

# Old Sodbury Times

Issue 107

July 2024

## NOTHING ABOUT THE GENERAL ELECTION HERE!

### PEDESTRIAN CROSSING UPDATE

At the beginning of June Sodbury Town Councillors met on site with officers from South Glos Council to discuss the options for a pedestrian crossing in the village. As noted in the May edition of OST the planning permission for the new houses was accompanied by an undertaking to build a controlled pedestrian crossing near to The Dog. The funding agreed with the developer is sufficient for a Zebra Crossing. However, there is a traffic speed problem.

The speed limit through the village is 30mph but the actual traffic speeds are often much faster. The 85<sup>th</sup> percentile speed is 42 mph. That means 85% of traffic travels at speeds below 42mph but 15% (about 1 in every 7 vehicles) go even faster than 42 mph. For a Zebra crossing to be suitable, the 85<sup>th</sup> percentile speed has to be below 35 mph. Because of the traffic speeds a light-controlled crossing would be more appropriate, but significantly more expensive. Councillors think we also need measures to reduce the traffic speed through the village.

Options for traffic calming to slow the traffic, and possible additional funding for a light-controlled crossing are now being explored. *Chris Anderson*

### **Old Sodbury Village Day 2024**

Thank you to everyone who made Old Sodbury Village Day happen and to all those who attended to make it such a lovely village get-together! The sun came out just in time for a glorious afternoon though it was a little damp in the evening. The aim of the day is to bring the community together to share drinks, food and conversation, and we hope this year's event did just that.

We know we can make it even better next year and would love fresh ideas, so please don't hesitate to give us your feedback or join our planning sessions for next year's event.



### **Thank you to Generous Sponsors**

Old Sodbury Times is very grateful to the **Chipping Sodbury Town Lands Charity** and also to **John Edgar** and thanks them for their generous donations to our funds and continuing support, securing the continuation of this newsletter.

We also thank **Pam Wake** who has sponsored this edition in memory of her husband, Ken about whom she has written a short piece on page 2.

### **The 200 club winners in June were:**

£50 prize	No. 132	Mrs J Allard
£200 prize	No. 103	Mrs Elaine Snook
<b>The May winner was</b>		
£50 prize	No. 140	Mr Kevin Pitman

## Ken Wake

A lot of villagers will remember Ken being up a ladder cutting the conifer hedge with hand shears or working on his MG in the garage. Ken also did some carpentry work in the Village Hall. Ken was a patternmaker, beginning at Newmans in Yate when he was 15 years old. Later he formed the Brunel Patternmaking Company with our son Lance, also in Yate.

Sadly Ken passed away at home on the 23<sup>rd</sup> April '24.

We have lived at Norton Cottage, Cotswold Lane for 56 years where we brought up our children, Lance and Sheena.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank friends and neighbours for the flowers, cards and kind messages of support and also to the villagers who attended Ken's funeral.

Thank you all. Pam Wake



In celebration of the Queen's Diamond Jubilee in 2012 Ken built models of St Paul's Cathedral, The Tower of London and Tower Bridge, all displayed outside his home, along with the late Queen and Corgi.

## OLD SODBURY C of E PRIMARY SCHOOL

As we come to the end of our summer term, we would like to send our good wishes to our Year 6 leavers as they begin the next stage of their journey. They have had a fun term with lots of activities such as a visit to Explorer Dome (an interactive science based show) and to Gloucester Cathedral for their church leavers service.

Our Year 5s have undertaken a mini police course with one of our local PCSOs. As part of their project they have been learning about the different roles of the police, carrying out a community action project, learning first aid and meeting some of the team. They successfully passed their 'qualification'!



The whole school is now preparing for the last few weeks including our sports day and our famous end of the year full stage production which this year is the Wizard of Oz!

If your child is starting school in September 2025, visits will be open in October to see our school and applications need to be made by mid-January. Please keep an eye on our website for further details nearer the time: <https://www.oldsodbury-pri.s-gloucs.sch.uk/>.

## Sodbury Short Mat Bowls Club Report July 2024

Summertime is here and our Bowls club members are enjoying games on our two mats on several Monday evenings.

We are pleased to welcome visitors so if you are interested in trying the game then please come and join us at the Village Hall at 6.15pm on a Monday.

You don't need previous experience and we can loan the equipment you need.

If you would like to know more about the Bowls Club, please contact Richard 01454 321323.

**OLD SODBURY W.I.**

We had an interesting talk from Becs Griffiths and Annwen Jones at our June meeting. They are practising Medical Herbalists from Rhizome Clinic in Bristol and talked about 'building resilience from our local herbs'. We were shown how to preserve herbs in vinegars and how to make herbal teas. Becs shared with us how using herbs and other foods can help to balance our gut microbiomes to maintain health and wellbeing. It was enlightening that most of the herbs are in our gardens. I will reconsider what I thought of as weeds! There were some colourful garden flowers brought along for our competition. The winner was a beautiful peony.

At our next meeting Kerry is coming to show us how colour can impact our mood and wellbeing, which colours suit us and what 'season' we are. In July we're 'Exploring Fizz', trying different bubbles from prosecco to champagne! We were busy baking for village day, providing hot and cold drinks and a great variety of cakes for everyone. Thank you to all our ladies who made cakes, who manned the stall and to everyone who came and ate the delicious cakes! Book club are currently reading an autobiography by Miles Morland, entitled 'Cobra in the Bath'. He was an investment banker turned adventurer. It promises to be an interesting read, taking us from the stock markets of London and New York to the backstreets of Bagdad.

There are a number of social outings being planned, a garden visit in August, visits to the cinema, the theatre, lunches and afternoon teas.

The craft group are busy knitting and sewing for our Hawkesbury Show entry which is coming along nicely and looking forward to learning some new crafts in the Autumn.

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 Sue a ring on 01454 315161

**Bee Orchids: Nature's Masterpiece**

Did you notice the Bee Orchids on the corner of Commonmead Lane this Spring? Among the myriad wonders that the natural world offers, few are as captivating as this remarkable plant, renowned for its beauty and intriguing mimicry. The Bee Orchid stands out due to its distinctive flowers, which bloom between May and July. The lip of the flower closely resembles a female bee in both appearance and scent and it is this evolutionary mimicry, aimed at attracting male bees to facilitate pollination that is an extraordinary example of nature's ingenuity.



While not currently listed as endangered, Bee Orchids habitats are increasingly threatened by agricultural practices, urban development and the desire to mow the areas in which they grow, prior to pollination. It is therefore admirable to see that the ones on the corner of Commonmead Lane have been clearly marked so they could be carefully mown around: a big thank you in part to the mower! *Andy Sage-Bell*

**Village Hall News**

Our new regulars, the Tudor Bridge Club, has given us the final nudge to join the 21<sup>st</sup> century and get WiFi for the Village Hall, as they need it for their online scoring system. So we are delighted to now be able to offer WiFi to our patrons! The details are posted behind the bar.

For the last couple of months our main focus has been on Village Day and we want to put on record the huge effort put in by the Village Day organiser, Darren Hales. The whole event has been masterminded by Darren for the last few years and we are extremely grateful to him. It can be a thankless task, particularly when despite your best efforts the weather is against you, but Darren pulled it off again and even managed a window of dry, if breezy, weather. Thank you Darren, another very successful and enjoyable event.

Richard Wilson and Andy Sage-Bell organised a working party to deal with the weeds that thrived amongst the recently planted hedge around the car park and also lay mulch. Thanks to all those who helped with this.

The artwork carving of the old ash tree stump is still on our wish list and we are awaiting the sculptor's availability. We are still a little short of the budget, so any further donations would be much appreciated (please email [OSVH@outlook.com](mailto:OSVH@outlook.com) or speak to one of the committee).

Over the summer months we are carrying out some upgrades to the hall, both inside and out. Hopefully by the time of the next newsletter, these will be completed and we can tell you more.

If you know of anyone that might be interested in hiring the hall for one-off or regular events please point them to our website: <https://oldsodburyvillagehall.com>. *Ian Rowland*

## Old Sodbury Football Club

On Tuesday the 16<sup>th</sup> April our home game against AEK BOCO was called off by BOCO at 5:00pm as they were unable to raise a side. On the Saturday the team put in a sound performance against Cribbs. A good first half saw the club take a two goal lead with goals from Josh Field and Ian Morgan. During the first 15 minutes Cribbs put the home side under a lot of pressure but Old Sodbury weathered the storm and took control of the game with three more goals from Josh Field, Liam Barrett and sixteen year old Dray Burcombe.

In the last home game of the season Oldland ran out 2 – 1 winners. The final game was away to Patchway. In a high scoring game a hattrick from Josh Field wasn't enough as the team lost 5 – 3. A mid-table finish was a fair position in the first season in the Bristol Premier League. The boys had a do in Bristol in mid-May and the team are looking forward to next season. *Laurence Walker*



On 26<sup>th</sup> May villagers came together for a surprise tea party in honour of Richard Wilson and to thank him for his many years of editing the Old Sodbury Times. Richard received a card with many touching messages of thanks together with a specially made medal. Thanks to Michelle Dash and the team for organising the event and the excellent cake!

## **Why is the road to the new houses called Brooks Close?**

John Edgar explains that the road is named after his grandfather, Alfie Charles Brooks.

Alfred William Beasley Brooks came to Bristol from Canterbury and set up Brooks Dye Works in 1862. In time the business also provided laundry and dry-cleaning services. It was one of Bristol's major employers, operating for more than 130 years. The site of the dye works is still marked by the tall chimney in St Werburghs.

His son, Alfred ("Alfie") Charles Brooks (1873 - 1958) worked as transport manager for the Dye Works and Laundry. In those days transport was by horse and cart. He did not get on with motorised transport when it began to replace the horse drawn carts so his father suggested he instead take on Hays Farm in Old Sodbury, selling it to Alfie for £3600 when he was 33 years old in 1906.

Alfie remained in Old Sodbury for the rest of his life and took part in village life in many ways. In 1922 the Ministry of War were disposing of huts, free to anyone who would dismantle and remove them. Alfie and others brought one to a parcel of land rented from the Church to form the first Village Hall, at the site of the present hall. He was a Church Warden and a keen supporter of the football club, allowing the club to play on Sugars Orchard, as they still do. He was actively involved with the Village Hall Committee, was elected to the Old Sodbury Parish Council and was also a Justice of the Peace.



Thank you to all who have helped with this edition and WE WELCOME MORE CONTRIBUTORS. Please send your news to Chris Anderson Tel: 07860 155528 Email [ca@chrisanderson.co.uk](mailto:ca@chrisanderson.co.uk) or Michelle Dash Tel: 07955 170321. Deadline for September edition is **15th August**. **Disclaimer:** Any opinions expressed or implied in this publication are not necessarily those of the editors. Any articles submitted are on the basis that they can be edited and must not be anonymous.

For Village Hall bookings go to: <https://oldsodburyvillagehall.com>