

Old Sodbury Times

Issue 118

May 2026

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE FOOTBALL TEAM!



Champions of the Bristol Premier League Div 1.

They did it! Old Sodbury football club won the league and are heading for promotion into the next division. What a brilliant season! Having been second from bottom of the league last season, the lads trained hard every week and it has paid off. We're so proud of your achievement.

Winning the game against Pucklechurch on Sat 11th finally clinched the title for them giving them an unassailable lead in the league points. Thanks go to the management team of Liam Cook, Jack Dando and Neil Bennett who have done a great job and enormous thanks to sponsors Southern Plasticlad for their support.

In late February the lads had an easy win against Lions FC, winning 6-1. The away game against Pucklechurch was more of a challenge but OS scored in the last quarter and won 2 - 0. Our team won the away game at Oldland 5 - 0 with five different scorers. Success continued away to Hambrook with a decisive 4 - 0 win.

The local Derby against Chipping Sodbury reserves had over 100 supporters and was a triumph with the team winning 8 - 0. Charlie Davies scored 4 and was a well-deserved man of the match.

On Wednesday 1st April the team beat Hanham 4 - 0 with Charlie scoring 2 of the goals, taking his total for the season to 30. The decisive game against Pucklechurch on 11th April was a tricky first half but a strong second half saw Archie Williams grabbing 2 goals and Old Sodbury won 4 - 0. There are two games left to play before the end of the season.

Thanks to all our loyal supporters for all their encouragement. The club will be holding a presentation evening at CS Golf club in May. *Laurence Walker*



Dates for your Diary:

Fri 22nd May Camers open garden
2pm-5:30pm
Sat 6th June Village Day

The Denmans are kindly opening their magnificent gardens at **Camers**
Friday 22nd May 2pm - 5.30pm



Camers is a plantsman's garden with a very wide range of shrubs, perennials and bulbs designed to provide year round interest in several garden areas and woodland.


Garden Entry £7 (all proceeds in aid of NGS charities)
Children free
Refreshments in aid of St Johns Church, Old Sodbury
Entry via Chapel Lane, the gate opposite No. 78

Further information www.camers.org

Crossing update

The public consultation about the proposed crossing closed on 5th March. We understand that the responses were broadly positive and that the final report is expected imminently. We look forward to actual work beginning although "you can't make an omelette without breaking eggs" and the centre of the village will be in some chaos while the crossing is being built. *Chris Anderson*

The 200 club winners at March's social evening were as follows:

£50 winner. No. 120. Mrs V Boucher
£500 star prize. No. 005.  Monty Myers

The April winner was

£50 garden. No. 181. Mr R Maclean

Old Sodbury Community Coffee Mornings

The community coffee mornings held at the village hall have been a great success with upwards of 30 people attending each month for a catch up and a cuppa'.

The feedback has been positive with many welcoming the opportunity to meet in a local, warm and comfortable venue particularly during the winter months and thus was extended to the end of April after which the church Sunday summer afternoon teas begin.

Donations have been generous and in the 6 months to the end of March have totalled £719.00

This money will go towards the upkeep of the village hall and the church buildings.

I would like to thank all those who have helped, made cakes, washed-up and indeed everyone who came along to support! *Anne Myers*

Microsoft in their infinite wisdom have decided to kill off Publisher!

Publisher is the software app that I use to compile this newsletter. From October, MS will no longer support Publisher and they will remove it from the **on-line version of Office** that I use. This means that I will no longer be able to open historic files and more importantly, I will have to find some other software

to do the job. So far nothing comes close to Publisher's ease of use. So, if anybody happens to have a genuine bought version of Office 2021 with Publisher that they would like to get rid of, I am in the market! There are lots advertised on the net but they are apparently not genuine licences. *Chris Anderson 07860 155528*

Railway Works

You may have wondered what are the construction works on the railway and how much longer there will be the heavy lorries turning onto Badminton Road at Colts Green. Problems with water drainage and the stability of the cutting bank on the south side of the railway were identified and the works are to stabilise the bank. Almost 700 metres of the southern bank have been worked on, from near the bridge by Brooks Close to almost as far as the old station yard. Over much of the length the slope of the bank has been reduced, extending the width of the cutting. Huge amounts of soil have been removed. This entailed first building a temporary road alongside the



cutting for the machinery and haulage trucks. Then counterfort drains were cut into the slope. These are deep trenches down the slope filled with rocks to drain groundwater. All this work has now been done and the whole slope covered with coarse matting through which vegetation will eventually grow.

The contractors have now begun removing the temporary road, reinstating the adjoining farmland and fencing the new boundary. So the work is nearly complete, just a few more weeks of tidying up to do.

Chris Anderson

CAMERS Old Sodbury
Saturday 15th August 2026
Fabulous live music & picnic *Bring your own food, drink and chairs*
Gates open 5:30pm **Music starts 6:30pm**

INFERNO
THE UK'S HOTTEST
ABBA TRIBUTE BAND

Adult Ticket £22 **No Booking Fees**
Concessions available

www.ticketsource.com/camers2026

All proceeds in aid of Old Sodbury church and its future

Contact or queries to:-
old.sodbury.friends@gmail.com



Old Sodbury WI meet on the first Wednesday of each month in Old Sodbury Village Hall, a lovely hall with plenty of parking. In May, we will be celebrating our 107th birthday meeting. The evening promises to be a lively one, with cake and fizz, and Anna joining us to teach some Egyptian dancing. We're very much looking forward to celebrating with friends from other WI groups.

Our Barn Dance and delicious ploughman's supper in March was a great success and the Bees Knees kept us on our feet all evening! Our April meeting was a very entertaining talk on 'The process of millinery' by Heather Norman. Heather shared insight into the craftsmanship, creativity, and many hours involved in producing each unique design. She is the proprietor of Heather Norman Hats, in Chipping Sodbury and she makes amazing bespoke hats for all occasions. Best of all was the opportunity to try on some of her beautiful hats. Our ladies looked very dashing!

Our book club is currently reading 'The Hoarder' by Jess Kidd, an amateur sleuth story written in a "poetic and humorous style and keeping its readers guessing to the end". Our newly reformed craft club now meets monthly again and we are enjoying getting our display ready for the Hawkesbury Show in August. The theme we have chosen is 'TV Dramas' and it would be good to win again. There are a number of social outings planned for the Summer months including trips to Kew Gardens in May, Sherbourne Castle and Gardens in August and Tetbury Flower Farm in September as well as visits to the cinema, theatre trips, lunches, and afternoon teas.

If you would like to know more or to come along to one of our meetings, you would be most welcome. For more information, ring Linzie on 01454 320065 or email wioldsodbury@gmail.com *Linzie Clarke*

Village Hall News Following last year's refurbishment and investments in the heating system we are now consolidating and only undertaking essential maintenance. Most recently we have replaced some fire doors, resurfaced the driveway entrance and the path from the back door around to the car park. The Comedy Night held in April was another success with a great turnout enjoying a superb meal provided by **Tracey Shipp** followed by three national circuit comedians, offering a broad range of styles and content. We will avoid clashing with the tail end of the school Easter holidays next year!

We will soon be selling raffle tickets in support of Village Day on 6th June, so be prepared, we will come knocking!

As always, if you might be interested in helping with the management of the hall and village events, or just with individual events, we would be delighted to hear from you. Please drop us an email on OSVH@outlook.com or speak to one of the Committee. Bookings can be made through the Hall website: <https://oldsodburyvillagehall.com>. We look forward to welcoming you soon. *Ian Rowland Chair VHC*

Walks around Old Sodbury The Cotswold Voluntary Wardens offer walks all over the Cotswolds, including from Old Sodbury. On the second Tuesday of each month a walk starts from **Old Sodbury Church at 10.00am** and follows local footpaths aiming to finish at lunch time. The walks are 5 to 6 miles and should be suitable for most people, although walking boots are advised. Some walks may be shorter with a local expert talking about the trees in the area.

Just turn up at the start. All the walks are free, however donations are welcome and help us to take care of the countryside.

There have been three walks so far this year with very good participation. We've been to Sodbury Common, The Grickstone and the Community Woodland, with more interesting places to come. The walks are very social and a good way to meet new people. It would be lovely to see you on the walks, you will be most welcome.

Richard Wilson

The Grickstone is a standing stone about 5 feet tall, 4 wide at the base and about 2 feet thick. Traditionally thought to mark a burial place. It's beside the track to Grickstone Farm, off the A46.



Sodbury Short Mat Bowls Club Report May 2026

We will always be pleased to welcome visitors to our friendly Bowls.

Club Members gathered recently to discuss the change of start time. The majority of us preferred the earlier start time of 6.30pm on Monday evenings. We are therefore now back to our original playing times.

Please look out for our members on Saturday 6th June when we will be taking part in Village Day.

There will be an opportunity for adults and children to try their hand at bowling on the grass with the chance of winning cash prizes. Come and find us and have a go!

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

Old Sodbury Village Day

Saturday 6th June, midday – 5pm

We would love every villager to join us at Sugar Orchard Field (the home of Old Sodbury FC) as we celebrate our community with friends, neighbours and villagers.

There will be live music, entertainment, stalls, dance, kids activities, games, along with plenty of food and drinks! As the day winds up at the field, things move over to The Dog Inn for more live music and a BBQ.

SWaN Update May 2026

Spring is well and truly upon us and in Old Sodbury we are so fortunate to be in a position where we can enjoy its full splendour right on our doorstep. From the bluebells with their delicate scent, the cuckooflower or ‘Lady’s Smock’ in abundance this year due to the wet spring and now the hawthorn, or ‘May Blossom’ coming into its own just as the blackthorn flowers fade.



Facts about bluebells:

- ◆ Almost half the world’s bluebells are found in the UK – they’re relatively rare elsewhere.
- ◆ It’s against the law to intentionally pick, uproot or destroy bluebells.
- ◆ Bluebells take around five to seven years from seed to flower.
- ◆ Bluebells take years to recover after being trodden on. They will die back if their leaves are crushed from lack of food because they can no longer photosynthesise.
- ◆ If planting bluebells in your garden, make sure you’re planting the English bluebell, not the Spanish version. The Spanish species is a more vigorous plant and could outcompete the UK’s native flower.

As you walk around our fields and lanes it’s also amazing what you can notice; for example on a recent walk along Portway Lane, a rustle of leaves in the hedgerow revealed a tussle between a brown rat and a grass snake. Not sure if the rat was defending its nest or after a tasty meal!

Follow Sodbury Woodland and Nature (SWaN) 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*



Old Sodbury School

We are really excited to announce that our new building is now on site! It’s been nearly 6 years but we have finally done it! A HUGE thanks to everyone involved in reaching this milestone. We have a few things that need to be done before we can use it, but we are nearly there.

Jenny Jackman



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 July edition is **15th June** 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.