

# Old Sodbury Times

Issue 114

September 2025

## Cyclists Survive the heat!



On 3 very hot days in July, 21 riders and support team travelled from Spalding to Old Sodbury on the charity bike ride, a total of nearly 200 miles. We were raising money for the Bristol Area Kidney Patients Association, in memory of Jeremy Ross, who instigated the first bike ride in 1996.

The first day was from Spalding to Kettering, the second day from Kettering to Oxford, and the final day from Oxford to The Dog, Old Sodbury where a large group of family and friends greeted us.

The total amount raised was an impressive **£6515.24**. A big thank you to everyone who contributed, and a special mention to Pearce Bros who provided the support vehicle without charge. *Rodney Gleed*

### Old Sods are Fabulous Fundraisers!

The Ross family express their immense gratitude to the residents of Old Sodbury - past and present – for their incredible support and generosity in coming together to raise such a huge sum of money for The Bristol Area Kidney Patient Association; the funds raised by the Evening of Entertainment in March and the Cycle Ride just completed.

Jeremy valued the precious gift of his donated kidney – which served him well for over thirty years. The support of BAKPA gave him the courage to believe in himself and live a full life. As a family, we are forever in their debt. If you would like to know more about what they do please follow this link:

<https://bakpa.org.uk/>

Jer always believed in paying back, and we have been overwhelmed by the kindness of the community in continuing this spirit in his name. Old Sodbury and its people are still special to us all.

Thank you. *Sarah Johns (nee Ross)*

### Pedestrian Crossing update

I understand that plans have been drawn up for our crossing and Sodbury Town Councillors are looking forward to seeing them soon.

South Glos. Councillor Becky Romaine reports that if consultation goes smoothly it is hoped that work will be complete by the end of 2026. Also, the money from the Redcliffe Homes, once received, will be sufficient and there will not need to be any contribution from the Town Council for the traffic calming.

*Chris Anderson*

### Old Sodbury Times



### To help with distribution

If you can help for a couple of hours once every 2 months please contact Chris Anderson 07860 155528 or Michelle Dash 07955 170321

### Old Sodbury Bonfire Night Wednesday 5th November, from 5pm

Old Sodbury Bonfire Night returns on Wednesday 5th November at Sugars Orchard Field (home of Old Sodbury Football Club). There will be food, drink and music, to the backdrop of a huge bonfire for the villagers and friends of Old Sodbury to get together for another knees-up. Entry is free, although donations are welcomed.

If you have **wood to donate** to the fire, please look out for more information nearer the time. To find out about volunteering opportunities, or put forward ideas or for more information, please contact Darren on 07739 562628 or [darrenhailes@me.com](mailto:darrenhailes@me.com)

### The 200 club winners

July	Number 98	Mr K Williams
August	Number 86	Harriet Febry



**Sun Shines on Summer Concert** Our annual fundraising concert was again in the beautiful grounds of "Camers", thanks to the kindness, generosity and support of the Denman family. We were entertained by Jon Clare and the Fabulous Doughboys, whose amazing music, relaxed, friendly style last year, plus the positive comments, encouraged us to invite him back; obviously a wise decision, since the ticket sales increased, as did the funds raised - over £3000. This will now help with the upkeep and maintenance of our beautiful village church.



The evening was a huge success: the sun shone - followed by a spectacular sunset; young and old were up dancing almost as soon as the band started playing; picnics and walks around the majestic gardens were enjoyed, and many left with raffle prizes. Our thanks to all who supported this event by attending, buying raffle tickets, donating prizes and helping on the day. Very special thanks to the Denman family as without them it would not have been possible.

*The Friends of Old Sodbury Church committee*

### Moving Forward with the Church Clock

Some may be wondering what is happening with the church clock. It was silent for months over Christmas and then restarted in the early spring but the hands on the south dial are stuck at 12.00. So what is happening?



In the Autumn of 2024, we had a H&S inspection of the church tower and were told that we needed to improve the access to the clock and provide barriers for the platform so that those winding the clock every week don't fall off. We certainly don't want to lose any of them!

It was decided that we should stop winding the

clock until these modifications had been completed in February. The clock was restarted and has been running continuously, keeping good time; the hands on the west face are showing the correct time and the clock strikes the hours and quarter hours correctly. I have since discovered that several clocks in the Diocese have been forced to stop for similar Health & Safety reasons so we are not the only ones to suffer.

We have now placed an order with Cumbria Clocks to find out and correct the problem with the mechanism that drives the hands on the south face. To do this, they will need to abseil down the south face of the tower to disconnect and reconnect the hands. At the moment we are waiting for them to schedule the work as, for Health and Safety reasons, there needs to be a Rope Engineer with the correct level of qualifications to supervise the Cumbria Clock engineers doing the abseiling. Hopefully this work will be carried out in late September when the suitably qualified Rope Engineer is due to become available. If anyone reading this knows a Rope Engineer with IRATA Level 3 qualifications, please let me know on 07831 266071 as this may enable us to do the work earlier.

*Chris Cooper*

### Business Backs Lifesaving Education

Year 6 pupils from Old Sodbury School were sponsored by Milne Wealth Management to attend the Lifeskills Safety Centre in Bristol. They explored real-life scenarios highlighting everyday dangers in the home and wider community. The experience is designed to help children become informed, confident, and active citizens. They also received a powerful message about the dangers and consequences of carrying a knife.

[www.lifeskills-bristol.org.uk](http://www.lifeskills-bristol.org.uk).





### A little snippet from the Old Sodbury WI:

Old Sodbury WI last met on Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2025 at Old Sodbury Village Hall. We welcomed Sarah Harris from the 'Spinning Weal' in Clevedon on 'Marie Antoinette's Guide to Farming'. She delighted us with her hilarious descriptions of family life on a smallholding and her experiences as a novice farmer.

Our August event was held at the Old Sodbury Tree and Plant Nursey where we had an interesting and informative tour, thanks to Tom and Charlotte Hodder. We enjoyed drinks and nibbles in the evening sunshine.

Our book club meets monthly and are currently reading two books: 'The Girl With the Louding Voice' by Abi Dare and 'The Wild Silence' by Raynor Winn'.

We are looking forward to the Hawkesbury Fair in August where we will be entering an exhibit in the craft section and we are arranging an Autumn 2025 Harvest Ploughman's Supper and Auction of Harvest Offerings on Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> October (see flyer below).

We meet on the first Wednesday of every month. Our next meeting is on Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> of September 2025 at Old Sodbury Village Hall at 7.30pm when we will be enjoying an evening of Lebanese Cookery with Amigos Cocina.

If you would like to know more or attend a meeting, do get in touch. You would be most welcome to attend one of our future meetings.

Samanatha Newick. Old Sodbury WI. Publicity. 07534 930 630 [woldsodbury@gmail.com](mailto:woldsodbury@gmail.com).



**Craig Denny** came to the rescue with his metal detector and was able to re-unite Jean with her ring after it had been lost in the grass during the summer concert at Camers.



**SWaN Update August 2025** A lovely Summer's evening was spent in early July with a tour of the wildflower meadow in the field on Sodbury Common. This was led by Pauline and Richard Wilson and well attended.

It was fascinating to see how many of the wildflowers planted a couple of years previously were now thriving amongst the grass, including the oddly named Corky Fruited Water Dropwort, Wild Carrot, Betony and Ladies Bedstraw, which was used for bedding before the advent of the modern mattress, and which gives off a pleasant aroma once dried. In total 27 different species of wildflower were counted, in addition to numerous Marbled White and Meadow Brown butterflies.

Andy Sage-Bell



Old Sodbury WI

# HARVEST

*Festival*

SATURDAY 4TH  
OCTOBER

7.30pm start  
Old Sodbury Village Hall  
**AUCTION \* PRODUCE \* QUIZ**  
**PLOUGHMAN'S SUPPER**  
Tickets £12.50  
BYO drinks  
from  
Old Sodbury WI  
[woldsodbury@gmail.com](mailto:woldsodbury@gmail.com)  
reg charity no:1019685





We start with special thanks to Southern Plasticad for their much appreciated sponsorship and support and to Steve Clapp who has taken over as secretary in addition to being Chair. Thanks also to retiring manager Liam Barrett who did an excellent job running the team for 4 years. The new management team of Liam Cook, Jackie Dando, Neil Bennett and Matt Iles and the new players are settling in well and have been a great asset to the club.

Pre-season friendly games started against Clutton and Stockwood from the Somerset county league with a win of 3-0 and a 2-2 draw in which Lewis Bryant was the star man. The team won 5-0 against St Villiers and Charlie Davies scored a hat-trick, then a 3-1 win against Wotton-under-Edge followed by a 6-2 win against local rivals Tormarton. They were outplayed and thrashed by Wick, losing 8-1. 17 year old Sebastian Woodward was star man in a 3-2 win against Southmead.

Many people do not realise that all of the field at Sugars Orchard is maintained by Old Sodbury Football Club, paying for the grass cutting and the upkeep of the changing rooms. They have always allowed the school to use them free of charge. CPS do an excellent job grass cutting but the charges have increased, and the club is looking for help to keep this going for the benefit of the whole village. Offers of support please to Laurence 01454-310980

#### Fixtures for the next 3 months.- kick off 2.00 pm

Sept 6th Cribbs H	Oct 4th AEK A	Nov 1st Lion...H
Sept 13th Hanham H	Oct 11th Bedminster H	Nov 8th Hambrook H
Sept 20th Wessex A (GFA cup)	Oct 18th and 25th Cup Rounds	Nov 15th Cup Rounds TBA
Sept 27th Cribbs A (Prem Cup)		Nov 22nd Chipping Sodbury A

We welcome your continued support - many thanks *Laurence Walker*

#### Sodbury Short Mat Bowls Club Report September 2025

**WANTED new members, M or F, for SSMBC,**

Monday evenings, at OSVH 6.15-9.PM, GSOH required

but no previous experience is necessary!

NB, contact Richard 01454 321323 if you fancy trying SMB.

Members and friends recently gathered for the afternoon in a lovely garden to enjoy cream teas. Around £1,400 was raised for the Bristol Hospital Trust.

Our thanks to Lorraine and Mike for hosting this event.

We look forward to another social event around Christmastime.

#### Gardening help needed

Can you spare a few hours to help Old Sodbury Church tidy up its Rose Garden in the churchyard?

We are looking for a few volunteers to help put down membrane, bark chippings and plant a few new shrubs.

This would help to make the churchyard look tidier and would be appreciated by all who visit the church and the churchyard every week.

If you can spare some time to help, please contact **Joy Fussell** on **07788695911**



## CHRISTMAS WREATH MAKING WORKSHOPS

with Ellie Wicks from Gable Studios

Old Sodbury Village Hall  
Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup>, Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> or Friday 5<sup>th</sup>  
December 2025 @ 7pm

<https://wreathmakingoldsodbury.eventbrite.co.uk>

Book your tickets on Eventbrite – just search for 'wreathmakingoldsodbury' or scan the QR code



A huge personal thank you to **Richard Wilson** who kindly took on the compiling and editing of the July edition of Old Sodbury Times. Elaine and I were busy moving back into our home after a year of building work and Richard kindly came to my rescue.

*Chris Anderson*

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 November edition is **15th October** 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.