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SEPTEMBER

illustration - Andy and Polly Rathbone

For the People of Modbury & Brownston

Volume 26, Issue 330 - September 2026



MODBURY PANTO 2027

Sign-up Meeting

Saturday 26th September, 2pm

Modbury Memorial Hall

This is your opportunity to get involved in this great fun community show: you may want to be a performer, there will be a few solo parts and lots of opportunity for chorus singing and dancing, but we also need you for music, piano playing, playing in the band, helping back stage, with lighting, sound production, costume making, set and prop making, makeup. Come along to the meeting to find out more.

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A Yomp to Remember for 1st Modbury Scouts



Eight of our older Scouts recently took on a challenge that was designed to be much more than just a long walk across Dartmoor. Their Yomp Bingo Expedition marked their final adventure with 1st Modbury Scouts and the culmination of their Scouting journey with us.

Over two days, the Scouts tackled approximately 28km of Dartmoor, carrying their own kit, navigating as a team and camping overnight at Beardown Farm. After starting at Burrator Reservoir, they made their way across the moor before finishing at the Warren House Inn.

But this wasn't an expedition planned for them. The Scouts took ownership from the very beginning, planning their route, working out their food and equipment requirements, developing their navigation skills and setting themselves challenges along the way. Our Yomp Bingo theme added an extra element of fun, with the Scouts searching for Dartmoor landmarks and features as they travelled.

As part of their preparation, each Scout was also given a Dartmoor topic to research, covering subjects such as clapper bridges, tors, cairns and navigation on the open moor. This gave them an opportunity to develop their knowledge and look more closely at the landscape they were about to explore.

Their successful completion of the expedition means that all eight Scouts have achieved the Chief Scout's Gold Award, a fantastic achievement and a fitting way to finish their time in 1st Modbury.

As Leaders, we couldn't be prouder of what they have achieved. We hope this isn't the end of their Scouting adventure, but simply the beginning of the next chapter, as they continue their journey with Explorer Scouts next term.

At 1st Modbury Scouts, we're proud to offer a creative and varied programme throughout the school term, combining outdoor adventures, practical skills, challenges, visits, crafts and plenty of opportunities to try something new. Our aim is to give every Scout the chance to discover what they enjoy, challenge themselves, build confidence and develop Skills for Life. For these eight Scouts, their Yomp was a fitting way to put those skills into practice, and hopefully create memories that will stay with them for many years to come.

Well done, everyone – what a way to finish.

Jason Edwards, The Scout Leadership Challenge





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A Yomp to Remember for 1st Modbury Scouts

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LOCAL GOVERNMENT REORGANISATION

As most readers will be aware the Government has announced its decision on the reorganisation of local government in Devon.

The current organisation of Devon

Devon is currently divided into two self-governing unitary authorities, Plymouth and Torbay, and an upper tier authority Devon County Council based in Exeter which governs the rest of Devon with eight lower tier authorities (including South Hams).

As a result, in our area there is a split of responsibilities between Devon County Council (education, libraries, adult social care, children's social services, public transport and highways, emergency planning, waste disposal and trading standards) and South Hams District Council (housing and homelessness, planning and building control, licensing, electoral registration, council tax billing, environmental health, refuse collection, street cleaning and civic amenities such as public toilets, community centres, museums, parks, cemeteries/crematoria and local markets).

What is proposed for Devon from 2028?

From April 2028 Devon will be comprised of just four unitary authorities. These will be Greater Plymouth Council, Exeter Council, Torbay & South Devon Council and Devon Council. Modbury will be part of Devon Council which stretches from Salcombe in the south to Ilfracombe in the north and Axminster in the East. The map to the right shows the boundaries of the four new councils.

What is a unitary authority and how does it differ from what we have at the moment?

A unitary authority is one which is responsible for the delivery of all statutory local government services. It will replace the current two-tier system described above.

What will not change?

In most areas of Devon there is a third tier of parish and town councils which are not being reorganised. Typically, they deliver non-statutory services and manage localised amenities such as village halls, play areas and allotments for which they request payment from their "parent" council known as a precept. Modbury Parish Council is one of these.

When and how is this change to take place?

The task of splitting Devon County Council's services between the four new unitaries and each unitary absorbing the eight district councils' services is huge. For this reason, the four new authorities will be elected in May 2027 but will concentrate on planning the transition and not take on their new responsibilities until April 2028 when the eleven old councils will cease to exist.

Why should I care?

We all depend on local authority services to collect our rubbish, clean our streets, maintain our roads, educate our youngsters and care for the elderly. We also all have to pay for those services through our council tax, our car park charges or admission to sports and community centres.

Since different council areas require different levels of income to fulfil their statutory duties, this can mean significantly different levels of council tax rates or service standards. Whether the new arrangements mean higher council tax rates or reduced services is unknown. We could all be affected.

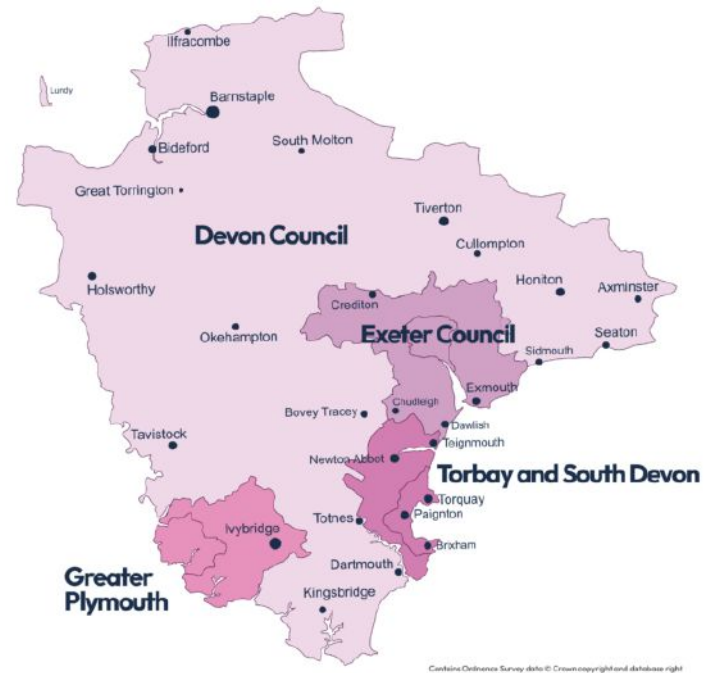
What could it mean for me and my family?

Modbury residents will be served by the new Devon Council. The case made by those promoting the new structure is that the savings associated with reducing from eleven to four councils will compensate for any change in the distribution of council tax resources between them. Our current County Councillor, Louise Wainwright has warned, however, that because there is an imbalance between the transfer of council tax income and the transfer of financial liabilities, council tax rates may have to rise in this area or services may have to be trimmed/cut (see her more detailed article on p. 7 in this edition).

There are no details about how this new council would work. Even the decision as to where the new Council will be headquartered will be contentious - the leading candidate at present is Barnstaple, well over two hours away and almost 100 miles from the southern tip of the South Hams!

Can anything be done to change the decision? What can Modbury Parish Council do to help?

Devon County Council and South Hams District Council are both making representation to Angela Rayner, the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, urging her to reconsider the decision. **Cont.**



What can Modbury Parish Council do to help? (Article cont from previous page)

We have responded to the government's earlier consultation and supported the Devon and South Hams three-unitary alternative. We have also contacted Member of Parliament, Caroline Voaden, to voice our opposition to the proposals. If there is no significant change, our main role now will be to support the new Devon Council. To this end, we will be joining all the other parishes and towns in the Salcombe electoral division in planning for the new regime.

What seems clear is that more responsibility will be delegated down to individual towns and parishes and the already hardworking volunteers who provide the mainstay of services at the lowest tier of local government.

You can find more information on the changes at <https://www.futuredevon.org.uk> and if you want to comment on them, please contact your local MP, Caroline Voaden at caroline.voaden.mp@parliament.uk or via her constituency office on 01803 658461.

Barbara Price, Phil Smith and Ann Turner, Modbury Parish Council

walk&talk

Walks will be on 1st, 8th, 15th, 22nd and 29th Sept.

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**



Modbury History Society

Chatwell Lane, Modbury when Plymouth Historian and author, Philip Photiou, will talk about **'The two encounters in Modbury during the English Civil War'**.

The Society's subscription is £20 for a series of eight lectures, which is due at the September meeting, but guests are welcome to come along to an individual talk for a fee of £5. There is ample parking in the hall grounds.

Find out more about Modbury's history by looking at the Modbury Heritage website, modbury-heritage.co.uk which has a wealth of information particularly useful to family historians and those interested in architecture. The site even has a detailed walk around the town with explanations of the places of especial interest.

For further information please contact: rosiejaneparker@gmail.com

Rosemary Parker

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A Reality Check on the Devon County 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 Council, Exeter Council, Torbay & South Devon Council and the 'rest;.....Devon Council unitary authority (see map on page.5). Salcombe Division will fall within the Devon Council 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 April 28). On 1st April 2028, Devon County Council will cease to exist, as will all the District Councils, Councillors and Officers. From then, 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 Devon Council unitary authority 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 other urban-based unitary authorities, where services are less expensive to deliver because they are concentrated in a smaller area. Providing services across the vast, rural area of Devon Council 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 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 a cut 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.

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I bear in mind that this seemingly impossible task will fall on the shoulders of 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 the Devon Council because they know that this 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 Devon Council unitary 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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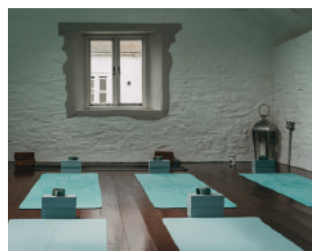


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Most of us are now aware that our climate is changing but what does a changing environment mean for everyday life in the South Hams, and what choices do we still have? Residents are invited to a free public screening of *The People's Emergency Briefing* **at the QEII Pavilion on September 15th at 7.30pm**

The background to this film

In November 2025, more than 1,200 MPs, peers and leaders from business, culture, faith, sport and the media gathered at Westminster Central Hall for the National Emergency Briefing. The landmark event brought together leading experts to examine the UK's exposure to a range of environmental and societal risks, and their implications for the future.

Introduced by Chris Packham CBE, the briefing explored how these connected challenges could affect areas such as food security, public health, infrastructure, the economy and national security, alongside evidence-based options for reducing risk and strengthening resilience.

This national event has now been adapted into a 50-minute public film, *The People's Emergency Briefing*, which launched nationwide on 7 April and is currently being screened in communities across the UK. The film brings together leading scientists and thinkers to explain clearly the issues, while giving an opportunity for local communities to discuss what these changes may mean for them and what constructive steps could be taken.



Naturalist, Chris Packham, said: "I'd encourage people everywhere to attend a screening of *The People's Emergency Briefing*. It creates exactly the kind of honest local conversation we now urgently need, both about what these changes mean where we live, and about what we can do together to address them."

Organised by Modbury Parish Council in partnership with Sustainable South Hams, the screening will be followed by a facilitated public discussion, featuring some experts from the energy and food sectors alongside the filmmakers.

Book your tickets This event is free but to help us with numbers, please get a ticket either on line at: <https://buytickets.at/modburyparishcouncilevents/2360508>, or in person from Neale's Cavern, 1 Broad Street, Modbury.

Ann Turner

RALLY FOR NATURE FREE GUIDES

We are delighted to launch our new free resources to help communities take action for nature. Our Rally for Nature How To Guides have been developed with the help of experienced local mentors, community groups, and campaigners who have already taken action in their own places. The Guide to Surveying Wildlife in Your Community was written by Charlotte Rathbone of ModWAG. For more details visit:

<https://www.sussh.org/post/new-how-to-guides-launched-to-help-communities-take-action-for-nature>



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Pause for Thought - September, You are Glowing!

Look at you, with your golden glow across your skin. I hope you've filled your days with sea dips, walks in the breeze, iced coffees and celebrating this abundance of sunshine.

I know September is the month when we're all trying to squeeze in those last summer BBQs, make the most of the sunshine and enjoy the final stretch of the summer holidays. *(Nearly there, parents ~ well done!)*

But now is your reminder:

Stop.

If you're standing reading this, treat yourself. Sit down. Get comfortable. Take a big breath in... and exhale. Drop those shoulders. My love, you do so much. And now is the time to clean the slate. You don't need to feel the pressure that, because the sun is out, you *have* to be out making the most of every second. Start to slow yourself back down. What routine and rhythm would you like to settle back into? What do you need to stop doing to get you closer to where you want to be?

A really lovely way to reconnect with nature, get out of our heads and find a little flow is to head outside and pick blackberries. There's an abundance of them at the moment. Freeze them. Pop them into crumbles. Make some jam. Or simply eat a few straight from the bramble.

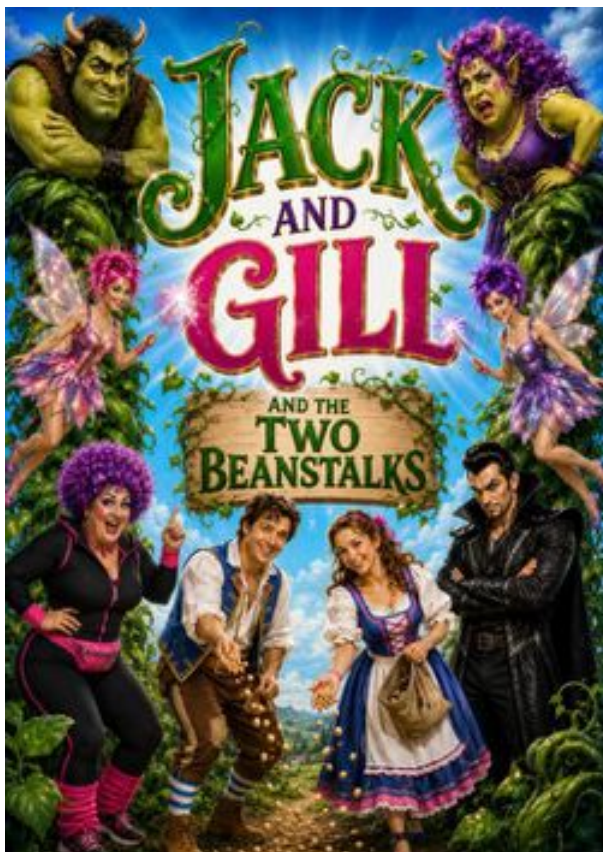
Allow yourself a little breathing space and mindfully head out foraging. Notice the breeze, the colours, the sounds

around you. Let yourself be present for a while.

And, of course, the golden rule: leave enough for the birds and share the abundance with your loved ones.

Slow down. Breathe deep. Pick a few blackberries. Let September do the rest.

Lots of love, Becky and the team from Wellness Warriors Yoga studio.



MODBURY EXPERIENCES THE SOLAR ECLIPSE

The solar eclipse on August 12th came too late to be included in the September Messenger but here are a few photos ahead of our full report in the October Messenger.





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MODBURY COMMUNITY APPLE DAY

On Saturday 3rd October we will be celebrating our 10th Apple Day



Please come and join us on our Apple Day 10th anniversary. Despite a very promising spring, the exceptional temperatures and near total lack of rain this summer are expected to make an impact on this year's crop.

While commercial growers can offset drought conditions with carefully targeted irrigation, that's not an option for community orchard groups like ours in Modbury. The likely consequences are lower yields and smaller fruit. On the bright side, one effect of water starvation is that it tends to concentrate the sugars making for sweeter apples with more flavour.

Our harvest is likely to be a far cry from last year when we had more apples than we knew what to do with. When we got past pressing over 200 litres of juice, we had to call a halt. We had run out of bottles, containers and freezer pouches to store it in.

We are looking forward to celebrating our successful revival of this great Devon tradition. We will be harvesting the apples, hopefully with the help of children from Modbury Primary School and the Cubs, who harvest the apples at the recreation field. We are always keen to involve children in our activities so that they learn, early on, about how food is produced. The tetra pack of juice on the supermarket shelf has gone through the same basic processes. It's

just that commercial producers do it with vast machines and we do it the way it's been done in Devon for generations with basic kit, manual labour, teamwork and a lot of fun.

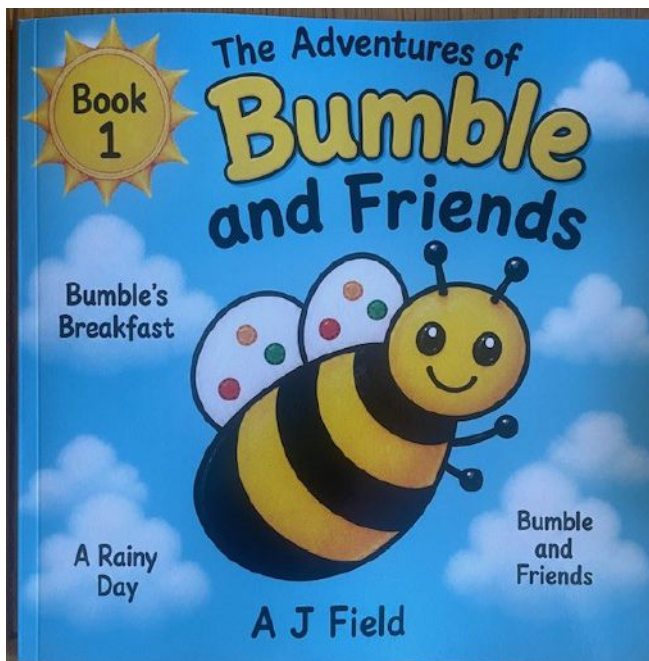
If you haven't been to one of our Apple Days before, do come along. You are welcome to bring children and grandchildren and supervise them as they join in the different stages of washing, scratting (chopping the apples), putting the pulp into the 'cheeses' (layers of cloths) and then turning the press by hand until all the juice has been squeezed out. As the golden nectar flows it's collected in jugs and decanted into an assortment of containers. Some, like the 5 litre pouches, are frozen and some are bottled and pasteurised, which preserves them for around 12 months. It's a great opportunity for the community to come together in a very worthwhile and very enjoyable shared endeavour. You can take away a bottle of freshly pressed juice. We ask only for a donation to help cover our costs such as the hire of the press and pasteuriser.

We use the juice as refreshment at other community events in the Modbury calendar. The first of these is usually our Wassail, when we mull some of the juice to warm the spirits and we meet in the orchard early on a dark January night. Look out for an announcement of the date towards the end of the year.

So make a note of this year's Apple Day: **Saturday 3rd October** in the wonderful setting of the Modbury Therapy Centre Yard, by very kind permission of Mandy and Steve Hyde. Access is by the blue door to the left of The Curator. It will be well signed. We start at 10:00am.

Colin Whybrow





Book Review: The Adventures of Bumble and Friends, Book 1, by A J Field

I bought this book for my grandson, Freddie, who is five and loves bees and honey. I understand that the author wrote the book for her own grandchildren, so it already has the seal of approval from some very discerning critics. It's the first of a series, so I look forward to seeing the next two. Perhaps the best person to review this is my grandson who said, "I like the book because it had three stories. I liked the breakfast story because the bee got to eat nectar. I liked all the pictures."

The illustrations in the book are all created by the author and are colourful and bright which I know is appealing to children. The words are easy to follow for small folk and Freddie has already tried to read this to his new brother (ten weeks old!). I was so impressed that I have sent a copy to my friend's grandson.

Barbara Price



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The Modbury Education Foundation

Please apply by 1st October 2026 with your full name, postal address and brief details of the course you will be taking to

sue@mercero5.co.uk

Sue Mercer



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
6 th Sept	Holy Communion & Kids' Church 9:30 am	Rev. Oli Long
13 th Sept	Holy Communion BCP 8:00 am All-Age Service 9:30 am	Rev. Oli Long Rev. Oli Long
20 th Sept	Holy Communion & Kids' Church 9:30 am	Rev. Oli Long
27 th Sept	Sunday Worship 9:30 am Rooted – A service of Contemporary worship 6:00 pm	Rev. Neil Barker Rev. Oli Long

CHRISTIAN COMMENT: WELL-WATERED GARDEN

What a summer up to the time of writing, hot, dry and sunny! People pay good money for this on holiday. Our normal weather is why so many go abroad. But, of course, not good news for our farmers and those subject to wildfires. Do pray for those adversely affected. Also, not so good for those with a hosepipe ban either, and unfortunately, we in this area now have the ban as well.

What do you think of when you hear the phrase, "Well-Watered Garden"? We have some lovely gardens in the area. We recently visited for the first time, The Garden House, near Yelverton. It is beautiful and you can drive across the Moor to get there. Since retirement, Kate and I have got much more into gardening, including having an allotment. I did not expect this hobby to be so satisfying.

The Bible applies this phrase to our lives. In the book of Isaiah, he says we should honour God by standing against injustice and oppression, supporting those who are short of food and basic needs, and looking after our own flesh and blood. Then he will guide us and support our needs in a sun scorched land. In fact, we will be like well-watered gardens, like springs whose waters never fail. Now this forms a beautiful spiritual garden especially when this is alongside our faith in the risen Jesus.

Gil Snook

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

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



Our last Open Garden is at Bowringsleigh on **Sunday 6 September**.

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

UPCOMING EVENTS

IN SUPPORT OF
LUNA'S FUND & MODBURY TOWN IMPROVEMENT CHARITY

2026

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

2027

SATURDAY 27TH FEBRUARY **QUINTESSENTIAL QUIZ NIGHT!** AT THE WHITE HART

SATURDAY 3RD JULY **ELVIS IS COMING TO MODDERS!** **STEVE BROOKS** Elvis Tribute Artist

SATURDAY 25TH SEPTEMBER **THE FANTASTIC NEW JERSEY BOYS**

★ ★ All events at Modbury Memorial Hall except Quiz which is at The White Hart ★ ★ ★

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Singing Workshop with Sandra Smith

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Hosted by Modbury Gospel Singers

Saturday 26th September | 10:30 - 4:30

MARS Pavilion, Chatwell Lane, Modbury, PL21 0FS

- Learn fun warm-ups, vocal exercises and songs to help with singing a range of musical genres in 4-part harmony
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- Tea, coffee and cake provided

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(Payment details supplied on booking)

 **Modbury Gospel Singers**

 www.modburygospelsingers.org.uk

Modbury Parish Council Meeting

Tuesday 4th August 2026



MODBURY
PARISH COUNCIL

Present were eight parish councillors, and Cllr Bernard Taylor (South Hams District Council - SHDC). Apologies were received from Cllr Louise Wainwright (Devon CC). Nine members of the public were present.

Public Forum

There were concerns raised about BT poles at Long Park. BT/Open Reach have put in a notice of intent to erect new poles for their roll-out of fibre optic cable. The Clerk has spoken to SHDC and representations will be made to Open Reach about the possibility of laying new cables underground as objections have been received.

Report from Cllr Bernard Taylor (SHDC)

- SHDC will put some money towards two new grit/salt roadside bins.
- SHDC will put some money towards new planters for the high street.

Matters arising from the Minutes of Meeting 7th July 2026 [previously distributed]

- Community Asset transfer submission to SHDC. No update as yet, awaiting reply from SHDC.
- Re: the Palm Cross planning application, the Aprica traffic survey has been sent to SHDC and added to the MPC website. It appears that the Highways Officer has made comments to the Planning Officer, which are available online.

Health and Safety

Problems with the timely emptying of rubbish bins have been reported.

Local Government Reorganisation - Devolution

There were discussions on the published plans to create four new Devon unitary bodies. It was agreed that the decision made by central government was less than optimal and the worst of the options considered. Disquiet is widespread in Devon, but it is uncertain that the decision can be profitably challenged. It appears that there is a shift of income-producing parishes to the new urban-based unitary councils (Plymouth, Exeter and Torbay) with the main costs falling on the residual Devon Council towns and parishes.

Planning

The Notices of Intent for new poles by Open Reach were discussed and objections will be lodged on the basis that trunking cables underground would be more appropriate for a historic town

Maintenance

P3 (Parish Paths Partnership) work continues apace and further bush cutting/trimming training has been approved by DCC.

Sustainability

- Work continues on the wildflower patches around the town and in the churchyard.
- The 'Peoples Climate Emergency' film will be shown at the QEII Pavilion on 15th September along with a talk and discussion on the subject.
- There is a debate going on about the possible community wind turbine in Bigbury.

Date of next meeting: Tuesday 1st September 2026 @ 7pm

Tony Price

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/>

MODBURY TENNIS CLUB

- Coaching available for all age groups;
- Friendly Club Sessions Thursday afternoons & Sunday mornings (free to members);
- or just play whenever you wish to.

Full details & Application Form available at www.clubspark.lta.org.uk/ModburyTennisClub

Or, contact: info@modburytennisclub.uk

Or, Chairman 07968 777141



Modbury Table Tennis Sessions

Wednesday Evenings 19.30 to 21.00

The Pavilion, Queen Elizabeth II Recreation Ground, Modbury

For all people aged 16 – 99. Only £2.00 per session

For those of all abilities, it doesn't matter if you have never played or last picked up a bat many years ago. All equipment is provided but you are welcome to bring your own bat if you have one.

There is no need to book in advance, just turn up on a Wednesday evening and we will make you as welcome as we can.

If you would like to find out more phone Colin or Aly Low on 01548 830089, leave a message if we don't answer. You can send a text to 07551 939639 or email:

colinalow@hotmail.com

Colin Low



Ivybridge u3a General Meeting

Monday 21st September

2.00pm at The Watermark Centre

Guest speaker, Nick Clyburn, will reveal....**"An Expert's Guide to Air Traffic Confusion"**.

Nick is a Squadron Leader and former RAF officer and air traffic controller. He has over 40 years of experience of military and civil aircraft management. Nick will amusingly orientate the audience in order to demystify the confusing World of Air Traffic Control. Safe landing guaranteed.

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

QUEEN CAMILLA'S BIRTHDAY FLAG HOIST

Many people may have noticed a very special Flag Hoist at Palm Cross Green on Friday 17th July because, as Modbury Chief Yeoman, I was hoisting a new Standard flag that I purchased, and this is the Standard of Her Majesty Queen Camilla.

The photograph shows the Union Flag with the Royal Cypher at the masthead, Queen Camilla Standard on the Starboard halyard and "BIRTH" on the Port halyard (short for BIRTHDAY).

David Scott



MODBURY WILDLIFE



We have another piece of garden wildlife from Brownston Street. Perhaps a slow worm doesn't have as wide an appeal as a deer. I was pleased though... keeps the slugs and snails at bay.

Michael K

If you have any photos of wildlife in your garden, please send them to:

modburymessengercic@gmail.com for our readers to enjoy.



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Review: Local Author's Poetry Collection



Mandy Field lives in Modbury and writes under the name of A J Field. She has recently published the first in a series of children's books and a collection of poetry, 'Darkness Into The Light.'

As the title suggests, this collection takes you on an emotional journey from disappointment and loss to acceptance and ultimate redemption.

The first section centres on a time when the writer faced discrimination at work. Her sense of rejection and bewilderment is described poignantly with lines such as 'Would it have killed you to not kill me?' and 'When will this game be over, there's only me on my side'.

She is a master at noticing the subtleties of human interaction, conveyed vividly in the poem 'Discrimination' which describes the experience of being put through an interview process by a management that clearly had no intention of employing her. She is shown 'The fat manila envelope of applications' while being told of the glowing credentials of other applicants. She describes the lip service of an interview when she sees herself as 'The part-time lady who would not go away.' Ultimately she perceives an 'extra hush in the library', feeling she is tainted by 'a stench of failure'. The reader can do nothing, but ache with her through these raw emotions.

We then move into the transitional section of 'Shade' with her 'old life behind, new one dangling in the distance, by the thinnest thread'. Her existence is presented as a series of challenges. Vivid dreams, insomnia and illness beset her, set against a flatness - her previous busy life, when her mind was 'full of the day', is replaced by time 'loose as slack elastic'. Nature provides scant solace - her garden has 'dead hawthorn in the corner' and 'moss-slimes steps'. Nevertheless, a 'Liquid summer warble of a blackbird' and 'The arch of honeysuckle' hint at hope beyond the despair and she begins 'squinting at that distant newthe thinnest glint of silver light'. We hardly dare hope that these stirrings will gain momentum towards some kind of resolution.

A J Field then takes us, sometimes cautiously and sometimes brashly, into the light, on a roller coaster of eclectic compositions. She writes a satirical ballad about Boris Johnson with his 'bounce and bumbling ways' and the new queen Camilla, once 'the most hated woman in Britain'. She uses her talent for poetic form to write sonnets and poetry in convincing Shakespearian style. She shares family celebrations and secret fantasies of being a crazy shoe shop owner who cooks up her own stock to provide a 'meaty hearty meal'. We are led ultimately to a beaming positivity - 'I am humming, I can breathe now, I am dreaming, I have hope'.

While deeply personal, this collection of poems confronts us with the miseries and setbacks that can shape the human experience, moving through a period of self-reflection and humour, to a renewed joy and zest for life. AJ Field's superb mastery of imagery and structure allows you to come with her step by step - I highly recommend the ride.

Lucy Brown

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
Barbara Price (Chair)	07739752095
Tony Price	07801837129
Phil Smith (Vice Chair)	07759282404
Dave Trigger	07808742372
Ann Turner	01548830606
Sarah Wyatt	07794 662903

chrisfield@modburyparishcouncil.gov.uk
barbaraprice@modburyparishcouncil.gov.uk
tonyprice@modburyparishcouncil.gov.uk
philsmith@modburyparishcouncil.gov.uk
davetrigger@modburyparishcouncil.gov.uk
annturner@modburyparishcouncil.gov.uk
sarahwyatt@modburyparishcouncil.gov.uk

How can we help you?

Councillors run drop-in surgeries on Saturday 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 - 5:00 pm. 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



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

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  @modbury_tiddlers
mail@modburytiddlers.org.uk

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Toys

Bible story



Refreshments

Songs

Chat

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9.30 – 11.00am

QE2 Recreation Ground (PL21 0FS)

£2 per family

Contact: s.chapman@modburyteam.org

Bird & Bug Fest

Fortunately, the splendid weather we had been enjoying recently continued on Saturday 11th July, helping make the Modbury **Bird & Bug Fest** a sunny success.

For the event, ModWAG joined forces with Modbury Pre-School and Tiddlers to create one of our alternatives to Nature Fest, and it was held in the primary school grounds. The aims were simple: inspire children and their families to discover more about birds and bugs, enjoy some hands-on activities, and raise funds for Pre-School and Tiddlers to purchase new equipment.

Around 40 families, totalling approximately 120 people, braved the summer heat armed with hats, fans and water sprays. Thankfully, there was plenty of shade beneath our gazebos and the trees bordering the sports field. It's always nice when these structures are needed for sun protection rather than sheltering from the rain – but don't worry, there was still plenty of grumbling about the weather, both the excessive heat and the wind, which did its best to dislodge the gazebos.

With the hot weather in mind, the stalls were stocked with cold soft drinks, ice creams and lollies, refreshing mocktails, biscuits kindly donated by The Curator, and Sue Pinsent's famous homemade sausage rolls. Fortunately, no serious disputes over the last ice cream were reported.

A variety of activities were on offer thanks to our talented volunteers. Children enjoyed bug hunting in the hedgerows, insect stencilling, painting bugs onto pebbles and, of course, face painting. Hannah, a firm Nature Fest favourite, returned to show everyone how to dissect owl pellets to discover what the owls had been eating – mostly voles, shrews and mice.

No Modbury event would be complete without a raffle, and two lucky winners went home with beautiful books full of ideas for making their gardens more wildlife friendly. Unlike the bugs, the winners were very happy to be picked.

Bird & Bug Fest was one of several smaller events organised by ModWAG this year as an alternative to Nature Fest, which included the Meadow Walk, Moth Morning, Bat Evening and Willow Workshop.

This was the first time ModWAG had collaborated with Pre-School and Tiddlers, the baby and toddler group that meets every Friday morning at Modbury Memorial Hall. It was wonderful to see so many parents helping to set up, run the event and clear away afterwards.

Our thanks go to Modbury Primary School for the use of the grounds, Rob Woods for his support, and everyone from Pre-School, Tiddlers and ModWAG who helped make the day such a success.

Tom Bower



Bug hunting equipment



Owl pellet dissection



Bird & Bug Fest



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GOOD EFFORT

Some of you may have seen recently on the national news, the story of the two young boys in Northern Ireland, age nine and ten, who, during their school summer holidays, set out to spruce up their village by going out and cleaning 50 street name signs that had accrued dirt and grime over the years. Well done them, and what a sterling example for other youngsters to emulate. But that has nothing to do with this article. Well perhaps loosely it does, because recently I spotted one of our own community spirited entrepreneurs making her own efforts to tidy up within the Parish by litter picking as she returned from weed/undergrowth clearing and tidying footpaths outside Modbury - something she carries out on a regular basis.

Many of you will recognise Simone, particularly seen in character here. But we can all help Simone and in doing so, it will help all of us ...

How to help?

Well the most obvious ones are:-

(a) not to drop litter in the first place. Sadly, however, we are never going to overcome completely the few ignoramuses (other names are available) as they drive around our countryside inconsiderately 'chucking' litter here, there and everywhere! (I still regularly stop and retrieve unsightly litter as I cycle around the Parish) ...

(b) Ensure we clear the weeds (yes they are!) from around our properties to 'keep Modbury tidy' - one day a year is not adequate. It also reduces the fire risk as the weeds die back and when they are dead it provides no nourishment to insect wild life, just looks unsightly, it also undermines roads and walls.



(c) Report obscured road signs, overgrown footpaths or damage to our footpaths to the Parish Council, and don't forget your assistance in keeping them clean, clear and tidy would always be welcome. It can keep you fit both in body and mind, which in turn takes the pressure off our Health Centre and NHS - but then, that's for another Edition!

So thank you Simone, and all the other volunteers who act in a similar manner, for attempting to maintain Modbury and the surrounding area in the style that most of us would like to maintain and enjoy.

Mervyn Kettle

If you would like to tell us about other unsung Modbury heroes like Simone, write to the Messenger to tell us.



MODBURY & DISTRICT BRANCH ROYAL BRITISH LEGION

The next meeting of the Modbury and District Branch of the Royal British Legion will be a Social Gathering on Friday 4th September at 7-7.30pm for a meal in the Royal Gurkha Spice. Names to Duncan Squires in order to provide numbers. All are welcome.

David Scott



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NO WIND TURBINE IN BIGBURY

What is the turbine proposal? It's a renaming of the Octopus Energy "Rolliers" proposal that was withdrawn from planning in September 2025. Reason stated by Octopus: not commercially viable.

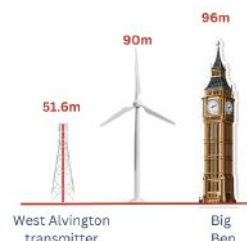
Who is running it now? The person who was behind the original Octopus Energy proposal, but now in their role as a founder and director of Devon Energy Collective, who have funded their own for-profit company to move this project forward.

Where will the turbine be? On land at Challons Combe Farm. The site is on a hill between St. Ann's Chapel and Combe Barton Farm. Fully visible from St. Ann's Chapel, from the coast to Dartmoor, within the protected South Devon National Landscape.

Is it a good location? No! The land profile is fundamentally unsuitable for efficient wind generation. The surrounding topography (hills and valleys) creates turbulence. Turbines need smooth, stable wind flow to operate effectively. This site simply does not provide it. Even a well-sited turbine struggles in turbulent conditions; this one will be fighting the landscape from day one.

How tall will the turbine be? It will be 90m from tip to base - nearly as tall as Big Ben.

Is this turbine viable and will the community see a profit? No! Claims by Devon Energy Collective that £1.5 million of surplus income will be donated to the local community are fiction. When asked, they refused to provide a financial model to back this up. Our financial model suggest no surplus at all. These promises are simply aimed at "buying" community support.



Why is it now called a 'community' wind turbine? The reality is that "community" projects are more likely to be granted planning permission than commercial ones. It's often used to bring emotion into the equation alongside promises of local ownership and money for the community. As far as community involvement goes, we have been informed after the fact. Our support is taken for granted and community engagement is treated as a box-ticking exercise. For us, community involvement starts at the beginning, helping shape proposals - not being presented with a "done deal".

Will the turbine be in our landscape forever? The project is presented as a "temporary" 30- year structure - a known planning tactic. Once the infrastructure is in place, it's very hard and expensive to remove. Experience elsewhere suggests that turbines are often "re-powered" (made bigger) rather than removed. There is no evidence that any decommissioning costs are included in the project plan!

What about impact on your own solar panels? The grid in our area has very limited capacity. Additional wind generation would compete with existing and new solar panels, causing them to switch off when the grid voltage exceeds the regulatory limits. Devon Energy Collective's claim that there would be "no impact on the domestic and commercial properties in the area" is incorrect and disingenuous. The grid operator has confirmed that they only assessed the turbine's impact on the medium-voltage network, not the low-voltage network that small-scale residential and commercial generation connects to.

A local business wanting to install solar panels was turned down by National Grid due to lack of grid capacity for the additional generation - blocking the exact type of renewable energy that the Bigbury and other local plans support.

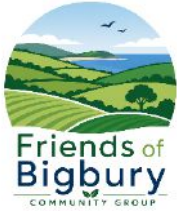
Does the Bigbury Neighbourhood Plan support this? No! The Plan was developed by the community, for the community. It clearly states that wind turbines on open farmland will not be supported. A review was completed, as per Government regulation, in early 2026 (after the Octopus planning application was withdrawn). In that review, only 2 of 529 consultation responses called for changes to the renewable energy policy - a clear message that the local community does not support this turbine proposal.

WHAT WE NEED: The effective and appropriate solutions the community wants - not a token gesture pushed by a minority.

During the public meeting in June, our Devon County Councillor stated, "for some people, one wind turbine is an inspirational symbol of our understanding of the scale of the problem."

- We believe in actually tackling climate change. Investment should focus on locally-appropriate projects that maximise carbon reduction, energy generation and long-term value - not symbolic gestures.
- Urgency should not replace common sense and balanced decision making. Put simply, every pound invested in a low-impact project is a pound that cannot be invested in one that delivers significantly greater environmental and economic value.

NO WIND TURBINE IN BIGBURY



About Friends of Bigbury: We are a group of residents, landowners and farmers dedicated to protecting the unique South Devon National Landscape. Many of our members have adopted renewable energy and have practical experience in turbine installation, renewable energy and its role in responding to climate change.

We can't cover everything in this article. To find out more, contact us at friendsofbigbury@gmail.com or go to tinyurl.com/bigbury

The views expressed in this article are those of the **Friends of Bigbury** and do not imply that the views are those of the Modbury Messenger.

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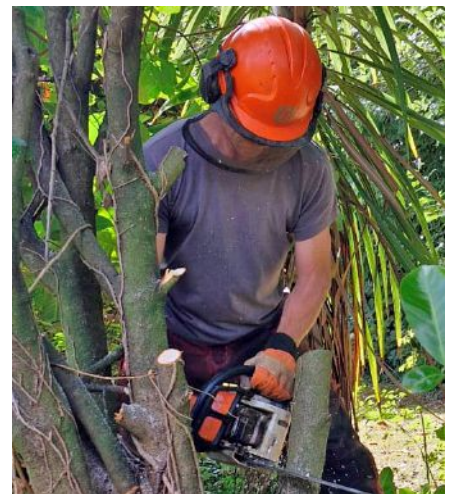
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Holbeton Film Club



September's film is **I Swear** (certificate 15). A biographical drama about John Davidson, a Scottish man who became a pioneering campaigner for the understanding of **Tourette syndrome**. Written and directed by Kirk Jones, the film stars Robert Aramayo as Davidson.

It won major BAFTA awards including best leading actor and best casting.

This is screening on **Saturday the 12th September 2026** in Holbeton Village Hall. **Doors open 7pm. 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:

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



01752 830274

harryluson@gmail.com

Harry Baumer

INTENDED

Date	Masthead	Starboard Yard (Plymouth) - West	Port Yard (Modbury) - East	Event
03	Red Ensign	W1 st sub2	Ans1933 rd sub	MN Day. Start of WW2 1939
07	London Flag	BLITZ	Ans1940	Start of London Blitz 1940
13	Army	QUEB3 rd subC	1759	Battle of Quebec 1759
15	RAF Ensign	BRITAN	1940	Battle of Britain Day 1940
16	St George Cross	MAYFLR	1620	Sailing of Mayflower 1620
20	RAF Ensign	BRIT3 rd subN	SUDAY	Battle of Britain Sunday 2026



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MODBURY MESSENGER

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 October 2026

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

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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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