MODBURY MESSENGER



For the People of Modbury & Brownston

Volume 24, Issue 305 - August 2024

Shakespeare Returns to Mothecombe

This summer sees rehearsals under way for two Shakespeare productions: the comedy, A Midsummer Night's Dream and the tragedy, Macbeth. For the second year running, a company of local amateur actors have been working away in the Mothecombe Gardens where the performances will take place in September. Most of the cast and crew live in Holbeton or Modbury.

Modbury residents who attended last year's production of A Midsummer Night's Dream were delighted by the spectacle, giving it rave reviews. One audience member said it was "the best Shakespeare – no – the best play I have ever seen." Another said it was "just perfect".

The company were fortunate to be joined by Jeremy Irons, one of this country's foremost actors of stage and screen in the role of Bottom. The weather played ball, and the setting of the beautiful Mothecombe Gardens couldn't have suited the play better.

This year, Macbeth has been added to the company's repertoire.

Rob Heyland is the director of both productions, and has shared his thoughts on how things are going. He says, "The Dream just belongs at Mothecombe, so I hope we'll keep doing it every year. With the cast changes and a new year, it just feels like a familiar, but different play. Macbeth is an entirely different proposition. Dark

where the Dream is light, harrowing where the Dream is uplifting. It's new to us, a wonderful challenge. We're praying for storms – to test the resolve of the cast and audience as much as anything."

A Midsummer Night's Dream will run at Mothecombe Gardens, 11th - 14th September, Macbeth will be performed in the same venue, 18th - 21st September. For tickets go to www.flete.co.uk, and go to the events page where there is a link.









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Modbury Twinning Association



Modbury's Twinning Association welcomed our friends from Lanvéoc, in Brittany, for their weekend stay in the middle of June. The weather was kind and a splendid time was had by all, hosts and visitors alike.

They arrived late on Friday evening so the official welcome was on Saturday morning in the splendid community space that is \$t George's Church, and thence to Dartmouth. Lanvéoc is a small and picturesque harbour closely associated with the French Naval Academy in nearby Brest, so the Bretons have an affinity with the naval connections of Dartmouth and enjoyed their pleasant lunch and stroll around in the sun, and some taking in the ferry trip to the castle.

On Sunday, the group trip was to Buckland Abbey, home of Sir Francis Drake, a visit enlivened by their medieval weekend. Of particular interest to the French was the archery demonstration, based on how the battle of Agincourt was fought! In the evening, the set piece was an excellent dinner in the White Hart for all.

Finally, we said goodbye with a barbeque in the Exeter Inn garden, where the Bretons were delighted to receive a new Modbury flag, as modelled up and down our high street. We are very much looking forward to our return visit to Brittany next Summer.

Next up in the Modbury Twinning Association social calendar is a quiz night at the QE2 Pavilion on Saturday 14th September – watch out for details in due course.

Charlotte Kendrick







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Modbury School News

As the academic year draws to a close, we have enjoyed a huge variety of activities in school.

It was the turn of Foundation stage to visit St George's Church and learn more about the features of this beautiful building. Rev. Oli had arranged for some of the bellringers to share their skills with the children who really enjoyed pulling the bell ropes and trying to stay on the ground!

In school, on a rather wet afternoon, we held our swimming gala where all the classes were able to demonstrate their skills to their parents. This event was coupled with the PTFA summer fair, which raised very welcome funds to enhance school life.

We were lucky to have proper summer weather for our sports day. It was held in the morning which meant that all the children were fresh and keen to run, jump and throw to gain points for their teams. It was lovely to see the sportsmanship of all the children, urging everyone to do their best, and applauding every finisher in the long-distance races. After a sunny morning on the field, children appreciated the ice lollies supplied by the PTFA.

In preparation for September, new school starters have spent three afternoons with Mrs Ratcliffe and have already begun to find their way around. All the other classes have had transition sessions with their new teachers and our Year 6 leavers have spent a day at their chosen secondary school.

The final school trips of the year were a great success. Year 4 enjoyed a night in Dartmoor Zoo and Year 5 slept with sharks at Plymouth Aquarium.

'Boony' Bower has been a regular visitor in school, encouraging children to search for the wildlife in our grounds and watch the birds that visit the new feeders.

With SATs successfully negotiated, Year 6 turned their attention to the production of Cinderella Rockerfella and have eagerly been rehearsing their words and songs for the current production. Year 5 have also been involved, adding their own song and dance to the performance. This production has been the climax of the year for the Year 6 teacher, Miss Pears, who is, sadly, leaving us this term. After a very successful year in Modbury, she leaves us to travel and teach in Australia. We wish her all the best and have our fingers crossed that she may come back to Modbury one day!







Modbury and South Hams Creative Writing Group

We at The Modbury and South Hams Creative Writing Group meet every month to read and discuss our work. We are a small group of lively individuals who write for all sorts of different reasons. Each, we set ourselves a challenge or theme to hang our ideas on (although we have been known to digress completely!). Our meetings are both entertaining and informative, and usually accompanied by much laughter, tea and biscuits.

A recent challenge was 'Fantasy'. Responses ranged from tales based on our own teenage years, to poetry, to a flash fiction fantasy of the Modbury of old. Below is a submission which one of our members brought to the meeting. It was written as an alternative (happier) ending to Shakespeare's Romeo and Juliet.

We are keen to welcome new members, so if you enjoy creative writing, why not join us. We meet usually on the first Saturday of the month at the Queen Elizabeth II Pavilion in Modbury at 10.00 am.

Call Jody Fendick for more details: 07502 009103. www.facebook.com/modburycreativewritinggroup

Jody Fendick



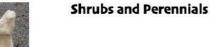
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Juliet (to Nurse)

I dreamt my Romeo came and found me dead, In Capel's tomb wherein they lay me down -Such dreams, oh nurse, do freeze the blood indeed! -But no! I woke, just as the friar had said. And gazed upon the ghoulish monument With hooded eyes all dim and blurr'd with sleep: Oh, what a sight was there! Rash Tybalt's corse, With blood-encrusted gashes on his head! And then, a voice the softest whisper soundeth, The sweetest sound that ever I have known. And breath'd new life with kisses on my lips. 'Twas he indeed, good nurse, all pale and gaunt For fearing death had taken me betimes. But I reviv'd, mine eye as clear as day, My thoughts as sharp as any I have had, And upright sat and breathless clung to him. He told me soft we had defied the stars, That love so strong can n'er be quelled nor snuffed. We lay entwin'd and spake of what had passed -How letters had been sent, received and read, How full of danger had our venture been -And by and by we crept outside the vault And breathed anew the sweet Verona air, The radiant sun grey clouds had chased away, As if to sign and herald new-wed bliss. From thence to Mantua we happy journeyed on, Where letters told our grief-consumed kin Our tale. Who, being overjoy'd with news we lived, Forgot their age-old rancour, steep'd in blood, Bade us live and prosper in harmony and joy And raised our golden statues, a testament to love And warning 'gainst the enmity of foes. Good night, sweet nurse, a thousand blessings on thy head, My Romeo awaits; I'll to my marriage bed.



Modbury Twinning Association

Quiz Night + Wine and Cheese

Saturday September 14th
7.00pm at QE II Pavilion
£10 pp

The sun shone for the weekend visit of our French guests in June, and visits to Dartmouth and Buckland Abbey were enjoyed by all. Our autumn quiz night is open to everyone, join us if you want to know more about what goes on - or just enjoy a quiz!

To reserve, pay Modbury Twinning Association 30-94-72 00597968

or contact Ken Knowles kenknowles14@hotmail.com





Holbeton Film Club



August's film is **One Life** (certificate 12A). Based on a true story. London broker "Nicky" Winton helped rescue hundreds of predominantly Jewish children from Czechoslovakia in a race against time before the Nazi occupation closed the borders. Fifty years later, he's still haunted by the fate of those he wasn't able to bring to safety.

This is showing on **Friday the 9th August 2024** in Holbeton Village Hall. Doors open 7pm. The programme starts at 7:30pm. Tickets on the door still only £4, or £2 for accompanied under 12's (cash only). Ice creams will be on sale for £1

Our programme for the coming months is:

Wicked Little Letters 15 Saturday 14th September
Anatomy of a Fall 15 Friday 11th October
Vindication Swim PG Saturday 9th November
Wonka PG Friday 13th December



For more information contact: Harry Baumer 01752 830274, harryluson@gmail.com

Harry Baumer



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Modbury Mission Community

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St George's Church

Please check our website for our current opening times



Welcome to St George's Church, Modbury

The Amazing Spaces project is now complete and we are able to welcome our congregation, visitors and newcomers to worship with us again on Sundays at St George's.

KIDS' CHURCH - Kids' Church will take a break during August, but families are still welcome to join us for any of our services. There will be parent-led family video and activity sheets in the lower vestry every Sunday so please do come. Kids' Church starts again on 15th September.

Rooted, our contemporary evening service, will also not meet in August and will return on 29th September.

Rev. Matt Rowland

01548 830260

matt.rowland@modburyteam.org

August	Service	Service Leader		
Sunday 4th	Holy Communion 9.30 am	Rev. Oli Long		
Sunday 11th	Holy Communion (BCP) 8.00 am	Rev. Matt Rowland		
	All - Age Service 9.30 am	Rev. Matt Rowland		
Sunday 18th	Holy Communion 9.30 am	Rev John Elliott		
Sunday 25th	Sunday Worship 9.30 am	Gil Snook		

CHRISTIAN COMMENT: Coping with Change

The General Election in the UK is always something to be celebrated. That we can have a change in government in such a peaceful and ordered fashion is one of the many benefits we have in living in this country. Regardless of our political preferences, the Bible calls us to pray for kings and all those in high positions, that we may lead a peaceful and quiet life, godly and dignified in every way. So we pray that the new government will have success in resolving the many challenges they have inherited.

We also now move into a change in season coming up far too quickly. The long days of summer always seem to last such a short time compared to winter. But autumn brings with it many high points not least a celebration of harvest and we pray for our farmers that it will be a success for them. Please do come to our harvest celebration in the various churches of the Modbury Mission Community.

Unfortunately, change can also bring a sense of fear or uncertainty. For many, this may be reason they hold back from welcoming Jesus into their lives or they might fear what they have to give up or fear what their friends and family might say, or wonder how to engage with the church. But don't be afraid, because God so loved the world (that means you) that he gave his one and only Son that whoever believes in him will not perish but have eternal life.

Gil Snook

Gil Snook

Are you aged 17 – 25?

Any person living in Modbury Parish (including Brownston) who is leaving school to start higher/further education or a training scheme, is entitled to a small one off grant from

The Modbury Education Foundation

Please apply by 1st October 2024 with your full name, postal address and brief details of the course you will be taking to sue@mercer5.co.uk

Sue Mercer

St Monica's Roman Catholic Church, Modbury

Mass weekly at 5pm on Wednesday

St Austin's Priory Roman Catholic Church, Cadleigh

Mass weekly at 11.30 am on Sunday

Phone: 01752 895888

E-mail ivybridge@prcdtr.org.uk



Congratulations - Local Artist/Crafter Accepted at the Royal Academy

As most people realise, we have a wealth of artistic talent here in the South Hams and regular art and craft shows can be visited throughout the year, but one local lady has taken that a stage further.

Modbury resident, Sheila Kettle, was recently persuaded by a fellow artist to submit some of her works which included one of her 'Miniature Memories' as an entry for the Royal Academy Summer Exhibition in London. She was, after a two-stage vetting process, accepted, and her miniature now sits among over twelve hundred pieces of work submitted by artists from all over the world.

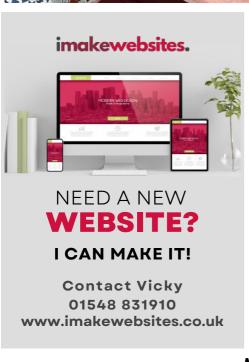


A miniature memory is a 1/12th scale recreation. Each unique piece is a potted history, normally of someone's life - 'recreated in miniature' and can include for example personal photographs, birth certificates, loves, losses and desires - as requested by the customer!

You can see more of Sheila's work, including her many textile pictures and other events she is involved in, by going to her website which can be found at: https://www.textileandstitch.co.uk/miniature-displays/

The London exhibition continues until the 18th August, an Internet link can be found on Sheila's web page also.

Well done, Sheila, for putting Modbury on the international arts trail!





MODBURY PARISH COUNCIL

Modbury Parish Council Office, 1 Modbury Court, PL21 0QR 01548 312321 email parishclerk@modburyparishcouncil.gov.uk **Your Councillors are:**

Bill Cole 01548 830913 Richard Foss 01548 721420 richardfoss@modburyparishcouncil.gov.uk Barbara Price (Chair) 07739752095 barbaraprice@modburyparishcouncil.gov.uk tonyprice@modburyparishcouncil.gov.uk Tony Price 07801837129 philsmith@modburyparishcouncil.gov.uk Phil Smith (Vice Chair) 07759282404 Dave Trigger 07808742372 davetrigger@modburyparishcouncil.gov.uk annturner@modburyparishcouncil.gov.uk Ann Turner 01548830606 Sarah Wyatt 07794 662903 sarahwyatt@modburyparishcouncil.gov.uk

How can we help you? Councillors run drop-in surgeries on Sat. 10–11am in the Parish Office at 1 Modbury Court. The Parish Clerk is in the Parish Council office on Tues, 10am – 4pm. Call into the office, phone, email or come along to our meetings at 7pm in the Pavilion, QEII Recreation Ground on the first Tuesday of every month and speak in the public forum.

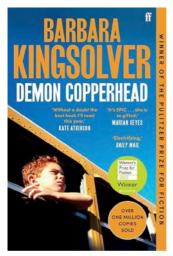
Devon County Councillor (Salcombe Division): Rufus Gilbert Tel: 01548 856659

rufus.gilbert@devon.gov.uk

South Hams District Councillor Charterlands Ward: Bernard Taylor Tel: 01548 830844

Cllr.Bernard.Taylor@southhams.gov.uk

A Modbury Book Club recommends:

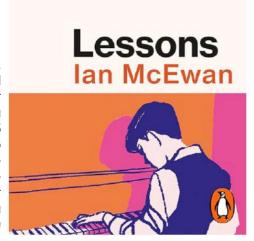


Demon Copperhead by Barbara Kingsolver

Demon Copperhead is the story of a young boy born as 'trailer-trash' in the Appalachian Mountains of America. It is a story about poverty and the way in which the US opioid epidemic seems to target the poor. Far from being a depressing read, the novel teems with life, hope and humour, embodied in the character of its eponymous hero, Demon. The action and themes mirror the famous Victorian novel by Dickens, David Copperfield, which provides another level of enjoyment and interest for many readers. It also points to the fact that although life in the nineteenth century might have been rather different, some of the pitfalls and injustices that the characters experience in 'Demon' don't seem a million miles away. Our group universally loved this novel for its wisdom, relevance and warmth. The novel won The Pulitzer Prize in 2023.

Lessons by Ian McEwan

McEwan is back on form with this epic of a novel first published in 2023. It spans a whole lifetime from the early 1960s to right about now and tells the story of Roland Baines, a sort of everyman, a victim of his past maybe, failing to grab his chances as they arise. We first meet him as a teenage boarder who falls prey to the clutches of his music teacher, 25 year old Miss Cornell. His first encounter and subsequent relationship with her is a pivotal moment and affects his thoughts and actions in the years to come. The novel perhaps lacks the narrative tension of some of McEwan's early work such as *Saturday* and *Enduring Love* but it makes up for it in its historical scope. If you are a baby boomer, a sucker for a chronicle or enjoyed William Boyd's *Any Human Heart*, you will love this one by McEwan.



Mandy Field



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OLYMPIANS ON DARTMOOR

This was the theme for our annual Cubs' summer camp, and it was actually inspired by one of our senior Cubs, Zac. The idea was to be Ancient Greeks for the weekend, eating Greek food, playing Olympic sports and much more.



🤰 🐠 Olympians on Dartmoor

We spent the weekend in mid-June at the Dartmoor Activity Centre, only a 15-minute walk from the mighty Haytor. It is a great venue for us, with shepherds' huts to sleep in, loo and shower block (the latter little used), woodland and field, but best of all leasy access.

loo and shower block (the latter little used!), woodland and field, but best of all, easy access to the open moor.

Examples of activities the cubs took part in with their teams (Hermes, Zeus, Poseidon, and Apollo) included learning the Ancient Greek alphabet, making petroglyphs and laurel crowns, kite making, constellations, other forms of navigation, archery and bridge building. Not to mention the Olympic games:- relay race, putting the shot, standing long jump, sandal wanging and chariot racing. All this took place on the Friday evening and Saturday.

On Sunday, we had beautiful sunny weather and went for a hike. In four hours, we took in three Tors and the Haytor quarry, with plenty of food and drink breaks and a few games thrown in for good measure.

Needless to say we, even the Cubs, were all pretty exhausted by Sunday afternoon and pleased to sleep in our own beds that night, but it was a memorable weekend.

Mowgli



















Volunteer Helpers Needed

Cub and Scout meetings and events like camp can only take place because of our teams of hard-working leaders, who give freely of their time and energy, to plan an interesting, but also safe, programme throughout the year.

As a Scout Group, we are always pleased to welcome new volunteers, provided you are enthusiastic, happy to have a DBS check and undergo a small amount of on-line training. If you feel you have skills which would assist the Scout Group in any way (the committee in particular) please let us know, as our current chairman is due to retire soon.

The committee is concerned with practical aspects, getting things done, and are a nice bunch to work with, not a 'talking shop'! They are involved with administration and finance, and support the Cub and Scout leadership teams.

Please contact molebonell@gmail.com for further information.

Mowgli

Volunteering to help with Cubs and Scouts may be one of the best decisions of your life. You will have fun and laughter and make friends for life. It'll keep you in touch with the young people of Modbury. I know, I was a Cub leader for 15 years, and I don't regret one minute of it.

Lynne Barnes - formerly Hathi

Hawthorn Hair Moves to Broad Street



At last, the previous Pickles Hardware shop has now re-emerged as two separate premises, firstly Ringrose, and now a very spacious and bright hair salon. Hawthorn Hair has moved in from the bottom of Brownston Street. I called in, not for a haircut, but to chat to Lee & Sami, the owners and stylists about their journey and mission.

Lee and Sami met 14 years ago when Lee was running March Hair in central Plymouth and Sami was a stylist there. Lee tells me that he had his hair cut in March Hair when he was 14 years old, and decided this was the career for him. His grandfather was a barber so I suppose it's in Lee's blood. On leaving school he was trained at Maison Terry in Plymouth, under David & Jonathan Howe, and then under Lorraine in March Hair. This was followed by spells in California, Greece and Holland before returning to the UK, to continue his career in Plymouth at Utopia.

As Lee had grown up in Holbeton, they decided to open in nearby Modbury because it was "plastic-bag free" and they have certainly subscribed to that concept. Everything in the shop is sustainable and plastic free. Apparently only 1% of salons are fully sustainable and Hawthorn Hair is not only committed to sustainability, but is also committed to education within the salon. Whilst their apprentices are part of a college, they are in-salon trained and all members of staff are kept up to date with education and their skill sets. Apart from the gowns, which are taken home to be washed, everything else used is recycled, hair, paper, towels, and metal. They have a refilling scheme for shampoos, conditioners and more.

Both Lee and Sami are Vidal Sassoon trained, as recently is Abbie, one of their other two stylists. Maisie is the fourth member of the team. With much more space in these new premises, Hawthorn Hair hopes to expand, and you have only to look in through the window to see the bright large area they now have.

Hawthorn Hair is open from 10.00 am to 6.00 pm weekdays and Saturdays, plus extended hours on Thursdays and Fridays until 8 or 9 p.m.

Contact details:

Hawthorn Hair, 2c Broad Street, Modbury, PL21 OPS

Telephone: 01548830400







Come and say hello!

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Fridays - 9.15-11.15 at Modbury Memorial Hall

Last Friday of the month – out and about day

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Modbury Tiddlers

@modbury_tiddlers

mail@modburytiddlers.org.uk





An Apothecral Tail: Novum stagnum in Roslin Villa Aestas





This **monkshood** plant is growing next to my pond. It is native to the UK and though, by no means common, small clumps can be found around the Modbury area, usually next to water. It obviously gets its name from the shape of the flowers. Its Latin name **Aconitum napellus** is probably derived from the Greek word akon meaning a dart or javelin reflecting the use of the plant as a poison on arrows. Napellus is from the Latin napus meaning tuber and refers to the shape of the root. Other common names are aconite, wolfsbane, leopard's bane and devil's helmet. The use of the suffix "bane" refers to something that causes death. Our monkshood is one of around 250 members of the Aconitum genus most of which are extremely poisonous. As little as one gram can be a fatal oral dose. The plant is also toxic to touch causing numbness. Frightening as this may seem, it is worth noting that much of its toxic nature is shared with its cousin, the garden delphinium.

The use of aconite as a poison has been recognised for thousands of years. Arrows dipped in aconite juice have been used in many countries for hunting and in warfare.

Aconite has been used for hunting bears in Japan, whales in the Aleutian Islands of Alaska and of course the eponymous wolves and leopards. In ancient Roman times, aconite was used to eliminate criminals and enemies. This eventually led to it being banned and growing it carried the death penalty.

In the 19th century, aconite was considered useful for treating neuralgic skin pain. It was also used internally as a sedative, to induce sweating and to slow heart palpitations. Due to its toxic nature it was normally used as a solution in alcohol (ie a tincture). In order to ensure uniformity of potency the tinctures were tested for the time it took for a dose to kill Guinea Pigs. Monkshood featured in my undergraduate syllabus and I clearly remember a bottle of tincture in my father's chemist shop. In those days poisons were grouped in different schedules. Aconite tincture had to be stored in a separate area of the dispensary and in a bottle distinguishable by touch; a green ribbed glass bottle with ground glass stopper.

Aconite has not featured in the British Pharmacopoeia since 1953. There are no licensed aconite medicines. I understand it is still in use in parts of Slovenia. It is still used in homeopathy in undetectable small doses. In 2021, Sadyr Japarov, president of Kyrgyzstan, promoted its use for treating COVID-19, leading to a number of people being admitted to hospital. A timely reminder of the danger of accepting the words of politicians without first confirming their qualifications. Cavere suffraaii

Fiat cum secundem artem

Edward Holt



NO HELP HAS BEEN OFFERED

Unfortunately, no help has been forthcoming for the post of Treasurer for the Modbury Messenger. Has no-one got five hours a month to give to help keep the Modbury Messenger going? For the last ten years I have been fulfilling the role of both Editor and Treasurer, as well as Distributor for the Covid years. We now have help offered with editing the Messenger and Ira Young has kindly filled the role of Distributor. Now, thanks to generous grants from Modbury Parish Council and the Modbury Fair Committee, we have a new computer for the Modbury Messenger to ease production with the different editors.

Please, please, can some-one come forward to act as Treasurer. It is not a difficult job, you don't need to be a maths genius and training is available, along with a three month handover timespan to ease you into the role. We pay an accountancy firm at the end of each year to do the accounts for Companies House, so you won't be asked to do that. Without someone to take on this role, the future of the Modbury Messenger is at stake.

Lynne Barnes, Editor, Modbury Messenger



Modbury WI

Modbury WI usually meets during the evening on the third Tuesday of most months, but this

August it is having an informal cream tea in the grounds at the QEII Pavilion in Chatwell Lane, Modbury PL21 OFS (or in the Pavilion in the event of rain).

Prospective members and guests are most welcome to come along at 2.15pm on Monday, 12th August for a donation to Children's Hospice South West. There is ample parking in the QEII Pavilion grounds. Please email me if you would like to join us so we can ensure we have enough scones etc!

rosiejaneparker@gmail.com Rosemary Parker



The next meeting of the Modbury and District Branch of the Royal British Legion will take place in The Club on Wednesday 7th August 2024 starting at 7.30pm. New members are always most welcome.

David Scott



Modbury Christmas Lights

Once again, it is that unseasonable time of year when we have to start planning for the Christmas Lights installation and parade.

We have a very small Committee and a very committed team of installers, but back in March we issued a call for volunteers to help organise the Christmas Lights Parade which usually takes place on the last Friday of November. Unfortunately, this was unsuccessful and if we cannot find anyone to take the lead in planning the event and liaising with the school PTA and traders we will regretfully have to cancel this year's parade.

If you would be interested in taking the lead on the event, or just willing to lend a helping hand, please contact either Ira Young on 07485 405933 or Phil Smith on 07759 282404.

Phil Smith, Secretary, Modbury Christmas Lights Committee

walk&talk The July walks are on 6th, 13th, 20th and 27th August.

The venue and travel arrangements for each of the walks will be discussed and decided at the previous week's walk.

Walk Leader contact details:

 Sue Rogers
 01548 831289

 Ann Brooks
 01548 550300.

 Jean Wright
 01548 810029

 Catherine Speight
 01548 830195

Sue Rogers



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Diary of a Local Beekeeper – Swarm Chasing

Following last month's article, swarm spotting Messenger readers have been keeping Justine and Duncan on their toes all over Modbury

Just when we thought summer had finally arrived, bringing some welcome warmth and sunshine, it promptly disappeared again. In my experience just mentioning the dreaded word 'barbecue' almost guarantees the return of the rain and cool temperatures. Perhaps that's where we're going wrong! After successfully navigating the annual June Gap, a short period circumscribing Midsummer when there is a lack of flowers for the bees to forage, we are now witnessing our colonies bringing in a massive flow of nectar and pollen. Justine and I have to be careful when doing inspections, that we don't inadvertently tip any of it out of the frames.

Perhaps it's due to the unusual weather patterns this year, but beekeepers across the UK are reporting unprecedented numbers of swarms. Despite our own best tactical efforts, as we now manage so many hives, we have just not been able to prevent some of them swarming - and they can sometimes land in some very awkward positions! I've included an image of me retrieving a swarm from the very top of a tall tree, after I'd press-ganged my son Rob into supporting the ladder. Afterwards, he said that seeing how this was successfully achieved from such a precarious position was truly fascinating. Maybe this might spark him into taking up this amazing pastime and joining me on more expeditions. I can but hope! Justine and I have also been summoned to collect numerous swarms recently, from trees and bushes in gardens all round Modbury. Of course, we have no clue as to these swarms' origins, so we always isolate them for a while, until we are certain they are not carrying any disease which could spread to our existing hives.

Swarming is a natural phenomenon for honeybees. It is the only way they can multiply and create new colonies. Swarming occurs when a hive collectively decides to create a new queen. Without a beekeeper's timely intervention, these larval pre-queens are nurtured and when they are about to hatch the workers force the existing queen out of the hive. When she flies away most of the flying bees follow her and form a protective body around her wherever she decides to land. Once settled, they then send off scout bees to find a new suitable home, which could be, for example, an empty bee hive, chimney, or maybe a hole in a tree. Meanwhile, back in the hive, the new queen will hatch and depart on her maiden flight, when she will mate with many drones (male bees), who will happily die for the honour. Afterwards, she will return to the hive and, after a couple of weeks, begin laying eggs, which she can sustain for up to 5 years after that single mating episode.

If the current strong flow of nectar and pollen can be maintained, Justine and I are hoping to be able to extract more surplus honey in August, which will then allow the bees to replenish stocks ready for the winter – a depressing thought indeed! All being well, we hope to have this honey ready for sale by mid-August at the latest.

Thank you again to all Messenger readers, for your very kind supportive comments.

Duncan Currall

1st photo: Duncan climbing up towards the swarm

2nd photo: About to descend with swarm

3rd photo: Duncan holding swarm







INTENDED MONTHLY FLAG HOIST AT PALM CROSS GREEN - August

<u>Date</u>	Masthead	Starboard Yard (Plymouth) - West	Port Yard (Modbury) - <u>Event</u> st East	
01	White Ensign	NILE	Ans1798	Start of Battle of the Nile 1798
02	Union Flag	KUWAIT	Ans193 rd sub0	Start of Kuwait War 1990
03	White Ensign	NILE	1798Ans	End of Battle of the Nile 1798
04	Red Cross Flag	FOUND	1870	Red Cross Founding Day 1870
13	Army	BLENHIM	1704	Battle of Blenheim 1704
15	Union Flag	VJDAY	1945	Victory in Japan Day 1945
22	Army	BOSWRTH	1485	Battle of Bosworth 1485

- 1. Please note that if the wind is above 20 knots the intended flag hoists will not take place.
- 2.The intended flag hoists will not take place if the Modbury Chief Yeoman is absent.
- 3.All the signal hoists are done using the various Country/National Ensigns and the International Code of Signals Flags.
- 4.Starboard Yardarm (Plymouth)-West, will have the event wording, (which sometimes is abbreviated only 6 or 7 flags can be flown).
- 5.Port Yardarm (Modbury)-East, will have the year. Answer Pennant (Ans) will indicate the start (when at the top) or end (when at the bottom).

 6.1st ,2nd ,3rd substitute flags will be used whenever a flag flown earlier/higher in the hoist is to be repeated. eg 2022 =
- 2,0,1stsub,3rdsub.

 7.If there is a significant event which does take place, additional signal flag hoists will be arranged, subject to the note 1
- 8. However, all the above flag hoists are subject to change.

David Scott, Modbury Chief Yeoman

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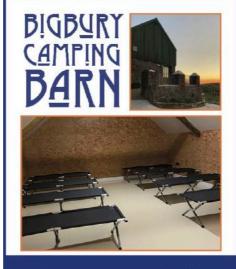
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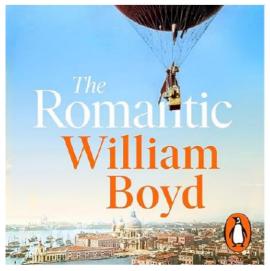
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A Modbury Book Club recommends

The Romantic by William Boyd



This novel captured my interest from the start. The 'Author's Note' at the beginning refers to the "unfinished, disordered, somewhat baffling autobiography of Cashel Greville Ross (1799-1882), an autobiography ... that came into my possession some years ago." This gives the impression that Cashel Ross was a real man, but he is, in fact, the entirely fictional creation of William Boyd. His story is spun around many real events of the 19th century, following him through service as a drummer boy in the battle of Waterloo, time in Ceylon with the East Indian Army, a sojourn with the Romantic poets in Pisa, and as an explorer discovering uncharted Africa. Every setting that William Boyd convincingly creates is enough to generate new sparks of interest.

The scale of this novel also impressed me - geographically across continents, and emotionally vast too. I was intrigued by the 'orphaned' child in County Cork we get to know at the beginning, and became increasingly involved with Cashel's thought processes and decision making as he negotiates his life, including

the big romance that develops in Venice. I cared about what happened to Cashel and that kept me turning the pages. A thoroughly rewarding and satisfying novel.

Mandy Field



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Or contact: info@modburytennisclub.uk

Or Chairman 07968 777141

Jane Bullen







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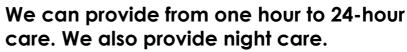
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Contact Liz to book 01548 830313.

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Contact Wendy for info: 01548 831219

Ladies and Gents Who Take Trips Out (£ please ask)
Meet at Modbury Post Office; 9.30- 4.30pm
Contact Liz for info and to book; 01548 830313.

Ladies and Gents Who Craft, Knit, Colour (or simply sit and chat) (cost £3)

Memorial Hall – Thursdays – 2–4pm includes tea

Contact Wendy for info: 01548 831219.

Ladies and Gents Who Get Active (cost £3)
Seated dance and singing - MARS 3rd Wednesday of the month 2.30-4.30pm

Includes tea and cake Contact Jenny for info and to book 07787786594

Ladies and Gents Who Meet for Coffee Mondays – I I am – Cool Bean Café

All welcome to join the table.

Contact Wendy for info: 01548 831219



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SIZE	1 INSERTION		3 – 10 INSERTSIONS (Per insertion)		12 INSERTIONS (Per insertion)		12 INSERTIONS (Year Total)	
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1/8 page	£15.00	£30.00	£13.00	£26.00	£8.00	£16.00	£96.00	£192.00
1/4 page	£30.00	£60.00	£25.00	£50.00	£15.00	£30.00	£180.00	£360.00
1/2 page	£54.00	£108.00	£43.00	£86.00	£25.00	£50.00	£300.00	£600.00
1 page	£96.00	£192.00	£74.00	£148.00	£40.00	£80.00	£480.00	£960.00

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To advertise in the Modbury Messenger, contact the Editor, Lynne Barnes via email on modburymessengercic@gmail.com

Modbury Messenger September 2024 Copy Date 10th August

The copy date for the September 2024 Modbury Messenger is 10th August. Please email all articles, notices of events and paid advertisements to modburymessengercic@gmail.com.

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