



MODBURY MESSENGER

AUGUST



For the People of Modbury & Brownston

Volume 26, Issue 329 - August 2026

I'm a Cub Scout, Get Me Out of Here!



Perfect conditions on Haytor

So, there we all were, 22 Cubs, 5 leaders, marooned deep in tropical jungle, at the foot of Haytor. Our mission was to complete many challenges, survive two days and nights in a muddy site, eating 'exotic food' (see menu below), and escape.

The leadership team had spent the previous week anxiously watching the weather forecast and looking at rain through our windows, but luck was with us; the sun came out and stayed with us the whole weekend, ensuring no soggy, cold and miserable Cubs. I think this is the first camp since I came to Modbury when it has not been too hot, too wet or too windy, or sometimes all three in two days!

Our adventure is continued on p. 3

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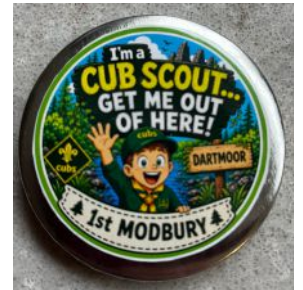
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I'm a Cub Scout, Get Me Out of Here! (cont. from front page)

The four Cub tribes were assigned Jungle names – Amazon, Choco, Congo and Kinabalu, and competed for points throughout the weekend. Points were allocated for listening, making a big effort, teamwork, washing up without flooding the kitchen, being kind and helpful, etc.



I am pleased to say we all survived and made it home, and we have to confess to having had a wonderful weekend with fantastic food. We climbed Haytor twice (investing 3 new Cubs on the first evening at sunset), and the Cubs learnt morse code, compass and map skills, built a platform out of wood and rope, and treated a 'patient' with heat stroke, dehydration and a nasty gash to the leg. They improvised a stretcher, made a shelter, solved puzzles in an escape room-style game in the woodland, and completed a steady 3-hour hike on the last day. They also made a Colombian sweet called 'Joy', which they took for their snack near Haytor quarry the next day. And, of course, there were many games, and songs, with some 'better forgotten' performances round the campfire!

One highlight was a visit from Chris (*Animal Encounters*) on Saturday afternoon who displayed his snakes, skink, tortoise, beetles, armadillo and more. He was incredibly knowledgeable, great with the Cubs, and answered their many questions, showing them where the various creatures came from on our world map.

We finished the weekend with a short closing ceremony where badges, paper plate awards (see pic), and head torches for the winning team were given out. Parents then removed their grubby and exhausted little people who all needed a scrub in a shower before a long overdue good night's sleep.

Thanks go to all who made this happen: leaders, parents and, of course, the Cubs themselves. We hope they have all learnt a lot and made friendships and memories for life.

Mowgli, on behalf of Baloo, Chil, Guacamaya, Dave and Ant



cubs

Paper plate awards



Animal encounters

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JOANNA COOKE & PANDA HILL

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

Saturday 17th October

- Adult only event.
- Doors open 6:30pm.
- Live music starts from 7:30pm.
- Cash bar & raffle prizes.
- Tickets £18 per person.
- Available from Modbury Post Office or Via QR code / Link.



<https://www.zeffy.com/en-GB/ticketing/modburys-music-night-in-aid-of-lunas-fund>

Joanna Cooke's soulful, emotionally charged vocals have earned her millions of streams and Radio 1 airplay. A voice that drips with Soul! She's supported Tom Jones, Paloma Faith, Jess Glynne & many more stars. Accompanied by her also amazing partner, Nathan on guitar.

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RINGMORE FAIR

IN AID OF RINGMORE VILLAGE ORGANISATIONS

29th, 30th, 31st August 2026

Large marquee with integral dance floor in field on road from Ringmore to Challaborough
Free parking nearby in field off Cockle Lane and disabled parking in marquee field
Portaloos Card / Cash

SATURDAY 29th Aug

6.30 - 11pm CEILIDH dance with Ringmore Band plus caller
£20 pp (£5 < 16yrs) Including food
8 - 10pm Hog Roast / Vegetarian option & Sweet bites
Licensed bar Raffle

SUNDAY 30th Aug

10.30 - 11.30am All ages CAFÉ CHURCH with the Rev. Oli Long
(Free croissants + coffee)

4 - 7pm **£16 pp** JUST MISBEHAVIN' BAND
with Dancing & Workshop if desired & History of Swing presentation with 'Mad About Swing'
Gate opens 3 pm Bring own nibbles Licensed bar

MONDAY 31st Aug FETE **£2 ENTRY (£1 < 16yrs)**

12 - 4pm 13+ stalls including homemade cakes & Devon crafts
Face painting Free Traditional games Bigbury shanty chorus
Langage farm ice cream Cream teas Catering van Licensed bar
1pm-2pm Bigbury Bay Pizza (whole or slices)

For tickets, in advance only, for Saturday (with food choices) & Sunday (band), contact Heather on 01548 714631 / 07876522934; heather.hinkley@sky.com

A Reality Check on the Devon Coast & Countryside Unitary Authority

An already bad situation has just taken a turn for the worse. The Local Government Reorganisation announcement on 16th July has created four new Unitary Authorities – Greater Plymouth, Greater Exeter, Greater Torbay and the 'rest;.....the Devon Coast & Countryside (DC&C). Salcombe Division will fall within the Devon Coast and Countryside Unitary Authority. Elections for Unitary Councillors will be held in May 2027. A Shadow Unitary Council will sit alongside the two existing tiers of councils (Devon County Council and all the District Councils e.g. SHDC) for one year (May 27 to May 28). In May 2028, Devon County Council will cease to exist, as will all the District Councils, Councillors and Officers. From May 28, there will probably be just one Unitary Councillor serving the 16 parishes of the Salcombe Division, whereas this Division is currently served by one County Councillor and five District Councillors. The actual numbers will be confirmed this autumn.

The existential crisis is that the DC&C Unitary will have insufficient council tax revenues to provide basic services across a very large geographical area. This is because the high revenue bases, tax payers in Exeter, Plymouth and Torbay, now fall within the remit of the three 'greater' urban-based authorities where services are less expensive to deliver because they are concentrated in a smaller area. Providing services across the vast, rural area of DC&C is extraordinarily more expensive than the same services within an urban centre. This Government has already removed the £10.1 million annual **Rural Services Delivery Grant** from Devon County Council to 'repurpose funds toward areas of higher deprivation' – in urban areas. The gap between urban and rural communities has just widened.

The inability of the Devon County Council to provide services to the level that it needs to, has always been entirely due to insufficient funds. Most people understand that the main driver for this unfair situation has been the exceptionally unjust cuts to the annual government grant to DCC. These have amounted to cuts of 72% in real terms since 2011.

I have spent a huge amount of time since I was elected, exploring this deficit in relation to pothole repairs. I have concluded that community self-help schemes are the only opportunity we have to reduce the impact of the cuts on the lives of people in rural and coastal communities. The lesson I have learned is that whilst others above our pay grade debate the outcome of Judicial Reviews – those of us at the coal face are going to have to do what is possible to mitigate the impact.

Bearing in mind that this seemingly impossible task will fall on the shoulders officers who already have a full-time job, running services and keeping the existing show on the road – this is a very big call on individuals who are unlikely to ever be acknowledged or thanked by tax payers. Some will take their redundancy money and not want to be re-employed by DC&C because they know that model is doomed to failure. We could lose

some of the institutional knowledge and expertise that will be needed to make the best possible use of the even more limited funds available. These are rare people, not easily replaced.

So, what can we do? We must look for opportunities, recognise our strengths as well as our weaknesses - and make the best possible plan. I believe parish and town councils will play an increasingly important role. I have been appointed to the DCC Local Government Reorganisation Scrutiny Group which has the responsibility of acting as a sounding board for the hand-over strategy from DCC to DC&C Authority.

I will be organising further Salcombe Division Assemblies in October to help bring the 16 parish and town councils together to discuss how they want to be involved in Local Hubs and the Neighbourhood Area Committees. Where there is a will, there is a way.

Cllr Louise Wainwright
Salcombe Electoral Division



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Modbury Cricket Club August Fixtures

Modbury Cricket Club have enjoyed a run of good results in recent weeks, with some strong performances and plenty of fine village cricket along the way.

August is a busy month, with fixtures as follows:

Sun 2 Aug, 2:00pm – Modbury CC v South Brent CC
Wed 5 Aug, 5:30pm – Harberton CC v Modbury CC 20/20
Sun 9 Aug, 2:00pm – Elephant's Nest CC v Modbury CC
Thu 13 Aug, 6:00pm – Modbury CC v Kingsbridge CC 20/20
Fri 21 Aug, 6:00pm – Wembury CC v Modbury CC 20/20
Sun 23 Aug, 1:30pm – Modbury CC v Stoke Fleming CC
Sun 30 Aug, 2:00pm – East Prawle CC v Modbury CC

Spectators are warmly welcome at home fixtures, and new players are always welcome too — whether experienced, returning, or simply cricket-curious.

For fixtures, results, humorous match reports and club news, visit modburycc.co.uk.



Howard Williams

Parish Paths Partnership (P3) Latest News

Since our last article for the June Messenger, the new P3 team has been busy maintaining our public rights of way.

Each member of the team has been given a path or paths to monitor and maintain and is reporting any major problems so that they can be addressed during monthly work parties.

The first of these was on 28th May, a second on 11th June and a third on 28th June. All the parish's footpath routes and infrastructure have been kept clear for walkers with the exception of FP3 (East). The latter is the final stretch from Broad Park to Brownston which is beyond the current capacity of the team and has been referred to Devon County Council (DCC).

The next work party is scheduled for Sunday 2nd August, when we hope to work on the western end of FP4 at Orcheton. We are also shortly to hold trimmer training for team members, paid for by DCC.



We are always looking for more help with these tasks, so if you have a love of our countryside and would like the social side of being involved in this much-valued service, please let the Parish Clerk know that you would like to join the team. You will be most welcome!

If you are unsure where the path network can take you, we have a large supply of information leaflets/maps in the parish office and you can also find detailed information at www.visitmodbury.co.uk/walks

Phil Smith, Modbury Parish Council

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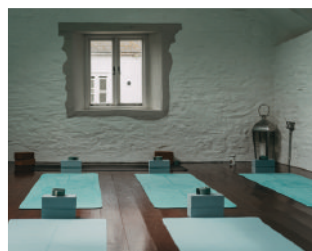


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Lloyds Bank Reinvented



Not being a Lloyds' customer, I had never walked into what was Modbury's Lloyds Bank, but appreciated that it was a large and important building on our High Street. The bank closed in 2012, and it seemed to me that nothing much had happened with the premises since then, so I wandered in one day to buy a birthday card and have a look around. I was amazed at both the size of the shop, and also the sheer scope of what was on sale, and asked Carys, the owner, if I could make an appointment to have a chat about her Mewstone Home and Candle Company.

Carys Wheatland-Jukes was born in Shropshire, but the family moved to Noss Mayo where her father was a local farm manager. She attended Ivybridge Community College, disliked schoolwork, but excelled at sport, especially hockey, and played at Championship level for England Schoolgirls. Her interest was in Marketing and Design, and she pursued this interest in the Motor Trade to start with, then latterly a career within the franchise industry. However, it was her love of design that led her into the production of candles, home fragrance, and all things to do with home and lifestyle. Initially, she worked in the Ermington workshops, where she produced scented candles, which she wholesaled to other shops across the UK, and also online. This Modbury shop was her dream and it shows. Carys and her partner, Debs, had been wanting to purchase and move into these premises for some time, so when the opportunity presented itself, they took the plunge and bought the premises in April last year. "Mewstone Home" is open all year, 9-5, six days a week.



Carys told me she is the creative and chatty one, whilst Debs is very much the practical one, who built much of the shop shelving and displays within the space available. Behind the reception counter stood numerous small empty silver cans, each with a wick in place ready for the oil and wax mixture, which forms the candle. Nearby were larger vessels full of molten wax and Carys broke off from talking to me to add scented oil, which she stirred in. Carys has many different scented oils to add to the wax, and at the correct temperature this mixture of wax and oil is poured into the small tins and allowed to set. The cans are then decorated with beautiful labels.

On July 18th, Mewstone Home turned one year old, and there will be a celebration in the shop where a brand new range of designs was launched to mark the occasion. These designs, all created in-house, feature artwork celebrating the local



area including Wonwell, Mothecombe, Burgh Island and many more. I asked Carys to describe what this multi-faceted shop was about and she answered "Home and Lifestyle". A quick glance around shows, yes, many beautiful candles and home fragrance products combined with a quirky mix of colourful gnomes,



driftwood birds, gluggle jugs, cards, paintings, recycled plastic, home wares and much, much more. While I was there, a family came into the shop 'just to look around' and stayed looking around for half an hour or so. They eventually each bought a pair each of stylish affordable sunglasses, and their young son was obviously delighted with his. I asked them what they thought of Mewstone and they said "it's always fun coming in here, it's a sort of seaside, coastal shop." I couldn't have described it better.



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An Afternoon of Beautiful Live Music at St George's Church

Modbury Concerts is delighted to welcome the acclaimed Alegria Ensemble to St George's Church for the first time on **Sunday 6th September at 3:00pm**.



The ensemble – pianist Ricky Moreira, violinist Chloë Dickens (originally from Devon and now based in New York) and cellist Sara Juneau – will present *Three Centuries of Piano Trios*, a programme of wonderful music by Haydn, Brahms and contemporary American composer Joel Mandelbaum.

Whether you're a regular concert-goer or simply enjoy live music in a beautiful setting, this promises to be an enjoyable afternoon. The programme takes audiences on a musical journey spanning more than 200 years, from the elegance of the Classical period to the rich, romantic sound world of Brahms, finishing with music by a living composer whose work is rarely heard in concert.

The Alegria Ensemble has been warmly received by audiences across Devon and Cornwall, and Modbury Concerts is delighted to welcome them for their debut performance here.

Charles Morgan of Modbury Concerts said:

"We're thrilled to be bringing the Alegria Ensemble to Modbury for the first time. One of the aims of Modbury Concerts is to bring outstanding live classical music to our local community, and this concert promises to be a wonderful afternoon in the beautiful surroundings of St George's Church. Whether you're a lifelong music lover or simply curious to hear something new, we'd love to welcome you."

The concert takes place at **St George's Church, Modbury**, on **Sunday 6th September at 3:00pm**.

Tickets and further information are available at:

<https://www.plymouthconcerts.com/event-details/modbury-the-alegria-trio-perform-three-centuries-of-piano-trios>

We look forward to welcoming you.

Lin Arigho-Dickens



Mount Folly Farm Has Gone Egg Mad

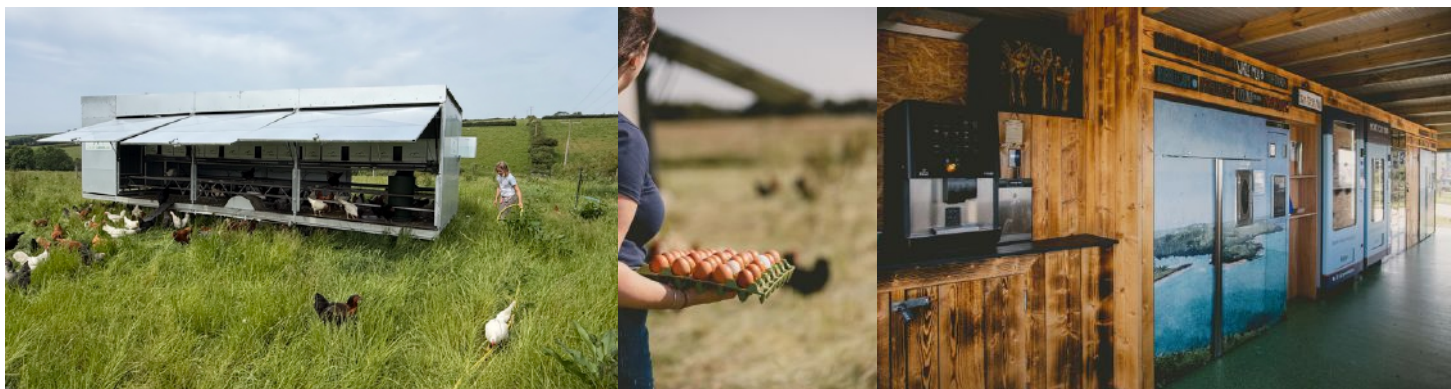
After Mount Folly Farm bought a new, Australian designed 'chicken caravan', their new flock of organic chooks are properly settled in and laying flat out. With ten breeds of hens - Lohman Brown, White Leghorn, Redco, Rhode Rock, Copperhead Maran, Blues, Magpies, Cuckoo Maran, Emerald and Tutti Frutti - the eggs are all different colours and sizes.

The chickens are reared to organic standards, they move around the farm in a mobile house - meaning the eggs are really tasty as the chooks' diet is so varied.

The eggs are for sale in the farm vending shed lockers - available in boxes or trays, 24 hours a day.

Please come and have a look @mountfollyfarm

Cathy Case



PAUSE FOR THOUGHT

Hello, August. Take a slow breath in, filling your lungs to the very top, and a slow breath out, feeling your body slowly soften. One more time, breathe in, feel your body rise like a wave, and breathe out, allowing the breath and wave to soften into white horses. I hope you're feeling the glow of summer across your skin, the sand between your toes, and embracing the gentle hustle and bustle of families enjoying the beautiful coastline we are so lucky to call home.

This month, I have been thinking about lessons from the ocean. She is never still. Waves rise and fall, and there is this constant flow. Perhaps our lives are a little like the ocean too. Some days feel calm and glassy, while other days you're struggling to stay afloat in the white water after a surprise huge set. But, just like the ocean, there is always another wave coming. There is no permanence in our emotions or feelings, and this is also the beauty of the human experience.

So, next time you find yourself at the beach this August, sink your bum into the sand and sit and watch the waves. Notice their rise and fall, their endless ebb and flow. What might the ocean be reminding you about your own journey?



Becky Hickman and the Wellness Warriors Team



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IN SUPPORT OF
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2026

SATURDAY 8TH AUGUST
BAD ASSED BINGO!

SATURDAY 17TH OCTOBER
**— AMAZING —
MUSIC NIGHT**
with
JOANNA COOKE & PANDA HILL

2027

SATURDAY 27TH FEBRUARY
QUINTESSENTIAL QUIZ NIGHT!

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Modbury Gospel Singers


www.modburygospelsingers.org.uk

MODBURY WILDLIFE

This beautiful deer was spotted in a garden in Brownston Street recently. If you have any photos of wildlife in your garden, please send them to modburymessengercic@gmail.com for our readers to enjoy.



Meet Caroline Voaden MP in Modbury this summer



I'm hosting another surgery tour this summer, visiting over 50 communities including Modbury.

On Monday 10th August, I'll be outside The Curator, PL21 OQR between 14.45 – 15.45.

No appointment is necessary – drop by and have a chat, it would be lovely to see you!



caroline.voaden.mp@parliament.uk



01803658461

Do you want people in Modbury to know what your club or society has been doing?

Send details to modburymessengercic@gmail.com

Do you have a new business in Modbury and want to tell people what services you offer?

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We also have a good selection of marble based garden ornaments



St George's Church, Modbury

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

For St George's Parish enquiries, contact Rev. Oli Long, Vicar 01548 732344.

Date	Service	Service Leader
2nd August	Holy Communion & Kids' Church 9:30 am	Rev. Neil Barker
9th August	Holy Communion BCP 8:00 am All-Age Service 9:30 am	Rev. Simon Franklin Rev. Simon Franklin
16th August	Holy Communion & Kids' Church 9:30 am	Rev. Simon Franklin
23rd August	Sunday Worship	Rev. Simon Franklin
30th August	Team Service 10:30 am	Rev. Oli Long

CHRISTIAN COMMENT: VICTORY

I write this on the evening that England has just beaten DR Congo 2-1 in the 2026 football World Cup. We still wait to see who will be the final victors of the whole tournament.

Perhaps these next few weeks will see you on a shadeless, sun-scorched field cheering young loved ones on to win their relay or egg and spoon races. Perhaps you are wondering who will win 'class clown' or some other award in the yearbook for your final year at school (are they still a thing?).

The similarities of sports days, arbitrary awards in yearbooks (if they are, indeed, still a thing), or even a football World Cup, are that these victories are short-lived. Once the year, or the four-year cycle, has passed, someone else could win the prize. The winners do not stay the champions.

The Christian experience is a different alternative. Christians believe that even though their lives do not look particularly victorious, theirs is the victory over the greatest and strongest opponents to an altogether more serious scale. The Christian's victory comes through Christ, who overcame the power of sin, evil and death permanently. He won a victory that will never be up for grabs again. He does not have to compete to defend His title. For the Christian, the joys in life have greater sweetness, and the sorrows are faced with a certain hope.

The victory of Christ was not won by a dazzling display of skill and athleticism, but through the awkward, embarrassing conviction of a criminal sentenced to death. A victory won through such a scandalous way means that Christ Jesus is the most accessible person to those who carry a similar sense of awkwardness, shame and defeat. It is for those people that Christ came and conquered so that they could be set free and enjoy the victory forever.

To continue this discussion, why not come along to one of our services in the mission community?

Rev 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



MODBURY LUNCH CLUB

Modbury Lunch Club has been providing a hot meal and socialisation to Modbury Seniors for 30 years. We are in need of volunteer drivers to transport Seniors to and from the Memorial Hall on the last Friday of the month.

If you are able to help please contact Kim on 830594.

Kim Wells



Ivybridge u3a General Meeting

Monday August 17th

,2.00pm at

The Watermark Centre

From Druids to Drones

Andrew Thompson will speak on the archaeology of Dartmoor. The presentation will span the centuries from earliest settlement to recent discoveries.

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



In memory of Sue Wright

Sue died peacefully on Friday 19th June 2026.

Born in Roborough, she subsequently moved away, but always felt South Devon was her home. She lived in Modbury for over 20 years, at first with her husband, John, who died a few years ago. She made numerous friends among the members of the many clubs and social groups she belonged to, being the treasurer of some, and also friends among St George's congregation and choir members.

In later years, she found caring for herself increasingly difficult and her daughter helped her to move to a terraced cottage in Berkshire to be nearer her family.

Sue Gandy

Modbury Masters August Meet

Modbury Masters, the local tabletop gaming club, will meet again on **Tuesday 11th August at 7pm at The White Hart Hotel, Modbury.**

The club meets on the **second Tuesday of every month** and welcomes anyone interested in board games, wargames, role-playing games, strategy games, military history, or simply an enjoyable evening with friendly people and the occasional unfortunate dice roll.

New members are always very welcome, whether you are an experienced player or completely new to the hobby. There is no need to know all the rules before coming along — just bring curiosity, good humour, and a willingness to see your finest plans undone by fate, chance, or a particularly treacherous six-sided die.

For more information, visit modburymasters.co.uk.

Howard Williams



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SUMMER KIDS CLUB

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starting on the Friday 24th July.

£8 per child or £11 for two kids use the code: Sibling



Friday 24th July
Balance Board Party
11am

Friday 31st July
Dance Party
11am

Friday 7th August
Kids Handstands and Games
11am

Friday 14th August
Poo Power -
The gut microbiome for kids
11am

Saturday 22nd August
Beach Kids yoga and Games
11am

Find us at: 2c Broad St, Modbury, PL21 0PS

Modbury Parish Council Meeting

Modbury Parish Council (MPC) Meeting Tuesday 7th July 2026

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



Report from Cllr Bernard Taylor of SHDC

We await further notice from HMG on their preferred solution to Local Government Reorganisation.

Strategic Delivery Plan

The annual update was presented on the Plan which detailed MPC's plans to implement the third phase of its four-year strategy. The details are available on the MPC website.

Bloor Homes/Palm Cross

- MPC's submission to the Ombudsman, as per the advice of our solicitors, has been made and accepted. SHDC have noted this.
- The independent traffic safety survey, by Aprica, was approved and adopted. It will be uploaded to the MPC website and submitted to SHDC and other appropriate parties

Maintenance

The report on the P3 team and maintenance of Modbury's public rights of way is published on p5 of this Modbury Messenger.

Date of next meeting: Tuesday 4th August 2026 @ 7pm

Full reports of the Annual and Parish Meetings, together with the Modbury Parish Council Annual Report are available from the Modbury Parish Council website:

<https://modburyparishcouncil.gov.uk/>

Update on Proposed New Palm Cross Development

As residents will be aware, Modbury Parish Council (MPC) commissioned our own transport report on the proposed development at Palm Cross by Bloor Homes. The report has been undertaken by Apricia Ltd, and the full report is now available and can be downloaded from our website. We have also forwarded the report to all members of the South Hams District Council Planning Committee.

The report provides an independent, detailed assessment of the highway issues relating to outline planning application 4116/24/OPA. It draws on a review of technical documents, planning policy, a site visit, and discussions with residents and MPC Councillors. Overall, the report concludes that the proposed development has not shown that safe and suitable access can be provided. It also states that the scheme would not create a joined-up, inclusive or safe transport network, and that without further measures its combined impact on local highway safety and infrastructure would be severely adverse.

MPC have also submitted a complaint to the Local Government Ombudsman about what we consider to be maladministration by South Hams District Council Development Committee. Our complaint contends that if procedures had been correctly applied the planning meeting held to review the outline application would either have been adjourned, to allow the Devon County Council Highways Officer to attend to answer questions and concerns raised, or the resultant decision for approval not been granted without significant changes to the application to address issues around access to the development, and possibly an increase in affordable housing supply agreed. Our complaint has been acknowledged by the Ombudsman and we await their comments.

A copy of the full complaint is also downloadable from our website.

As a reminder, the petition started by residents outlining their concerns regarding this development is still open and available for signature.

Barbara Price, Modbury Parish Council

walk&talk

Walks will be on 4th, 11th, 18th and 25th August.

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

DEVON RURAL ARCHIVE

Lecture: A Quartet of Devon Engineers by Colin White

Thursday 6th August, 7:00 pm - 8:30 pm



In this talk, Colin White will explore the lives and legacies of four remarkable scientist-engineers who were born, lived, and died in Devon: George Bidder (1806-1878), William Froude (1810-1879), Thomas Fowler (1777-1843) and John Lethbridge (1675-1759).

This event is part of the Devon Rural Archive's 2026 lecture series.

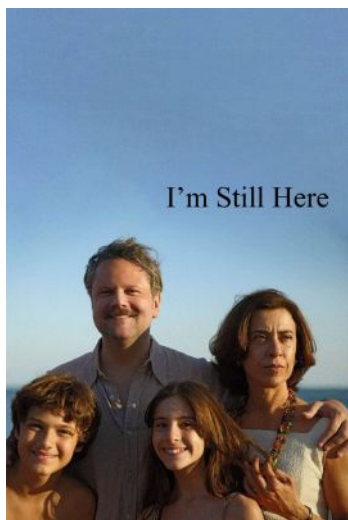
Book tickets: <https://shilstonedevon.com/whats-on/>

Devon Rural Archive, Shilstone, Modbury, Devon PL21 0TW

Jackie Close



Holbeton Film Club



August's film is **I'm still here** (certificate 15), a biographical drama based on Marcelo Rubens Paiva's memoir. Set in 1971 during Brazil's military dictatorship, this profoundly moving film follows a mother of five who must reinvent herself and fight for justice after state authorities abduct and forcibly "disappear" her husband, the dissident politician Rubens Paiva. It won the 2025 Oscar Award for Best International Feature. *Portuguese with English subtitles.*

This is screening on **Friday the 14th August 2026** in Holbeton Village Hall. **Doors open 7:00pm. The programme starts at 7:30pm.** Tickets on the door are £4 (card or cash). Ice creams are on sale for £1.

Our programme continues with:

Saturday 12th September	I swear, 15
Friday 9th October	Four Letters of Love, 12A
Saturday 14th November	The Choral, 12A
Friday 11th December	Bridget Jones: mad about the boy, 15
Saturday 9th January 2027	Hamnet, 12A

01752 830274

harryluson@gmail.com

Harry Baumer



MODBURY PARISH COUNCIL

Modbury Parish Council Office, 1 Modbury Court, PL21 0QR

Tel: 07467134225

email.parishclerk@modburyparishcouncil.gov.uk



Your Councillors are:

Bill Cole	01548 830913	
Chris Field	07836 592854	chrisfield@modburyparishcouncil.gov.uk
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 & 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

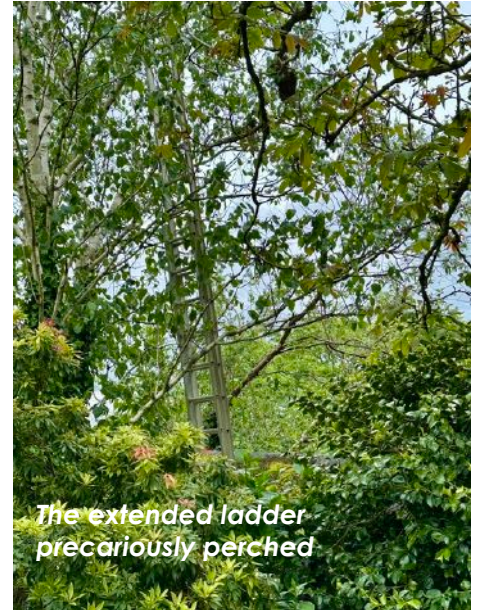
Cllr.Bernard.Taylor@southhams.gov.uk

Diary of a local Bee keeper – Swarms and Swarm-ability

The bees are in swarming mood and Justine and Duncan have been run ragged as a result

Every season is unique, with its own lessons and challenges to navigate and learn from. A bee inspector recently told me to expect the unexpected this year as the usual rules don't seem to apply any more. The new normal - warm, wet winters and hot summers have forced bee colonies to fundamentally alter their lifecycles, behaviours and foraging habits. As a result, bees are stressed and this is manifesting itself in more extreme behaviour patterns, such as an urgent need to swarm.

As far as Justine and I are concerned, swarming has reached epidemic proportions this year. Despite our best efforts to pre-empt and manage swarming events, the bees have consistently out-manoeuvred us, with some hives developing such a predilection for swarming that they have all but decimated their colonies. Back in June, just at the end of this summer's first spell of hot weather, one of the few hives I keep in the garden decided to join the club and swarmed all of twenty yards, ending up clustered round an inadequate branch at the top of a rather gangly birch tree. Timing-wise, it couldn't have been worse as the weather promptly changed from being warm and windless to cold and wet, while strong breezes caused the branch holding the swarm to bounce about alarmingly like an out-of-control nodding donkey. Unfortunately, it seemed an impossible task to rescue them – the swarm was a good twenty feet up and there was no sturdy branch nearby against which to lean a long ladder safely. Health and Safety would have had a fit! All we could do was place a small starter hive on the ground beneath them in the vain hope they would discover it and rush to take up residence, or will them to move on, to somewhere less exposed and unstable. Yet, five days of relentless storms later, the swarm was still there clinging on for dear life as the rain and wind did its best to dislodge them.



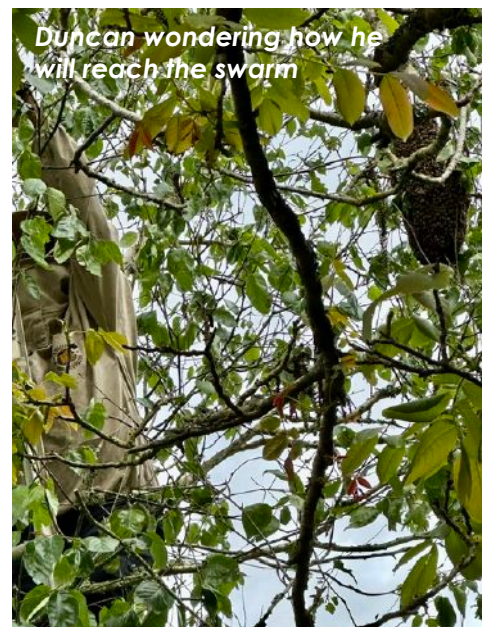
Justine was away for the weekend and had warned me beforehand not to try any heroics, but their plight was upsetting to witness, so I was resolved to do something about rescuing them, preferably without breaking my neck! So, I manoeuvred my extendable ladder against the birch tree's slim trunk and press-ganged my reluctant son, Rob, into holding it steady while I nipped up with a cardboard box and branch cutter. Having made it to the top with some difficulty, I then realised I needed at least three arms – one to hold on to the swaying ladder, one to grab the branch above the swarm and one to cut the branch itself. The swarm was a few feet out of reach – too far to position the box safely. So I dropped the box and began cutting the branch with one hand whilst clutching the ladder with the other. Unfortunately, the branch began shaking violently, the swarm immediately dislodged and fell down, landing in its entirety on top of poor Rob. He was literally covered in a seething blanket of bees. Luckily, I had kitted him out beforehand in full bee-keeping regalia, so he was unharmed, if rather shocked, but stayed at his post until I was safely back down the ladder again, whereupon I got a good telling-off. Mercifully, the bees ended up regrouping in a low shrub, so I could at last successfully catch

them. They are now in a new hive on one of our other sites and doing okay.

The June Gap, about which I wrote last time, has been prolonged this year due to the hot, dry early summer, but is now finally over and Justine and I are relieved to see the bees have started bringing in good quantities of nectar and pollen from late summer flowers and clover, to top up their depleted stores. We fully expect to undertake another honey extraction in August – honey which will be dark, runny (at first) and deliciously flowery.

For those who prefer their honey runny, I have started supplying Neale's Cavern with a few jars of rape honey, which has been gently warmed to render it liquid again. Crucially, this gradual warming does not affect the health giving properties of the honey and, of course, it will solidify again over time. But it does provide our customers with a choice and indeed, the runny honey seems to be popular if repeated requests for more are anything to go by.

Duncan Currall





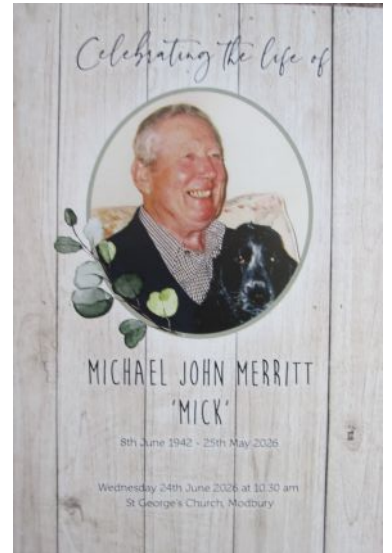
MODBURY & DISTRICT BRANCH ROYAL BRITISH LEGION

Armed Forces Days were on 20th June (Exeter) and 27th June (Plymouth) where I paraded the RBL Modbury Branch Standard. The photos here show it, including a special flag hoist at Palm Cross Green.

Sadly, the RBL Modbury Branch Standard, with a Mourning Drape in SGC, was paraded for the funeral of Mr Mick Merritt on Wednesday 24 June. The Royal Marine Association Standard was also paraded and a very smart Royal Marine Bugler, arranged by the Branch Chairman, Dave West MBE, played Last Post and Reveille and Rev. John Elliott led the service. Mick, may you Rest in Peace.

The next meeting of the Modbury and District Branch of the Royal British Legion will be a Business Meeting on Wednesday 5th August at 7:30pm in the Club. All are welcome.

David Scott



Our Open Gardens 2026 season is proudly sponsored by NFU Mutual Plymouth. For the 2026 season, we are delighted to present a bumper collection of beautiful gardens, carefully selected to inspire and captivate. The gardens on show this year are spread across the villages and rural communities where St Luke's highly respected team looks after patients at home so that they can stay in familiar surroundings and close to loved ones.

The last in this year's programme for gardens in the South Hams is:

Bowringsleigh on Sunday 6th August.

Full details (with times and directions) can be seen in our brochure at the following link:

[Open Gardens | St Luke's Hospice Plymouth](#)

Please do come and enjoy the beautiful gardens and support a very worthwhile local charity. If you need any further information, please contact me at colinpincombe@gmail.com

Colin Pincomb

Modbury and South Hams Creative Writing Group

The Modbury and South Hams Creative Writing Group meets every month to read and discuss its work.

We are keen to welcome new members, so if you enjoy creative writing, why not join us. We meet usually on the first Saturday of the month at the Queen Elizabeth II Pavilion in Modbury at 10.00am. Dates can vary, so do check if you fancy coming along (see contact details below).

Below is a piece of historical fiction written by one of our members, and brought to the July meeting.

www.facebook.com/modburyc creativewritinggroup . Call 07767 393802 for more info.



Evening, 26th August 1346, Crecy

John was an English archer. Carrying his large yew bow over his shoulder, he walked down the hill with his men. The terrible battle was over and, all too clearly, the human devastation lay before him. Vicious, brutal cruelty was everywhere. He was collecting feather arrows which lay on the ground around all the tortured bodies. You could never have enough arrows.

Was this what all the archery practice, since he was a child, was for? Remembering every Sunday, as was the rule, he would spend the day practising and improving his shot. The tendons on his fingers would ache with the repetition. He was low ranking in the King's army but he had never intended to be there. There was no chivalry, or knightly gallantry as he had expected.

The archers were always the key to winning battles, since neolithic times. Skelton, his leader, was always fair and concerned for his men, showing courtesy but emphasising the need to make every shot count. They learned to line up together in two walls of men and bows to allow a screen of arrows to fill the air with rapid fire.

The Knights, on the other hand, were mounted on their Destriers, the kings of war horses. Not a breed, but horses raised and trained specifically for battle. Often, they were stallions with muscular physiques and strong hind quarters for speed and for carrying men in heavy chain mail, but they also had slightly arching necks, enabling them to turn in a moment on the battlefield.

The horses hadn't helped the French this time. Hundreds, maybe a thousand of these regal horses had been destroyed in desperate agony. Stabbed in the chest or flank, guts falling out before they fell. Others had leg tendons slashed, bringing them to the ground where the foot soldiers would butcher them up. Often their falling flattened their rider. Still snorting and struggling to rise for ages, whilst yet more horses and men would clamber over them. This was why the English targeted the horses, as they slowed down the approaching army and allowed them to kill the riders more easily.

The battle had started late in the afternoon, much too late for the French. The English were prepared and the French should have waited till morning when they could have had the advantage of having three men to one and been better prepared. Philippe of France sent the Genoese, his mercenaries, in first, and watched half of them slaughtered on the field by the flying arrows. Bleeding, broken horses, and mutilated, unrecognisable men carpeted the field, their bodies still twitching and jerking in the melee.

Exhausted after the day's fighting, John's fingers were aching and his shoulder was heavy and stiffening. He picked the white feather arrows off the ground, placing them in his quiver. Men were walking slowly, stunned by the silence, some looking for friends, but their faces were obliterated by the dirt of the battle. Survivors called out for help which rarely came. Priests tried to give the sign of the cross wherever they could. The stench grew in the smoke and the flies fed before the crows and carrions arrived.

Lesley Wild

The Modbury and South Hams Creative Writing Group

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memoir, scripts, journaling, or simply
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Tickets £10 Each - Adult only Event...
On sale at Modbury Post Office & Hawthorn Hair

There will be a bar with All Profits going to the
MTIF (Modbury Town Improvement Fund),

Please feel welcome to bring your own nibbles.

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- or just play whenever you wish to.

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Or, contact: info@modburytennisclub.uk

Or, Chairman 07968 777141



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DEVON RURAL ARCHIVE LECTURES

Thursday 3rd September, 4:00-6:30 pm

The Building of Burrator Reservoir by Paul Rendell

In this talk, Paul will be speaking about the history of the building of Burrator Reservoir, which opened in September 1898.



Thursday 1st October, 4:00-6:30 pm

More Stories of the Remarkable Pinwill Sisters by Helen Wilson



Dr Helen Wilson has been researching and giving talks on the Pinwills since 2012. During that time she has encountered many people with interesting stories to tell about them, including some who met or were employed by them or owned pieces of their work. These recollections and insights have contributed enormously to her research and add a further perspective.

These events are part of the Devon Rural Archive's 2026 lecture series.

Book tickets: <https://shilstonedevon.com/whats-on/>



Modbury Tiddlers Playgroup

Come and say hello!

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

 Modbury Tiddlers  @modbury_tiddlers
mail@modburytiddlers.org.uk

NOAH'S ARK

Baby and Toddler group

Varied fun activities

Toys

Bible story



Refreshments

Songs

Chat

Every Wednesday in term time
9.30 – 11.00am

QE2 Recreation Ground (PL21 0FS)
£2 per family

Contact: s.chapman@modburyteam.org

Reviving the Janner Gansey by Jackie and Janet Thomas



For those who don't know, a Gansey (sometimes known as a Guernsey) is a fisherman's jumper worn in the 19th and early 20th century, made in a strong five ply wool and knitted on very small needles. This means that the jumper is warm and nearly windproof – ideal for all weathers. Wool can hold 40% of its weight in water before it feels wet and still remains warm.

Each fishing port had its own particular design to identify the fishers from that area. The motifs each had a symbolism. The moss stitch represents sand, the zigzag was the fishermen going out to sea and returning to their families and the cables represent rope. The Plymouth area was no different, but its Janner design had not been written down, so the pattern was almost lost. Karen and Fiona from "The Conscious Sisters" at the Box in Plymouth commissioned Tina Barrett a Gansey knitting expert to write the pattern down from old photos and organised 100 knitters over three years to teach them to knit the traditional design, providing the wool and needles too. Do look out for Tina on the second series of Tom Daley's "Game of Wool" program.

Janet and Jackie Thomas were selected as two of 40 knitters to knit a gansey in 15 weeks at the Box (in Plymouth) and at home. This was no small commitment at least 300 hours knitting was needed in those weeks to complete it in time for the first "Gansey Gathering and Sardine Festival" on 20th June 2026. At this event

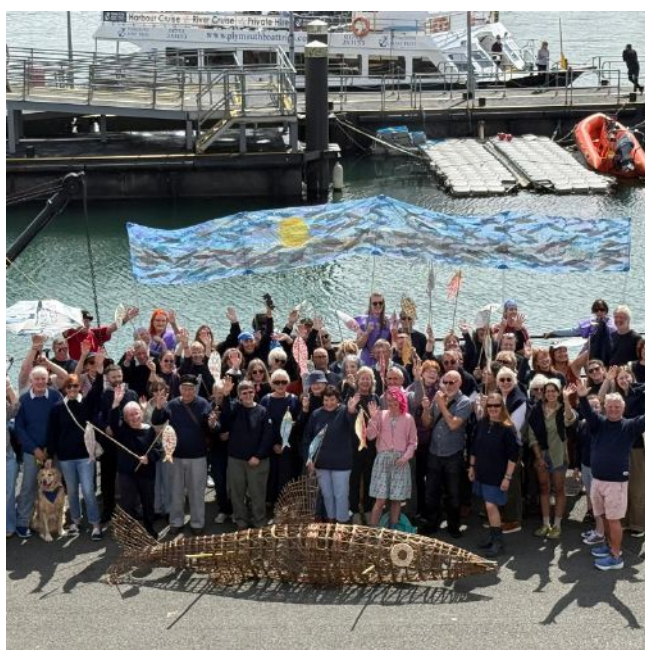
we celebrated the humble Sardine, which saved Plymouth from starvation during the siege in the English Civil War. We marched from the Barbican, together with the previous 2 years gansey knitters - all wearing our ganseys and carrying a giant sardine and paraded down to Commercial Wharf where we had our photos taken.

Several local community projects had stalls along Commercial Wharf to celebrate the Ganseys and Sardines! There was even a barbecue cooking sardines in a giant custom-made sardine tin.

Jackie and Janet Thomas



The Gansey Gathering is a project run by [@theconsciousisters](#) and supported by The Box, [@aceagrams](#), [@POPplymouth](#) and [@crowdfunderuk](#).



FGS

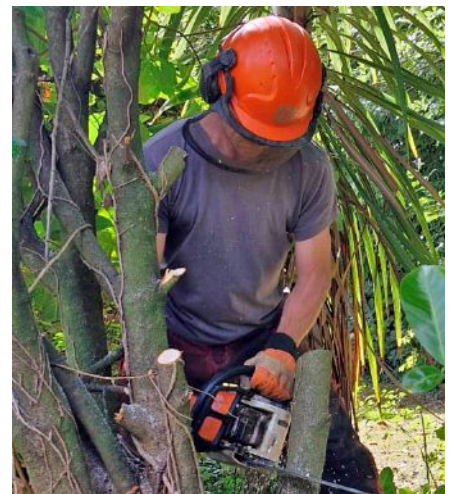
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For the Love of the Land

**Cultural & Literary Festival at Village Farm, East
Portsmouth, Salcombe, Devon, 16th – 19th July.**

The Festival events included talks by well-known Authors, panel session, children and adult nature and bush craft workshops, demonstrations, farm walks, Cèilid dance with hot-pot supper, Film night with Devon bakes, Storytelling and feast, barbeque and Devon music bands.

<https://loveoftheland.co.uk>



Village farm is an organic livestock farm surrounded by Salcombe estuary and the sea, adjacent to the SW coastal path, with café, restaurant, farm shop, and a range of resident artisans. We have plenty of hardcore parking. The event was held in field marquees, the artisan centre and around the farm.

The festival celebrated our heritage, the land and those who have lived, loved, passed this way before us through poems, songs, stories and music. Everyone enjoyed being part of the living and evolving heart of this festival.

'Conservation, country lore, heritage, sustainable farming and keeping traditions alive!'



Connecting People & Places

Connecting People and Landscapes (CPL) in a changing climate, led by the Bat Conservation Trust, completed a pilot project in Spring 2025*. Following a successful application to the National Lottery Heritage Fund, the second exciting phase of the project has started.



The project brings together farmers, landowners and communities across the South West and beyond to create a more resilient landscape in the face of a changing climate.

Phase two works with partners, including BCT, and its aims are:

1. To conserve and protect nine threatened nocturnal mammal species, including seven species of bat, hedgehog and dormouse.
2. To promote and implement regenerative farming practices that improve biodiversity, ecosystem function, and landscape resilience to address the impact of climate change on agricultural landscapes.
3. To foster connection and cohesion between farmers and their local communities.
4. To increase community resilience through upskilling and nature connectedness.

13th
AUGUST

**CONNECT CAFE: IT STARTS
WITH THE SOIL**
Online event



10th
SEPTEMBER

**CONNECT CAFE: INTRODUCTION TO
CITIZEN SCIENCE**
Online event



8th
OCTOBER

CONNECT CAFE: SEATON WETLANDS
online event



For more details or to book any of these FREE activities please see below:

Csquire@bats.org.uk

[www.bats.org.uk/events?
category=connecting-people-and-
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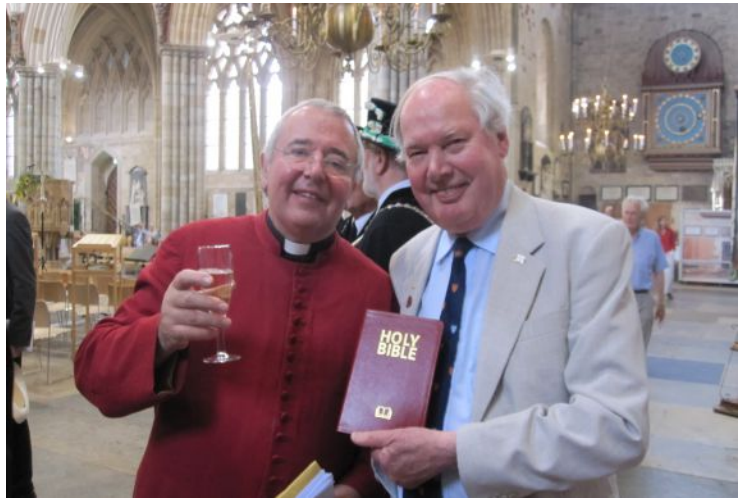
DEAN OF EXETER CATHEDRAL RETIRES

On Sunday 5th July, there was a special Choral Evensong service in Exeter Cathedral to bid farewell to Very Rev. Jonathan Greener and his wife Pamela, who has been the Dean for the last eight and a half years.

Representing the Modbury Mission Community, I presented Jonathan with a special Presentation Bible as a retirement present at the end of the service.

I wish Jonathan and Pamela a very happy retirement.

David Scott



INTENDED MONTHLY FLAG HOIST AT PALM CROSS GREEN - August

Date	Masthead	Starboard Yard (Plymouth) - West	Port Yard (Modbury) - East	Event
01	White Ensign	NILE	Ans1798	Start of Battle of the Nile 1798
02	Union Flag	KUWAIT	Ans193 rd sub0	Start of Kuwait War 1990
03	White Ensign	NILE	1798Ans	End of Battle of the Nile 1798
04	Red Cross Flag	FOUND	1870	Red Cross Founding Day 1870
13	Army	BLENHM	1704	Battle of Blenheim 1704
15	Modbury RBL Flag	VJ+80 Flag	1945	Victory in Japan Day 1945
22	Army	BOSWRT	1485	Battle of Bosworth 1485

Anna
Plymouth & South Hams

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COMMERCIAL ADVERTISING RATES MODBURY MESSENGER 2026

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 September 2026

The copy date for the September 2026 Modbury Messenger is **10th August**. 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

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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