



Rapunzel & Friends - Chaotic Family Fun

Modbury Memorial Hall Saturday 25th January 2025



Klara Thompson as Rapunzel and Freddy Carder-Lugger as Prince Ethereal

In my youth, I was part of my local amateur dramatics group, the **Modbury Players**, and it's great that all these years later they're still going strong. After last year's successful production of **Oliver!**, they're back this year with a pantomime, **RAPUNZEL & FRIENDS**, written and directed by Sarah Wyatt, and produced by Sally Taylor.

This fun-filled romp is an original story with almost every fairy tale character you can think of making an appearance! Given everything you expect and want from a community-theatre production, **RAPUNZEL & FRIENDS** boasts a 62 person cast, alongside at least 50 others who helped to put the show together.

The story is narrated by **Luna**, the evil **Grizelda's** black cat. *Willow Peters* is glorious in the role and succinctly tells the story whilst embodying all the idiosyncrasies

of a cat! Although the central story is that of **Rapunzel**, there are lots of other stories intertwined such as those of Little Red Riding Hood, Snow White, Hansel & Gretel and Babes in the Wood! This kept the production fast-paced and exciting, with never a dull moment.

There were lots of groups of characters including trees, royalty and fairy-tale characters, but my favourite has to be the witches and wizards. *Sarah Walker* gave an epic portrayal as **Grizelda**, displaying a legendary witch's cackle which sent joyous shivers down the spine! *Angie Tall* was domineering as **Maleficent** whilst *Peter Lowe's Malachi* had a Scottish accent and rolled his R's more than a wheel of Double Gloucester cheese going down Cooper's Hill! *Ian Godfrey's Uncle Nafarious* was somewhere between gleefully camp and channelling the spirit of Leslie Phillips - Ding Dong!

Of course, with such a large cast, I simply cannot name-check everyone, but I have to give a mention to *Klara Thompson* as **Rapunzel** and *Freddy Carder-Lugger* as **Prince Ethereal**. Both completely held their own, conveying every aspect of their characters with believability, and they have wonderful singing voices too.

No review of this production would be complete without mentioning the tower! Constructed by a team of local volunteers, led by *Gerry McAllister*, the tower looked great from the start, but the unexpected revolve allowing us to see inside was glorious and just goes to show what can be achieved in amateur theatre.

So much hard work and dedication has obviously gone into this production and it epitomises what a fantastic local community there is in Modbury. The **Modbury Players** will be back again very soon with another production, and if the standard of this one is anything to go by, it's going to be incredible.

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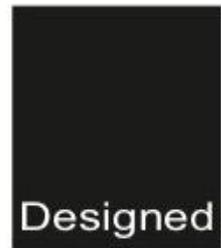


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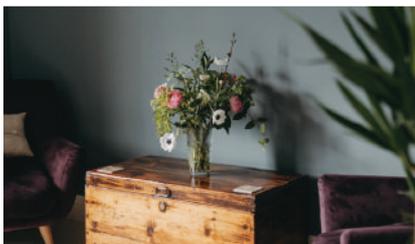
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Our Local River Needs Our Help

Although the Erme flows along Modbury's western boundary, it is its tributaries and feeder streams that many of us encounter more frequently. The Ayleston Brook runs alongside the Kennel Lane footpath. The Sheephams Brook meanders through Edmeston to join the Erme at Flete and a feeder stream passes through the foot of the Millennium Meadow almost imperceptibly.

But perhaps our most frequent encounters with the river are on family trips to Wonwell, Coastguards or Meadow's Foot beaches. Here the Erme estuary meets the sea and provides seemingly idyllic locations of unspoiled beauty, but the fact is that beauty is being spoiled.



Coastguards beach at mid tide

After agreeing to classify Coastguards Beach as 'Bathing Water' at the start of last year, the Environment Agency's first year of regular testing declared the water quality to be poor. The bathing water classification meant the Environment Agency has to act to trace the source(s) of pollution and ensure remedial action is implemented. We already know from the EA's and WATER's own testing that there are sewage outflows from Waste Water Treatment Works at Modbury and Ermington, that SWW recognised needed upgrading in 2022, but work has still not started. WATER is on the case.

We should not assume that sewage overflows are the only sources of pollution or that it is only the last few miles of the Erme that have a problem.

Wildlife habitat along the river is impacted by rapid colonisation of non-native invasive

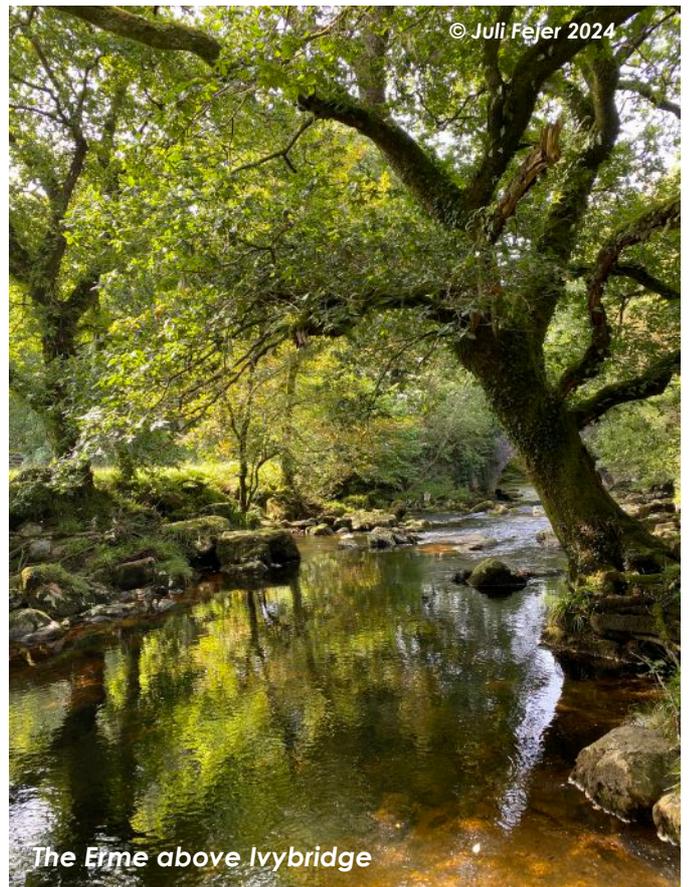
species like Himalayan Balsam. Spawning grounds for Salmon and Sea Trout are impacted, resulting in a decline in those fish stocks, once abundant in the river, and now teetering on the brink of collapse.

Our increasingly wet winters mean moorland fed rivers are all too frequently triggered into spate with all the consequential damage that can result downstream. That is why WATER is supporting Dartmoor National Park's Headland Waters project to plant trees near the Erme's source above Harford as a sustainable and nature-based way of slowing flood waters.

WATER (Wild About The Erme River) is determined to help our local river by taking positive actions to restore water quality and habitat, not just along the river and bank side, but across the entire catchment of the Erme. From source to sea, the catchment landscape of the Erme changes considerably, as does the topography, geology, wildlife habitat and use of the land over which rain water flows into streams and tributaries en route to the river.

WATER firmly believes these multiple issues, in a complex landscape, require a coordinated approach that is fact-based and science driven. That is why we have embarked upon the ambitious task of creating a Catchment Action Plan (CAP). With support from the Environment Agency and guidance from the acknowledged experts at the Rivers Restoration Centre, we are already mapping and recording baseline data to give us a clear indication of where the pressures on the river are and what impact those pressures are likely to have.

Everyone at WATER is a volunteer. We are always looking for more volunteers for community projects like river cleans and Himalayan Balsam culls, dam repairs and fencing to prevent livestock entering the water or poaching-up river banks.



The Erme above Ivybridge



The Erme's source on Dartmoor

JOIN OUR WINE & CHEESE EVENING

Friday 21st March at 7:00pm

The Laurels, Brownston Street

Come along to hear about our progress and to celebrate our new status as a local environmental charity.

Tickets £15 from the Post Office

to include your first glass of wine and a selection of local cheeses

Tickets are limited due to capacity

Ermeriver.org

We also want supporters for our campaigns to clean up pollution and encourage sustainable and regenerative land use in the catchment.

Last October, WATER was granted charity status by the Charity Commission. We want to celebrate that recognition and encourage more people to support us in whatever way they wish.

Colin Whybrow

Marketing & Communications Lead WATER

ANOTHER VICTORIAN FRONT OF HOUSE MAN and MODBURY'S GOT TALENT!



There is a show on television, "Britain's Got Talent", and certainly this was so true for the town of "Modbury's Got Talent" after the Perfect Professional Performance of Pantomime – "Rapunzel and Friends", performed by the Modbury Players on 23, 24 and 25 January. Unfortunately, I was unable to attend many rehearsals, but I did have the enormous pleasure of being asked to add to the atmosphere of the production by dressing up, (a task which I enjoy enormously as Town Crier!) in some of my own wardrobe as a Victorian Front of House welcomer. Thus, I had the privilege of seeing the Friday and Saturday night performances – each was different and improved until the last night, when after the final curtain, there was a fun and enjoyable party in the Exeter Inn.

Practically every performance was a sell out and there were so many wonderful comments by members of each audience, stating what a professional production; great to have a home written pantomime so well produced with many local jokes; superlative script and story with so many other pantomime friends; lovely to have an orchestra pit; fantastic extraordinary local talent; exceptionally good costumes; absolutely superb set; outstanding, brilliant cast, especially the children and many adults who had never trod the boards before! I do have many happy memories of the "Rapunzel and Friends" production, and really good - like all pantomimes, everyone lived happy ever after and even the witches became good and! And I was able to dress up too and put on some of my wardrobe attire again!

David Scott



MODBURY MAY FAIR 2025

What does our theme SPACE mean to you? The final frontier? Aliens? Rocket ships? The Planets? The wild outdoors? Or the 200 mm between the ears of a well-known personality of your choice?

Time to get thinking about your outfits for the May Fair Carnival taking place on Saturday May 3rd.

May Fair week starts on Friday 2nd May with the return of our very successful Ceilidh, held for the first time last year. Tickets will be on sale at Ringrose from early March.

The Modbury Market is also on Saturday May 3rd and anyone interested in taking a stall should contact ira.young@btinternet.com

The Modbury Mile is on Monday 5th May and once again Tony and Barbara Price are the organisers. Details of how to register will be in the April Messenger, along with a full programme of events.

It's also time for Modbury's groups and societies to think about applying for a Grant from the May Fair funds. Last year we distributed nearly £3,000 thanks to the generosity of Modburyans and local businesses. We normally don't give grants to those who received them the previous year – unless there is a really good reason to ignore this rule!

Applications should be made to our Treasurer, Mark Lawrence, via mark.lawrence45@gmail.com

We still need helpers for various events and would ask that you contact Pip on pipainsworth@btinternet.com

May the Force be with you.

Mark Lawrence

MODBURY MAY FAIR MARKET - BOOK YOUR STALL NOW

Saturday 3rd May 9am to 1pm. Location Poundwell Street Car Park

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Modbury Parish Council Meeting

Tuesday 4th February 2025, 7pm

Present were seven councillors, Cllr Bernard Taylor (South Hams DC) and two members of the public. Apologies were received from Cllr Rufus Gilbert of Devon CC.



Devon County Council Report by Rufus Gilbert (by email)

- An update on Devon's devolution to a unitary authority was given. Subsequently, we understand that this will not be going ahead as yet, so the May DCC elections will be proceeding.

South Hams District Council Report by Bernard Taylor

- SHDC are ready to help in Marigolds Day and await confirmation of the date.
- The bottle bank in Poundwell Meadow will be removed permanently on the 24th February, along with all bottle banks in South Hams except in overwhelmingly tourist areas.
- The new parking charges have not been finalised, but will come in on 1st April.

Chris Field was co-opted as a new councillor and joined the council.

Planning: Cllr Ann Turner was thanked by MPC for her work on the Penn Park planning application appeal.

Highways and Maintenance Update: Cllr Bill Cole suggested that we get a quotation for a new pavement at the junction of Dark Lane and Barracks Road, as noted on the parish-wide road safety report from Callidus. It was agreed that as resources are limited, we need first to pursue the priority scheme of improved lighting between the QE2 Pavilion and Barracks Road.

Sustainability: The Working Group has met to establish terms of reference and to identify non-council members who could join. There will be a report on proposed actions next month.

To note any Council actions since the last meeting not already reported.

- Work proceeds on the new arrangements for MARS, and it was noted that community use of the sports field and the QEII Pavilion is increasing and at a high level.
- Cllr Ann Turner has reported defective lights in the Poundwell Meadow car park to SHDC.
- Cllr Ann Turner reported a meter cover leak and SW Water repaired it promptly.
- The Community Policeman confirmed that he will attend the MPC Office on the first Monday of every month between 10am-12 noon.

Date of next meeting: Tuesday 4th March 2025

Tony Price

Roads and Footpaths Update

It is with great disappointment that Modbury Parish Council has received the resignations of Rob West and Adam Slater as Road and Snow Warden and Parish Paths Partnership (P3) Coordinator, respectively. These two roles have been key in providing a link between the Council and Devon Highways which are the statutory body responsible for all adopted roads, highways drainage, public footpaths and bridleways.



Councillor Bill Cole has offered to step up from his role leading the drainage team to take on the job of Road and Snow Warden and we are hoping to restart potholing work again in the spring. To say that this is an important job is an understatement. Anyone who makes frequent use of the minor roads around the parish is aware of the almost daily deterioration in carriageway condition. Although Devon County Council has received a major increase in Highways cash from central government, this is being prioritised for A and B routes and there is little spare for other roads. Indeed, we were recently turned down for a 25% grant to help out with road ploughing out on some of the very worst lanes around the parish.

We still have a vacancy for a P3 Coordinator, though. This means that we are currently unable to undertake any significant clearance work on the path network although we continue to do minor repairs to signs and stiles/gates. We are undertaking the annual paths survey in the absence of a new Coordinator, but we really do need someone to lead a team of volunteer helpers in much the same manner as the Road Warden with the potholes and drainage.

So, if you have an interest in the countryside and frequent the network of parish paths, please consider volunteering to fill the role of P3 Coordinator. You will have the satisfaction of knowing that you will be much appreciated by the Modbury parish community!

Contact the Parish Clerk, Bleddyn Griffiths on 07467 134225 or visit the Parish Office on Tuesdays or Thursdays between 1000 and 1700 or Saturday mornings between 1000 and 1100 for more information.

Phil Smith

The Pubs of Modbury

After the very sad day when the Modbury Inn closed, especially after Craig and his family had purchased it and worked so hard at keeping it going, I thought I'd have a chat with the two remaining pubs here, The Exeter Inn and the White Hart, to see how they were faring. Across the country, we seem to be losing numerous pubs annually, so I was hoping for better news from these two.

The White Hart: When we arrived in Modbury eight years ago, The White Hart was run very successfully by Laur & Claudia serving very nice meals at reasonable prices and always seemed to be full. After they left, some 5 years ago, it has not managed to reach the same heights, but, with the new tenants now, something seems to be happening. Two brothers from Wales, Glyn and Gareth Williams, both qualified chefs straight out of school, and their partners, Oksana & Mary, have somewhat transformed the White Hart into a multifunctional establishment. Yes, it's now a classic free-house pub (not tied to any brewery) with bar food anywhere on the ground floor, with a pool table and also fewer dining/drinking tables in the old, spacious dining area. Here they also hold music nights twice monthly. Upstairs, previously called the Assembly Rooms, is a vast space intended for community use, with two distinct areas. There is a meeting room which is already in use and holding club games such as War Games, & Subbuteo, and is available for parties and community groups. The other area here consists of a bar and seating area and the intention is that fine dining is soon to be introduced here.



Gareth Williams with Burt in front of The White Hart

Gareth, the landlord, is very much the front person, with Mary serving in the bar, both chatting affably to customers. He has run several pubs in Wales, then joined the RAF, and then worked in the building trade, especially as an electrician and heating engineer. Glyn spent many years as a chef on cruise ships, but is also a bespoke wood joiner. Recently, they have worked together on solar installations, kitchen refurbishment and building work. Glyn is the older brother and Gareth the youngest, with four siblings in between! They chose the White Hart out of six Free Houses they were offered and started here in May 2024.

Their immediate work was to improve the internal facades and furniture arrangements, removing several tables and chairs from the previous dining area to make the large room seem less like a canteen, and installing the ever-popular pool table. In the small outside area behind this, they have installed a huge modern pizza oven and pizza oven, and now plan pizza evenings etc. The bar area by the main entrance is a warm and welcoming area, with scattered tables, chairs and a log fire.

The opening hours are 12.00 – 23.00 hrs. daily including weekends, and that surprisingly included Christmas Day when Glyn and Gareth and their partners ate their Christmas meal with their customers.

Meanwhile, as if that was not enough, the brothers are about to take over the previous hairdressers at the lower end of Brownston Street, for unisex hair work which Glyn and Oksana will run. Mary, who is a qualified beautician, will also be there from time to time, and being from Nigeria, is also experienced in African braids hairstyles.



Singers at the monthly Acoustic Evening at the White Hart. Ian & Fran Palmer



The Exeter Inn:

For 22 years now, on the other side of the road, Nicky and Phil have been running the Exe, as most of us call it. Nicky is the Landlady, mostly aided weekdays by Emma and various members of her family, and also Phil at weekends as he is away working in the week as a practice manager in a veterinary practice in Surrey.

The Exe is quite a contrast from the White Hart opposite, which can only be a good thing for Modbury. It is a 14th

Century Coaching Inn with low ceilings, dark wood beams and paneling, a main bar and a snug bar which was occupied by locals when I walked in. In this area also is a dining table by a bright window, for six to eight people.

There are two main spacious areas for eating, sitting and chatting, one on the left as you walk in, and one up by the main bar. The Exe has the normal choice of real ales, lagers, ciders etc., spirits and wine, and a varied full pub food menu.

Nicky is an excellent chef and on some days of the week she has a themed menu; there's a full Pizza menu, Thursday is Steak night, Friday Fish night, and Sunday when the Exe is only open at lunch time, there's a classic roast Sunday lunch with a choice of meats and seasonal vegetables. They also offer vegetarian and vegan options. The Exe puts on a well-attended Seniors lunch once a month, has only an occasional music night, but will run private parties from time to time, at which Phil will usually seize any opportunity to play the piano.

In the summer, their spacious, many tabled beer garden is the perfect place to sit and enjoy a drink in the sun, or in winter, the lounge fire is very welcoming. As the Exe is a dog friendly pub, (Phil and Nicky have several Pointers themselves), this area is particularly popular for dog owners in the summer. The Exeter Inn is also residential, having several en-suite rooms available from £70.

Opening hours are Tuesday to Saturday 17.00-23.00 hrs. and Sundays 12.00-17.00 hrs.

So, having visited the two pubs and chatted to both staff and customers, I realised how lucky we are to still have two very functional, but very different public houses, and also with the closure of the Modbury Inn, how important it is to patronize and support these two fine establishments.



John Bower

The Jopes Ensemble play Quintets by Mozart and Brahms

St George's Church Modbury - Saturday 8th March at 7.30pm

St George's Church, Modbury, is the perfect setting for this performance of these two sublime pieces. The clarinet was perhaps the favourite instrument of both composers and it shows. They are performed here by the Jopes Ensemble, virtuoso players with a deep love of this music which is communicated to their audiences.

"The musicians were superb and created a wonderful atmosphere for the audience"

The group aims to create an informal and inclusive atmosphere by including short introductions to the pieces.

Standard adult tickets - £12 Priority ticket for a seat near the front - £18 Under 16 tickets - £5
 Helping you tickets - for when times are hard - £6

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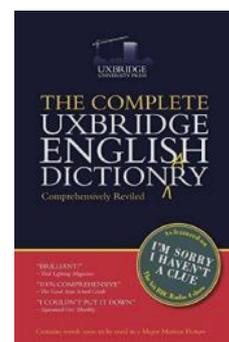
Nick Beach

Further Additions to the Uxbridge English Dictionary

With apologies to "I'm Sorry, I Haven't a Clue", the originator of the Uxbridge English Dictionary. I'm looking for suggestions from other people to add to the Modbury edition.

Here are some of my suggestions for new entries to the Uxbridge English dictionary:-

- | | | | |
|------------|----------------------------|---------------|---------------------------------------|
| hardy | opposite of easy | withering | how many people get married |
| capitalise | excellent vision | ticket | indicate correctness |
| train | precipitation in Yorkshire | handlebars | music by George Frederick |
| knickers | thieves | appear | member of the House of Lords |
| physics | science of effervescence | scintillate | party till the small hours |
| coffee | ticklish throat | portrait | mooring fees |
| forward | a golf club | programme | in favour of the metric system |
| devoted | disenfranchised | circumference | designer of King Arthur's round table |



John Curry

If you have some suggestions for Modbury's own version of the Uxbridge English Dictionary, please send them to modburymessengercic@gmail.co.uk

MCC Annual General Meeting 2025

The AGM of Modbury Cricket Club took place on 12 February 2025 at the Exeter Inn. A total of 14 members attended including 2 new recruits.

A new Committee was elected: Chairman – Stuart Binnie, Secretary – Phil Smith, Treasurer – Guy Speed, Team Captain – John Compston, Fixtures Secretary – Mark Trevethan, Grounds Officer – Paul Romney, Ordinary Member – Tom Hatch.

A total of 18 matches have been fixtured for the new season with matches planned against the likes of Ermington, Harberton, Cornwood, South Brent, Philanthropists, Ugborough, Wembury and East Prawle. It is a mix of 35-over and 20/20 games and pre-season training commenced at Ivybridge Sports Centre (indoors) on Sunday 23 February.

Training will continue **every Sunday until 13 April from 1000-1200** at the same venue and will then switch to **Thursday evenings from 1800-2000** in the Club's nets at the QEII Recreation Ground.

New members are always welcome, irrespective of gender, age and experience.

Phil Smith

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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	
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 – 5:30pm. 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):	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

Modbury Allotments are Waiting for YOU

Now March is here, and the year of growing lies ahead of us, why not consider this year having your own Allotment. There is nothing like growing and eating your own veggies....

And in Modbury we have two attractive Allotment sites - one that overlooks Dartmoor, on the Palm Cross Estate and the other tucked away down Church Lane.

If you want to know more or would like to take one on, you'll get a warm welcome at either site. When thinking whether you could take on a plot, remember you can choose between a small or full-size one, depending on your need and your time.

So go on, have a go!

All you need to do is get in touch with the Parish Clerk and you'll be put straight on to someone who will show you what's around.

parishclerk@modburyparishcouncil.gov.uk

Hope to see you soon, enjoying the pleasure of allotmenting....

Simon Franklin
Chair of the Palm Cross Allotment Association

Modbury Allotment Association



An invitation to celebrate the establishment of:

"The David Scott & Sylvia's Field Church Trust"
Community allotment garden at Church Lane,
Modbury

Saturday, 8th March at 10.45am

With a blessing from the Reverends Neil Barker, Matt Rowland and Oli Long, and light refreshments.

ALL WELCOME



Breaking News - the Modbury Inn

Cleo's Bistro @ the Modbury Inn will be opening Friday and Saturday evenings from March.

The name Cleo's comes from the first name initials of Craig, his wife and two daughters.

GIRLS' NIGHT OUT CHOIR

Celebrating **25 YEARS**

Saturday 29th March 7pm at Holy Cross Church, Newton Ferrers

&

Friday 4th April 7pm at Modbury Church

Tickets £6 available by emailing tracy.pl8@gmail.com

Fundraising for The Mustard Tree Cancer Support Centre & Star* Scheme charities in support of The Mayflower Atlantic Challenge

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South West Water Investment Programme to Reduce Storm Overflows



MODBURY
PARISH COUNCIL

No doubt many people will have been aware of the surveys being taken out by South West Water (SWW) of Modbury utilities in the Town. SWW have informed Modbury Parish Council (MPC) that this work is a prelude to a programme of work that they will be undertaking in Modbury to reduce the number of discharges from the sewer network into our waterways. Please see the statement below from Barry Birch, Stakeholder Relations Lead on behalf of SWW, for more details and what it means for Modbury and also MPC's response which follows.

Statement from South West Water

Reducing our reliance on storm overflows:

Our customers tell us that they want to see fewer spills and discharges from the sewer network and we're committed to delivering this. We are planning a major investment in Modbury to protect the environment around the river Erme, maintain quality bathing waters along the coast, and reduce reliance on storm overflows.

Why is there a problem in Modbury?

In Modbury, the wastewater network is coming under pressure due to housing growth in the area, the increased rainfall due to climate change, and the combined nature of our network. Almost all the sewers in the town carry both foul sewage and surface water, so the increasing amount of rainwater entering the system heightens the risk of storm overflows spilling.

Our strategy for addressing the issue:

We want to change that, and we are investigating ways to do it. This will include removing surface water from the combined sewer by diverting the flows from road gulleys into a newly constructed surface water sewer network and increasing storm water storage capacity at Poundwell Meadow and the treatment works.

Over the coming weeks you may see our teams surveying in the area. Once these surveys are completed, we will be able to decide the best way to achieve our aim of reducing spills from the system, and we can then share the information with our customers.

We appreciate that this important work will cause some inconvenience in the town, and for this we apologise. We will work closely with the parish council, stakeholders, and other agencies to minimise the disruption to residents and traders as much as possible.

Avoiding blockages to reduce storm overflow use:

Storm overflows can be triggered by excessive combined flow and blockages forming in the sewers. When this happens, targeted wastewater can't get through to the treatment works and is discharged through storm overflows instead.

*We use sensors and a regular cleansing programme to address this issue but it also helps if people avoid putting anything other than the 3Ps (pee, poo and paper) into the sewers. **Cooking fat, wet wipes, sanitary products and so on should all be disposed of in the bin, not the drains.***

Barry Birch, Stakeholder Relations Lead

Statement from Modbury Parish Council

Whilst MPC welcomes any action taken which will ensure discharges from the sewage system are kept to a minimum, we have expressed our disappointment that this work could not have been incorporated into the programme of repairs undertaken last year.

During the extensive planning that went into last year's programme, MPC raised the issue of water run off and capacity related to storm overflows on a number of occasions. Whilst we understood that it was not possible to put in a totally separate system (and still isn't) for run off water it would appear that plans were already being formulated to address these issues with the current investment programme. It is clear that these plans were not communicated to the SWW team dealing with the repairs and therefore any opportunity to amalgamate both sets of work were lost. We were further informed last year that capacity within the system was not an issue which it clearly is.

Although no clear timetable for these further works has been formulated, we are aware that there will inevitably be an impact on Modbury. By consulting with SWW and other stakeholders from Devon County Council, South Hams Council, and our Traders, we aim to ensure that there is a well thought through plan to keep any disruption to a minimum. SWW will also be holding public meetings as soon as they have a clear timetable of work. For our part, we will continue to ensure that the community is kept informed as and when further information becomes available.

Cllr Barbara Price



St George's Church, Modbury

www.modburyteam.org



KIDS' CHURCH - Kids' Church meet 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.

Rev. Matt Rowland

01548 830260

matt.rowland@modburyteam.org

	Service	Service Leader
March 2nd	Holy Communion and Kids' Church 9.30 am	Rev. Matt Rowland and Rev. Oli Long
March 9th	Holy Communion BCP 8 am All- Age Service 9.30 am	Rev. Matt Rowland Rev. Oli Long and Helen Pickard
March 16th	Holy Communion and Kids' Church 9.30 am	Rev. Matt Rowland
March 23rd	Sunday Worship 9.30	Gil Snook
March 30th Mothering Sunday	Sunday Worship 9.30 Rooted - a service of contemporary worship 6.00 pm	Rev. Oli Long Rev. John Elliott

CHRISTIAN COMMENT: The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe: 75 Years of Wonder

This year marks the 75th anniversary of *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*, a book that has captivated generations of readers. While ranking the all-time best-selling books is tricky, C.S. Lewis' beloved classic consistently earns a spot on the list.

The novel took a decade to write, beginning in 1939 and concluding in 1949, before being published in 1950. Lewis himself wasn't sure where the story was going—until Aslan appeared. After dreaming of lions, he found that Aslan's presence pulled the story together, ultimately leading to the creation of the six other Narnia books.

But Aslan was more than just a literary character. Lewis, a Christian, saw Aslan as a reflection of Jesus. He famously wrote, "If I find in myself a desire which no experience in this world can satisfy, the most probable explanation is that I was made for another world."

Could it be that Jesus' death and resurrection is the door to that other world? Like Lucy stepping through the wardrobe, perhaps Jesus invites us into a greater reality—one filled with hope, redemption, and the ultimate adventure.

Rev. Matt Rowland

St Monica's Roman Catholic Church, Modbury

Mass weekly at 5.00 pm on Wednesday

St Austin's Priory Roman Catholic Church, Cadleigh

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on Sunday

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 For families with children 0-4 years

Fridays - 9.15-11.15 at Modbury Memorial Hall
 Last Friday of the month - out and about day
 Term time only

Sensory play, crafts and a dedicated baby area
 Dress up, ride ons, toys and more!
 Refreshments provided for adults and a healthy snack provided for children

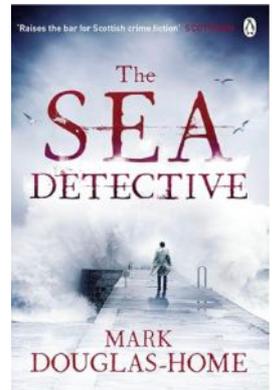


Find us on facebook and instagram for up to date info each week
 f Modbury Tiddlers @modbury_tiddlers
 mail@modburytiddlers.org.uk

BOOK CLUB REVIEW

The Brownston (Street) Book Club, (the 'BBC') read The Sea Detective by Mark Douglas-Home in January.

Yes, it is a detective story and set in Scotland, but it is not based on a murder. The Sea Detective is an environmentalist and a post-graduate student studying ocean currents. There are three mysteries in the book:- what happened to his grandfather in the Second World War, how matching feet in non-matching trainers ended up on two beaches miles apart and how a teenager's body was washed up on the shore in Scotland and who knew her. Most of the book group could not put the book down. Over to you to find the answers.

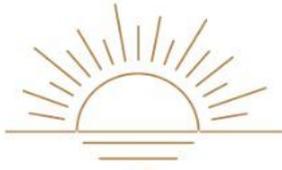



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Modbury Primary School Report

We are now well into 2025 and about to finish the first half of the "Spring" term. We would all welcome some more springlike weather and although we have enjoyed some sunshine, that has come accompanied by a cold wind off the moor - roll on the days when children and staff can peel off their coats and enjoy the outdoors!



Traditionally pantomime season, we first enjoyed a travelling production of Beauty and the Beast in our school hall. At the end of January, a larger than usual group of children, from 6 to 11 year olds, performed in Modbury's wonderful Rapunzel and Friends. They joined some of their parents, former pupils and other members of the community in the biggest cast and orchestra ever assembled for this popular event and although they were obviously tired by the long rehearsals and late nights, they showed such enjoyment and confidence that it was a really worthwhile opportunity for the stage newcomers.

We were able to support another community event by sending Veda and Ted to be Wassail king and queen and we are hoping for another good crop of apples to collect in the autumn for apple day.

We are lucky to have a strong PTFA who organise fundraising events that include weekly cake sales after school on a Friday. This term the three school councils were invited to bid for money from the PTFA to fund their projects. School Council were awarded £100 towards the Zen Den; Eco Council will be spending their £150 on classroom plants and Sports Council have money to spend on equipment and its storage.

We have been lucky enough to recruit two new Teaching Assistants in Miss Worthington and Mrs Cole; and with Mrs Worden joining midway through last term, the children now have extra support in the classroom and in their breaks.

Football continues to be very popular in school and our team has been successful in reaching the final of the local cluster league. Not to be outdone, our musicians, led by Mrs Gill and Mrs Woods returned from the Saltash Music Festival with an impressive trophy for their singing and instrumental playing.

In school, we have had visitors from the Youth Mental Health Foundation, Climate Care Cornwall and Ivybridge Community College to run workshops for different groups of children.

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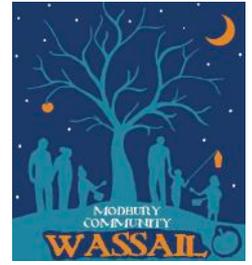


Wassail Brings an Enthusiastic Involvement from Modbury Children



A magnificent display of hats by the Cubs

Our 8th annual Wassail attracted over 70 people to the community orchard in Millennium Meadow; quite a turnout on a cold, still winter's night. Each January, the Wassail kicks off Modbury's new year of community events. Clearly it has become a firm favourite with young and old.



It was particularly encouraging to see so many young people getting involved in the run-up to the event as well as attending the ceremony and celebrations on the night. The Wassail organisers have, in recent years, been encouraging more and more Wassailers to revive the tradition of Wassail hats. This revival is enthusiastically led by the Cubs who convert their hats with adornments gleaned

from the hedgerows. Adults often add their own assortment of eclectic nick-nacks; it's really not possible to be too outlandish with a Wassail hat.

Morning assembly at Modbury Primary, on the Friday before the Wassail, has a special significance as that is when a Lord and Lady of Misrule are crowned. They are appointed to be the young people who will perform a key part of the ancient Wassail ceremony in the orchard.

When we first revived the Wassail, a Devon tradition going back some four hundred years, we called for volunteers from the school to be our King and Queen, but this title did not seem to appeal greatly, perhaps because Modbury already crowns a King and Queen for May Fair. But a little research revealed the ancient title of Lord and Lady of Misrule. This referred to the practice, around the time of post-Christmas celebrations, of something of a role reversal, where masters and servants swapped places. This pretty much created a licence for merriment and mayhem to ensue. The new titles seem to have much more appeal and Lord Ted and Lady Veda enthusiastically accepted their roles. Clare Garton Sprenger then rehearsed the assembly in some of traditional carols that are performed at Wassail.

On the night, Wassailers duly assembled in Burns Lane to rehearse chants and carols before processing along Fullers Ope, banging pots and pans to scare off any bad sprites and spirits. They arrived to find a candle-lit orchard where proceedings were led by Mother Orchard (Charlotte Rathbone). Lord Ted was asked to pierce a piece of toast and dip it in some of last years apple juice in Modbury's special oak wassail bowl. The toast is then placed in a fork in the tree. This is where the term "to raise a toast" comes from. Lady Veda then libates the tree, with the remaining apple juice being poured at its base in a symbol of the tree's circle of life.

At the end of the ceremony, the crowd was entertained with a demonstration of juggling with fire sticks, dramatically blazing in the dark. Thanks Tris. After all that singing and chanting, some refreshment was called for and our Town Crier invited everyone to enjoy free mulled apple juice from our own orchards' crop and free hot dogs cooked and served by the Cubs, before departing home.

The Community Orchard Group would like to thank all those who helped make our Wassail a success. We really can't do it without you.

Colin Whybrow
Modbury Community Orchard Group



Lady Veda is offered Modbury apple juice from the Wassail bowl at the crowning



Mother Orchard leads the ceremony with Lord Ted and Lady Veda looking on.

More Feedback from the Rapunzel & Friends Pantomime

This is from Mary Lintott from the Mothecombe productions, now called Wild Will! 'I came to your stupendous production last night. It was a triumph and I loved every minute of it. How you managed to write, direct, star in and keep that enormous company of people all on side is an achievement beyond expectations.

Wow is all I can say. I promised Freddy I would come. He was a joy to watch, but all those youngsters - it was amazing.'

Another from Dave Fardon: 'I just wanted to say I saw the Panto on Friday and really loved it. It was so warm hearted and inclusive it had a lovely feel to it. I can only imagine the stress and titanic effort. There were some really strong performances from adults and children and great music and singing. I loved the dancing round the cauldron scene. It was very funny and looked really great with all the costumes and makeup.'

We have had just the loveliest feedback from the community.

A big thank you from Writer and Director, Sarah Wyatt, to all the cast who worked so hard at rehearsals with a commitment and desire to put on a great show. Angie Tall was brilliant in her role as Deputy Director and Choreographer - dressaging kingsmen, whatever next! Jo Highley did an amazing job as Musical Director, not only teaching the cast all the songs, but also putting the band together and writing all the parts for the musicians. Gerry McAllister as set builder and Sue Grist as Stage Manager,, did a fantastic job bringing the vision for the set to life with the tower - no mean feat of ingenuity, and the team of painters for visualising and painting the fairytale backdrop. The costumes fitted the bill perfectly, especially the trees, all put together by Sue Malyon and Fiona Fleming. Everyone backstage should be commended for the sheer magnitude of the tasks that had to be done from lighting, sound, props, chaperoning, front of house and, of course, it couldn't happen without the administrations of the Producers, Sally Taylor and Vic Breheny-Smith who made sure that cast were present at rehearsals and bums were on seats at performances, sorting out budgets, tickets and all that stuff. Thanks to you, the warmest audience ever, for coming along and supporting the Modbury Players.



Sarah Wyatt



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Modbury Preschool's New Weekly Schedule

2025 will herald a new weekly schedule on offer for the children of Modbury Preschool. Over the last few years, the Modbury community has been very generous and contributed funds towards the running of the preschool. The donors include: The Parish Council, The Modbury Fund for the Benefit of the Sick Poor, Bomber's Gym, Tom Coates's Dartmoor Run, Christina Pope's Party Kit, Wesley's Bike Adventure, Knighton Daze Community Party, Modbury Co-op, The Dolphin, SJG Masonry and The Modbury Inn. As a result of these efforts, we are now offering an amazing weekly schedule of activities:

- Mondays:** Outdoor Learning Day
- Tuesdays:** Spanish session (Kid's Lingo multi-award-winning language programme)
- Wednesdays:** Free for trips and activities to aid transition to Primary
- Thursdays:** Fun Dance session (Accredited award winning Diddi Dance provider)
- Fridays:** Physical Education session (Plymouth Argyle Community Trust coaches)

In our most recent Ofsted visit, the inspector noted that our "children benefit from a broad curriculum that follows their interests and supports their enjoyment of learning". It also noted that our "Children gain an understanding of the wider world and respect for other cultures".

This weekly schedule of activities, alongside learning experiences in varying stimulating and safe environments (indoors, garden & playground), demonstrates our continued commitment to providing children aged 2-4 years old a well-rounded early years' education. This early exposure to such a range of learning experiences and the quality interactions they have with the staff will help the children become confident, can-do learners.

The preschool also offers Breakfast, After School Club and Holiday Club session to children aged 3-11.



Monday: Outdoor Learning



Tuesday: Spanish lessons



Wednesday: phonics



Thursday: Diddi Dance



Friday: Plymouth Argyle Community Trust Sessions

INTENDED MONTHLY FLAG HOIST AT PALM CROSS GREEN - March

<u>Date</u>	<u>Masthead</u>	<u>Starboard Yard (Plymouth) - West</u>	<u>Port Yard (Modbury) - East</u>	<u>Event</u>
01	Welsh Dragon	St David's Cross	DAV11 st sub	St David Day
02	White Ensign	Exeter Flag	1942	83 rd anniv HMS EXETER sinking
10	Commonwealth Flag	CMWELTH	201 st sub4	Commonwealth Day 2025
17	Northern Ireland	St Patrick Cross	PATRICK	St Patrick Day
20	Union Flag	IRAQ	Ans203 rd sub3	Start of Iraq War 2003
21	Plymouth	BLITZ	Ans1942 nd sub	Start of Plymouth Blitz 1941
30	Plymouth	BLITZ	1943 rd subAns	End of Plymouth Blitz 1944
31	Army	2BOER	1901 st subAns	End of the 2 nd Boer War 1901

Holbeton Film Club



March's film is **Hard Miles** (certificate 12A). This heartwarming drama is based on the real-life amateur cyclist Greg Townsend, a teacher at a Colorado young offenders educational institution. He assembles an unlikely cycling team of juvenile offenders for a transformative 700-mile bike ride from Denver to the Grand Canyon.

This is showing on **Saturday the 8th March 2025** in Holbeton Village Hall. Doors open 7pm. The programme starts at 7:30pm. Tickets on the door still only £4, £2 for accompanied under 12s (cash only). Ice creams will be on sale for £1.

Do visit our new website with this QR code:



Harry Baumer

Our forward programme for 2025 continues with:

Radical, 12A
And Then Come The Nightjars, 15
Thelma, 12A

Friday 11th April
Saturday 10th May
Friday 13th June

01752 830274

harryluson@gmail.com

MODBURY WI

Modbury WI meets at 7:30 pm on the third Tuesday of the month at the QE11 Pavilion in Chatwell Lane, Modbury PL21 0FS excluding December, January and September when we meet up during the day for other activities such as coffee, lunch or tea out. Visitors are most welcome to attend a meeting for a fee of £5.



If you would like to find out more about what talks and activities are planned, then please email:

modbury@devonwi.org.uk

Rosemary Parker

NOAH'S ARK
For 0-4 year olds

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Term Time 9.30-11.00 am

The QE11 Recreation Ground
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Our House was first produced at the Cambridge Theatre, London on 10th October 2012. Producers were Tom Arden/Producers, Rupert Lord, Andrei Plazovnik & Phil McIntyre in association with Madness. This amateur production is presented by arrangement with Music Theatre International. All performance materials are also supplied by MTI. www.mti.com

**Modbury
History
Society**

PROGRAMME OF SPEAKERS 2025

The Society meets at the QE11 Pavilion situated in the Recreational Grounds, Chatwell Lane, Modbury, PL21 0FS, where there is ample parking. Membership is £20 for a series of eight talks starting in September each year, but you are most welcome to come along to a talk if you are not a member for a fee of £5.

10 TH MARCH 25	JOHN BELL	STAIRWAY TO THE STARS - THE HISTORY OF CINEMA IN DEVON IN THE GOLDEN AGE
14 TH APRIL	HENRY WAINWRIGHT	SHIPWRECKS IN BIGBURY BAY
12 TH MAY	BERNARD MILLS	RAILWAYS IN THE SOUTH HAMS
9 TH JUNE	PAMELA VASS	SUFFRAGETTES IN DEVON



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walk&talk

Our March walk dates are on the 4th, 11th, 18th and 25th March.

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
Jean Wright	01548 810029
Catherine Speight	01548 830195

Sue Rogers



Modbury Branch Royal British Legion

The next Meeting of the Modbury and District Branch of the Royal British Legion will be a Social Gathering in The Exeter Inn on Friday 7th March starting at 7.30pm. Names to our Social Secretary Duncan Squires (07889 825986) by Monday 3rd March, in order to know the likely numbers.

New members are always most welcome.

David Scott



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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 the meeting recently. It is only 300 words, but a complete short story, showing how concision can really work effectively in creative writing.

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/modburyc creativewritinggroup

Lucky Dip

She'd only nipped out for Bill's lucky dip so hadn't bothered with any make-up, choosing instead to slip on a pair of sunglasses to hide the black eye. Now, as the car slogged along the potholed track towards their static caravan, she wondered if she was just imagining that things didn't seem quite normal. Kenny was going frantic at the window. Bill would never have let him bark like that, the dog wasn't even allowed in the living room. And Bill hadn't said he was going out, and he wouldn't have gone out anyway, he'd already been soaked on his way back from his morning walk.

When she opened the car door the dog yammered even harder. 'What's wrong, Kenny? Bill... Bill.' The dog heard the oddness in her voice and fell silent tilting his head, the throb of condensation from his snout misting on the window.

Bill's bottom half was in the living room, his shoulders and head in the kitchen. He wasn't exactly blue. His face, she thought, was closest to the colour of an April storm, like a fresh bruise that had blossomed from the sombre part of a rainbow. She wondered if the rest of him had gone the same colour too; had his chest fat folds altered from their usual mottled ivory? Would his V-shaped weather bib, as permanent as any tattoo, have changed as well? She got Kenny's lead off the hook and the dog bounded down from the windowsill and over the barrel of Bill's breathless torso in two elastic movements.

Bill always said a walk made things better.

As Kenny strained down the slope towards the river she pushed her free hand into her coat pocket and felt the still sharp edges of Bill's lottery ticket nestling amongst the empty laburnum pods.

Peter Hitchen




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Ivybridge u3a March General Meeting

Monday 17th March at the Watermark Centre, 2.00pm



"Murder on Dartmoor" is by Stephanie Austin, a local author, who has written many books involving murder and mystery in and around Dartmoor. The Devonian sleuth is an Ashburton antique dealer. Stephanie will talk on the task of writing such books and the inspiration derived from our home area.

The event is open to members and to those no longer in full-time employment who wish to find out more of what u3a has to offer.

Roy Little



MODBURY MESSENGER

COMMERCIAL ADVERTISING RATES MODBURY MESSENGER : MARCH 2025

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	Black	Colour	Black	Colour	Black	Colour	Black	Colour
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

Advertisement Sizes:

One eighth page
 One quarter page
 One half page
 Full page

Portrait or Landscape 1.75" x 2.5" (45mm by 65mm)
 Portrait 3.5" x 5" (90mm x 130mm) Landscape 7" x 2.5"
 Landscape 7" x 5" (180mm x 130mm) Portrait 10" x 3.5"
 Portrait 7" x 10" (180mm x 250mm)

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

Please note that black and white adverts are only available for those who already had adverts prior to 2025.

The Modbury Messenger is now an all colour publication and current black and white adverts will gradually be phased out.

Modbury Messenger April 2025

The copy date for the April 2025 Modbury Messenger is **10th March**. Please email all articles, notices of events and paid advertisements to modburymessengercic@gmail.com.

The Modbury Messenger is published by Modbury Messenger CIC and is printed by ESP Print. The views expressed in the Messenger do not necessarily represent those of Modbury Messenger CIC.

The Editorial Committee reserve the right to précis/abbreviate any copy submitted for inclusion in the Modbury Messenger. Their decision is final. The contents of the Modbury Messenger may not be reproduced in any form without the prior written permission of Modbury Messenger CIC.

Guidance for submitting material is available online at <http://modburymessengercic.co.uk/about.html>

Persons submitting entries with art or photographs not drawn or taken by themselves must confirm they have obtained copyright permission, or agree to pay any copyright fine which is subsequently raised

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MODBURY MESSENGER CIC

Modbury Messenger CIC is a Community Interest Company and as such is registered by the Registrar of Companies for England & Wales, Northern Ireland or Scotland. A Community Interest Company is a special type of not-for-profit limited company which exists to benefit the community. The purpose of Modbury Messenger CIC is to disseminate information about events, notices and articles of interest to the people of Modbury and it does this by publishing the Modbury Messenger, a printed newsletter, every month with 1000 copies delivered to homes and businesses within the Parish of Modbury. An online copy of the Modbury Messenger is available to neighbouring communities, advertised via social media and on our website modburymessengercic.co.uk.

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.

Directors of Modbury Messenger: Diana Lynne Barnes & Bernard Taylor.

Company Secretary: George Rosevear FCIS.

Treasurer: Edward Holt

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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