



Illustration - Kate West

For the People of Modbury & Brownston

Volume 21, Issue 264 - April 2021

MODBURY MAY FAIR 2021



A month ago, I reported provisional May Fair plans and it has all changed! We are keeping to mainly outdoor events. The Crowning, Charter Reading and Glove Hanging will be filmed without audience and put on social media, including Nextdoor and the Modbury Messenger website. The pantomime has been cancelled, but we hope the following will all be possible:-

- Sat/Sun 22nd and 23rd May: **Craft Fair** socially distanced in Memorial Hall
- Friday 28th May: The **May Queen and King** will tour the town in a vintage car, followed by a **Parade of Vintage and Classic Cars**. (Route in next month's Messenger).
- Saturday 29th May: We hope to hold a **Market** in the Memorial Hall 10am to 3pm.
- Saturday 29th May: **Treasure Hunt** 12 noon to 6pm
- Sunday 30th May: **Church Service** at 10.30am;
Walks and Cycle Rides from Pavilion
- Sunday 30th May: **Window Hunt** for themed anagrams in Modbury windows from 1pm
- Monday 31st May: **Picnics at the Rec** 1pm with local musicians, followed by take away cream teas, possibly games such as rounders.

THE MAY FAIR CHALLENGE TO ALL

Using rubbish and recycled materials, create a sculpture outside your home for judging and a prize.

For more details contact me at:

ira.young@tinternet.com

Ira Young



More Play for Modbury
Renewal of the Memorial Hall Play Park

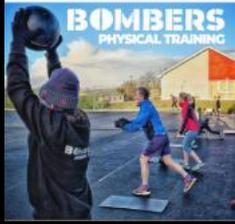
ADVANCE NOTICE

Modbury Memorial Hall Play Park will be closing for refurbishment work.

Work is likely to commence in April 2020 and is anticipated to last approximately 2 months.

Please follow '**More Play for Modbury**' on Facebook for regular updates or contact: parishclerk@modburypc.co.uk with any queries.

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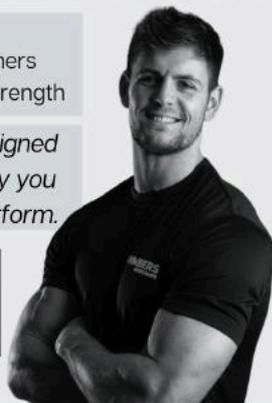
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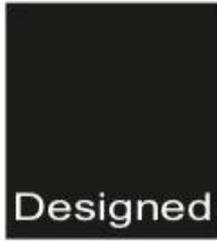


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Modbury Parish Council Report



Report of the Modbury Parish Council virtual meeting via Zoom at 7pm on Tuesday 2nd March 2021. Nine Modbury Parish Councillors were present, an apology was received from Colin Whybrow. Five members of the public were present.

A short talk was given by two members of the public on behalf of ModWAG (Modbury Wildlife Action Group) regarding roadside verges and wild flowers. A lot of wild flowers have been planted in verges around Modbury in the past and thanks were given to the people who have done this. ModWAG are suggesting that to improve the look and diversity of the verges the following suggestions should be looked into by the Parish Council:

- Delay and less frequent cutting
- There is expert advice available from ModWAG about wild flowers
- Look at having Champions around Modbury who will review their own areas
- The important aspect of all of this is to take the community of Modbury with them

It was suggested that we see what happens this year based on the above suggestions and note what needs to be done to improve further for next year. The proposals were supported by the Council

Devon County Councillor Report: Rufus Gilbert stated that the issues with the Palm Cross Estate and flooding is being pursued by the various councils for a resolution with Bloor.

A Parish Councillor raised the issue that pot holes in South Hams seem worse than other parts of Devon and the County Councillor responded that he gets the opposite response from people in areas outside South Hams.

South Hams District Councillor Report: Bernard Taylor is pushing for litter collection along the A38 within South Hams.

Public Forum: A member of the Modbury Litter Pickers wishes to express thanks to Councillor Bill Cole for his work on the roads and drains.

Another member of the public raised the issue about SHDC having asked for the Neighbourhood Plan process to be suspended for 4 months to allow for an internal review and asked why this was not an agenda item. A Parish Councillor replied that the matter was being dealt with by the Neighbourhood Plan Group and that more information will be sought and, if clarification is required, it will be added to the agenda for the next meeting.

Review of Action Points:

- The School Swimming Pool Group will need to provide the Council with proposals to review and to see if the Council can support them. All needed to understand that the timing of this is not good for the School at the moment because of COVID.
- The Council is still looking for a location for the planting of a significant tree.
- The RADAR camera is due for installation in mid March.

General Power of Competency: as the Parish Council now meets the criteria of eligibility it was agreed to adopt the General Power of Competence.

Planning:

- 0198/21/VAR Babland Cross - No Comment
- 0068/21/FUL Conversion of Barn under Class Q - Objected on Principle.
- 0416/21/HH0 Back Street - Supported

Other Business:

Request for Grant Funding for updating the list of Modbury Voluntary Sector Organisations to go into the Messenger was approved (see p. 9-12).

Parish Council insurance was discussed and it was agreed that this was to be left to the Clerk and Chair to decide after further correspondence with our current insurance company.

The Memorial Hall Play Park lease was only received on the morning of the meeting but was discussed and Parish Councillors asked to review it and come back with comments within 3 days.

There are 9 parking spaces left at the Palm Cross Car Park and more bollards are to be ordered for the car parking by the Palm Cross Allotments.

The meeting ended at 8:56pm

Chris Barnes

MODBURY TOUCH RUGBY

Coming this Summer!

For further information, questions or to register your interest please contact ModburyTouchRugby@gmail.com

More details on p. 14

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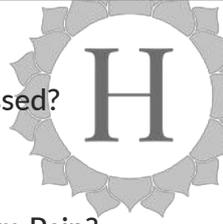
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28th/4/21- Geri Parlby

English towns in the 18th Century Society, Art & Architecture
26/5/21- Caroline Knight

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St George's Church

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pray

C



Welcome to St George's Church, Modbury. We are open every Sunday for public worship and all our services begin at 9:30am. We adhere to the current Covid restrictions to keep everyone safe. At the moment, this means we sit socially distanced, we wear face coverings, use sanitizer and have a one-way system. We hope you will feel welcome despite these restrictions and we hope you will join us on a Sunday morning.

You can subscribe to our newsletter by emailing vicarspa@modburyteam.org or by calling 01548 831126 to request a copy if you don't have a computer.
www.modburyteam.org

| Date | Service | Service leader |
|--|-----------------|------------------|
| Easter Sunday 4 th April | Holy Communion | Rev Matt Rowland |
| Sunday 11 th April | All age service | Gilbert Snook |
| Sunday 18 th April | Holy Communion | Rev Matt Rowland |
| Sunday 25 th April | Sunday Worship | Michael Tagent |

CHRISTIAN COMMENT: Easter = Hope!

As I write, it looks as though from Easter onwards life will be getting back to some kind of normality. Soon we will be able to meet up with friends and family in gardens, then as the summer progresses go to their homes, go to the pub, eat a meal in a restaurant and go on holiday. Easter equals hope for our nation coming slowly out of lockdown.

It seems fitting that Easter is the beginning of this slow thaw of lockdown, as Easter has always meant hope. Around the globe millions of people have gathered every Easter Sunday to celebrate hope, to celebrate the events two thousand years ago when the unimaginable happened. After the darkness and injustice of Jesus' death on Good Friday, despair turned to hope with the resurrection of Jesus from the grave.

Last Easter, in the midst of the first lockdown, The Queen spoke to the nation with these words:

"This year, Easter will be different for many of us, but by keeping apart we keep others safe. But Easter isn't cancelled; indeed, we need Easter as much as ever. The discovery of the risen Christ on the first Easter Day gave his followers new hope and fresh purpose, and we can all take heart from this. We know that coronavirus will not overcome us. As dark as death can be – particularly for those suffering with grief – light and life are greater."

As we come out of lockdown, come along on a Sunday, or to any of the other events our local churches run, to hear how you can make the hope of Easter part of your hope for the future. The hope of light and life.

Rev. Matt Rowland

Goodbye Ali Baba, Hello Cinderella

We are sad to announce that Ali Baba and the Four Thieves have become casualties of the pandemic. This pantomime will not now be taking place however we are looking forward to putting on a production of Cinderella in January 2022.

Peter Lowe, Modbury Pantomime

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Austin's
during
lockdown.



More Rubbish!!!

I just thought I would put finger to keyboard and take the opportunity to talk more rubbish!

In doing so however I would like to applaud the actions of the Modbury Litter Pickers who seem to be getting regular column now in the Messenger - so well done those concerned. (My wife and I are now unemployed - or should that read unemployable!). But undeterred the campaign continues and I wrote recently to our MP, Sir Gary Streeter regarding litter on the section of the A38 between Wrangaton Cross and the Ashburton exit. We were flabbergasted, nay disgusted, and ashamed at the amount of litter scattered along the carriageways (both sides and central reservation) and occupying most of the lay-bys - Dirty Devon are not strong enough words!

Interestingly on that stretch we encountered three sets of road works including one lane of the Eastbound carriageway closed near the Rattery turning. But no sign of litter pickers whilst other works were being carried out! No joined up thinking here then!!!

Why would those responsible for maintaining roads not also consider clearing the litter at the same time road works are being carried out? Of course, if road users were not to discard their litter irresponsibly then the problem would diminish - and save 'us' all considerable money also!

Sadly this is not just a problem for Devon, and as my wife and I would travel around the UK in better times it is clear that people have lost the responsible attitude in relation to the litter problem.

This issue needs highlighting more regularly to residents and visitors alike and that means improved 'Education and advertising' ...

- ***whatever happened to the Keep Britain Tidy campaigns?***
- ***Are schools sending out the message also in these days when so many people are 'allegedly' trying to 'save the planet'?***

My email to Sir Gary was copied into Highways England and a small number of Devon County Councillors. I received a reply from Sir Gary, who seems as frustrated as me with this issue, and also what I would deem a 'standard' response from Highways England (SW Operations). Nothing from any of the Councillors (name names I hear you say!).

Since then it has come to my notice the disgusting state of the A38 as you drive between Marsh Mills and the Tamar Bridge. I have lost count of the number of times over the years I have written to Plymouth City Council (who are the responsible authority for litter removal in this area of the A38) - is it worth the effort again, I ask?

So back to Modbury. Keep up the good work litter pickers but let us all remember - if we didn't drop litter in the first place - we wouldn't have to pick it up - and we would all be doing our bit to save the planet.

End of the lesson!

PS Lets hope the G7 leaders don't have to travel along our dirty highways in June - but that's another debate me thinks!!

Mervyn Kettle

LOST PROPERTY

Have you seen this wheel? Last seen rolling down Modbury Church Street! It won't do you much good without its partner.

A **Reward** offered for its recovery. Please phone 01548 560913 if you have found it.

Mike Hollebhone



MODBURY PARISH COUNCIL OFFICE

2 Galpin Street, Modbury PL21 0QA, Tel: 01548
830222 parishclerk@modburypc.co.uk

The Parish office is not open on Tuesdays and Saturday mornings during Covid restrictions.

Should you have any parish matter you would like to raise please email parishclerk@modburypc.co.uk or write a letter and put it through the Parish Office postbox.

You are also welcome to speak at the public forum held at the beginning of each council meeting. The meetings are held on Zoom on the first Tuesday of each month (except August) at 7 pm.

Contacts:

Police Community Support Officer:

Sergeant James (Jim) Timmis
James.TIMMIS@devonandcornwall.pnn.police.uk

County Councillor (Salcombe Division):

Rufus Gilbert. Tel: 01548 856659
Cllr.Gilbert@southhams.gov.uk

South Hams District Councillor (Charterlands):

Bernard Taylor Tel: 01548 830844
cllr.Taylor@southhams.gov.uk



MODWAG - LIFE ON THE VERGE

Spring is here and I am sure we are all looking forward to some colour in our gardens, birds singing and insects buzzing ... but will they be, and what steps can we all take to help them?

The management of verges and garden lawns is incredibly important when it comes to protecting our native flora and fauna. According to UK organisation **Plantlife**, verges across the UK support >700 plant species, accounting for 45% of our native flora. We have lost 97% of UK wildflower meadows since the 1930's, with huge impact on loss of not only flora, but also pollinating insects, invertebrates, birds and mammals. We all know the importance of biodiversity (David Attenborough's watchword), and healthy populations of pollinating insects are essential to the success of gardens and agricultural crops.

Plantlife has been active in promoting new ways of managing verges and lawns, including a policy known as **No Mow May**, where grass is not mown for at least four weeks during May. Where this policy has been put into practice, they have found that the highest production of flowers and nectar sugar was on lawns cut once every four weeks. This gives 'short-grass' plants like daisies and white clover a chance to flower in profusion, boosting nectar production *tenfold*. Gardening guru Monty Don has been on radio, TV and social media advocating less frequent mowing of lawns for this very reason.

Areas of longer unmown grass were found to be more diverse in their range of flowers, with other nectar-rich plants like oxeye daisy, field scabious and knapweed increasing the range of nectar sources for different pollinators and extending nectar availability into late summer.

ModWAG approached the Parish Council asking them to consider adopting a new approach in certain areas within the Modbury Parish. Charlotte Rathbone, who has great expertise in this area, identified possible sites for consideration. We await their response but are hopeful that they will agree.

Our recommendations are to delay and practice less frequent verge cutting in a number of specified grass areas which are suitable for this, because there are known benefits to insects from just allowing the grass to lengthen and thicken for several weeks.



What will this mean for Modbury? You should see some areas where the main grassy areas are left to grow longer and thicker, but the edges will remain trim, because everyone still wants it to look cared for and aesthetically pleasing. Wherever changes are made, we would seek to inform Modbury residents of the reasons and benefits of these changes.

The hope is that flowers will appear and along with them, insects such as bees. Residents could consider adopting similar principles in their gardens, with areas of shorter grass and other areas of long grass and flowers-this can be aesthetically very pleasing.



We would like to encourage 'Champions' within each residential hub, e.g. Champernowne, Palm Cross, Silverwell, etc. who can drive enthusiasm and inspire other residents so that everyone has a chance to become involved.

If you are interested there is a wealth of information on the '**Life on the Verge in Devon**' document available from Devon County Council. **More Meadows** is also a great source of information and has some very interesting talks and forums.



We can all do our bit within our own gardens by restricting mowing and/or leaving an area in the garden dedicated to wildflowers and encouraging insects, vertebrates and invertebrates – even a small area will make a difference. If you don't have a garden, you can still grow lovely insect friendly plants in tubs or window boxes. Every little helps. More on this theme next month.

Give it a try; you will be amazed by the results!

Development of a bare area of lawn into a beautiful insect- friendly work of art

AMAZING SPACES @ ST. GEORGE'S CHURCH

It doesn't feel like five years since we successfully completed the project to re-roof the church building and turned our attentions to the inside of the building; and although at times since then it seems like events have conspired to thwart our ambitions, the project team has been working hard to try and come up with a scheme that will include all of the priority and desirable works identified.



PRIORITIES

- Replace heating system as the existing system has now failed and cannot be repaired. Temporary heating will be needed for the intervening period.
- Replace lighting system.
- Rewire of church.
- Repairs and redecoration to the interior including the removal of the cement render at the rear of the building.
- Dealing with the issue of rising water in the transept floor area.

DESIRABLES

- Renovate toilets.
- Renovate porch.
- Update kitchen.
- Re-ordering of the church to create more flexible areas and additional meeting areas.
- Lighting improvements to outside areas.

At its recent meeting the Parochial Church Council agreed to press on with this ambitious project.

YOUR VIEWS ARE IMPORTANT

Whether you use the church on a regular basis, or visit the building infrequently, St. George's Church is part of the community and an asset of the town. Therefore, before we move forward to begin the detailed project planning and apply for grants, we would like to know the views of our community:

- Would you, for example, be happy with the installation of an underfloor heating system, with the added benefit of providing a single level floor throughout the church and much easier disabled access; or would you be unhappy at the floor being disturbed?
- How would you feel to see the current Victorian pews removed and replaced with new seating, but movable and able provide a flexible space when needed?

These and a lot of other questions need answering, so we have developed a project web site at <https://www.amazingspaces.online> where there is greater detail about the plan, an FAQ section and a short questionnaire which will allow you to let us have your views. If you have ten minutes and are interested in developing the heritage of our church building then please do go to the web site, read the information and let us have your views. It would be much appreciated.

Very many thanks

Alex Hammerstein – Project Leader

MARCH 1ST MARKED THE ANNIVERSARY OF THE SINKING OF HMS EXETER IN 1942



Following her success in the Battle of the River Plate in 1939, Devonport-based Heavy Cruiser HMS Exeter (C68) sailed to war again to the Far East in 1941 following refit. In late February 1942, as part of an international battle group, she encountered a strong Japanese force in the Java Sea and, following a major battle in which six of her eight boilers were hit, and she ran out of ammunition, she was finally

sunk on 1st March 1942. The majority of her crew spent up to 26 hours in the water before being taken prisoner by the Japanese. Many of that crew came from the Plymouth and South Hams area. Amongst those prisoners was CPO Albert Hawkey, father of Lt Col Chris Hawkey, shown here on the left saluting the Ensign, wearing his father's medals. Albert Hawkey survived 3½ years as a prisoner of the Japanese and finally returned safely to Devonport in Oct 1945.

Shown on the right is Lt Cdr David Scott, the Modbury Yeoman, responsible for the flag hoists on both of the town's flagstaffs.

Chris Hawkey



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ALLOTMENTS - BIN BATTLE



A well-tended plot

Allotments are good for your mental health - especially during Covid-19. A legitimate reason to be outdoors and active. So say the academics! But my attempts to make an early start on mine brought on a bout of unexpected stress!

With the experts' advice in mind and Spring nearly sprung, I decided it was a good time to tackle the rampant weeds on my new plot at Palm Cross. When we all moved onto the site last year, the soil was dry, rough, lifeless and full of post-building debris. A ton of rich manure has improved the soil but the weeds were gorging on a veritable banquet. Some heavy digging was required. But previous sessions resulted in buckets of weeds so heavy I could barely get them in the car. I was fed up with lugging them home to put in my recycling bin.



My weedy plot

It was time for a compost bin. I am one of many new plot-holders at Palm Cross and an allotment virgin although I have some knowledge having grown veg with my father for years. And whilst I have a respectable amount of gardening kit, I have never had a bin. I have been gazing enviously at some of the bins appearing on the plots – plastic Daleks, big cage-like arrangements made from pallets, neater square ones.

What to buy? Well who knew buying a compost bin was so stressful. I looked online. I visited an assortment of horticultural establishments in the area having phoned in advance – but the prices!!!! I have seen flimsy wooden structures costing over £100. Outrageous. Most places only seem to keep the plastic Dalek type around 300L. I didn't think they were that big, but they are MASSIVE. Like a giant

water butt and far too big to get in the car.

Then I discovered Argos sell one – a smaller, 260L self-assembly, rectangular black plastic one. Perfect. And it was on offer for £20. Result. Four sides, a lid, two sliding hatches and an instruction sheet. What could possibly go wrong????



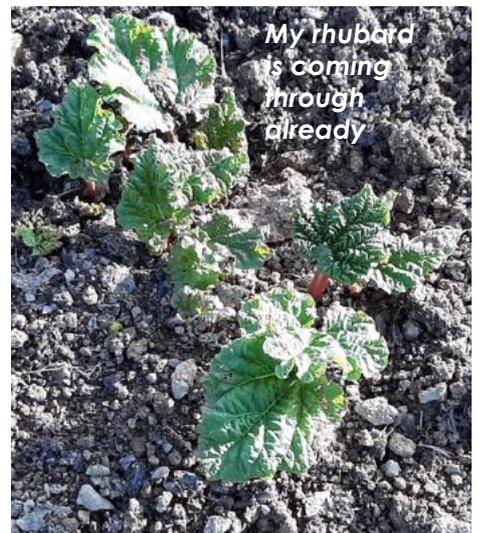
My wayward compost bin.

Well I have had happier experiences assembling Ikea furniture!!!! I had visions of assembling it on the plot. But over an hour later I hadn't even managed to assemble the lid which was in two halves joined by hinges. The hinges would not snap in.

I drove home in a rage, got some pliers and a large rag to protect my hands and grovelled around on the floor pressing the hinges together with the pliers. Then I went back to the allotment to make a start on the sides. Seemingly they just popped together. I could get three pieces together then the fourth side caused the other three to fold in and collapse. It was like something off the Generation Game. Various people stopped and peered over the hedge

curious to know what I was doing, some laughing at my struggle. One man suggested I needed 'a strong young man.'

I lost FOUR hours of my life that afternoon. Even when it was assembled I struggled to get the sliding hatches in place. It is sitting there forlornly and I am yet to work out how the lid snaps on but that battle is for another day!!! I can now get on with constructing my strawberry bed. And I am looking forward – eventually – to some lovely home-made compost!



My rhubarb is coming through already

Note to fellow PALM CROSS allotment holders. I would love some stories and news for future articles about your plots, plans, results etc. Please send to me at janeada@gmail.com.

Jane Adams

We're excited to introduce a new sport for Modbury - Touch Rugby

What does it involve? Based on the full contact game, Touch Rugby keeps the fast-paced attacking aspects without the tackling and complicated set pieces. It is a minimal contact game with an emphasis on including everyone, improving fitness and having fun. We will be following the English Touch Association rules (detailed info can be found at www.EnglandTouch.org.uk/play/how-to-play/the-rules) which allows all ages, genders and abilities to play and compete alongside one another.

Who is it for? Modbury Touch Rugby is open to adults of all abilities. Whether you're a seasoned rugby player or someone who just fancies a different way to keep fit, you'll fit right in with this sport. It is also great to play with all ages but whilst we establish ourselves as a club we're afraid we'll have to limit attendance to over 18s.

Who are we and why are we setting it up? Tom Coates and Archie Trevethan will run the sessions. Tom is a level one qualified England Touch Coach who took up the sport when time constraints and injuries precluded regular contact rugby. Archie on the other hand is a regular rugby player with experience from the Cardiff Blues academy. For different reasons they both just want to spend more time throwing a rugby ball around and enable Modbury to enjoy this great sport. Together they aim to provide a fun and rewarding session for all abilities.

When can you get involved? Modbury Touch will meet fortnightly on Mondays from 1800-1900. We are hoping to begin the sessions in May but this will depend on Covid restrictions. Please either drop us an e-mail to register your interest or follow us on Facebook and we will keep you updated.

We will play on the Queen Elizabeth II Recreation Field, Modbury.

How Much does it cost? Each session is £2 pay and play. We know you'll love it but just in case you're not sure, the first session is FREE! Please come along and give it a go!

For more information or to register your interest please email: ModburyTouchRugby@gmail.com, or search for **Modbury Touch Rugby Club** on Facebook.

Tom Coates



Modbury and District Branch of the Royal British Legion

The next meeting of the Modbury and District Branch of the Royal British Legion will take place on Monday 12th April 2021 starting at 7.30pm, when there will be a Zoom meeting. New members are always most welcome. Note that this is the second Monday of the month because of the Easter Bank Holiday.

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Things ain't what they used to be

Telling my great-grandchildren about my early life (I am over 100 years old) it became obvious that life without radio, TV, mobile phones or computer games was difficult for them to imagine.

So, I went on to tell them how we flew home-made kites and played marbles (if your father was an engineer, you might get a steel ball-bearing which would smash the opposition). For thrupence (3d) the local blacksmith would weld us an iron hoop with a hook to trundle along the street. At home there were model clockwork trains, Meccano construction sets, fretwork and stamp collecting – the highlights being the triangular stamps from South Africa and the German stamps of low price bearing the overprint “one million marks”. We keenly collected cigarette cards carrying pictures of our sporting idols of the day. Without “wireless” or TV we became avid readers of weekly comics like The Wizard, Hotspur or Rover – full of tales of intrepid young Britons confronting evil members of foreign extraction. What arrogant young racists we were.

Cycling was very popular - you could get a Hercules model for £3.19s.6d, or go up-market for a Raleigh at £4.19s.6d. I felt very smug at being the first boy in the village to fit one of the new “derailleur” three speed gears to my machine.

On the home front, without refrigerators, mother's life was very demanding, requiring shopping every day. Perishable goods would be kept on a cold stone shelf in the walk-in larder. Milk and bread were brought to your door every day, the baker in his little Trojan van with his basket of assorted loaves, and the milkman in his horse drawn float ladling your pint of milk straight into your jug. I still recall a noisy altercation at the door when mother had complained that the milk was turning, to which the milkman said “Missus, some people do ‘ave dirty jugs”.

Monday was washing day; clothes boiled in a copper vat, and mangled through a cumbersome machine with big wooden rollers and large cast-iron wheeled handle. Tuesday was ironing day. Another day, all the cutlery was brought out and polished with Brasso. Meals were always traditional English fare; the nearest we got to foreign food was a tin of spaghetti.

Few working-class people took holidays, but some managed day trips to the seaside for a paddle or swim. I was lucky to live by the sea and mother knitted me a costume which, when wet, sagged and stretched, leaving the crotch down somewhere near knee-level. As boys, we played in the sand dunes, pretending to be French Foreign Legionnaires with our handkerchiefs tucked in the backs of our caps.

We used to visit my grand-parents in Middlesex, from where my father took me to see the sights of London. Walking down Whitehall he instructed me to raise my cap when passing the Cenotaph, as did every man or boy in those days.

Travelling to London by train was an exciting adventure, especially going through the Severn Tunnel when my father would tease me by telling me to look out of the window to see any fish! Sometimes we went to London by motor coach; all the routes converged at the Black and White Bus company's hub at Cheltenham, where one changed bus. I remember being impressed that the coach had an on-board toilet at the back with a stained-glass window.

Motor transport was starting to take off, but was out of the reach of the working classes. Most cars were British, and it was a common pastime when out walking to identify as many makes as possible, e.g. Austin, Morris, Standard, Singer, Vauxhall, Armstrong Siddley, Riley, Wolsely, Morgan, Alvis or Rolls Royce; rarely a foreign name among them.

Traffic lights had not yet come; busy junctions controlled by a policeman wearing white gauntlets giving hand signals. I am told that they chewed copious amounts of gum to counteract the exhaust fumes.

At age 11 we took the “scholarship” exam to pass up to the Secondary school; those who failed remained in the elementary school until 14. At secondary level we experienced teachers wearing gowns, and forms grouped into “houses”; in my school they were named after four Welsh saints. On St. David's Day we got a half holiday; the girls sported a daffodil while the boys wore a leek. By the end of the proceedings these same leeks became weapons for friendly battles. I remember the stinging slash of the cane to the palm of the hand for infringements like swearing, letting off stink bombs or minor vandalism like throwing stones at the white porcelain insulators at the top of telephone poles.

Looking back to those days when there was no “Health & Safety” and no Declaration of Human Rights, I wonder how I survived to reach this 21st century. But survive I did, long enough to enjoy seeing my great grandchildren for WhatsApp conversations and party games on Zoom. Things certainly ain't what they used to be but tomorrow has been a good day.

Ivor Davies



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AMAZING SPACES @ ST. GEORGE'S CHURCH

It doesn't feel like five years since we successfully completed the project to re-roof the church building and turned our attentions to the inside of the building; and although at times since then it seems like events have conspired to thwart our ambitions, the project team has been working hard to try and come up with a scheme that will include all of the priority and desirable works identified.



PRIORITIES

- Replace heating system as the existing system has now failed and cannot be repaired. Temporary heating will be needed for the intervening period.
- Replace lighting system.
- Rewire of church.
- Repairs and redecoration to the interior including the removal of the cement render at the rear of the building.
- Dealing with the issue of rising water in the transept floor area.

DESIRABLES

- Renovate toilets.
- Renovate porch.
- Update kitchen.
- Re-ordering of the church to create more flexible areas and additional meeting areas.
- Lighting improvements to outside areas.

At its recent meeting the Parochial Church Council agreed to press on with this ambitious project.

YOUR VIEWS ARE IMPORTANT

Whether you use the church on a regular basis, or visit the building infrequently, St. George's Church is part of the community and an asset of the town. Therefore, before we move forward to begin the detailed project planning and apply for grants, we would like to know the views of our community:

- Would you, for example, be happy with the installation of an underfloor heating system, with the added benefit of providing a single level floor throughout the church and much easier disabled access; or would you be unhappy at the floor being disturbed?
- How would you feel to see the current Victorian pews removed and replaced with new seating, but movable and able provide a flexible space when needed?

These and a lot of other questions need answering, so we have developed a project web site at <https://www.amazingspaces.online> where there is greater detail about the plan, an FAQ section and a short questionnaire which will allow you to let us have you views. If you have ten minutes and are interested in developing the heritage of our church building then please do go to the web site, read the information and let us have you views. It would be much appreciated.

Very many thanks

Alex Hammerstein – Project Leader

Modbury Fruit and Produce Show

The Modbury Fruit & Produce Show committee has regrettably taken the decision to cancel this year's show for the second time in its 115 years history. In these difficult times we feel it is unwise to have so many people in close proximity in the Memorial Hall. Next year we hope all will be well so we hope to see you then.

With everyone being in lockdown perhaps you have taken up some new hobbies and we would like to see some exhibited at the show next time to help make the show bigger and better. The committee is now very short of members so we are looking for people to join us to enable the show to carry on for years to come.

If you are interested in joining the Committee, please contact our new secretary, Pauline Ryder, on 01548 830133 or via email paulineryder46@gmail.com.

Angela Peters

Social Prescribing in Modbury: a Vital Service within GP Surgeries and the Community to Tackle Loneliness and Social Isolation

Social Prescribing makes a huge difference to people's wellbeing – and it's available for free in your area!

Social prescribing involves referring patients to non-clinical support and activities in the community. It aims to help people with issues such as loneliness, anxiety, and obesity, smoking and poor mental health.

A Social Prescriber has the time to get to know the patient, taking a holistic approach to their health and wellbeing. They will help them to come up with practical solutions and ideas, using the NHS model of "what matters to me". Often this will be by connecting people with community groups and statutory services for practical and emotional support.

Please speak to your GP if you would like to be referred to Jenny Beavon – Social Prescriber for Modbury Health Centre.

The list of Modbury clubs, societies and activities in the centre of this month's Modbury Messenger has been updated to help people re-connect with their community as we begin to come out of lockdown. Pull this out and keep it somewhere safe for reference. Many thanks to Modbury Parish Council for providing the funding for this.

Jenny Beavon

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We have lost touch with a lot of our members, so we need to revise our membership list.

If you bought a share and wish to remain a member of the association please let us have your email address and mobile number by 1st May so that we can keep in touch.

Please reply by : emailing agvsamembers@gmail.com

or posting in the letterbox at Stonecot, Fore Street, Aveton Gifford

Neil Barker

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Saturday April 17th

Poundwell Square

09:45 to 12:15

Tuesday April 27th

Ayleston Park

14:45 to 15:30

Poundwell Square

15:35 to 16:35



walk&talk



We hope that Walk and Talk will be permitted to resume our Tuesday walks this month.

The walk dates would be **13th, 20th and 27th** April meeting at 10am in Poundwell Car Park.

All existing walkers will notified of the latest situation by email.

New walkers please contact any of the walk leaders to check that a walk will take place before attending.

Walk Leader contact details:-

Sue Rogers 01548 831289
Catherine Speight 01548 830195
Ann Brooks 01548 550300

Deena Farrell 01548 830692
Jean Wright 01548 810029



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You might not know about this but....



... the country's free range hens, in their entirety, have had to be confined indoors since 14 December until further notice from Defra, due to outbreaks of avian flu.

Many people I've mentioned this to have said 'I didn't know that'. So if on your walks around the lanes, there are no hens on view, this is the reason. They're suffering lockdown, just as much as we are! If we consider the problems we feel associated with having life curtailed, such as feeling the loss of our social lives, freedom to choose where we go and what we do, well, it's the same for our bored poultry.

I feel sorry for egg producers with flocks running to thousands as I have only a 'micro' cottage industry size flock here in Modbury and normally their lives are on the privileged end of the scale, with plenty of field to range over. Having hens inside means more food, more labour, electricity and time.

My one hour's permitted outdoor exercise is spent mainly on walking up and down to the the hen tunnel, with heavy buckets of feed, water, all the day's supply of winter greens from Aune Valley (I find that kale is less well received!) and then trying to replicate a little of the life they are used to, by giving them fresh straw to scratch around in, especially if a couple of handfuls of seeds are thrown into it to be discovered. It is hard to provide all that the great outdoors offers, even so: at this time of year they would be sunning themselves in the lee of a hedge, scratching around for insects or small worms, dust bathing and possibly preening - cleaning their feathers. A large box filled with sand and lice powder is useful but not as enjoyable as the real thing!

As with our own lockdown, there are problems of boredom, sadness at the life just beyond the door which they can see but not yet access, and I feel for them. They have no understanding to make sense of their situation although I know that when I can finally open that door to them again, they will rush out with joy and try everything at once....starting with the bright green spring grass that is growing in readiness. I think they will recover their mojo quite quickly, and then the gleam on their feathers again. In this, they are luckier than we might be in April, or whenever our 'door' is opened to our world again. From chatting to others I detect considerable caution about going out, and going further again. But maybe you should find your inner chicken - open your rusty wings and fly!

Carol Farrand

PERSONAL ANNOUNCEMENTS (Births, Deaths, Marriages, Thanks etc)

£10 per insertion—Max. 50 words (Subject to available space) email modburymessengercic@gmail.com

Modbury Messenger May Copy Date 10th April

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

Directors of Modbury Messenger: Christopher Barnes, Diana Lynne Barnes, Burda Gage, Bernard Taylor.

Company Secretary: George Rosevear.

Editorial Committee: John Bower, Lynne Barnes, Nicky Shepley, Mark Lawrence.

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MODBURY MESSENGER

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