

**Issue 1
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Sophie Press- logo competition winner St John's Mead Primary School

**Sodbury in
Bloom**

Welcome to the very first Sodbury in Bloom newsletter

We shall be sending one out every three months to keep everyone up to date with Sodbury in Bloom events.

As you know, this year Sodbury in Bloom won a Britain in Bloom Silver Gilt award and the judges comments suggest that a coveted Gold award could be within our reach, perhaps in 2012, but we need your help. It was all great fun for those of us who helped out and we look forward to next year's competition.

Christmas card

Look out for our first Christmas card which will be on sale in the Post Office, The Coffee Bean, Vickers Stationers and Hampton's.

Packs of five will cost £3 and there will be a competition on the 'My Sodbury' website to win two free packs.

Thanks are due to the 'Boundary' magazine and Jamprint who have covered the cost of the cards and Rich McD who took the photograph and is letting us use it free of charge.



Red White and Blue for Jubilee Year 2012

June is always a busy month in the Town's programme. The Chipping Sodbury Festival with its cultural and musical events and the Lion's carnival add much community life to the Street .

June 2012 is likelier to be even busier and livelier due to planned celebrations of Her Majesty's Diamond Jubilee. Sodbury in Bloom has planned a patriotic red, white and blue colour theme for the summer's floral decorations to mark the occasion and all the Council's hanging baskets and tubs will be in those colours.

Additionally, a Jubilee Committee has been established and is hard at work organising two days of not to be missed street celebrations. Festivities start with an open-air united Churches service on Sunday and finish with lighting the Riding's beacon and a fire-work display on Bank Holiday Monday.

Features:

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Notable activities:

- June 2012 Diamond Jubilee
- Open air Church Service
- Bank Holiday Monday Lighting the Ridings Beacon
- Stage 2 planting of the Community Orchard'
- 1st Thursday of every month, Street tidying
- 2nd Thursday of every month Lilliput Park
- Spring Clean-up (March or April)

Sodbury in Bloom

Hanging Baskets

Residents, visitors and the judges all agree that the tubs and hanging baskets which decorate the town each summer really do enhance the appearance of our attractive main street. However, we could do even better with a little more effort.

To encourage more people to have hanging baskets next year and in recognition of those who already make an enormous effort, Sodbury in Bloom has written to all businesses and residents in Rounceval Street, High Street, Broad Street and Horse Street offering to contribute towards the cost of two hanging baskets. All we ask in return is that people maintain their own displays. Of course, people who already do their own displays will, we hope, continue to do so but we have asked them to stick to the chosen colour scheme of red, white and blue.

If you live in any of the streets listed above and you don't have hanging baskets please think about doing so. If you

want help just get in touch with us and we will see what we can do. Also, it would help if you happen to visit any of the premises which don't normally have hanging baskets if you asked if they are planning to do so next year.



Bulb Planting

You'll have seen that South Gloucestershire and Sodbury councils have replanted all the planters around town with winter bedding. To augment their sterling efforts we 'In Bloomers' have added spring flowering bulbs to the new Town Sign planters. We have put daffodils and narcissi in the planters and crocuses in the grass in front of them. Look out for them in the spring.

We have also been busy in and around the Millennium Garden of St John's Way. We have added lots of tulips in the garden and daffodils and narcissi to the banks of the footpath. Hopefully these will be a colourful addition to the town scene for years to come. Perennial and sustainable planting is an important part of our long term plan, and we'd like to increase our bulb planting in the future. If you identify an area that would benefit from this strategy please let us know and we'll see what we can do. And don't forget, we are out on the first Thursday of every month tidying up the tubs and planters in the high street and meeting outside the Baptist church at 10am. Do come and join us.

Vegetable competition

Chipping Sodbury's second vegetable competition, organised by Sodbury in Bloom, was part of the food festival on Saturday 8th October. Whopping cabbages and monster sized vegetables were pitted in contest against rainbow coloured Mediterranean vegetables. There were herbs and flowers on display too alongside luscious grapes and juicy foraged blackberries.

Local children had been invited to create monster sculptures out of vegetables. St Johns Mead school got involved, as did First Steps,

St Johns Nursery, Mid Week Fun Time and others. In total there were around 50 monsters ranging from the friendly mushrooms to the terrifying marrow dragon.

Best under 5's prize went to First Steps Tigers room

Best over 5's went to Alisha (first place) and Joe (second place).

Community Orchard

As most of you know we planted Stage 1 of the community orchard this February. Stage 2 is due for planting early next year and will include trees specifically to commemorate the royal wedding and the diamond jubilee.

Also, on the 2nd Thursday in the month we work in Lilliput Park (meet Chris Alcock in the park at 10 am)