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For the People of Modbury & Brownston

Volume 25, Issue 316 - July 2025

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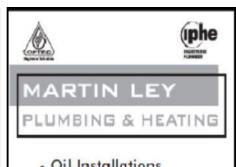
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Please don't hesitate to contact us if you have any questions.

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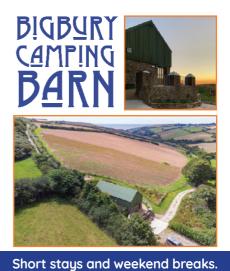


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info@bigburyholidays.co.uk
www.bigburyholidays.co.uk

george@holbrookass.com



#### **KNIGHTON DAZE 2025**

Knighton Daze, Modbury's biggest annual party returns for its 5th year on 12th July, with an expanded and increasingly home-grown line-up!

Doors open at 3pm with all day live music and DJ sets, bar by Gareth and Mary of the White Hart and hog roast by Bigbury Hogs with the usual kids entertainments and the now famous drunk auction!

We would urge everyone to USE OUR BAR where branded plastic pint cups will be sold for charity.

However, those wishing to bring their own alcohol are respectfully asked to limit it to 10 cans per person and to <u>take</u> away their own rubbish.

All Modbury and surrounding area residents are welcome to join us at Knighton Coombe which is only a 10 minute walk from Modbury centre, parking is limited and reserved for those who need it most.

#### This years line-up:

Modlife Crisis DJ DaHa Laura Brown DJ Byebye Driver DJ High-Lee Dangerous Jess Cook The Bob Porter Project
Freddy Fromage and the Cheesemongers

Suggested donations: Adults: £15 per head Teens: £5 per head Children: Free Please do not donate anonymously!

Entry will again be wrist-banded and numbers will be limited to ensure everyone's safety and fun. All attendees under 18 must be accompanied by an adult and a Challenge 25 policy will be in force at the bar.

Tickets are in advance only and will NOT be available on the gate. Either donate via the QR code to the right or pay cash at the Post Office. Please do not donate anonymously!

This is a not-for-profit event and all proceeds will be donated to local charities including Modbury Preschool, PTFA and Tiddlers.

Everyone attends at their own risk and accepts responsibility for their own safety and welfare along with that of all in their party.

See you at the front party people!!



Ade Atkinson





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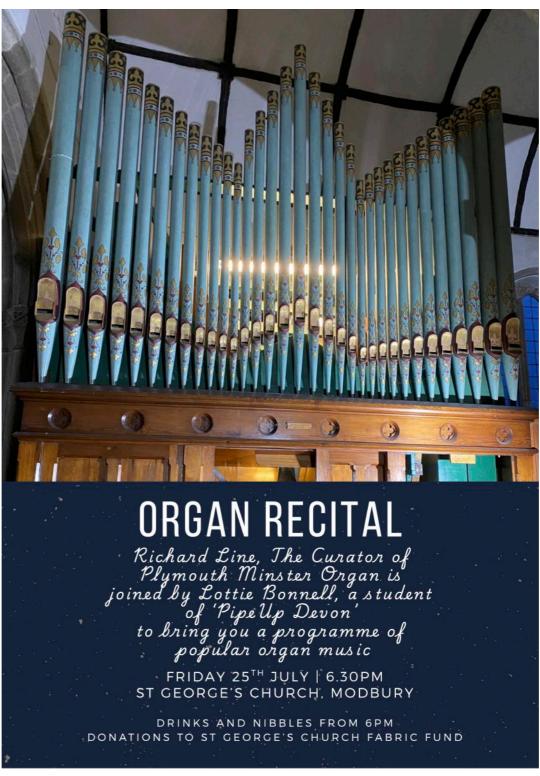
# RESIDENTS of BROWNSTON

Do you like receiving your hard copy of the Modbury Messenger each month? If so, you need to say a big thank you to Karen McKechnie who has faithfully delivered 25 Messengers to the residents of Brownston for nine years. She wishes to give the task up and as I "deliver" to the deliverers, I am looking for a volunteer (or two to share the task) to take over. Please contact me on <u>ira.young@btinternet.com</u> if you can help or want further information.

If no-one comes forward, I will seek the co-operation of the garage at California Cross and leave them there for you to collect.

Ira Young







# A Great Time Out and Opportunity to Support a Valued Local Charity

Our events this year in the South Hams are:

Flete House Nr Modbury Devon Bowringsleigh Nr Kingsbridge Devon Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> July 12.00 - 17.00 Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> Sept 14.00 - 17.00

Please check the link to St Luke's website for more informationon

#### Open Gardens | St Luke's Hospice Plymouth

St Luke's is the charity providing hospice care in the South Hams. We have community nurses, social workers and volunteers who work and live locally; patients are cared for in their own homes or at our inpatient facilities in Plymouth when necessary. Your support for this much valued local service is especially important at this time of great need and high inflation, and would be greatly appreciated.

Colin Pincombe



#### **Modbury Cricket Club News**

There have been three further games and three cancellations since the last report. The first game against Cornwood resulted in a seven-wicket win, whilst there was a subsequent six-wicket win against Ugborough and a 50 run win against Wembury. There was one cancellation due to the weather (South Brent) and two because the opposition could not field a team (Philanthropists and Holbeton).

The fixtures for July are as follows:

Sunday	6 July	Cornwood	Home	1300-1800
Thursday	10 July	Yealmpton (20/20)	Away	1800-2100
Sunday	13 July	Ermington	Home	1300-1800
Sunday	20 July	Wembury	Home	1300-1800
Tuesday	22 July	Holbeton (20/20)	Away	1800-2100
Sunday	27 July	Ugborough	Home	1300-1800

Training continues every Thursday evening from 6:00pm - 8:00pm (unless there is a match) in the Club's nets at the QEII Recreation Ground.

To keep up to date with fixtures, results and socials please visit www.modburycc.co.uk



Remember, new members are always welcome. Contact me on 07759 282404 for more information.

Phil Smith Secretary Modbury Cricket Club









# JOANNA:COOKE & AL WALLERS

Fantastic night of entertainment & fun at Modbury Memorial Hall in aid of a very special charity Luna's Fund.

Adult only event.

# Saturday 16th August

- Doors open 6:30pm.
- Live music starts from 7:30pm.
- Cash bar & raffle prizes.
- Tickets £15 per person.
- Available from Modbury Post Office or Via QR code / Link.



https://lunasfund.enthuse.com/ pf/modbury-main-event-2025

Joanna Cooke's soulful, emotionally charged vocals have earned her millions of streams and Radio 1 airplay. A voice that drips with Soul!

She's supported Tom Jones, Paloma Faith, Jess Glynne & many more stars. Accompanied by her also amazing partner, Nathan on guitar.

And be prepared to sing, dance and have fun to all your favourite tunes, played by the brilliant, incomparable, irrepressible... Al Wallers!

Al is an accomplished musician, appearing at many events and gigs around the South West.



Registered Charity in England & Wales 1184371

## **Modbury Parish Council Meeting**

#### Tuesday 3rd June 2025, 7:00pm



Present were eight councillors, Cllr Bernard Taylor (South Hams DC). Cllr Louise Wainwright (Devon CC), and one member of the public. Apologies were received from Cllr Richard Foss.

#### **Public Forum**

A member of the public highlighted the overgrown verge on A379 leaving Modbury towards Kingsbridge and the poor condition of road markings in general.

#### **Devon County Council Report by Louise Wainwright**

• Louise introduced herself as the new County Councillor for the Salcombe Division which includes Modbury in its 16 parishes. She is keen to help and to be involved. Bringing communities together is a priority as is her work with DCC Highways department.

#### South Hams District Council Report by Bernard Taylor

- Bernard has been re-elected as Chairman of SHDC, of which there is a new leader in Cllr Dan Thomas.
- There is community funding available for the current financial year.
- Cllr Ann Turner, on behalf of ModWAG, thanked Bernard for his help and he reiterated his support for environmental issues.

#### **Finance**

The annual accounts were presented. MPC ended the year 2024/25 with a slight surplus of £1,100. This was good news as the budget had been showing a deficit which would have had to be financed from reserves. This was due to good management and a large grant to help with the Memorial Hall play area equipment replacement. Full details will be available on the MPC website.

#### **Community Engagement**

- Modbury Marvellous Makeover did sterling work on the high street and surrounds. Work continues on the mural in the car park. The planters around the town are being re-invigorated with new plants.
- We are aiming to put up a calendar and diary of events on the MPC website.
- There is food poverty in Modbury and we are looking at the practicality of a food larder in town.

#### **MPC Annual Report**

This was presented to the meeting by Cllr Phil Smith. We can be proud of what we have achieved in 2024/25, and did so within budget. The report will be available on the MPC website -

https://modburyparishcouncil.gov.uk/news/annual-report/

#### **Heritage Working Group**

- The Parish Office display of material from past May Fairs was well received and there are plans to have a
  rotating display of similar Modbury historical material.
- Plans for the telephone box transformation into a mini-museum/gallery have advanced.
- The Modbury Heritage website has been updated and will continue to be so.

#### **Maintenance Committee**

- Much work has been done on potholes in the parish. Almost the entire supply of hole-filling compound (52 tubs) has already been used this year. Thanks to Cllr Bill Cole and his team, but we do need more help from DCC.
- Fencing in the Memorial Hall play area will need replacing very soon.

#### **Planning Committee**

An objection has been submitted by MPC to SHDC re the proposed Bloor Homes development.

Date of next meeting: Tuesday 1st July 2025 @ 7pm

**Tony Price** 



## Modbury Branch Royal British Legion

The next Meeting of the Modbury and District Branch of the Royal British Legion will be a Business Meeting in The Club on Wednesday 6th August starting at 7.30pm. New members are always most welcome.

**David Scott** 





# **MOTHECOMBE HOUSE & GARDENS**

Wednesday August 27th - Friday August 30th 19:30 Matinee Saturday August 30th 14:30

Tickets: £35, concessions £20 at www.wildwill.co.uk



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Contact: s.chapman@modburyteam.org



## **Modbury History Society**

The next meeting of Modbury History Society will take place at 7.35pm on Monday, 14th July at the MARS Pavilion at the QEII Recreation Ground in Chatwell Lane, Modbury PL21 OFS where there is plenty of parking on site.

Historian and educator, Jon Bell (an Exeter Redcoat guide) will give an illustrated talk entitled 'Early Cinemas in Devon: Stairways to the Stars'. This talk was postponed from March.

Membership is £20 per annum for eight talks starting in September each year. The July talk concludes the 2024/25 season of eight talks, but guests are welcome to come to the meeting for a fee of £5.

The programme for 2025/26 will be published in the September edition of the Modbury Messenger and reminders of meetings are posted on Modbury Nextdoor.

Visit www.modbury-heritage.co.uk to find out about the rich history of Modbury, discover a plan for a walk around the town and view old photographs of the

If you would like further information please contact me at rosiejaneparker@amail.com

**Rosemary Parker** 



#### Apr 2025/Mar 2026 Season

Join your local tennis club and have access to the allweather courts right on your doorstep 52 weeks a year.

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- or just play whenever you wish to.

Full details & Application Form available at www.clubspark.lta.org.uk/ModburyTennisClub Or, contact: info@modburytennisclub.uk Or, Chairman 07968 777141

Jane Bullen

#### **Holbeton Film Club**



July's film is **Conclave** (certificate 12A). Cardinal Lawrence has a major role in one of the world's most secretive and ancient events, organising the selection of a new pope... very topical given recent events, and could it just be possible that we get to see how it actually works?

This is screening on Saturday 12th July 2025 in Holbeton Village Hall. Doors open 7:00 pm. The programme starts at 7:30 pm. Tickets on the door are still only £4, and £2 for accompanied under 12's (we can now take cards!). Ice creams will be on sale for £1.

Our programme for 2025 continues with:

Oranges & Sunshine, The Outrun, Small Things Like These, 15 Friday 8th August

15 Saturday 13th September Friday 10th October 12A

Do visit our new website with this QR code:

Tel: 01752 830274 email <a href="mailto:harryluson@gmail.com">harryluson@gmail.com</a>





**Harry Baumer** 





# **Modbury Mission Community**

# To know Jesus and make him known St George's Church, Modbury

**KIDS' CHURCH** - Kids' Church meets in Modbury Primary School. Parents, please drop off your Explorers (age 9+) and Discoverers (age 6-8) at the school from 9:15 am where they will be met by one of the leaders. After Kids' Church, the youngsters will be taken to St. George's to be with their parents at the end of the service. Climbers (age 0-5) will remain in St. George's, meeting their leader to be taken to the Lower Vestry. If you have any questions regarding Kids' Church please contact Sara Chapman on

s.chapman@modburyteam.org

For St George's Parish enquiries contact Gill West, Churchwarden 07849253605

	Service	Service Leader
Sunday July 6th	Holy Communion and Kids' Church 9.30 am	Rev. John Elliott
Sunday July 13th	All-Age Service 9.30 am	Gil Snook
Sunday July 20th	Holy Communion and Kids' Church 9.30 am Rev. Oli Long	
	Rooted - a service of contemporary worship 6.00 pm	Rev. Simon Franklin
Sunday July 27th	Sunday Worship 9.30 am	Joyce Howitt

#### **Christian Comment: Proud Parents**

As the extremely proud father of children, I have been and, indeed, am still going through the toddler stage with children. It is a stage heaped with cuteness and hilarity, smiles and cuddles. Children become articulate and therefore opinionated, more physically able and dexterous and therefore desire more independence.

One way that children explore their independence at this age is through helping with chores, examples would be insisting on putting their dirty laundry in the laundry basket or carrying their own dishes to the dishwasher. Often this passes without a hitch, but the occasions when this independence loses its charm is when the child decides that they wish to clean up a spillage, their Bolognaise-clad face and hands or, heaven forbid, the soiled nappy!!

We all know that a toddler does not have the full abilities to clean adequately a mess like that. It is often the case that the mess is made worse!

In a similar vein, the claim of Christianity is that human beings are much like toddlers. We make a mess in our lives through choices and words, we carry mess around in our hearts and minds with thoughts and feelings. Yet, no matter how much we try and try, the mess is never fully clean. We even make it worse at times.

It is as if we need someone with greater abilities than us... we need a parent to clean us up.

The claim of Christianity is that God the Father sent his willing Son to clean up the mess that we would never be able to clean for ourselves.

If you would like to find out more about how this could be true, do join us for any of our services in the Modbury Mission Community.

Rev. Oli Long, Curate

# Modbury has Lost a Vicar, but Devon has Gained a New Bishop

As many people will know the Rev. Matt Rowland has left the Modbury Mission Community, but there was an announcement made at the beginning of June that the new Bishop of Crediton (replacing Bishop Jackie Searle) is to be the Venerable Moira Astin. At present, she is the Archdeacon of Reigate in Southwark Diocese, but is looking forward to coming to Devon. She is due to be consecrated Bishop by a previous Bishop of Crediton – Rt Rev. Dr Sarah Mulally – now Bishop of London on 3 July in St Paul's Cathedral, London, and then be welcomed to Devon at a special service in Exeter Cathedral on 6 July. **David Scott** 

## St Monica's Roman Catholic Church, Modbury

No weekly mass at present

# 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 Web: staustinsivybridge.co.uk

## 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 2025 with your full name, postal address and briefdetails of the course you will be taking to sue@mercer5.co.uk



July's walks will be 1st, 8th, 15th, 22nd and 29th July

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

Walk leader contact details:-Sue Rogers 01548 831289 Jean Wright 01548 810029

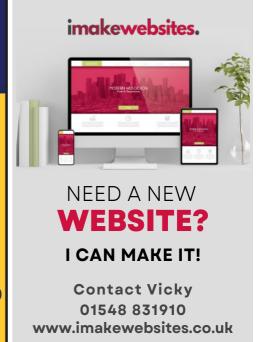
**Sue Rogers** 





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  - Trusts -

Call Vanessa (Chartered Accountant) on 01548 858806 mail@southhamswills.co.uk www.southhamswills.co.uk



#### MODBURY PARISH COUNCIL

Modbury Parish Council Office, 1 Modbury Court, PL21 0QR Tel: 07467134225 email parishclerk@modburyparishcouncil.gov.uk

#### Your Councillors are:

Bill Cole	01548 830913	
Chris Field	07836 592854	chrisfield@modburyparishcouncil.gov.uk
Richard Foss	01548 721420	richardfoss@modburyparishcouncil.gov.uk
Barbara Price (Chair)	07739752095	barbaraprice@modburyparishcouncil.gov.uk
Tony Price	07801837129	tonyprice@modburyparishcouncil.gov.uk
Phil Smith (Vice Chair)	07759282404	philsmith@modburyparishcouncil.gov.uk
Dave Trigger	07808742372	davetrigger@modburyparishcouncil.gov.uk
Ann Turner	01548830606	annturner@modburyparishcouncil.gov.uk
Sarah Wyatt	07794 662903	sarahwyatt@modburyparishcouncil.gov.uk

How can we help you? Councillors run drop-in surgeries on Sat. 10:00 - 11:00 am in the Parish Office at 1 Modbury Court. The Parish Clerk is in the Parish Council office on Tues & Thurs, 10am - 4:30pm. 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): Louise Wainwright Tel: 01548 856659

louise.wainwright@devon.gov.uk

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

Cllr.Bernard.Taylor@southhams.gov.uk

#### **Scouts Go Wild in Wembury Woods**

This was the theme for our 2025 summer camp which was held at Foxcove campsite near Steer Point, in early June. This year we had both Scouts and Cubs there, making a grand total of 38 young people under canvas for two nights, on a fairly remote site in woodland with running water, flushing loos and a basic kitchen.

We hiked in and out of the site, carrying backpacks, with bedding and bags delivered by four-wheel drive vehicles belonging to parents and helpers.

On the Friday night we had a campfire with hot dogs and hot chocolate, got caught in a downpour, hung up wet coats and trousers on ropes to dry overnight, and had a few hours' sleep. We also began our encounters with the resident ticks and other small beasties!



Scouts practicing their navigation skills on a 5 km hike, and Cubs making tripods, Dutch arrows, beach cleaning, and generally getting covered in mud by the estuary.

We all returned home on Sunday afternoon after a big clear up of our tents and kit, exhausted, grubby but satisfied after an action-packed weekend.

Needless to say, the planning and logistics for this type of camp take considerable time and effort, but the leadership teams for each section i.e. Cub pack and Scout troop, worked hard to make it happen. Thanks goto all the leaders and parent volunteers who contributed to our wild camp.

Mowgli



Saturday threatened thunderstorms which luckily passed us by, as we had a full day of activities. These included bridge building, stretcher carrying and racing, pioneering skills, puzzle solving and making Swedish cooking logs. Scouts and Cubs were mixed together in teams, which seemed to work very well, with a minimum of squabbling! We did get wet again, but this time the waterproofs dried on their owners, as they ran around or spent more time cooking marshmallows on the logs. The evening campfire fun included skits and songs with youngsters and leaders joining in with enthusiasm (mostly!)

Another night, another few hours sleep, and on Sunday we split the packs and did our own things;





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#### Our New County Councillor for Salcombe Division

I am delighted and humbled in equal measure to have been elected as your County Councillor with the responsibility of representing 16 parishes across a region known as the 'Salcombe Division'. I offer my genuine respect to all those who voted in the local government elections, irrespective of the candidate they supported. I regret that politics interferes with local government elections where I believe the focus should be on 'the best person for the job' capable of exploring and developing local solutions for local problems. I will work closely with District Councillors to deliver the best possible services within the severe budgetary constraints that face us.

As demand increases and budget cuts bite even more, we can expect difficult times ahead. Community spirit, volunteers and charitable groups will continue to bridge funding gaps in their local communities. Local endeavour helps to build community resilience and local pride and be a joyful way of bringing together all sectors of the parish. I will use my Locality Fund to support these endeavours.



The lack of affordable housing and the high level of part-time residents was a concern voiced during my intensive canvassing campaign. I warmly invite part-time residents to take a more active role in their local communities by attending local events, helping to organise new local gatherings and joining local clubs and societies. This will both bring a dynamic experience to their enjoyment of the wonderful area where they have chosen to live and build stronger relationships with permanent residents. Part-time residents contribute twice as much council tax to local government budgets. I want to explore how these additional funds might benefit local community needs before being absorbed into the general fund. This will require parish councils to have a more dynamic communication system capable of genuinely measuring and articulating local needs to local government. I want to assist in this process if needed.

Let's meet at your monthly parish council meetings. strengthening the ability of parish councils to represent the interests of their local communities. I want to help build the ability of all parishes to become 'Unitary-ready' within the next three years when we will no longer benefit from the services of our District and County Councils and Councillors. The process of local government reorganisation will mean that communities will rely more heavily on

mean that communities will rely more heavily on their town and parish councils to represent their views and reliably communicate these to the new Unitary Authority.

I am exploring innovative ways of piloting the delivery of rural road repairs through well-resourced local hubs of qualified local farmers in a possible farm diversification programme. I will share more information as these discussions develop. I will spend more time with our Highways Officer to support his role in prioritising the programme of works.

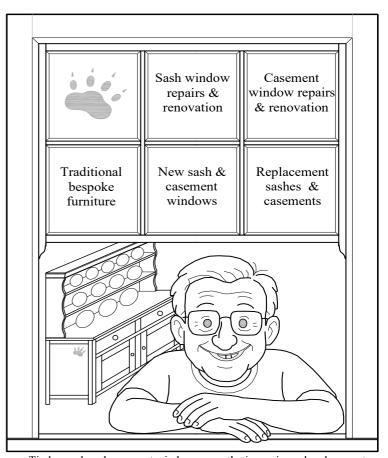
You can find out more about my background on my Facebook page @Louise4Devon where you can follow links to the various businesses and organisations with which I have been involved. I will be developing a comprehensive digital communication platform in my role as your County Councillor using my experience as former parish magazine Editor. Links and signups will soon be found on my website <a href="https://www.louise4devon.com">www.louise4devon.com</a>

I am looking forward to playing an active role in optimising the services available from local government and building the resilience of our parishes in the Salcombe Division.

Louise Wainwright

louise.wainwright@devon.gov.uk

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#### **Modbury invades France**

On Friday 13<sup>th</sup> June 16 intrepid members of the Modbury Twinning Association crossed the channel for the biennial visit to Lanveoc, our twin town, which nestles on the north shore of the Presqu'ile de Crozon opposite the major port of Brest. Our hosts met us at Roscoff with much shaking of hands and kissing of cheeks before taking us on the hour long drive home.

Saturday found us getting on a luxury coach and driving to the Monts d'Arree, a wild Dartmoor like area in the centre of Brittany. We climbed up to Mont Saint Michel, a small church rather like the St Michaels church in Brentor, which had far reaching views over the Breton countryside. Then on to a local eatery for a typical Breton meal and a visit to a rural museum.





On Sunday the local Mayor held a reception for us all in their new covered meeting area. Fine speeches were made expressing solidarity and continuing friendship between the two communities.

In the afternoon our hosts took us on a variety of expeditions around the Presqu'ile (it means nearly an island). There are stunning beaches, rocky cliffs and historic forts which defended the entrance to Brest, usually against the English. Finally in the evening another sumptuous meal in a local restaurant on the beach, watching the sun go down.

Monday saw us make a leisurely return to Roscoff for our cruise back to Plymouth carrying happy memories of another joyful expedition.

Next year we will welcome them to Modbury and hopefully entertain them as well as they entertained us. Meanwhile our next event in the Summer Lunch being held on Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> July. Contact Tony Price for details at <u>tp@lordprice.com</u>.

Mark Lawrence & Tony Price

#### **DEVON RURAL ARCHIVE LECTURES**

Evening lecture at Devon Rural Archive, Shilstone House, Modbury, PL21 0TW

# The Georgian Improvers of Dartmoor by Simon Dell



## Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> July at 7pm

In this lecture, well-known local author and Dartmoor Guide, Simon Dell, will tell us about ambitious attempts 200 years ago to turn the moorlands of Dartmoor into productive agricultural land. The so-called 'improvers' had limited success, but their efforts made an impact on the landscape that can still be seen today. His



talk will cover the changes to life and industry on Dartmoor from the 18th Century onwards and the improvements in mechanisation and agriculture during that time. Simon Dell has been guiding on Dartmoor for over 25 years and has written more than 20 books on different aspects of the moor. The Shilstone Café will be open between 6pm and 7pm for drinks and cake.

Book tickets: <a href="https://shilstonedevon.com/whats-on/">https://shilstonedevon.com/whats-on/</a>



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Page 14a - online edition only

# A Big Thank You from Modbury Bloomers

When we put out an appeal for plants last month, we were not quite sure what the response would be. A number of people donated funds or plants, some of which enabled the large flower troughs by the Co-Op (pictured) to be planted out. Judy has looked after these for many years and when she passed by, we were pleased she felt we were doing justice to 'her' planters.

Further plants were needed though, and we were delighted when additional funds were very kindly donated by Modbury Town Improvement Fund to enable us to buy more plants for all the other planters and flower beds around the town.

The logistics of planning and planting so many containers is quite complex particularly as plant availability from the nursery changes week by week.

We had set our planting day for Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> June. Our loyal band of volunteers turned up to find a perfect day for planting. They immediately set about the task which, in totality, took up most of the day, as once planted, they all had to be watered in followed by a general tidy up. Huge thanks to Jim, Helen, Tris, Ann, Alison and Carolyn for their heroic efforts and to Bev for taking care of Galpin Street planters, Jane for the one at the footpath from Benedict Way to





#### Thanks too to the May Fair Committee

Last spring the large trough planter behind the White Hart was damaged by a car. We rotated it to disguise the damage, which was serious but not critical. But last autumn another driver made a more serious assault and effectively demolished it.

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The May Fair Committee came to our rescue and paid for a new planter which we have now unveiled and planted up, so a splash of Bloomers colour is returning to that corner of Modbury.

Sadly, we have since lost another large trough planter at the Palm Cross bus stop which is beyond repair and will need to be replaced as it is in a prime position.

Thanks to everyone who has supported our efforts to keep Modbury blooming.

Colin Whybrow, Modbury Bloomers

#### **IVYBRIDGE U3A**







Here is the list of speakers for the u3a general meetings that take place on the 3rd Monday afternoon each month at the Watermark in Ivybridge.

#### 21 July 2025 - Simon Dell - Sermons in Stone: Rev. Bray's Bardic Boulders

An ex-policeman, Simon regularly guides visitors around one of his favourite haunts of Lundy Island. He is also a Dartmoor National Park Guide, a member of the Police History Society & the Devon and Cornwall Police Museum. Simon has published books on policing, Dartmoor Prison and, in 1997, was awarded an MBE for his work with the Dartmoor Rescue Group and Tavistock community. Simon will talk about "Sermons in Stone, Rev. Bray's Bardic Boulders". If you follow the Cawsic River, you might see carvings and dedications to Spencer, Burns, Shakespeare and Milton. Simon's talk describes the story of these stones and the intriguing life of Edward Atkyns Bray, the Vicar of Tavistock.

#### 18 Aug 2025 - Zoe Harris. - The Waste Sector Landscape in the UK

Zoe is a senior manager with Suez Recycling and Recovery UK. Her talk will cover a broad range of topics including the waste sector landscape in the UK, public and private sector roles, what happens to your black bin bag waste, whether it is processed, buried or burnt. It will also cover waste legislation and the whole procurement process for waste contracts with local authorities.

15 Sept 2025 - Jacqui Felix-Mitchell - From PR Professional to Garden Designer - a life of passion This talk looks at Jacqui's journey from PR professional to Garden Designer. She will talk about her work in Publishing, Marketing, Communications and Public Relations and then continue to her growing passion for all things garden design and what happened next.

#### 20 Oct 2025 - Chris Robinson - The story of Plymouth Hoe, Barbican and City Centre

Chris is an acknowledged expert on the history of Plymouth and a guide to important places in the city. The title of the talk is "The story of Plymouth Hoe, Barbican and City Centre" and it will be a historical, pictorial tour of the heart of Britain's Ocean City.

#### 17 Nov 2025 - Paul Rendell - The Making of Warhorse and Other Films on Dartmoor

In this fascinating talk, Paul looks at filming on Dartmoor, including the making of Warhorse in 2010, and explores the tricks used to make a great movie. The talk will also explore TV programmes such as Down to Earth, Gold Digger and the 1985 film "Revolution", made on Dartmoor and Bigbury Bay and featuring our speaker, Paul Rendell, as an extra in the film.

**Graham Meaden** 





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## Local Charity to Reveal How it's Restoring the River Erme and Facilitating Nesting Sites for Ospreys

Wild About The Erme River
Restoring water quality and habitat from source to sea

The Erme is one of the South Hams' lesser known and most beautiful rivers, so you can be forgiven for thinking why does it need restoring? One of the most recent and stark reminders of

why our local river needs help is that water quality at Coastguards Beach (in the Erme estuary) was classified as 'Poor' by the Environment Agency (EA) last November. This was after only one season of the EA's regular testing, which became mandatory when Wild About The Erme River (WATER) successfully campaigned for Coastguards Beach to be officially designated as Bathing Water. Only two Bathing Waters in the whole of Devon had a 'Poor' classification in 2024 and Coastguards was one of them.

Pollution coming into the estuary from upstream is the cause, and the Environment Agency is now actively investigating the nature and sources of that pollution as they are required to do by law.

WATER is a local environmental charity focused on restoring water quality and habitat from the Erme's source on Dartmoor to where its estuary meets the sea. It is staffed entirely by volunteers and is funded only by donations, membership and grants.

The charity has multiple workstreams that cover the ever-changing nature of the river's catchment as the Erme makes its 24 km journey from source to sea. Rain enters the river via its many tributaries and feeder streams by flowing over, or percolating through, the surrounding landscape. So what happens on the land directly affects the water quality in the river.

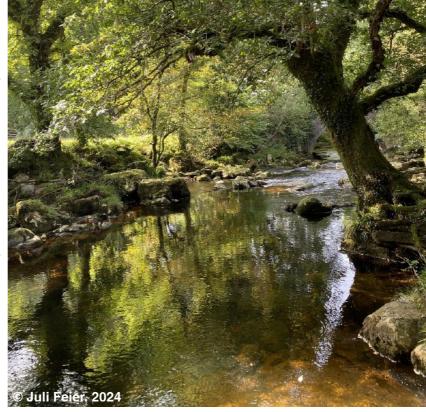
Pollution can arise from multiple sources such as sewage overflows, road and field run-off, bank erosion, livestock access and human activity.

Loss of habitat and biodiversity in the water and along its corridor are all under threat when the delicately-balanced ecosystem is disrupted. Restoring such a large and complex environment requires careful planning.

A Catchment Action Plan is currently being developed by WATER, supported by the Environment Agency and the Rivers Restoration Centre, the acknowledged experts in this field, who

become resident on the Erme.

have guided WATER's team in a series of online workshops.



WATER's Catchment Action Plan (CAP) team includes volunteers who are also highly qualified in specialist environmental sciences, GIS, landscape architecture, farm and land management. That is why they are uniquely equiped to undertake a rivers restoration project more typically undertaken by expensive specialist consultants. Unsurprisingly, government funding for such plans on smaller rivers is sparse.

Rivers can be restored, but it requires a carefully planned holistic approach, so that each action builds on the next as part of a wider process of continual, interconnected and prioritised improvement. This can only be done at a catchment-wide scale.

WATER is holding a public event "How to Restore the Erme" at the WATERMARK Centre in lvybridge on Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> July at 6:30pm. Entry is by FREE ticket and details can be found by using the QR code or by visiting the charity's website <a href="https://www.ermeriver.org">www.ermeriver.org</a>

Everyone is welcome. You will hear about WATER's many projects and activities and be able to talk directly to individual members of WATER's team during a planned interval. Then a guest speaker, Seb Loram from the Devon Osprey Partnership, will reveal more about the increasing number of Ospreys making their home in south coast estuaries and how WATER is encouraging them to



**Colin Whybrow** 



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#### What on Earth is ModWAG?

During a long conversation on a wet morning recently, I was with a small number of frustrated golfers who were enjoying our Americanos, Cortados, & Cappuccinos in the Cool Beans café, when the topic turned to weeds. "What on earth are ModWAG doing letting all these weeds



grow around Modbury's streets" was asked. This led to an interesting take from various of us as to what does ModWAG stand for, mean or do, what was its remit, and did it encourage 'weeds' all over the place? So I decided I'd better have a chat with the chair of ModWAG, (there are two, and unluckily for her, one of them is my wife, Boony), to find out the 'raison d'être' of this group.



She explained that in the last decade in the UK people have been talking about a climate biodiversity crisis, with a lot of talk but little action. So in 2020 a small group of Modbury residents, Geoff Booth, Charlotte Rathbone and Boony sat round a kitchen table and decided to form an action group, with the main objective being to improve conditions for the natural world to flourish in our own Parish. The benefits to the human population of spending time in nature are well known, and it was hoped that they could help this in Modbury.

ModWAG monitoring moths

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The name ModWAG came up as a bit of a joke and it stuck, standing for Modbury Wildlife Action Group. It was decided to form a group of like-minded locals and this has grown now from 3 to 25 active members. Initially small projects were started aimed at improving wildlife corridors, but latterly the remit has grown to take on more projects and events. These include now an annual Naturefest held on the Recreation Ground every June or July, talks such as the Devon Swift evening held in April (which coincided with the installation of numerous Swift nest boxes on the church tower), bat walks and bat monitoring in the parish, and recently linking with the local farm network who practise regenerative farming. The group have also formed strong communication links with the Devon Wildlife Trust and Life on the Edge, who are currently running a meadows project in our area. Watch this space.

One man's weed is another man's flower, and even docks (not generally well liked!) have their uses in bringing nitrogen deep into the soil. But ModWAG has no responsibility for "weeds" along Modbury's streets or pavements, and neither are they gardeners. They leave that to Modbury Planters.

The group collaborates with the churchyard working group at St Georges, where I have been known to help plant snowdrops, bluebells and other attractive wildflowers, especially those which attract pollinating insects. These insects in turn also attract birds, bats etc." The group recently planted a new stretch of hedge in the churchyard too, using bird-friendly (but also attractive) shrubs.



Nest boxes have been placed in various places such as the Memorial hall play area, and in gardens adjacent to the churchyard. There is a Tawny Owl box there too, awaiting a resident. Some grassy corners in and around Modbury are encouraged to grow to encourage insects, but edges are usually mown to show they are cared for, and particularly where traffic safety is an issue.

Some of our streets do need tidying up, which is what Modbury's Makeover weekend is for, but the 'weeds" are neither ModWAG's remit nor their doing.

John Bower











#### FROM THE ARCHIVES

First published in the July 2000 Modbury Messenger - some things have changed and some things haven't.

#### Signs that you have had too much of the 90s

- You try to enter your password on the microwave
- You haven't played solitaire with real cards in years
- You have a list of 15 phone numbers to reach your family of three
- · You chat several times a day with a stranger, but you haven't spoken to your next-door neighbour this year
- Your reasons for not staying in touch with friends is that they do not have email addresses
- Your idea of being organised is multiple coloured Post-it notes
- You hear most of your jokes via email instead of in person
- When you make phone calls from home, you accidentally insert "9" to get an outside line
- You get really excited about a 1.7% pay rise
- You know exactly how many days you've got left until you retire
- Free food leftover from meetings is your staple diet
- Being sick is defined as you can't walk or you're in the hospital
- Your relatives and friends describe your job as "works with computers"

Collated by Ira Young

## INTENDED MONTHLY FLAG HOIST AT PALM CROSS GREEN - July

<u>Date</u>	<u>Masthead</u>	Starboard Yard (Plymouth) - West	Port Yard (Modbury) - East	<u>Event</u>
01	Army	SOM3 <sup>rd</sup> subE	Ans192 <sup>nd</sup> sub6	Start of Battle of the Somme 1916
02	Canada Flag	MAPLE	1867	Canada Day 1867
04	USA Flag	AMERIC1stsub	172 <sup>nd</sup> sub6	USA Independence Day 1776
05	NHS Flag	FOUND	1948	NHS Founding Day 1948
06	Plymouth Flag	BLITZ	Ans1940	Start of Plymouth Blitz 1940
13	White Ensign	Red Ensign	Blue Ensign	Sea Sunday
17	Union Flag R C	CAMIL2 <sup>nd</sup> sub	BIRTH	Queen Camila birthday
21	Elizabeth I Ensign	ARM1stsubD	1583 <sup>rd</sup> sub	Spanish Armada off Plymouth
24	RM Ensign	GIB	1704	RM captured Gibraltar 1704
27	Union Flag	KOREA	1953Ans	End of Korean War 1953
28	Union Flag	W1stsubONE	Ans192sub4	Start of World War 1 1914
31	Army	3YPRES	Ans192 <sup>nd</sup> sub7	Start of Passchendaele Battle

- 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 above.
- 8. However, all the above flag hoists are subject to change.



## 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 month we set ourselves a challenge or theme to hang our ideas on (although we have been known to completely digress).

Below is a submission which one of our members brought to our last meeting. The theme was 'Village Life' and this piece is about memories of Modbury in the 1970s.

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 11 Pavilion in Modbury at 10.00am.

www.facebook.com/modburycreativewritinggroup or call 07767 393802.

#### **Coming from Somewhere**

It was the winter of 1976. Freddie Mercury was yearning for 'Someone to Love' while for Abba it was all about the 'Money, Money, Money'.

My boyfriend, Hamish, was a Devon boy, and I was a suburban girl.

I had never lived in the same house for more than three years and my childhood involved moving fitfully across several counties of England. I didn't come from anywhere. His family had lived in the same house since he was three, having moved there from a few yards down the street. So, it was with curiosity and slight trepidation that after Christmas I travelled west to be introduced to his family and be shown the town where he was born, brought up and called home.

#### Modbury

Reader, I married him. So extraordinarily Modbury has now been in my life for nearly 50 years. These are a few of my early memories of the town.

There was The White Hart. Run by two brothers. In the back room drinks were served from a hatch. No till, just the top of a barrel used to collect change. In the Red Devon (now demolished) there was a jukebox, and I remember dancing to Crocodile Rock (..when your feet just can't keep still...) on the stone flagged floor as Hamish and his friends made merry.

The Exeter Inn was much the same as it is today – and has been for the last 800 years probably! At the back there was a formal dining room where Hamish told me in hushed tones that Prince Charles had been seen having a meal with his bodyguard. Apparently a tip-off was given and a rather more than usual number of locals had cause to sidle pass the dining room door and witness the royal presence that evening. I used to peek in and imagine Royalty sitting there.

The Modbury Inn hasn't changed much either. They've painted the wooden panelling sage green, but the Ladies is still up a perilous flight of stairs - to be taken very carefully if you've consumed anything more than one Cinzano and Bitter Lemon (my drink of choice circa 1976). A feature of the Ladies was a rather striking large mirror etched with 'an elegant lady' adorning one wall.

Of course, the Co-op wasn't where it is now. It was on the corner of Brownston Street where the PLYMOUTH CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETY LTD lettering still reigns proud over the crossroads and 'Green Box'. The Co-op was a rather different shop in those days; you had to breath in as you manoeuvred through the impossibly narrow checker-tiled aisles holding your wire basket above you to save space. If you met anyone in an aisle, one of you smiled apologetically as you backed out and went around the other way. Compromise was the name of the game as you picked the Butterscotch Angel Delight and Jacobs Cream Crackers off the shelves and shimmied up to the manual till to be served by the lady in the stripy nylon overall.

Modbury previously had its own department store: 'Cawseys'. This was where the Post Office and Fourteen A are now, and you can still see the name in the mosaic tiles at the door entrances. Whether it was still there in 1976, I'm not sure. Nevertheless, as a maker of my own clothes, I frequented a 'haberdashery' department which was up a little winding staircase (at the back of the now Post Office). The steps were so steep that ascending involved clinging to the step above to crawl your way up. It opened up to an Aladdin's cave of cotton reels, needles, pins, knitting wool patterns, elastic etc which you were trusted to help yourself to before coming down the stairs backward like descending into a ship's cabin.

Some are born in Modbury, others choose Modbury, and some have Modbury thrust upon them! Meeting Hamish in the first category and as a result becoming one in the latter has been one of my life's lucky breaks, and, since moving here with our sons, 20 years ago, we have all been able to call Modbury home.

**Lucy Brown** 



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SIZE	Size - can be portrait or landscape	1 month (per insertion)	3-11 months (per insertion)	12 months (per insertion)	12 months (Year total)
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1/4 page	90mm x 130mm	£60	£50	£30	£360
1/2 page	130mm x 180mm	£108	£86	£50	£600
1 page	180mm x 250mm	£192	£148	£80	£960

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## **Modbury Messenger August 2025**

The copy date for the August 2025 Modbury Messenger is **10th July**. Please email all articles, notices of events and paid advertisements to <u>modburymessengercic@gmail.com</u>.

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Advertisers are charged a fee for advertising in the Modbury Messenger and this covers the cost of producing the Modbury Messenger. The Board of Directors, Company Secretary, Editor, Proofreaders and Distributors are all volunteers.

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Company Secretary: George Rosevear FCIS.

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Editorial Committee: John Bower, Lynne Barnes, Ira Young.

Modbury Messenger CIC has produced the Modbury Messenger as an independent CIC since September 2018. Previously, it was published by Modbury Parish Council.

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