



illustration - Annabel Gregory

For the People of Modbury & Brownston

Volume 25, Issue 315 - June 2025

VE Day in Long Park - 'Lest we Forget'

May 8th 2025 was the 80th Anniversary of the end of the Second World War in Europe - the day better known as 'VE Day' and on this day in 1945, Prime Minister Winston Churchill announced to the nation and the Commonwealth that hostilities in Europe were over and that the German army had signed an unconditional surrender.

So around the UK, on May 8th 2025, many people came out to join together and commemorate this momentous occasion. Church bells would be rung across the land at 6.30pm, beacons lit, and people would remember.



105 year old Ivor Davies tells Long Park residents about his experience of VE Day

Unfortunately, in Modbury 'we' seemed to have overlooked this event and very little was advertised! So to ensure some continuity with other towns and villages, several residents of Long Park, at relatively short notice, 'mustered on the green' (a favoured place for 'our' gatherings - of which there have been several over the years) on the evening of the 8th May.

After enjoying a long, warm spell through April and early May, this was probably the coolest day for some time, but that didn't deter us and actually it warmed again in the evening and the weather was perfect.

Bunting, banners and flags were hastily erected and people met for refreshments accompanied by light music from the era of 1945. Some people even managed to share tales of 'where they were' on the 8/5/1945. One such person was our 'guest of honour', former Long Park resident, and I believe, Modbury's oldest - Ivor Davies. It was good to see Ivor and Kathy who were proud to show everybody some of Ivor's VE Day memoirs which had just taken front page - and more, in the Kingsbridge Gazette!

<https://www.kingsbridge-today.co.uk/news/i-remember-ve-day-788937>

Brian Weeks proudly hung up Union Flag bunting which was flown on VE Day itself - apparently by his grandparents, he was quick to remind the gathering!

New residents also made an appearance, so it was a double opportunity to meet new neighbours as there have been a number of changes in Long Park over the past twelve months. Almost forty people sat and chatted on the green until nearly 8pm as the sun dropped over rooftops and a chill returned to the evening.

So a couple of hours was spent catching up on news, meeting new friends and reflecting on the sacrifice made by literally millions of people around the world, so we could enjoy an evening on England's green and pleasant land.

Mervyn Kettle





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MODBURY NATUREFEST 2025 Saturday June 28th 2-5 pm



Modbury Naturefest returns and will be bigger and better than last year, with more fun activities and refreshments.

The fun begins at 2 pm at the Queen Elizabeth II Recreation Ground. Adults and children are invited to celebrate the wonderful wildlife and environment we have on our doorstep. Admission is free.

As you see from our poster, there will be lots of activities for all ages, including drop-in sessions for art, creating bee pom-poms, natural dyeing, and willow.

There will be a storyteller, a nature treasure hunt, the ever-popular bug hunting, bee counting, making bird nest boxes, learning about our native bats, how to encourage wildlife in your garden, orchards in Modbury (with apple juice and cider) and information about our rivers.

In the MARS Pavilion, we will be serving cream teas, and there will be other drink and food stands. The Pavilion, and part of the festival site outdoor,s are accessible to all users, and we encourage people of all ages and abilities to join us.

See you there!

Boony Bower
Modbury Wildlife Action Group



Back on Duty



I've had a long time worrying about my future – shut away in the shed for months with only a couple of mice to talk to - around me all the allotments in various states of disuse. An air of despondency, wondering what will happen and whether the sound of a spade attacking soil would ever be heard again.

But Hallelujah! A White Knight rides forth in the shape of our town crier, David Scott, and through his generosity, guarantees the future of Church Lane Allotments. Oyez, oyez. Thank You!

As a result, all the allotments are up and running and have been transformed. Beans are climbing, potatoes plumping and lots of cabbages, peas

and strawberries looking forward to the summer. Happy also are the pigeons and mice. It must have been a worrying time for them as well.

In celebration, I've been upgraded with a new football size head (thanks, Jack), new stylish attire and a sunhat.

Must go now – blackbird stealing gooseberry crop, a circling crow needs scaring and a short sighted visitor is trying to have a conversation with me. I'm so happy!

Jeffrey Wurzell

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JOANNA COOKE & AL WALLERS

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

Saturday 16th August

- Adult only event.
- Doors open 6:30pm.
- Live music starts from 7:30pm.
- Cash bar & raffle prizes.
- Tickets £15 per person.
- Available from Modbury Post Office
or Via QR code / Link.



<https://lunasfund.enthouse.com/pf/modbury-main-event-2025>

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

And be prepared to sing, dance and have fun to all your favourite tunes, played by the brilliant, incomparable, irrepressible... **Al Wallers!**

Al is an accomplished musician, appearing at many events and gigs around the South West.



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Luna's Fund is a local baby loss and pregnancy after loss charity offering practical and emotional support to bereaved parents in Devon and Cornwall.

Our Services:

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For more information or to contact us:

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Luna's Fund

07498599888

www.lunasfund.com

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Oh, What a Night.....This Promises to be!

Modbury is gaining an enviable reputation for hosting excellent live music events. A date for your diary is Saturday August 16th from 6.30pm onward, when The Memorial Hall is hosting Joanna Cooke and Al Wallers.

Joanna is a popular Plymouth based singer songwriter known for her soulful and emotionally charged vocals and delicious melodies. She has supported many world class singers such as Tom Jones, Paloma Faith and Jess Glynne. Following her captivating set, the audience will be entertained by the accomplished and irrepressible Al Wallers, who will get your feet tapping and hips swaying to some favourite tunes. The concert is raising vital funds for a Plymouth Charity, 'Luna's Fund', that supports parents after baby loss.

Tickets are £15 and go on sale from 1st June at Modbury Post Office or directly from the Luna's Fund Website via the QR code on the advert.

This promises to be a great night for a really important charity, so get your tickets early.

Lucy Brown



A Great Time Out and Opportunity to Support a Valued Local Charity

Our events this year in the South Hams are:

Rattery Hidden Village Gardens
Flete House Nr Modbury Devon
Bowringsleigh Nr Kingsbridge Devon

Sunday 15th June 11.00 - 16.00

Sunday 27th July 12.00 - 17.00

Sunday 7th Sept 14.00 - 17.00

Please check the link to St Luke's website for more information on

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

St Luke's is the charity providing hospice care in the South Hams. We have community nurses, social workers and volunteers who work and live locally; patients are cared for in their own homes or at our inpatient facilities in Plymouth when necessary. Your support for this much valued local service is especially important at this time of great need and high inflation, and would be greatly appreciated.

Colin Pincombe



Modbury Cricket Club News



The cricket season is now well under way and at the time of submitting this report, two matches have been played – 20/20 games against Ermington and Harberton. Unfortunately, both resulted in defeats – by 7 wickets and 19 runs respectively, but all who were involved really enjoyed being back on the cricket field after a long winter break.

Three further games will have been played by the time this edition of the Messenger is published but the fixtures for June are as follows (home matches played at Ermington):

Sunday	1 June	Holbeton	Away	13:00-17:00
Sunday	8 June	Ugborough	Home	13:00-18:00
Sunday	15 June.	Wembury	Away	13:00-18:00
Sunday	29 June.	South Brent	Home	13:00-18:00

Training continues every Thursday evening from 1800 – 2000 in the Club's nets at the QE II Recreation Ground.

To keep up to date with fixtures, results and socials please visit www.modburycc.co.uk.

New members are always welcome. Contact me on 07759 282404 for more information.

Phil Smith
Secretary, Modbury Cricket Club

Cleo's Bistro

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Friday and Saturday evening dining

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Modbury Branch Royal British Legion

The next Meeting of the Modbury and District Branch of the Royal British Legion will be a Business Meeting in The Club on Wednesday 4th June, starting at 7.30pm.

New members are always most welcome.

David Scott

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Modbury Parish Council Annual Meeting & Ordinary May Meeting

Tuesday 6th May 2025, 7:00pm



Present were eight councillors, and three members of the public. Apologies were received from Cllr Sarah Wyatt.

In the **Annual Meeting**, Cllr Barbara Price was re-elected as Chair and Cllr Phil Smith as Vice-Chair.

Public Forum

- There was a query about the appointment of SHDC for safety inspections of the play parks. It was pointed out that external inspections are required by our insurance and SHDC were the best option. Also, should problems arise, an external consultation is crucial.
- Road white lines in certain locations need attending to before the summer tourist season.

Planning

There were two applications brought by the Planning Committee before the meeting because of their importance to the community.

- Livewest Housing Association have applied to have the social housing on the Palm Cross estate, which they own, freed from the Section 106 requirement to sell at affordable value, should they need to sell. The Planning Committee recommended that we object to this change and this objection was approved by the meeting.
- The outline planning application by Bloor Homes for up to 75 dwellings and all other associated development, with all matters reserved apart from access on the Palm Cross Estate. This area is outside Modbury's designated development boundary. Other contentious issues include overload on local infrastructure, proposed percentage of affordable housing, both vehicular and pedestrian access, and the poor performance of Bloor Homes in their previous developments on the site on the adjacent site. Devon CC Highways Department have objected on various grounds. It was noted that Modbury residents have put in some serious and well-thought-through objections. The Council unanimously agreed to object to the application and will submit their formal document to SHDC. The link to the application is <https://southhams.planning-register.co.uk/Planning/Display/4116/24/OPA>

Devolution

Modbury Parish Council reiterated their thanks to the leader of SHDC, Cllr Julian Brazil, for coming to MPC last month to explain the background to the proposals to disband Devon CC into an, as yet undetermined, number of unitary councils. MPC will continue to monitor developments.

Maintenance

- Cllr Bill Cole is now Road Warden and his team is working diligently on the potholes in the parish. MPC can only be concerned with side roads and not the main roads.
- A new P3 coordinator is needed to oversee work on the public paths in the parish.

Traffic calming measures – Barracks Road

MPC to support an application for a sign to warn motorists that pedestrians may be in the road. It was noted that MPC have often urged DCC Highways to improve safety on Barracks Road and will do so again.

Community Engagement

- The telephone box will be refurbished and become a mini-museum/gallery under the auspices of the Heritage Working Group.
- Rosemary Parker and Helen Pickles put together a splendid display of past May Fairs in the Parish Office window.
- The Marvellous Modbury/Marigolds weekend saw a lot of tidying up work by councillors, traders and other volunteers. More support from the community would be appreciated.

Date of next meeting Tuesday 3rd June 2025 @ 7:00 pm

Tony Price



Modbury History Society

The next meeting of Modbury History Society will take place at 7:35 pm on Monday, 9th June 2025 when Pamela Vass will talk about 'The Suffragettes in Devon.'

Modbury History Society meets at the MARS Pavilion in the QEII Recreation Ground, Chatwell Lane, Modbury PL21 0FS, where there is ample parking. Membership is £20 per annum and starts in September each year for a series of eight talks on topics related to the history of the area. Guests are most welcome to attend a talk for a fee of £5. Look out for the programme in the Modbury Messenger and reminders on Modbury Nextdoor.

Please visit www.modbury-heritage.co.uk to learn about Modbury's 1000-year history.

If you would like further information please contact me at rosiejaneparker@gmail.com

Rosemary Parker

THE STANBOROUGH CHORUS

Summer Cream Tea Concert

Sunday 15th June at 3:00pm

At Malborough Village Hall

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Conductor - Pete Cook

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Jane Bullen



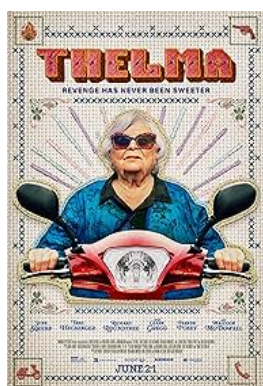
May Fair Carnival Vintage Car Parade

Prior to the Carnival Parade, on Long Park, around 15 vintage and interesting cars were on show for enthusiasts to look at, sit in, or chat with the owners. Amongst these were old Rileys, three MG T types, a Rolls Royce and even a rare 3-wheeler BSA car. All these cars then followed the parade down Church Street, up Brownston Street, along Dark Lane and back to Long Park, all slower than the Modbury Mile runners!

Many thanks to Mike Oakins for organising this wonderful annual event.

John Bower

Holbeton Film Club



June's film is **Thelma** (certificate 12A), a 93-year-old grandmother who loses \$10,000 to a con artist on the phone. With help from a friend and his motorised scooter, she soon embarks on a treacherous journey across Los Angeles to reclaim what was taken from her. At 94, the actress June Squibb gives a great performance in this tender and well observed comedy. Thelma was inspired by the director's own grandmother, a video of whom is played over the final credits.

This is screening on **Friday 13th June 2025** in Holbeton Village Hall. Doors open 7pm. The programme starts at 7:30pm. Tickets on the door still only £4 and £2 for accompanied under 12's (cash only). Ice creams will be on sale for £1.

Our programme for 2025 continues with:

Conclave, 12A
Oranges & Sunshine, 15
The Outrun, 15
Small Things Like These, 12A

Saturday 12th July
Friday 8th August
Saturday 13th September
Friday 10th October

Do visit our new website with this QR code:

Tel: 01752 830274 email harryluson@gmail.com



Harry Baumer



Modbury Mission Community

To know Jesus and make him known

St George's Church, Modbury

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

For St George's Parish enquiries contact Gill West, Churchwarden 07849253605

	Service	Service Leader
June 1st	Holy Communion 9.30 am	Rev. Simon Franklin
June 8th	All-Age Service 9.30 am	Helen Pickard and Gill West
June 15th	Holy Communion and Kids' Church 9.30 am	Rev. John Elliott
June 22nd	Sunday Worship 9.30 am	Gil Snook
June 29th	Team Service with Holy Communion 10.30 am	The Venerable Douglas Dettmer, Archdeacon of Totnes
	Rooted - a service of contemporary worship	TBC

Christian Comment: The Quiet Revival

A recent survey commissioned by the Bible Society and conducted by YouGov has come up with some surprising results. There has been a general view over many years that church attendance is falling, but the survey shows that since 2018 there has been a significant rise in church attendance across a broad range of denominations, particularly the Roman Catholics and Pentecostals. The age group showing the greatest rise in church attendance is "Generation Z", that is 18- to 24-year olds. Also the rise in attendance is greater among men than women. You can read this information for yourself on biblesociety.org.uk.

If you too find you have a growing desire to find out more about Jesus, the Church and Christianity in general, don't hesitate in getting in touch with your local church. The church exists primarily for its non members! Alternatively, if you have questions, but would rather be in touch electronically, do email or telephone. The Modbury Mission Community website gives you various options of whom to contact, but a good place to start would be vicarspa@modburyteam.org. For a more personal response there is our curate oli.long@modburyteam.org or email me on j.g.snook@icloud.com.

Gilbert Snook

Lay Reader, Modbury Mission Community

Changes at St George's

On April 27th, we said farewell to Rev. Matt Rowland and his family at a tea party attended by well over 200 people from across the mission community in St. George's Church. Matt, Louise and their children Emily, Isobel and Joshua have been part of our community here in Modbury for over 7 years and we wish them all every blessing as they relocate to Exeter and Matt continues his ministry at the city church of St. Leonard's.

Our services at St George's will continue to be published in the Modbury Messenger and are also available to see on our website

www.modburyteam.org

along with other information relating to the mission community.

St. George's is open every day from around 9:00 am until 5:00 pm for residents and visitors and everyone is welcome to join us for our Sunday services which are usually at 9:30 am.

If you need to contact anyone at St. George's please call;

Gill West (Churchwarden) 07849253605

Richard Taylor (Churchwarden) 07799626134

Rev. Oli Long (Curate, Modbury Mission Community)
01548 732007

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

E-mail: ivybridge@prcdtr.org.uk

Web: staustinsivybridge.co.uk



REV. MATT ROWLAND LEAVES MODBURY TEAM: VICAR TO BECOME RECTOR AT ST LEONARD'S CHURCH, EXETER



In January, an announcement was made in all five churches of the Modbury Mission Community that Rev. Matt Rowland would be leaving on Easter Day and moving to Exeter to become the Rector of St Leonard's Church, where he did his curacy training. Thus congregations made preparations to bid farewell to Matt, although the family will be staying in the Modbury Vicarage whilst the children finish their summer-term schooling.

Various gifts were given to Matt at the farewell tea party held at 3:00 pm on Sunday 27 April, including a book of messages from all five churches, some John Lewis gift vouchers and also a photograph taken of his final gathering will be forwarded. A book about saints was also given to him at his institution and induction service at St Leonard's Church at 7.30 pm on Wednesday 7 May, which was led by both the Bishop of Exeter and the Bishop of Exeter and the Bishop of Exeter.

David Scott

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MODBURY PARISH COUNCIL

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Your Councillors are:

Bill Cole	01548 830913	
Chris Field	07836 592854	chrisfield@modburyparishcouncil.gov.uk
Richard Foss	01548 721420	richardfoss@modburyparishcouncil.gov.uk
Barbara Price (Chair)	07739752095	barbaraprice@modburyparishcouncil.gov.uk
Tony Price	07801837129	tonyprice@modburyparishcouncil.gov.uk
Phil Smith (Vice Chair)	07759282404	philsmith@modburyparishcouncil.gov.uk
Dave Trigger	07808742372	davetrigger@modburyparishcouncil.gov.uk
Ann Turner	01548830606	annturner@modburyparishcouncil.gov.uk
Sarah Wyatt	07794 662903	sarahwyatt@modburyparishcouncil.gov.uk

How can we help you? Councillors run drop-in surgeries on Sat. 10:00 - 11:00 am in the Parish Office at 1 Modbury Court. The Parish Clerk is in the Parish Council office on Tues & Thurs, 10am - 4:30pm. Call into the office, phone, email or come along to our meetings at 7pm in the Pavilion, QEII Recreation Ground on the first Tuesday of every month and speak in the public forum.

Devon County Councillor (Salcombe Division):	Louise Wainwright	Tel: 01548 856659 louise.wainwright@devon.gov.uk
South Hams District Councillor (Charterlands Ward):	Bernard Taylor	Tel: 01548 830844 Cllr.Bernard.Taylor@southhams.gov.uk

Troops on the March to New HQ

I recently learned that, after four years of fabulous displays in the window of "Mr McAllister's Amazing Toy Soldier Emporium" at, 64 Brownston Street, the soldiers, and Gerry, were on the move. This was a great disappointment to me and for Modbury, until I found that the move was only down to Church Street.

The Emporium is to be re-established at 5 Church Street as Iggy and Neill are vacating their shop, Fifth Sense. Gerry told me that this gives him the chance to establish a more strategic base for his men on the 'High Street', and the move is planned for the end of June. This struck me as a very easy move for Gerry himself, but a massive distance for his literally thousands of tiny soldiers!

Having talked to Gerry about this, he is really excited to be joining the 'High Street' traders and hopes his shop will continue to help to attract new visitors and customers to Modbury. His window scenes have intrigued and delighted locals and visitors alike for the past four years, usually depicting historic battles, and he hopes to continue to provide similar battle scenes for (as he put it) the great folk of Modbury who have been so supportive. He plans to feature some very local scenes depicting battles fought in and around Modbury during the English Civil War, as featured on Time Team.



Gerry was at pains to say that he is very grateful to Geoffrey Fielden for giving him the opportunity to launch his business at his premises on Brownston Street back in 2021, and Gerry tells me further that he has recently been informed that his Emporium is most likely one of, if not the last, Toy Soldier shop left in England. Amazing indeed.

The timing for him has also been amazing, as he was due to move out from number 64 anyway, and was not sure where to go. He is so grateful to Iggy and Neill for giving him this great, and timely opportunity. He wishes them, as I'm sure Modbury does too, every success while they prepare to venture off to pastures new.

Mr McAllister's Amazing Toy Soldier Emporium

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John Bower



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Modbury May Fair 2025



Well, what a week that was! It started with a humdinger of a hoedown at the Friday night Ceilidh with a delicious meal cooked by our Chair, Pip Ainsworth, and continued through to the May Fair service in St George's nine days later.

The weather held for the Saturday Market with a full range of stalls selling all sorts of goodies, whilst our local artists displayed their wares at Art in the Hart.

The Space theme was taken into alternative dimensions in the Marchand Petit-sponsored Carnival with more motorised floats than in recent years and no less than four Darth Vaders to terrorise the younger members of the community. A magnificent space rocket propelled by the ever inventive Phil Ainsley made it round the circuit without taking off, and by the end it looked as though it had been modelled on the famous crooked spire in Ermington! A total of £421 was raised by the Fire Brigade tarpaulin and the wandering buckets. A special mention must be made to Sam who collected nearly £60, more than double anyone else.

Our Town Crier, David Scott, showed his talent for bewitching in setting the Treasure Hunt with separate quizzes for adults and children following the same route safely around town and ending at St George's where once again hot beverages and tasty morsels could be consumed.

Bank Holiday Monday morning started with the key ceremony of the Fair, the crowning of May Fair Queen Alba and King Luke, the reading of the Charter and the hanging of the Glove. Then the festivities commenced. Distribution of Community grants to MODWAG, Modbury Bloomers, Modbury Pre-School and Modbury Junior Soccer teams. Circle dancing, traditional games, Twinning Society crepes and finally the Duck Race. Then in the afternoon for those with any energy left the famous Modbury Mile, sponsored by Luscombe Maye. All 200 entrants got a medal showing the egalitarian nature of our Town!

Every day of the week had an event, be it a challenge like Bingo or Beetle drive or Quiz, or entertainment like the Gospel Singers or Acoustic night or Dog Show, or culinary delight at the Seniors Lunch at the Exeter Inn or Cleo's Bistro at the Modbury.

The May Fair Committee would like to thank all the organisers of these various events, the helpers who marshalled our streets during the road closures, put out all the road signs, put up the bunting, helped erect the market stalls and who helped run the games.

More details of the funds raised will be published in the next Messenger, but so far it seems more than last year. Get your thinking caps on if you'd like to apply for a Community Grant and if you really, really need something urgently then we can always pay it in advance.

Modbury May Fair Committee

MODBURY RBL BRANCH HONOURS AND CELEBRATES VE+80 DAY

Although the theme of the Modbury May Fair was Space, the Modbury Branch of the Royal British Legion did ensure that VE+80 events were remembered, honoured and celebrated. At the Carnival Parade on Saturday 3rd May, the Modbury Branch Standard was paraded for the very first time, being carried by Midshipman Will Atkinson, who is the son of the Branch Poppy Appeal Officer - Ade Atkinson, and just passed out of the Britannia Royal Naval College, Dartmouth and planning to join the RN Submarine service.



Another first was that the Town Mace was carried by a Parish Councillor – Dave Trigger MBE. On Thursday 8th May, I, as the Modbury Chief Yeoman, had planned a special Flag Hoist that took place at 09:30 am at Palm Cross Green. Then as the actual RBL Branch Standard Bearer, he was at the Modbury War Memorial for a special Service of Remembrance starting at 10:00 am with several other RBL members and people from the town. The service was led by Rev. Oli Long, who is the Modbury Mission Community Curate. The Exhortation and Kohima Epitaph were said by the Branch President, John Robinson, whilst the Chairman, David West MBE was able to operate a Hymnal Machine for the Last Post, two-minute silence and Reveille.

David Scott





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Evening Lecture at Shilstone: Modbury's Civil War by Philip Photiou

Thursday 5th June at 7:00pm,
Devon Rural Archive, Shilstone House, PL21 0T

In this lecture, Philip Photiou will talk about the first Battle of Modbury in December 1642, and the second battle in February 1643. He will explain how events leading to the two battles led to the defeat of the Royalist army, and the impact this had on the Civil War in Plymouth and the South-West.

Philip is a local historian and has written several books, 'Plymouth's Forgotten War', a history of Plymouth during the Civil War 1642 to 1646, and 'The Wrath of Kings' and 'The Lamb of God', which are two of a three-part series set during the Wars of the Roses. For the purposes of his research, Philip has walked all over Devon and Cornwall and he has redefined the forts and battle sites in and around Plymouth.

Philip also works with Steve Johnson, author of the Cyberheritage social media channels doing historical podcasts around Plymouth and other areas. He also leads a monthly tour of Drake's Island with Steve, and a small number of historical walking tours around Plymouth Hoe and the Barbican. The Shilstone Café will be open between 6:00 pm and 7:00 pm for drinks and cake. Further details and tickets: <https://shilstonedevon.com/whats-on/>



Amber Goldhahn
Devon Rural Archive

Modbury Welfare Fund

The Modbury Welfare Fund is the new name for what was previously known as *The Fund for the Benefit of the Sick Poor in Modbury*. Established in 1915, this fund was merged in 1965 with five other smaller funds. These funds originated from individual legacy donations by parish residents. In changing the name of the fund to the Welfare Fund, the Trustees hope to move away from the somewhat archaic name previously used.

The fund offers small, one-off grants to low-income Modbury parish residents needing financial support for welfare or health issues.

Previous grants have included the purchase of a wheelchair, food parcels during COVID lockdown, transport for a child to attend therapy and after-school care during a period of parental illness.

The Fund normally has in the region of approximately £3,000 each year to give out in small grants. Grant applications are accepted throughout the year. Grants can be given to Parish organisations if they show the funds will aid low-income individuals.

There is an assessment process undertaken by members of the fund and confidentiality in this role is of paramount importance to the Trustees.

If you would like further information, please contact Barbara Price on 07739 752095.

You can collect an application form from the Parish Office during opening hours or request one by email: barbaraprice@modburyparishcouncil.gov.uk

Charity Reg Number: 235500

Barbara Price
Trustee, Modbury Welfare Fund.



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Here is the list of speakers for the u3a general meetings that take place on the 3rd Monday afternoon each month at the Watermark in Ivybridge.

16 June 2025 - Adam Hart-Davies. The talk will be **"Taking the Piss out of London"**. Adam will explain why urine was collected in London for a major industrial operation on the North Yorkshire coast. He will also mention some songs and promote the straw bale urinal!

21 July 2025 - Simon Dell. An ex-policeman, Simon regularly guides visitors around one of his favourite haunts of Lundy Island. He is also a Dartmoor National Park Guide, a member of the Police History Society & the Devon and Cornwall Police Museum. Simon has published books on policing, Dartmoor Prison and, in 1997, was awarded an MBE for his work with the Dartmoor Rescue Group and Tavistock community. Simon will talk about **"Sermons in Stone, Rev. Bray's Bardic Boulders"**. If you follow the Cawsic River, you might see carvings and dedications to Spencer, Burns, Shakespeare and Milton. Simon's talk describes the story of these stones and the intriguing life of Edward Atkyns Bray, the Vicar of Tavistock.

18 Aug 2025 - Zoe Harris. The talk will be on **"The Waste Sector Landscape in the UK"**. Zoe is a senior manager with Suez Recycling and Recovery UK. Her talk will cover a broad range of topics including the waste sector landscape in the UK, public and private sector roles, what happens to your black bin bag waste, whether it is processed, buried or burnt. It will also cover waste legislation and the whole procurement process for waste contracts with local authorities.

15 Sept 2025 - Jacqui Felix-Mitchell. This talk, **"From PR Professional to Garden Designer - a life of passion"** looks at Jacqui's journey from PR professional to Garden Designer. She will talk about her work in Publishing, Marketing, Communications and Public Relations and then continue to her growing passion for all things garden design and what happened next.

20 Oct 2025 - Chris Robinson. Chris is an acknowledged expert on the history of Plymouth and a guide to important places in the city. The title of the talk is **"The story of Plymouth Hoe, Barbican and City Centre"** and it will be a historical, pictorial tour of the heart of Britain's Ocean City.

17 Nov 2025 - Paul Rendell. **"The Making of Warhorse and other films on Dartmoor"**. In this fascinating talk, Paul looks at filming on Dartmoor, including the making of Warhorse in 2010, and explores the tricks used to make a great movie. The talk will also explore TV programmes such as Down to Earth, Gold Digger and the 1985 film **"Revolution"**, made on Dartmoor and Bigbury Bay and featuring our speaker, Paul Rendell, as an extra in the film.

Graham Meaden



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Diary of a Local Beekeeper – The Good and the Bad News

As the 2025 honey season enters its stride, Justine and Duncan have had to overcome some devastating winter events

Last winter was the worst I have ever known for bee colony wipe-outs, personally, locally and wider afield. Despite all the preparations we routinely make to ensure our hives enter the cold season in good shape, nevertheless we lost nearly our entire apiary at Yealmpton in early March. It seems, too, that this unprecedented event was replicated up and down the land – beehives suddenly becoming, like the Marie Celeste, emptied of bees, including the queen. Whilst our apiaries in and near Modbury were mercifully unaffected, it was still very upsetting to lose the hives we did, just as spring was appearing, and as yet, there has been no definitive reason produced as to why this phenomenon occurred. In my view, however, it was a combination of factors.

Firstly, we enjoyed a very warm, lengthy autumn, which resulted in the queens continuing to lay brood beyond the time when they should have pressed 'pause' for the winter. The presence of brood thus enabled the parasite Varroa mite to continue breeding in the lava cells later than normal and, significantly, after beekeepers had administered winter treatment for the reduction of Varroa numbers. As a result Varroa levels spiralled up again. Finally, I think the warm autumn yielded a lot of sub-standard pollen, lacking in essential nutrients – a poor food source for the bees. So, maybe a combination of late brood-laying, exhausted queens, poor food supply and high levels of Varroa infestation caused a tipping point which sadly, some hives could not surmount. This is my supposition, for what it's worth – I await the experts' diagnosis with interest.

However, now comes the good news! Most of our hives that did survive have benefitted enormously from the excellent spring weather this year. The long spells of dryness and warmth have enabled the colonies to rapidly expand in size and strength, plus generate good stocks of honey from the flowering oil-seed rape and abundant spring blooms. Of course, this rapid expansion has also encouraged the strongest hives to swarm early and already they are developing new queen cells which, when mature enough, will precipitate a swarm. Then, the old queen will leave the hive along with a large number of flying bees, aiming to set up another colony elsewhere. When the new queen hatches, she will leave on her mating flight, pursued by drones, before returning to the hive where, after a few weeks, she will start laying eggs, ensuring the colony continues to thrive, both in bee numbers and stores. Justine and I have had a busy May attempting to pre-empt swarms and build up our hive numbers to replace the winter losses. We have already 'false-swarmed' several of our strongest hives to this effect, which were bringing on queen cells. This involves removing the old queen, together with lots of brood, bees and food into another empty hive and placing it into another apiary, well away from the parent hive – in order to prevent the flying bees from returning to it – then allowing the original colony to hatch out the queen cells as usual. By this method, we can keep control of any potential swarm event, which if left to the bees' whims we would probably lose completely.

More good news is that Justine and I expect to be extracting honey before the end of May, so there will soon be supplies available from the Neale's Cavern in Modbury. We very much value all the great feedback we receive from customers, and hope you will continue to enjoy this locally produced honey.

PS: I found a dead queen hornet actually inside a hive the other day. I presume she had been trying to gain access, but the sentry bees had managed to overcome her successfully. I've included a picture of her – she is a hefty insect, so it must have been quite a battle!

Duncan Currall



Brood frame showing capped lava cells



One queen cell towards bottom of image



Dead queen hornet found inside the hive



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walk&talk

Our June walk dates will be on the 3rd, 10th, 17th and 24th June.

The venue and travel arrangements for each of the walks will be discussed at the previous week's walk and decided according to the weather forecast for the walk day.

Walk leader contact details:-

Sue Rogers 01548 831289

Jean Wright 01548 810029

Sue Rogers

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WHAT A NIGHT THAT WAS



As part of the Modbury Fair 2025, local musicians who regularly meet together to share their love of music, were encouraged to demonstrate their flare and talents by hosting an Acoustic Night of Music during the Wednesday evening of the Fair week. This was agreed, and with thanks to the White Hart, we were allowed to use their venue to present this event.


The evening included lively contributions from various local talented individuals including solo artists, duos and small groups, performing well known songs, which many of the large audience were happy to sing along to.

Two guest bands were invited to bring their vibrant style of music to the proceedings, Dust Devils, a Modbury-based band, performed a quality mix of lively American roots, blues and modern folk music.

Our second guest band were the Kit Hillbillies who originated in the Tamar Valley. They raised the temperature with strong vocals and their rootsey acoustic music featuring blue grass, country blues and Americana and, I quote, 'the odd traditional folk and gospel song'.

All in all, this was a joyous evening and a huge thanks to all the performers and you, the enthusiastic audience. Lastly, a big thank you to Mike Marchant, one of our talented musicians, who pulled the evening together and acted as 'herdsman' and master of ceremonies.

Chris Birch




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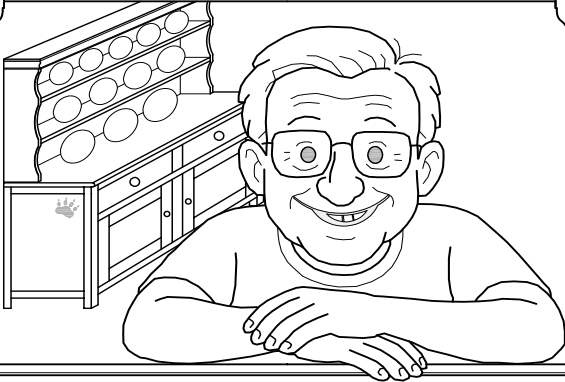
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Quiz Night

In aid of Modbury's Marvellous Mural

Find out more about plans for the Mural in Modbury Car Park and have a great night competing with your friends and neighbours. People need to brush up on their Modbury history, as there will be several rounds on the history of Modbury.

Saturday 31st May

7.30pm in Modbury Memorial Hall

£5 per ticket - teams maximum of 8 people

Available from Modbury Post Office, Bar available

NOTE CHANGE OF DATE

Sarah Wyatt



Parish Paths – Can You Help?

Earlier this year Adam Slater, Modbury's P3 (Parish Paths Partnership) Coordinator, submitted his resignation and so much of the P3 workload has fallen to our small team of councillors.

In February and March we undertook a survey of the footpath network for Devon County Council (who are the responsible authority for public rights of way) and we have continued to repair and replace some of the footpath infrastructure such as finger posts and steps/handrails.

Now that the growing season is in full swing, however, we need to re-establish a team to keep our footpaths clear of under and overgrowth. The key to this is the recruitment of a new Coordinator who can help establish and coordinate a team of volunteers to undertake this work.

So, if you have an interest in the countryside, are reasonably physically fit and wish to make a much-valued contribution to the community please offer your services to the Parish Clerk, Bleddyn Griffiths, at parishclerk@modburyparishcouncil.gov.uk or call into the parish office on a Tuesday or Thursday for a discussion as to what is involved.

Councillor Phil Smith
Modbury Parish Council



INTENDED MONTHLY FLAG HOIST AT PALM CROSS GREEN - June

Date	Masthead	Starboard Yard (Plymouth) - West	Port Yard (Modbury) - East	Event
03	Union Flag	DUNKIR	1940Ans	End of Dunkirk Evacuation 1940
04	Devon Ensign	Devon Flag	PETROC	Petroc Devon's Patronal Saint
05	Devon Lion	Devon Flag	BONFAC	Boniface Devon's Patronal Saint
06	Union Flag	D1 st subAY	Ans1943 rd sub	Start of D-Day 1944
14	Union Flag	Falklands Flag	1982Ans	End of Falklands War
16	Lionheart	MAGN2 nd subC	121 st sub5	Signing of Magna Carta 1215
18	Army	WAERLO	181 st sub5	Battle of Waterloo 1815
21	Union Flag Royal	King Charles Flag	King Charles Flag	Sovereign Official Birthday
22	Army	KOHIMA	1943 rd subAns	End of Kohima Battle 1944
25	Union Flag	KOREA	Ans1950	Start of Korean War 1950
26	UN Flag	CHARTE	1945	UN Charter signed 1945
28	Armed Forces Flag	White Ensign/RM	Army/RAF Ensign	Armed Forces Day (2025)



Modbury and South Hams Creative Writing Group

This month the Modbury and South Hams Creative Writing Group are pleased to announce the winners of our May Fair writing competition. They are:

Lilah Winslet (Junior category) for her story 'Moon and the Aliens'

Veronika Boda (Adult Category) for her poem 'Cosmic Celebration in Modbury'

The winning entries are printed here. Each received a £15 book token. The judges really enjoyed reading all the entries, so thank you so much for your stories and poems.

We are keen to welcome new members, so if you enjoy creative writing, why not join us. We meet usually on the first Saturday of the month at the MARS Pavilion at the Queen Elizabeth II Recreation Ground, Chatwell Lane, Modbury at 10.00am.

www.facebook.com/modburyc creativewritinggroup

Moon and The Aliens

'Welcome to BBC News. We have had an alert that there have been sightings of a UFO! Please stay in your house at all times. Don't worry, mini drones will deliver your food and drinks,' said the news reporter.

Moon couldn't believe her ears! This was the most exciting thing she had ever heard. There was no way she was staying in her house, she was off to find that baby alien. Moon put on her warm clothes and dashed out into the garden.

Moon looked under the bench – it was not there. Then she looked at the pond – it was still not there. With hope in her heart, she saw a massive hole in the trampoline. She was in shock. She had found it.

'Hello,' said Moon.

'Eiro,' said baby alien.

'Oh, you can't talk English.'

But they made it work. A week later, they were playing happily in the garden. Eventually they became friends and Moon named her alien friend, Bob.

Moon said, 'You better be going back home to space.'

Bob got in the UFO and he started it, but it didn't work. Moon had to fix the UFO before anyone found out that she was helping an alien. One hour later Moon and Bob had built a new UFO!

Bob, the alien, said, 'I made a bracelet for you while you were building the UFO.'

Bob, the alien, got in the UFO. It was amazing. There were neon lights and the part he loved the most was the picture of him and Moon. Then the baby alien shot off into space.

Lilah Winslet

Cosmic Celebration in Modbury

In May, this town blooms, a festival bright,
With songs of the choir, a joyous delight,
The May Queen crowned, a tradition so dear,
In Modbury's heart, the past lingers near.

This year, a carnival loops through the street,
With aliens and rockets, a cosmic treat.
Carriages decorated, a colourful show,
As singing and dancing make spirits glow.

The Modbury Mile, where young and old race,
Competing for trophies, ice lollies in place.
Children so gleeful, in costumes so grand,
With shiny faces, future kings and queens, hand in hand.

Watch this space, where Modbury comes alive,
In laughter and joy, our community thrives.

Veronika Boda





MODBURY MESSENGER

COMMERCIAL ADVERTISING RATES MODBURY MESSENGER 2025

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 July 2025

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

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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 CIC: Diana Lynne Barnes & Bernard Taylor.

Company Secretary: George Rosevear FCIS.

Treasurer: Edward Holt

Editorial Committee: John Bower, Lynne Barnes, Ira Young.

Modbury Messenger CIC has produced the Modbury Messenger as an independent CIC since September 2018. Previously, it was published by Modbury Parish Council.

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