotswold Wardens for doing a fine job repairing the wooden post and rail fence around the car park to the recreation field. Also a massive thank you to our new sponsor, local company **Southern Plasticlad Ltd** who have helped to fund the club, the changing rooms and ground maintenance, benefitting the whole village and in the New Year the company will be supplying new kit.

On the football side, we had we poor result away to Bedminster. A lot of the team were held up in traffic so we were two goals down in the first five minutes and three down by half time. Old Sodbury were the better side in the second half, hitting the woodwork on two occasions and efforts off the line. We were down to ten men after Andy Miles received two yellows in the last quarter. The result was a 4 - 1 win for the home side.

The Henbury game was a poor match but we ended with a point in a 1 – 1 draw. The home game with Bendix was a fine game and an advert for good football. Almost 40 people witnessed the away side take the points in a 1 – 0 win. This was first time this season the team were at full strength. The rearranged game against Bristol Barcelona played at Gloucestershire FA headquarters, resulted in a 3 – 0 win for the home side.

The home game against Cribbs ended in a 1 – 1 draw. We had a very good Ukrainian referee who has been in the country one year. Two games at the end of November were a disaster, going down 9 – 3 against Hillside and 12 – 1 at home to Winterbourne in the Premier Cup. The team’s poor run of form continued, losing 2- 1 in a tight game against visitors from Chipping Sodbury, a breakaway goal deciding the result. The last game before Christmas was called off due to a very wet ground. Hoping the results will improve in the New Year! *Laurence Walker*



Old Sodbury came alive with festive cheer as villagers gathered for our Carols and Christmas Sing-a-long Extravaganza. The afternoon kicked off with traditional carols in the church, followed by a dusk walk to the green where the families were greeted by Santa and a supporting cast including the Grinch, Stitch and Buddy the Elf, along with many more. This was followed by a sing-a-long to some Christmas classics, fuelled by hot chocolate, mulled wine and mince pies. Thank you to everyone who came along and made the afternoon so special, along with the volunteers who delivered song sheets around the village and provided the drinks and mince pies.

A special shout-out to **The Original Santa Float**, a group of volunteers who spend their evenings and weekends throughout December bringing joy to families in and around Bristol with their Santa sleigh to raise some much needed money for children's hospitals in the South West of England, with a main focus on the Bristol Children's Hospital. A big thank you to Old Sodbury resident Simon and all the crew (including young Toby!) who made this happen at short notice and managed to squeeze the visit to the village into their busy schedule. It's not too late to donate, which you can do via their Facebook or Instagram page. <https://www.facebook.com/santafloat2020/>  
*Darren Hales*



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 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.