



Modbury's Wassail Celebrated Despite the Threatening Weather

After the incredibly persistent wet start to the year, we have to confess to a "Will we? Won't we?" moment days before our annual Wassail. Preparations had continued. The Cubs had been making their Wassail hats. The appointment of the Lord and Lady of Misrule had been made and the Wassail school assembly held. In the end, we hedged our bets and decided to go ahead with what we called a Wet Weather Wassail; a shorter and simpler celebration than in previous years, but a proper Wassail none the less.

We were delighted that the stoic people of Modbury turned out in significant numbers to join in this traditional mid-winter event. By a stroke of luck, they were rewarded with an almost rain-free




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period for the actual ceremony (less so before and after). It was heartwarming to see so many young families join in. And speaking of warming, as we had already bought the sausages and rolls, our magnificent volunteers offered to cook some of them offsite and brought what they could carry to the Millennium Meadow, together with pre-warmed apple juice from last autumn's Apple Day pressing. Huge thanks to Boony, Alison and Ann as well as our other volunteers who helped set up the tables and the lights in the trees.

Illuminating the Wassail's key cast members (Mother Orchard and the Lord and Lady of Misrule) has always been difficult in a pitch black, unlit orchard. But this year we had purchased a portable LED mini floodlight, designed for building sites. This enabled everyone to get a better view of the ceremony taking place by the chosen apple tree. We always try and keep our Wassail as traditional as possible, but this time technology definitely helped us out.

Special thanks to everyone who turned out, made hats, sang heartily and arrived determined to enjoy the evening whatever the weather. Next year will be the 10th anniversary of our Community Wassail. We will find a way to make it special and hope we can focus more on the event without needing to keep a constant eye on the weather.

More pictures on p. 3

**Colin Whybrow,
Modbury Community Orchard Group**

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MUD, MUD, GLORIOUS MUD!

After two sessions of clearing mud in Runaway Lane earlier this month, we hope that the many users can see the improvements made. A big thank you to those who turned out to assist us. Some clearing work like this needs to be done every two or three years, at least, otherwise the lane will become ever more difficult to use.

The Cottlass bridleway is fairing quite badly at the moment with very boggy areas along its route, as can be seen, so a similar attention is needed there.

If we have more sessions, it would be so helpful for more to join in please. It is amazing how much can be done in just an hour with several willing hands.

(Photo courtesy of Tim Auburn)

Lynn and Brian Weeks

Modbury Wassail:

Lord Charlie and Lady Sasha of Misrule



Free Guided Walks on Dartmoor

As part of my Hill & Moorland Leader Training, I'm offering a number of free guided walks on Dartmoor over the coming months, for those who would like to feel more confident exploring the moors. These walks are designed to be relaxed, supportive, and manageable.

Each walk will last approximately four hours, with small groups (*max. 6 people*) to keep things personal and unhurried. Clear meeting points will be arranged on the moor, and routes and pace will be adapted to suit the group. There will also be opportunities to pick up some map reading and navigation skills along the way.

These walks are ideal for anyone new to moorland walking or simply looking for reassurance in a guided setting.

Dates: Friday March 6th and Saturday 28th March

Please get in touch to find out more or to book a place.

Jason Edwards: jason@hikemoor.co.uk
Tel: 07976 726753

Jason Edwards



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MODBURY MAY FAIR 2026

29th April to 10th May

PIRATES



As previously advised, our exciting theme this year is Pirates – giving much scope for this year's Carnival (see separate ad). The key dates are as follows:

Thursday April 30th - Saturday 2nd May
Modbury Players production of Pirates! A Music Hall

Sunday 3rd May - Treasure Hunt and Church Teas

Monday 4th May - The Royalty Crowning, Games and Duck Race with new attractions including Crunchy Carrot, Pirate Face Painting, Maypole Dancing, a mobile pizza van, crepes and ice creams, all continuing until the start of The Modbury Mile – offering a full day's entertainment.

Saturday 9th May - The Market, Carnival, Art Exhibition and evening Ceilidh.

During our extended May Fair week, we will be hosting our usual programme of events and maybe more!!

Details will be published on local social media sites from early March.

A full 4-page pullout programme of events will be in next month's Messenger.

Bookings for the Market and any other enquiries can be made to

pipainsworth@btinternet.com

or call Pip on 07772 946822

Note from our Treasurer:

GRANT APPLICATIONS

It's time for clubs and societies to think about applying for a grant from the May Fair funds. Applications will close on 15th March.

Rule 1 is that if you had a grant last year you won't get one this year, unless there's a very good reason why rule 1 should be ignored.

Rule 2 is that we don't normally fund running expenses.

Rule 3 is if you don't apply, you won't get a grant.

Applications or questions to our Treasurer Mark Lawrence at mark.lawrence45@gmail.com

To advertise your business in the Modbury Messenger, please contact us at

modburymessengercic@gmail.com

www.modburymessengercic.co.uk

Modbury May Fair Street Market

Saturday 9th May



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PIRATES!

A MUSIC HALL

Thursday 30th April to Saturday 2nd May - 7.30pm
at Modbury Memorial Hall

This will be an exciting and fun-packed variety show taking the form of a music hall. It will include sketches, monologues, singalong sea shanties and pirate songs and excerpts from *Pirates of Penzance*. In true music hall style, the show will have a chairman and a small orchestra to enhance the entertainment.

Rehearsals have started and we have a fantastic bunch of funny and talented cast already working hard to bring you this marvellous piratical show, in preparation for the pirate-themed May Fair.

Seating will be at tables. Small snacks will be provided and drinks will be served throughout the performance. Bring some cash for the raffle (great prizes!) and do come early to get a good seat. Tickets will be on sale from early April at the office of Marchand Petit, Modbury.

We are always looking for more helpers with backstage work, props and costumes so do please get in touch with Peter if you are interested at peterjhlowe@gmail.com.

Keep an eye out for more information about the show in next month's Messenger.

Phil, Peter, Jo and Angie

Modbury Parish Council Meeting

Tuesday 3rd February 2026, 7:00pm MARS Pavilion



MODBURY
PARISH COUNCIL

Present were six councillors, Cllr Louise Wainwright (Devon CC) and Cllr Sam Dennis (South Hams DC). Apologies were received from Cllrs Ann Turner and Sarah Wyatt, and Cllr Bernard Taylor (South Hams DC). Four members of the public were present.

Devon County Council Report by Louise Wainwright

- Louise thanked MPC for the use of its offices on Saturday 23rd January.
- In Devon Highways, there is much work going on to address pothole repairs by their contractors, with regard to both specification and quality of repair. Louise is working on trial initiatives in the South Hams area to review alternative ways of providing the service. Note that the current emergency storm-related damage situation is taking up much time and resources.

South Hams District Council Report by Sam Dennis

- Rural area funding is being reduced in comparison to urban areas.
- Funding by central government to SHDC will be reduced by 41% over the next three years.
- SHDC council tax is going up by the maximum 2.99%
- SHDC has employed additional street cleaners for the district.

Matters arising from the minutes of the last meeting

- SHDC inspectors say that there are some safety issues in the play parks, the equipment suppliers disagree. We have requested support from SHDC to resolve the situation and are awaiting a response.
- We have received a ModWAG proposal for a grant to create wildflower features in public green spaces. The initial two-year period will be funded by ModWAG via a grant and MPC await details of ongoing costs after they are established.

Matters arising from the Extra-ordinary Meeting 27th January (re Palm Cross development)

The letter from MPC authorised at that meeting outlining our concerns in regard to committee procedure and the assessment of the Neighbourhood Plan has been circulated to all relevant SHDC councillors and officers; we await a response. It was agreed to submit the letter as a formal complaint and to seek legal advice on both counts, and then to convene a public meeting.

Modbury Recreation and Sports Trust

- This is now a registered Charity.
- The final lease between MPC and the Trust will be available for approval at the March MPC meeting.

Sustainability

The recent Energy Fair held in Modbury in January was very well attended with very positive feedback and was deemed to be a good and worthy success.

Other Committees and Working Groups

- There is now a diary in the MPC Office where use of the office can be monitored and booked.
- MPC is looking at the feasibility of providing a community fridge.
- Various Modbury people and organisations have been put forward for the SHDC Community Awards.

Date of next meeting: Tuesday 3rd March 2026 @ 7pm

Tony Price

walk&talk

Walks will be on 3rd, 10th, 17th, 24th and 31st March

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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ENERGY FAIR REPORT

Modbury Parish Council and Sustainable South Hams collaborated to run the 'Modbury & Surrounding Villages Energy Fair' on Saturday 17th Jan 2025. This was a well-attended drop-in event designed to give local householders and businesses information and advice on reducing energy bills, generating green energy and future-proofing their buildings.

PowerPoint presentations included a personal story of home retrofit, the Yealm community-benefit energy scheme, the South Brent community wind-turbine project, the South Dartmoor Community Energy thermal-imaging camera scheme, and Bloom Renewables' information on solar arrays and installation. Additionally, there were exhibitors from a range of local installers and not-for-profit advice organisations. Tea and cake were freely available to sustain participants and visitors through the afternoon.



For a full report on the event visit <https://modburyparishcouncil.gov.uk/news/modbury-energy-fair-17th-jan-2026/>

Follow-up actions from the day

- The loan of a thermal imaging camera from South Devon Community Energy for residents to assess areas of heat loss in their own homes and so to assist in planning energy efficiency measures.
- Looking at the potential for community energy projects in and around Modbury. Andrew Moore, Chair of Yealm Community Energy Group has offered to meet with Councillors to share their experience and offer advice.
- The Parish Council would like to invite members of the community who have experience or interest in developing energy efficiency projects within the parish to join us to discuss possibilities. If that could be you, we would love to hear from you.

Please contact the Parish Clerk at parishclerk@modburyparishcouncil.gov.uk

Ann Turner, Modbury Parish Council



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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 Rev. Oli Long, Vicar 01548 732344

	Service	Service Leader
March 1st	Holy Communion and Kids' Church 9:30 am	Rev. Oli Long
March 8th	Holy Communion BCP 8:00 am	Rev. Oli Long
	All-Age Service 9:30 am	Rev. Oli Long
March 15th Mothering Sunday	Holy Communion and Kids' Church 9:30 am	Rev. Oli Long
March 22nd	Sunday Worship 9:30 am	Rev. John Elliott
March 29th Palm Sunday	Team Service 10:30 am	Rev. Oli Long
	Rooted - A service of Contemporary worship 6:00 pm	Rev. Oli Long

CHRISTIAN COMMENT:

As the newly appointed Rector, I feel massively privileged to have received such a welcome into the Community. This is a wonderful area to live in, surrounded by such beauty and people who love and care for it so well. My family and I are so pleased and excited to have the opportunity to live alongside you, so thank you for having us.

As my children have grown up skateboarding and mountain biking, I have always tried to encourage them to do it with the "Two C's": Confidence and Commitment.

As my family and I settle in here our hope is simple, that with the "Two C's.", Confidence and Commitment:

We want to be all about Christ and his Kingdom.

I would love to continue to see our churches to be all about Christ. This is because there is a strange movement simmering among the culture of this country. Increasingly people, particularly young men, are exploring faith. Perhaps it is because of the years and years swallowing the tonic of being told that we must live focusing only on ourselves and what makes us most comfortable, that has made people 'sick' and is ultimately only a short-term solution.

As people explore what might be longer lasting and more fulfilling, I want to be ready with the answer that it is all about Christ Jesus. We can be all about Jesus because he is all about us.

As we approach Easter, Christians will celebrate the memory of how **he** gave **his** all... even to death... for us. We celebrate the confidence we have by giving ourselves completely to him because of his miraculous and triumphal resurrection to defeat the strongest enemy of death for us.

I am excited to be here, and excited at the prospect of seeing you at one of our church services around the area and would love to talk to you further about what it means to be all about Jesus Christ.

In Christ

Oli Long

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
Web: staustinsivybridge.co.uk



REV. OLI LONG INDUCTION

On Wednesday 28 January, there was the Induction, Installation and Licensing of Rev. Oli Long as the new Modbury Mission Community Rector. David Scott could be seen to lead the procession down the Nave as the crucifer, carrying the impressive St George's Church Processional Cross.



Photos by kind permission of Mike Wynne Powell.

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MODBURY PARISH COUNCIL

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Tel: 07467134225 email parishclerk@modburyparishcouncil.gov.uk



Your Councillors are:

Bill Cole	01548 830913
Chris Field	07836 592854
Barbara Price (Chair)	07739752095
Tony Price	07801837129
Phil Smith (Vice Chair)	07759282404
Dave Trigger	07808742372
Ann Turner	01548830606
Sarah Wyatt	07794 662903

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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 & Wed, 10:30 am – 5:00pm. Call into the office, phone, email or come along to our meetings at 7:00 pm 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: 07908 525663 louise.wainwright@devon.gov.uk
South Hams District Councillor (Charterlands Ward):	Bernard Taylor	Tel: 01548 830844 Cllr.Bernard.Taylor@southhams.gov.uk

One Man's 600km Run, to Help Save his Local River

The man is 40-year-old John Mildmay-White, and the river is the Erme in South Devon where John lives with his wife and three boys. He is Deputy Chair and Farming Lead for the charity he helped to found called **Wild About The Erme River**, or **WATER** for short.

The Erme is a typical west country spate river that rises on Dartmoor's open moorland and makes its 24km journey to the sea at Coastguards Beach, near to John's home, where he single handedly runs a 300-acre-beef farm on regenerative farming principles.

The Erme travels through an ever-changing landscape that includes not only moorland, but woodland, farmland and saltmarsh in its tidal estuary. John grew up by the river and has observed the changes first-hand: declining stocks of migratory salmon and sea trout, bank erosion, biodiversity loss and pollution from a variety of sources, including raw sewage, resulting from overflow spills from multiple waste-water treatment plants. His charity is working to restore the river to its natural healthy state by improving water quality and biodiversity.



John Mildmay-White near the mouth of the Erme with training buddy Elliot Legg

Explaining the reason for his very demanding solo 600km fundraiser, John says: "I wanted to do something that would highlight the plight of our river and many others across the UK suffering similar problems. If more people take positive actions for their local river, we really can make a difference. But the government needs to be much more rigorous in tackling river pollution and supportive of those who are taking on the task of river restoration themselves. In my part of the world, that includes many of our local farmers, landowners and community groups. Westminster is the heart of government and I realised I could actually do a fundraising run by following rivers. I start at the mouth of the Erme, follow it onto Dartmoor then across to Exmoor's River Exe to north Devon, before joining the source of the Thames in the Cotswolds, from where I can follow it all the way to Westminster."

Along the way, John hopes to meet other river guardian groups and river users. He'll be regularly posting his riverside encounters on his Instagram account:

<https://www.instagram.com/runfortherivers/>

You can follow his progress and donate via his Just Giving page:

<https://www.justgiving.com/page/runfortherivers>



Asked what he wants to achieve with this gruelling solo effort, John says: "I hope to raise awareness of the state of our rivers and the Erme in particular. I grew up on the river and I want my children to be able to enjoy it as much as I did. Last year, the bathing water at our local beach, on the estuary, was officially classified as poor, resulting in warning signs being posted about potential pollution issues for water users. All funds raised from the run will go to our charity, to enable our scientifically-qualified all-volunteer team, to undertake the testing needed to identify the types, and potentially the sources, of pollution. This test data will feed into our Catchment Action Plan to tackle the long term issues and, over time, help restore water quality and habitat so that the river becomes a healthier and safer place for wildlife and people."

<https://www.justgiving.com/page/runfortherivers>

<https://www.instagram.com/runfortherivers/>
www.ermesriver.org

John starts his run on 5th March and arrives in Westminster on 14th March.

Colin Whybrow



Are you passionate about living in Modbury?

Would you like to help make the decisions that shape our community by joining Modbury Parish Council?

These are the many and varied topics that parish councillors are involved in....

Planning: objectively reviewing all planning applications which affect our Parish to ensure we assess the housing need, aesthetic impact, maintain our environment and protect our historic buildings for the future.

Asset Management: ensuring our green spaces, allotments, trees and footpaths are looked after, potholes on minor roads repaired, and that we are prepared for major emergencies.

Sustainability: supporting the protection of our environment and working closely with local groups to support nature recovery, planting for wildlife, reducing river pollution, and developing information events on green energy and efficiency.

Community Engagement: helping our community groups and traders; supporting the development of initiatives in health provision, youth activities, and social welfare.

Heritage: enhancing the value that our historic town of Modbury has for the community and visitors.

Finance: making sure that public money is used cost effectively and for the benefit of all our residents.

Parish councillors are committed volunteers, with a passion for the whole of Modbury. We have four vacancies on the council and if you are interested in being involved in any of the above or would like more information, we would love to talk to you.

Parish councillors are available at the Saturday morning clinic between 10 and 11am in the parish office or you can email us or send a message via our website.

The Parish Clerk is available every week in the Parish Office on Tuesday or Wednesday.

You are also welcome to come to our monthly meetings on the first Tuesday of each month at 7pm in the MARS Pavilion at the Queen Elizabeth II Recreation ground on Chatwell Lane.

Sarah Wyatt



Modbury Parish Councillors helping with last year's Modbury's Marvellous Makeover

MODBURY MAY FAIR

CARNIVAL

SATURDAY 9TH MAY, 4PM

AHOY, FAMILIES!

GATHER YOUR CREW, DRESS LIKE PIRATES, AND JOIN
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ENTRY FORMS FROM MARCHAND PETIT



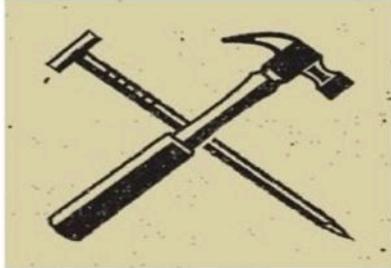


Christmas Lights!

The Christmas Lights team AGM will be convened at 7pm on Wednesday 4th March in the Exeter Inn. If you want to drop in to find out how it works and indulge in some elf banter, you would be welcome.

Meanwhile the elf-pool could do with some reinforcement, so if you are able to spare a couple of hours on occasional Autumn weekend mornings to hold a ladder, count bulbs in the grotto, or carry lights up and down Modbury, please get in touch – tp@lordprice.com. We do try to have fun and whistle while we work!

Tony Price



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SCAN ME

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ALL PERFORMANCE MATERIALS ARE ALSO SUPPORTED BY MTI WWW.MTISHOWS.CO.UK

PAUSE FOR THOUGHT

Shake off the frost, March is here! It's time to get outside and step into this new month with energy and trusting in the seeds that you have planted. Our days and nights are almost equal now, and we can see nature fully awakening everywhere, with daffodils in full bloom, birdsongs at their peak, frogspawn filling ponds and bumblebees filling the spaces in between.

If you're still not feeling the energy of March, I encourage you to have a little spring clean, we have to sometimes let go of the old so that we can welcome in the new. So grab a bag and spend some time this month gifting your treasures to lucky friends, shops on the high street, like the Shop at the Top and St Luke's.

Maybe there's a book you know your friend would love to read that's just sat on your shelf?

Maybe your cupboards are full with ingredients that you no longer need after Christmas, could you make a cake and share it with your neighbours?

Have you thought of anything else that you would like to let go of?

How would you like to bring more energy and lightness into your days?

Can you listen out for three different bird songs today?

Remember small shifts can lead to big changes,

Big hugs,

Becky Hickman and the Wellness Warriors Team

PLYMOUTH UKRAINE MEDICAL AID (PUMA)

Ukraine continues to suffer under the Russian onslaught, but PUMA, a non-profit organisation based in Plymouth and the South Hams, consisting entirely of volunteers, continues collecting Medical and Humanitarian Aid and delivering it personally to Ukraine. Their aim is to improve the lives affected by this terrible war.



The outcome of this conflict WILL affect all of us!

At the start, PUMA was taking one or two transit vans every 3 months filled with aid to Ukraine and now they are sending an articulated lorry every 5-6 weeks. (You may have seen them featured on local news several times in recent years.)

'YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE'

The location of 'Hubs' for the collection of donated items are detailed on the PUMA website, they are then forwarded to a central warehouse in Vospers, Plymouth where they are boxed, palletted and labelled according to the destination. Once in Ukraine, it is received personally by three wonderful people, Sergi, Victoria and Dima who temporarily store it in a warehouse in Uzhorods, before sending it by Novaposta to the needed areas – The frontline, hospitals, orphanages, schools, internally-displaced people shelters and the elderly. These are situated all over Ukraine. The cost of the lorry is £3000 plus £30 a day for storage in Ukraine, plus payment for the onward transport.

PUMA collects clothes - preferably new or nearly new, especially new underwear, hygiene and sanitary products, food, baby milk, nappies, tinned meat, toothpaste, soap, shampoo - in effect anything that is needed for daily living.

At the moment, it is below freezing in Ukraine and the soldiers are enduring harsh conditions in their dugouts. Thermal clothes, thick socks, hand and feet warmers, sleeping bags, insulated mats, boots, portable stoves and gas as well as large adult wet wipes (as there is no water) in fact anything that can make their lives more bearable.

The military are in desperate need of battery-powered tools, socket sets, torches and head torches if any of you have any spare.

'YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE'

Due to the generosity of people, PUMA managed to buy three generators that have now been delivered to the military and are used to charge their drone batteries, radios and telephones, as well as provide them with some light.

The people of Ukraine are going through the hardest times of their lives and PUMA hope to help make things a little better for them.

'YOU TOO CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE...'

...BUT HOW?

To find out how you can make a difference a meeting will be held on **Thursday 5th March 2026 at 7pm in the Memorial Hall, Modbury** when a short presentation will be given by one of the PUMA volunteers. From this, hopefully, we can consider how Modbury can further help the people of Ukraine.

(More details can be found by going to the PUMA website at:- <https://plymouthpuma.co.uk/> and Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61552474254035>)

Thank you.

Mervyn Kettle & Peter Preston



Ivybridge u3a General Meeting

Monday 16th March 2026

2.00: pm at the Watermark Centre

Our guest speaker will be Alex Leger, whose talk is entitled "I bet this never happened to you". Alex will recall his fascinating, and sometimes bizarre, experiences whilst filming around the globe for the BBC. These will include encounters with Amazonian Indians as well as stone-throwing crowds in Cameroon. There were visits to the remotest islands and adventures tackling the Mount Washington cog railway. Almost anything can go wrong at any time.

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

Roy Little



Modbury History Society

The next meeting of Modbury History Society will be held at 7.30pm on Tuesday, 10th March 2026 when Gail Ham of the Dartmouth History Research Group will talk about Dartmouth in the Second World War. The following meeting will be on 14th April.

The History Society meets at the MARS Pavilion, QEII Recreation Ground in Chatwell Lane, Modbury PL21 0FS, where there is ample parking. The current series of eight lectures started in September. Membership of the society is £20 per annum, but guests are welcome to attend individual meetings for a fee of £5.

Please look at the Modbury Heritage website, which is a comprehensive database with a wealth of information about the town including historic photographs, a walking guide and parish records of use to family historians. www.modbury-heritage.co.uk

For further information please contact rosiejane.parker@gmail.com

Rosemary Parker



Holbeton Film Club

March's film is **Juror #2** (certificate 12A), directed by Clint Eastwood. A juror for a high-profile murder trial finds himself struggling with a serious moral dilemma that could influence the verdict and potentially convict, or free, the accused killer.

This is screening on **Saturday 14th March 2026** in Holbeton Village Hall. Doors open 7:00 pm and the programme starts at 7:30 pm.

Tickets on the door are £4 for adults and £2 for accompanied children under 12 (card or cash). Ice creams are on sale for £1. Bring your own alcohol if you wish.

Our programme continues with:

Wicked, PG
Ocean with David Attenborough, PG
Sing Sing, 15

Friday 10th April
Saturday 9th May
Friday 12th June

01752 830274, harryluson@gmail.com <https://holbetonfilmclub.com/>

Harry Baumer



It's that time again ... for Modbury's Marvellous Makeover

18th & 19th April 2026
10-4pm

**Please join us as we are so proud of our town
and want to spruce it up for the summer**

We need help with ...

**Weeding, Cleaning, Planting, Window Cleaning,
Sign Cleaning & Flag Flying around our town**

**We also need help with painting and
tidivating Modbury**

**If there are groups who would like to do specific
tasks please contact us in advance, otherwise we
will allocate tasks on the day.**

Please contact:

Duncan Currall at dc.enterprises@hotmail.co.uk

Or Siân Walker-McAllister at sian.walker-mcallister@outlook.com

**On 18/19 April we will meet outside the Parish
Council Offices in Church Street Modbury
where there will be ample supplies of
cleaning equipment & High-Vis Gilets**



Modbury and South Hams Creative Writing Group

The Modbury and South Hams Creative Writing Group meet every month to read and discuss our work.

Below is a submission which one of our members brought to our last meeting. The theme was 'Changes'. The poem below reflects on how our communication with each other has changed over time. You may or may not understand it, depending on your age!

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 .

Phone 07767 393802.



A Message to My Younger Self

Lmao Lol 😂

U bought stamps for these convos

U walked to a postbx

Then u hadda w8

4 yr BF or fam? 🙄

Amirite. Harsh

Imho it dont work 4 me

TLTR bro 🙄

And U did it in pen

The msg on paper

U didnt DM it

Y didnt u F/t

C the ppl you ❤️

Or sext even lol

If u were apart?

Cos u cudnt

Back in the day

Hoas, keep them

4 L8er, 4 50 yrs

So u can still read them

Undeleted

When u r boomer 🙄

And know u were loved. ❤️

So slay. So sick.

Amanda Field

Open Gardens Modbury Town Improvement Charity

Invite you to
open your garden up to the public
for one day only

People love to mooch around the gardens of Modbury, seeing the town from a different perspective and admiring your hard work. If you would like to open your garden - it doesn't have to be a Gardener's World masterpiece - it could be full of lovely garden art, have a pond, be a wildflower or wild nature haven, we'd be delighted to hear from you.

This is a fundraising event on
Sunday 7th June 2:00 pm-5:00 pm

Please send your contact details to

sarahannewyatt@yahoo.co.uk

call for more information 07794662903



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Parish Council
KRP
Kingston Ramp Project

Help us turn Kingston's
tired skatepark into a
vibrant COMMUNITY space!

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@Kingston_Ramp_Project

To learn more and find out the different
ways in which you can help, scan the QR
code below to visit our Crowdfunder page!

SCAN ME!

RBL ANNUAL CONFERENCE

On Wednesday 21st January, I, as Branch Secretary, Branch Support Officer and Branch Standard Bearer attended the Royal British Legion Torbay Group meeting in Paignton, promoting what Modbury Branch has done during Remembrance time. Then, on Saturday 24 January, I was again on the road to South Molton, North Devon in the same capacity to attend the RBL Annual Devon County Conference. This started with the Parade of Standards and then the Exhortation before a welcome from the North Devon MP, Mr Ian Roome, and then the individual County Officers gave their annual reports. After lunch, I had to leave in order to be back for the Modbury Wassail but, before departing, I was able to make a Bible presentation to Rear Admiral Chris Snow who was retiring as the RBL Devon County President after 3 years.



David Scott





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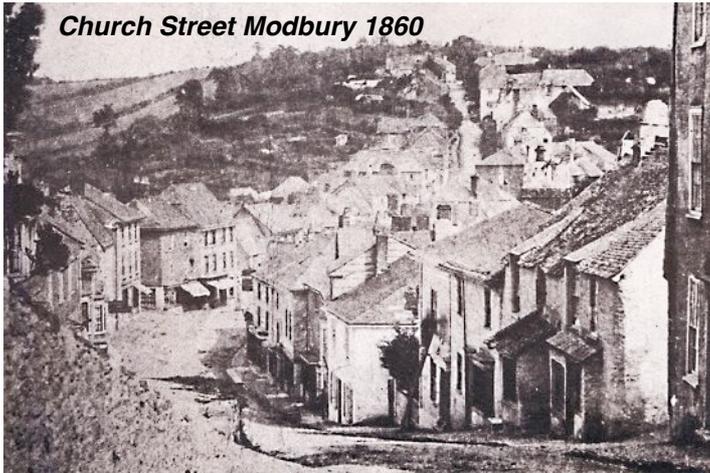
www.aunevalleymeat.co.uk



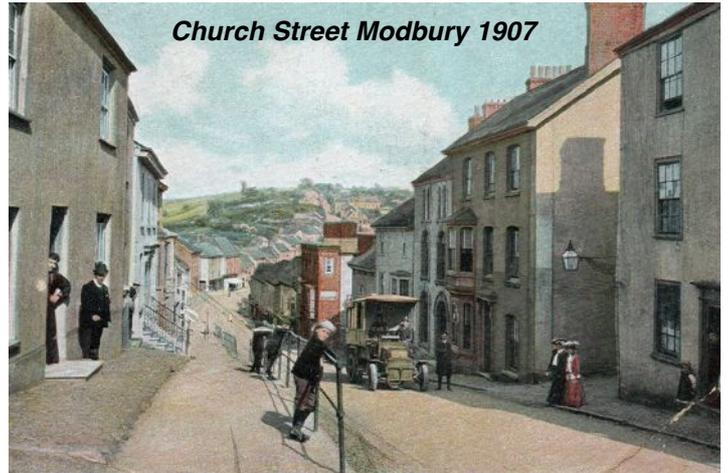
History Corner

This month, we have some photographs looking down Church Street, from the earliest known of c.1860 to a postcard from 1930.

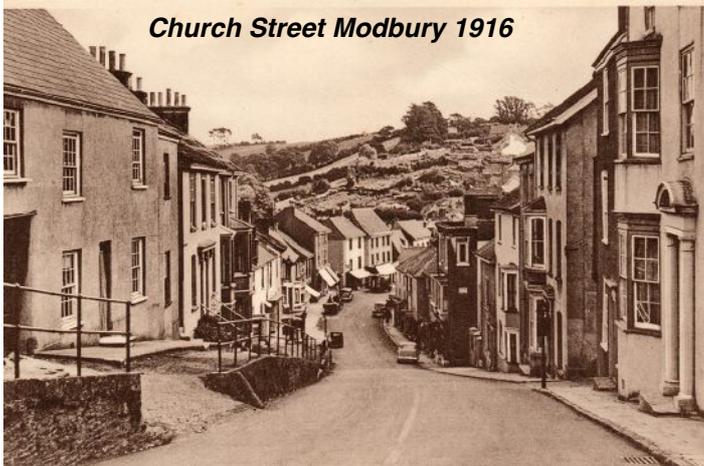
Church Street was not always the main road through the town as from Norman times the Manor House, later the magnificent Champernowne House, and Priory stood at the top of the hill blocking any through route, so the road skirted around the back of the town along what is now Church Lane. In 1705, the last parts of the demolished house (wrecked during the Civil War) were sold off for building material and the road could proceed over the top. Then in 1820, the old market buildings at the Brownston Street crossroads were demolished, the New Road was built and the road surface on the hill much improved so that it became the main through road, as it is now.



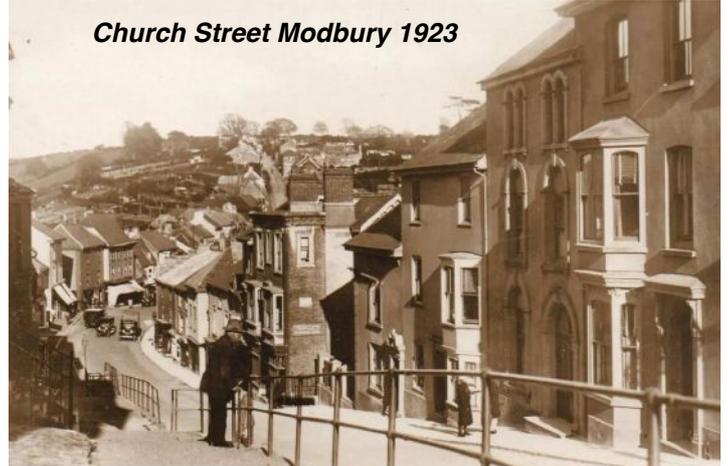
Church Street Modbury 1860



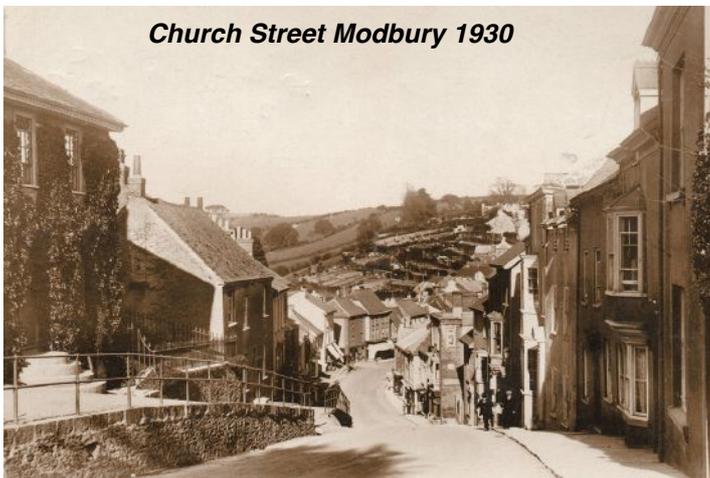
Church Street Modbury 1907



Church Street Modbury 1916



Church Street Modbury 1923



Church Street Modbury 1930



Church Street in the snow

Let us know if you can tell when the picture of Church Street in the snow was taken. Perhaps you can use the other photos to work out the answer.

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0785 232 6786 email tpcf.flint@btinternet.com

War in Modbury



No, these were not Royalist troops running away down Modbury's Runaway Lane, nor the Wellness Warriors, nor the Toy Soldier Shop occupants getting restless, (although Gerry was a combatant); this was a new type of war game that is beginning to catch on in the UK. Five perfectly normal Modbury grownups were getting together using model soldiers to stage a Napoleonic battle, and specifically an engagement during General Sir John Moore's retreat to Corunna in Spain in the winter of 1808/09. Phil Smith, as the British Major-General De Vere Smythe, was tasked with using his rearguard to hold off the enemy whilst Steve Dawe, as leader of the French invasion force, attempted to brush them aside and defeat the Peninsula army before they escaped. Napoleon had been heading the massive French force into Spain, forcing Moore to retreat over 250 miles through mountains in freezing conditions. Fittingly, when I arrived at Steve and Simone's house where the battle was to be staged, the weather in Modbury was very similar to that experienced by the two armies - wet and cold. In 1809, the British rearguard did indeed hold off the French, allowing most of the army to be evacuated by the Royal Navy (although Sir John was killed in the battle). In this game, Phil had our Toy Soldier guru, Gerry McAllister, to assist him, and Steve had John Slater and Richard Chapman to help him overrun the British. This was Richard's first game, a rookie soldier indeed.

By the time I arrived, a realistic battlefield was laid out on a large table of about 2x1 metres covered by green baize with several hills, trees, some rough ground, buildings and graveyards, and a village beyond a road. I was told that in this re-enactment, the outcome would be far from clear, as the battalions of model soldiers were moved according to throws of dice, and positional decisions were made by the two commanders and their subordinates. I was invited to partake in the battle, which I was told may not even finish that day, but as I wasn't available all day, had narrowly missed out on National Service, hadn't joined the CCF at school due to the irritant khaki hair shirt, and as my dad was not in action, but in charge of a Royal Army Medical Corps Hospital in WWII and not fighting, I demurred and instead watched as it began.

Using dice, cards and counters, the Generals began to position their troops for the start of the battle. This led to the battlefield soon being partially covered by battalions of soldiers (small, about 15mm tall). These were of all ranks and types – generals, cavalry, infantry with swords and rifles, and artillery units. Also on the baize were the unrevealed small playing cards (on the British defence side only), and a few green counters. The hills, trees and buildings between the two armies meant that the armies couldn't see each other until there was a genuine clear line of sight. On the throw of a dice, or revealing a card, a player could move a battalion or smaller group or their artillery a varying distance and direction, accurately measured with a tape measure. This was when I realised that this was a very serious enactment! The French army would have a chance to move as many or few of the troops that they wished, and in which direction, depending on the dice, without knowing what enemy unit they now immediately faced, if any. When that move was completed the card would be revealed – this could be a bluff, or a heavy gun placement etc. which would eliminate them! After all their actions had taken place, it was then the turn of the British, and so on.

Gradually the battle progressed with some French troops gaining the hills, giving them, for instance, lines of sight on the defending British troops, while others found themselves facing a solid barrage and losses when a card was revealed.

Cont. on p. 24





Towards the end of the battle

Disappointingly I had to leave after two hours of fighting, as at home in real time we were hosting my grandson Torin's first birthday, and I feared death was more likely if I didn't make it home. I'm told that the French prevailed with serious losses but managed to cross the road and get behind the British troops cutting off their retreat. Thankfully, this was not what happened in real life. History was never my strong subject at school, but if we'd had such War Games in those days it might have been.

Interestingly as I write this, two items have just popped up in the news:

1. In the current **The Week** Magazine, there is a long article ("Nottingham: the wargames capital of the world") about this new craze that seems to be gaining popularity. In Nottingham, the city's biggest employer second only to *Boots*, *the Chemist*, is Games Workshop, a firm that makes and sells War Games equipment.
2. A BBC TV report: 'Hull Dad starts Wargaming Club for men's mental health'. The video shows their first night with a game in progress - over twenty men turned up.

John Bower



If you are interested in the Modbury Masters War Gaming Club then visit

<https://modburymasters.co.uk/> where you can join the club.

Next meeting: March meetup 7:00 pm 10th March 2026

The White Hart Hotel in Modbury. 2 Church Street, Modbury, Ivybridge PL21 0QW

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An Evening of Choral and Orchestral Masterpieces at St George's, Modbury

Music lovers in Modbury and the surrounding area are in for a rare and uplifting treat this spring, as the Stanborough Chorus presents an evening of choral and instrumental masterpieces in the beautiful setting of St George's Church on **Saturday 18th April 2026 at 7:30 pm.**

The programme brings together works of striking contrast and emotional depth. At its heart is **Leonard Bernstein's Chichester Psalms** – a vibrant and deeply moving setting of the Psalms, sung in Hebrew and accompanied by a professional harpist. Renowned for its rhythmic vitality, lyrical beauty, and movements of profound stillness, Bernstein's unique musical voice blends classical tradition with modern energy, in a work that speaks directly to performers and audiences alike.

To complement this is **Haydn's Maria Theresa Mass**, a glorious example of the composer at the height of his powers. Full of joy, elegance and expressive drama, the mass will be performed with orchestral accompaniment and soloists, bringing a richness of colour and texture that truly fills the space.

We then add an intimate chamber music dimension to the evening, a string quartet will perform **Dvorak's String Quartet No. 12, The American**. Written during the composer's time in the United States, this much-loved work is celebrated for its warmth, optimism and folk inspired melodies.

The concert promises a compelling blend of choral grandeur and chamber music intimacy, performed by local musicians alongside professional instrumentalists and soloists. Whether you regularly attend concerts or are new to live classical music, this is an opportunity to experience powerful, life-affirming music in one of South Devon's most atmospheric venues.

Stanborough Chorus warmly invites the community to join them for what promises to be a memorable musical evening.

Tickets £18 (free for under 18's). Available from Kingsbridge Information Centre, Modbury Post Office, Stanborough Chorus website, or pay on the door.

Karen Findlay

Photograph copyright Mike Wynne Powell



Stanborough Chorus

40th Anniversary Season

HAYDN – MARIA THERESA MASS

and

BERNSTEIN – CHICHESTER PSALMS

Saturday 18th April @ 7:30pm, St George's Church Modbury

Conductor Trefor Farrow

ORCHESTRA LEADER – KARIN LEISHMAN

SOPRANO – HELEN HAVILAND

ALTO – REBECCA SQUIRE

TENOR – MARK HOUNSELL

BASS – JOHN HOBBS

COUNTER-TENOR – OLIVER DONEY

HARP – ELIZABETH JANE BALDRY

Tickets £18/ under-18s free: available from all choir members;

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More Warriors in our High Street

Not only have we in Modbury the only Toy Soldier Shop left in Britain, but "Wellness Warriors Yoga Studio" led by Becky Hickman which opened on Broad Street a year ago. As she has written two 'Pause for Thought' pieces for the Messenger, I thought I should go and find out about this latest new business venture. I popped in one Saturday morning in my Hi-Vis jacket, having just finished helping taking down Modbury Christmas Lights, to find an orderly queue patiently waiting in the narrow yard for the door to open. Becky's partner, Andy Williams, appeared and enthusiastically informed me that there was a "hot yoga retreat day" happening, and we fixed up a subsequent date with Becky.

Several days later, I arrived in the same approach area behind the clearly labelled gate on Broad Street to meet Becky and her mum who was there on childcare duty, as Becky and Andy have a 6-month-old son, Finn. Becky is a delightful young lady with a lot of experience in wellness. She has been teaching and practising yoga for seven years now and started to hold sessions in Modbury at Bombers Physical Training Centre. It wasn't long before she decided she wanted her own facility, so opened here in September 2024.

The entrance yard is small and narrow, but what a surprise on entering her premises; the first welcoming room is an immaculate small reception area combined with a shop. That was a surprise, but it is beautifully laid out, offering yoga equipment and also clothes, which come with Wellness Warrior logos on them. The shop also sells books, candles, crystals, and children's games (including Poo Bingo, and Fart Bingo – the mind boggles). Becky explained that her philosophy is offering a 360-degree of wellness, from breathing exercises, mindfulness, slowing down, writing, and generally taking care of yourself.



Becky showed me the weekly timetable full of 24 sessions with yoga, pilates, and several session names that were news to me such as Vinyasa, Forrest Yoga, Bottle Rocket, Monthly Journaling and more. There is a monthly membership offering, that costs £79 per month and that includes three sessions a week. Extras are payable at the time, but some, such as breathing exercises and journaling, are free for the monthly members.

Although Becky takes some of these sessions herself, she also has some ten or so other teachers coming in to take their specialist sessions. "But where and how does all this activity take place?" I asked, "as there doesn't seem room here", so Becky introduced me to her studio room behind a beautifully carved door at the back of the shop.

And was I surprised? Any Dr Who fan will understand if I call this room a "Tardis". It is enormous and so beautifully planned out, decorated and tastefully lit. There was low, gentle music playing, a lovely scent pervaded the warm air, and an artificial wood burner gave a welcoming glow. There is no doubt that this lovely room will encourage participants to fully indulge in whatever session they are attending. The extra space comes from a large part of the previous Pickles hardware shop being incorporated into the Wellness Centre, and easily accommodates around twelve people. Apparently, Andy is a joiner and is responsible for the redesign, alterations, woodwork and general conversion of the premises into what they are today.

Cont. on p.28

More Warriors in our High Street (cont.)

To give Becky time to be with Finn, the shop, for sales and enquiries, is currently open only from Thursday to Saturday from 10am to 3pm. However, there is a timetable of classes available, and these take place every day, Monday to Sunday from 7:00 am to 7:30 pm.

I left Becky, her mum and Finn to attend to their other responsibilities, having been surprised yet again about what goes on in the hidden places in Modbury behind the numerous small doors, gates and alleyways that pervade our town

Wellness Warriors Yoga Studio,
2c Broad Street, Modbury, PL21 0PS

Email:
Becky@wellnesswarriorsyogastudio.co.uk

Website: www.wellnesswarriorsyogastudio.co.uk



John Bower



Meditational Circle Dance in Modbury

Friday afternoons
2:45 – 4:30 pm

At the MARS Pavillion,
Queen Elizabeth II Recreation Ground

£7 pay as you go
Contact Jenny 07787786594

New beginners' classes started in January!

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ANOTHER INDUCTION – AUNE VALLEY

On Monday 2nd February I was at All Saints Church, Thurlestone, for another Induction Installation service for Rev. Philip Osler who has rejoined the Aune Valley Mission Community.

In my capacity as the Woodleigh Dean, overseeing 30 parishes in the Woodleigh Deanery, I am seen presenting the new incumbent with a Good News for Everyone Presentation Bible.

David Scott



**Modbury Branch
Royal British Legion**

The next Meeting of the Modbury and District Branch of the Royal British Legion will be our next Business Meeting on Wednesday 1st April at 7:30 pm.

All are welcome.

David Scott

INTENDED MONTHLY FLAG HOIST AT PALM CROSS GREEN - March

Date	Masthead	Starboard Yard (Plymouth) - West	Port Yard (Modbury) - East	Event
01	Welsh Dragon	St David's Cross	DAV11 st sub	St David Day
02	White Ensign	Exeter Flag	1942	84th anniv HMS EXETER sinking
9	Commonwealth Flag	CMWETH	201 st sub4	Commonwealth Day 2024
17	Northern Ireland	St Patrick Cross	PATRIK	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



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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)
1/8 page	45mm x 65mm	£30	£26	£16	£192
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

The Modbury Messenger is an all colour publication, no preferential rates for black & white advertisements.

To advertise in the Modbury Messenger, contact the Editor, Lynne Barnes, via email on modburymessengercic@gmail.com with details of the size of the advert and how many months you wish to advertise for.

Modbury Messenger April 2026

The copy date for the April 2026 Modbury Messenger is **10th March**. Please email all articles, notices of events and paid advertisements to modburymessengercic@gmail.com.

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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 CIC: Diana Lynne Barnes & Bernard Taylor.

Company Secretary: George Rosevear FCIS.

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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