



# MODBURY MESSENGER



illustration - Caroline Barker

For the People of Modbury & Brownston

Volume 25, Issue 319 - October 2025

## walk&talk

October's walks will be Tuesday 7th, 14th, 21st and 28th October.

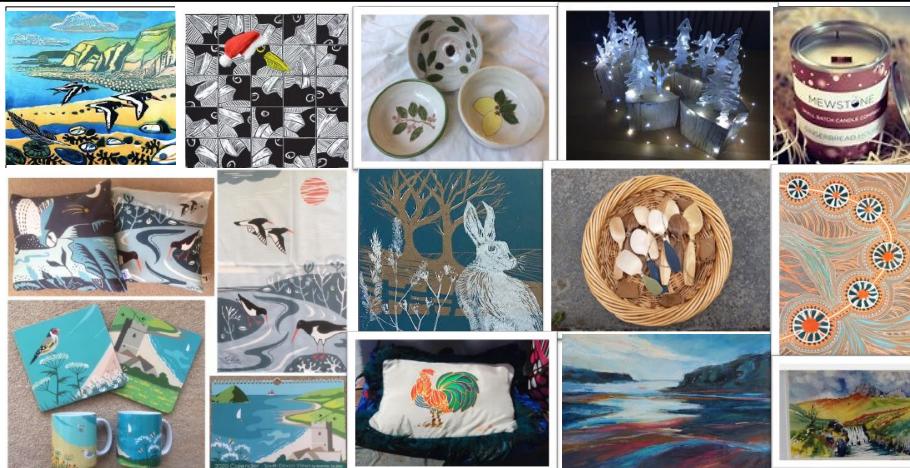
The venue and travel arrangements for each of the walks will be discussed at the previous week's walk and decided according to the weather forecast for the walk day.

Walk leader contact details:-

Sue Rogers 01548 831289

Jean Wright 01548 810029

**Sue Rogers**



### Modbury Christmas Craft Fairs

Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> and Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> November 2025

12 midday-4pm refreshments available

Memorial Hall - Free entry

Beautiful handmade crafts from local artisans - different artisans each day



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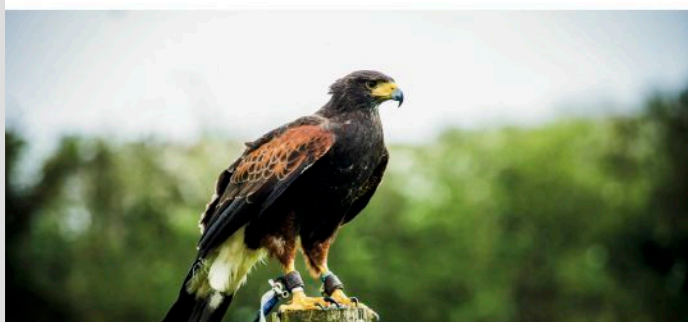
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**Brownston  
Gallery**

## Book Launch



**Come to the Brownston Gallery in Modbury on November 14th at 5:30pm (till 8pm) for the launch of Annabelle Gregory's moving new memoir *The Art of Becoming*. Annabelle is a noted local artist, and was the host at Bistro 35 for over 20 years.**



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## The Kit Hillbillies

The Kit Hillbillies are a four-piece band originating from the Tamar Valley area, in the shadow of Kit Hill. Formed over 15 years ago by Neil (banjo), Gordon (fiddle/mandolin) in Calstock, joined by Chris (guitar) from Tavistock and now Steve (bass) from Kingston.

The band feature rollicking bluegrass and good-time acoustic roots tunes as well as feel-good bluegrass with soaring old-time vocal harmonies.

Old-timey, good-timey bluegrass, with rousing vocal harmonies that smuggle in some frankly inappropriate local references. Vigorously expressive and irresistibly tappy on the toes, with a crisp rhythmic finish. Think Betty Stogs, rather than Harvey's Bristol Cream.

Their music has been described as the sound of Woody Guthrie chasing Earl Scruggs in a stolen hay lorry. A simpler summary came from the Guardian journalist Tim Dowling: "The Kit Hillbillies: Excellent. See them soon".

**Boomers:** Support Band, Boomers, are a familiar sight in Modbury, featuring Mike on guitar and vocals, Boony on guitar and vocals, Sarah on vocals and percussion and Rob on mandolin and occasional vocals. Their music is an eclectic mix of old and new, mostly well known, so feel free to sing along.

Good music and a bar, a great night out for £10 all in aid of local charities. What's not to like?

*Sarah Wyatt*



Friday 21st November  
8-11pm

Modbury Memorial Hall

Headliners  
**Kit Hillbillies**

Supported by  
**Boomers**

Charity music night for Trussel  
Trust food banks, St Luke's  
Hospice and Modbury Town  
Improvement Fund.



Tickets £10, includes first drink

Bring your dancing shoes

Licensed bar, raffle, tickets on sale from **Modbury Post Office**

Guardian journalist Tim Dowling: "The Kit Hillbillies:  
Excellent. See them soon."

Rootsy acoustic music featuring bluegrass, country blues and Americana, with the odd traditional folk and gospel song thrown in. Frequently gigging at pubs up and down both sides of the Tamar, regularly at the B-Bar in Plymouth and have featured at the Eden Project and Calstock Arts Festival



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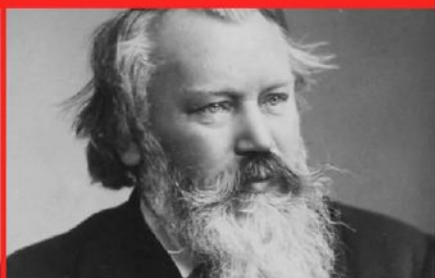
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## **BRAHMS' REQUIEM**

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Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> November at 7pm

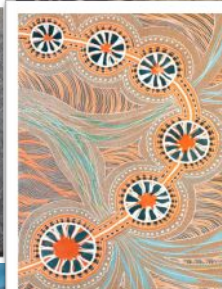
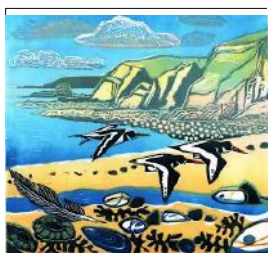
St George's Church, Modbury

Conductor: Trefor Farrow

with Orchestra Leader Jonathan Storer

Soloists Mark Hounsell, Alison Naftalin

**Look out for tickets – on sale soon!**



### **Modbury Christmas Craft Fairs**

Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> and Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> November 2025

12 midday-4pm refreshments available

Memorial Hall– Free entry

Beautiful handmade crafts from local artisans- different artisans each day



## Does Anyone Have Spare Greenhouse Space to Overwinter Some of the Town's Plants?



Despite our attempts to plant perennials, to avoid having to replace plants each year, experience has taught us that the planters in the high street have proved to be very vulnerable to winter winds and frosts.

So, in an attempt to enhance the plants survival, we are asking if anyone has greenhouse space where we could overwinter some of them, to give them a better chance to make it through to next spring when we can replant them. We have successfully done this previously. We plan to lift them in late October, before the first frosts.

If you have winter greenhouse space available, please call or message me on **07808 582 224**. Thank you.

**A huge thank you to our waterers**

Our plants, in beds and planters across the town, have flowered all through the summer, but that is only because we have had a very small, but committed team of regular waterers keeping them going through our exceptionally long, hot summer, with significant rainfall arriving only as summer began to fade.

I feel sure many in the community will join with me in sending a huge "thank you" to our regular waters: Jim, Ann, Neil and Carolyn plus support from Alison and Tegan. Without your help, we would have had planters full of desiccated plants this summer.

**Colin Whybrow, Modbury Bloomers**

## Modbury and South Hams Creative Writing Group



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

Below is a submission which one of our members brought to our last meeting. The theme was 'Poetry' and this piece is a type of poem with a particular rhyming pattern called a villanelle. It is a reworking of an earlier free-verse poem which the writer wrote several decades ago.

We are keen to welcome new members, so if you enjoy creative writing, why not join us. We meet usually on the first Saturday of the month at the Queen Elizabeth II Pavilion in

Modbury at 10:00 am. [www.facebook.com/modburyc creativewritinggroup](http://www.facebook.com/modburyc creativewritinggroup) or call 07767 393802.



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### An Old Man's Villanelle

Look after all my children when I leave  
Amidst the family plans we have laid  
If I should die and they need time to grieve.

When they have still so much to achieve,  
And when the energy of youth begins to fade,  
Look after all my children when I leave.

Whatever they do or don't believe  
Whatever they have or haven't done or made  
If I should die and they need time to grieve.

On every birthday morn and every Christmas Eve,  
See if they need redemption or maybe just first aid,  
Look after all my children when I leave.

While weighing all they've lost with what they will receive  
When I have gone and all my debts are paid  
If I should die and they need time to grieve.

If they're beset by those who would deceive  
In a world turned selfish and afraid  
Look after all my children when I leave  
If I should die and they need time to grieve.

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# Small Grants for Community Groups: Modbury Parish Council 2026–2027

## Apply Now for Funding to Support Your Local Project

Modbury Parish Council is delighted to announce that applications for our small grants programme is now open. Grants of up to £500 are available for community groups during the budget year 2026 to 2027. This is a fantastic opportunity for local organisations to secure funding for projects, events, or initiatives that benefit the Modbury Parish community.

Grants are open to community groups, charities, and voluntary organisations operating within the Modbury Parish area. Whether you are planning a one-off event, ongoing activities, or improvements to community facilities, we encourage you to apply. Individual grants are available for amounts up to £500.

**Application Deadline:** Please note that the closing date for applications is strictly 31st October 2025. Any applications received after this date may not be considered, so do not miss out!

For more information and to request an application form, please contact the Parish Clerk.

- Email: [parishclerk@modburyparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:parishclerk@modburyparishcouncil.gov.uk)
- Phone: 07467 134 225
- Or visit the Parish Council website: <https://modburyparishcouncil.gov.uk/>.



Support your community and bring your ideas to life with help from Modbury Parish Council. Apply now to make an impact!

Please note grant applications are only accepted from community groups not individuals and monies can only be paid into a recognised community group bank account.

**Barbara Price, Chair, Modbury Parish Council**

## Soulful Melodies and Upbeat Grooves Got Modbury to its Feet in Aid of Luna's Fund

Modbury Memorial Hall was the venue for a night of fun and music on the 16<sup>th</sup> August, all in aid of Luna's Fund, a local charity that supports parents after baby loss. The evening began with a welcome from Aimee Green, the CEO and founder of Luna's Fund. She explained the types of support Luna's Fund can give bereaved parents and how important fundraising events such as this are to enable the charity to make a difference. Joanna Cooke then launched the entertainment with her beautifully rendered and emotionally engaging mix of covers and her own compositions. This was followed by the talented Al Wallers on keyboard performing high energy favourites that got everyone dancing. A highlight of the evening was the fabulous raffle made up of incredibly generous prizes donated by Modbury businesses and supplemented by some wonderful additional gifts from Luna's Fund well wishers. Sammi at Hawthorn Hair had got raffle ticket sales off to a great start before the event, and this was supplemented by generous ticket purchasing on the night, resulting in over £500 being raised from the raffle alone.

The vibe of the evening was inspiring as it was made possible by the donation of time and expertise from a number of local people and the support of Luna's Fund volunteers. A big thank you to everyone there, to those that bought tickets and helped the evening go with a swing and those that carried out front of house and behind the scenes tasks to ensure everyone had a great time. Tickets sales, the bar and raffle raised a total of over £1,500 for Luna's Fund which will go directly to providing practical and emotional support for parents. Thank you Modbury!

**Lucy Brown and Malc Collier**



### VOLUNTEERING FOR MODBURY CARING

**Do you have time to spare?**

**Are you recently retired?**

**Are you friendly and approachable and enjoy chatting with others?**



Could you be a volunteer driver to transport those unable to drive themselves to and from their medical appointments? (We do pay a mileage allowance.)

Could you spare a little time each week, or fortnight, to provide some companionship by befriending an isolated person?

If the answer to either of these questions is YES, please become a volunteer for Modbury Caring.

### Modbury Caring is looking for drivers and befrienders!

If you would like to be a driver, then please contact either Bill Cole on 01548 830913 or Sue Rogers on 01548 831289.

If you could be a visiting befriender, then please call Nicole Gardemann (our Befriending Co-ordinator) on 07473 034538.

PLEASE DO CONTACT US!

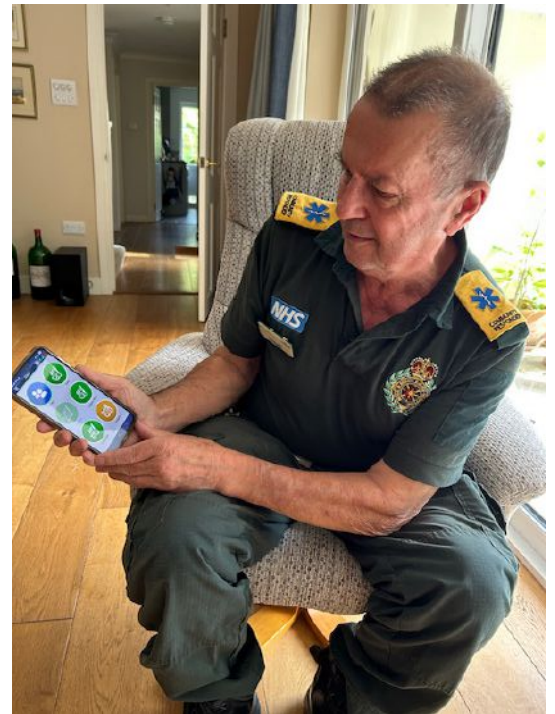
## Nigel Toms, Modbury's own First Responder

One of our Modbury Parish Councillors suggested that I should have a chat (for the Messenger) with a very special person in Modbury, on whom we can always depend when in trouble health-wise. While I have actually seen Nigel Toms in action on more than one occasion reviving someone in need of help, I had never met him so I set about arranging a meeting with him. Simple I thought, but not so, as Nigel is so busy responding to emergency medical or trauma calls. It was only after several days that there came a knock at my door and there was Nigel in his full ambulance service uniform, with a bit of time to spare as he unexpectedly had a gap between calls that afternoon.

Nigel is immediately an outgoing, friendly person who would put anyone at ease. He explained that he is a First Responder for the South Western Ambulance Service, and is often literally the first one to arrive on the scene in the area when a local emergency call for help has been made. He took this role on in 2010, is Modbury born and bred, and still lives here with his wife, their dog, which is a 'Sprocker' (Springer x Cocker Spaniel), and four cats. He was with our local Fire Station as the Watch Commander and also full-time at a Plymouth station. He has always been involved in emergency care, including his role as a first-aid instructor for many years. He was recruited as a first responder by South Western Ambulance Service over 15 years ago and is proud to have been able to do his bit through the COVID pandemic.

As a First Responder, he is alerted via his pager when he is on call – which seems to be most of the time. I asked about this, as it seems he has no time to himself. His policy is to limit his free time, not his volunteering hours! As he is a volunteer (no pay except fuel costs), he can and does "book himself off from time to time". On the day we were talking, for instance, he explained that he would be available until 6 pm, then would book himself off duty for time with his family, which definitely included his dog and cats, until 11 pm, then would book on again overnight for Category 1 (The most serious) emergencies only, and then on fully again at 9 am the next day. A very full day! I asked if he had any hobbies, or even any time for them. Gardening was his answer – I suspect this is because his pager will be in his pocket.

Nigel obviously gets a real 'buzz' out of the work he does. A recent example was to a woman who had a cardiac arrest in a local town, where using CPR, (Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation) and defibrillator, he successfully restarted her heart. Nearly a year later, while responding to an emergency, he saw her out again with her husband walking her dog. Nigel was overjoyed to see her out enjoying life again. Cardiac arrests are real emergencies and he can be there in minutes if it's a local call, but emphasised that CPR should be carried out immediately by whoever is around, until a first responder arrives. He explained that CPR is pressing rhythmically on the chest of a person lying on their back to, say, the rhythm of the Bee Gees "Staying Alive" song! And using a defibrillator if one is available.



I asked him what other sort of cases he get called out to. It seems anything that is acutely worrying or immediately life threatening such as strokes, blackouts, epilepsy, diabetic problems, major trauma accidents, or just falls by frail or elderly people. With him in his car he has analgesia, oxygen, dressing materials, lifting equipment and even has a sort of collapsible chair, which he can re-erect under a person who cannot get up, which helps them to get upright. Calls come in via 999 and are then sent to Nigel's pager by ambulance control. He showed me this ambulance cell phone type device, which uses satellite technology to direct him to actual houses, much more accurately than Satnav or GPS, thus saving valuable minutes.

**cont. on next page**

This led onto me asking Nigel how should people contact the NHS if they are worried, as I've heard that the

Page 7



## Nigel Toms, Modbury's own First Responder (cont. from previous page)

This led onto me asking Nigel how should people contact the NHS if they are worried, as I've heard that the 999 call is frequently overused for minor, non urgent problems, thus preventing or delaying resources getting to serious emergencies. He confirmed this and made these suggestions:

- 1) Contact your local Health Centre, Doctor, 01548 830666, or Pharmacist 01548 830215 for general health advice, or minor worries.
- 2) Dial 111 for non-emergencies but worrying problems that may well need medical attention. A medic will answer, triage you (ask questions and assess your need), then if necessary, arrange and direct you to a doctor, or hospital etc.
- 3) Dial 999 for serious emergencies, life threatening accidents or illnesses (strokes, heart attacks, collapses etc.).

After spending a precious hour in Nigel's company, during which time his pager thankfully remained silent, it became obvious how lucky we are to have such a kind, and dependable first responder in our midst here in Modbury. I hope he's around if I ever need him!

**John Bower**

## Modbury Birds

Our summer visitors are now away, heading to warmer climates. Wasn't it great to see so many swifts around the church, well done to all involved, hopefully next year they will return and nest there. There were also lots of swallows and martins around the ponds, unfortunately the dry weather caused some of the nests to crack up and a lack of mud for rebuilding affected some nests.

We managed to add a further nine species: blackcap, black redstart, siskin, garden and willow warbler, swallow, house and sand martins and swifts - bringing the total of different species so far to 60.

Unfortunately my onomatopoeic friend, the cuckoo wasn't seen or heard here in Modbury (unless you know different), Dartmoor and Thurstlestone, yes, but not here. We used to hear them in Flete Woods, so quite close and it's such a shame as every youngster should hear one, especially as they tend to herald the arrival of spring. Some have tracking devices and its allowed us to see their travels from various parts of Africa to the UK and back.

There's still a few species that have been seen in previous years, but not this: mistle thrush, redstart, stock dove, partridge and red kite. Let me know if you've seen them, also there's lots of gulls around that are difficult to recognise besides the herring gull.

And so, as the seasons change, we await our winter visitors. We are hoping to see: yellow wagtail, redwing and fieldfare and perhaps some waterbirds. Also, there have been sightings of osprey in most of the rivers nearby, and breeding programs of white tailed eagles and white storks have been released over the years and are now regularly being seen around us.

Any sightings please email [modburybirds@btinternet.com](mailto:modburybirds@btinternet.com) and I will update with the full list in the February Messenger.

**Roger Price**

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# MODBURY COMMUNITY APPLE DAY

**SATURDAY OCTOBER 4<sup>th</sup> MODBURY THERAPY CENTRE YARD, 10:00 am**

Come and join in this great annual community event when we press the apples from Modbury's own Community Orchards to make the freshest, tastiest, most wholesome juice you could wish for. Take away a bottle for a small donation (to cover the cost of hiring the press and equipment).

**You are welcome to join the team – no previous experience needed.**

This is a fun day for families and we encourage adults and school-age children, under parental supervision, to participate. There is no shortage of tasks to help with.

It takes a team effort to wash, chop or scrat the apples, wrap them in the 'cheeses' (pressing cloths) then crank down the press and see the pure golden juice run into the tray from where it is collected in jugs.

The filled jugs are decanted into special pouches for freezing or into bottles. Some of these are pasteurised to extend their shelf life by months, while others are left fresh for immediate consumption within a few days. The waste pulp, or pomace, is donated to the Church Lane allotments compost heap.



As well as having a fun time and meeting others in the community, you'll be helping to keep this very traditional Devon pastime alive.

**It all happens in the centre of town:** The pressing takes place in the **Modbury Health Centre Yard** by kind permission of Mandy and Andrew. It's a perfect location in the heart of the town. The blue door to the left of the Curator Café leads into the yard.

The team will start setting up for a **10:00am start**. If you have a surplus of apples, as many people do this year, you are welcome to donate them to Apple Day rather than waste them. Just bring them along on the day.

**Colin Whybrow**

Organised by Modbury Tennis Club

*The return of the*

## Wine & Wisdom Quiz Night

Sat 18 Oct

**£5 per ticket**

A selection of wines & drinks at great prices

Venue: Modbury Memorial Hall      Teams: Max 6

Tickets available Modbury Post Office

**DOORS OPEN 7:00PM      QUIZ STARTS 7:30PM**

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## AN EXTRA FLAG HOIST IN SEPTEMBER

All in Modbury will know that I, as the Modbury Chief Yeoman, hoist various flags hoists at Palm Cross Green every month. However – there was an extra hoist in September which happened on Monday 8 September, which I had failed to note on my list last month.

Fortunately I was reminded that on 8 September, Her Majesty the Queen died at Balmoral and so King Charles III became King – Accession Day in 2022. I did remember in time and the picture shows the Royal Cypher on the Union Flag at the masthead, ACESON (short for ACCESSION) on the starboard yardarm and 201<sup>st</sup>sub3<sup>rd</sup>sub – 2022 on the port yardarm.

I will remember next year!!

David Scott



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## MODBURY PARISH COUNCIL

Modbury Parish Council Office, 1 Modbury Court, PL21 0QR  
Tel: 07467134225 email [parishclerk@modburyparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:parishclerk@modburyparishcouncil.gov.uk)

### Your Councillors are:

Bill Cole	01548 830913
Chris Field	07836 592854
Richard Foss	01548 721420
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](mailto:chrisfield@modburyparishcouncil.gov.uk)  
[richardfoss@modburyparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:richardfoss@modburyparishcouncil.gov.uk)  
[barbaraprice@modburyparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:barbaraprice@modburyparishcouncil.gov.uk)  
[tonyprice@modburyparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:tonyprice@modburyparishcouncil.gov.uk)  
[philsmith@modburyparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:philsmith@modburyparishcouncil.gov.uk)  
[davetrigger@modburyparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:davetrigger@modburyparishcouncil.gov.uk)  
[annturner@modburyparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:annturner@modburyparishcouncil.gov.uk)  
[sarahwyatt@modburyparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:sarahwyatt@modburyparishcouncil.gov.uk)

**How can we help you?** Councillors run drop-in surgeries on Sat. 10:00 - 11:00 am in the Parish Office at 1 Modbury Court. The Parish Clerk is in the Parish Council office on Tues & Wed, 10:30 am – 5:00pm. Call into the office, phone, email or come along to our meetings at 7:00 pm in the Pavilion, QEII Recreation Ground on the first Tuesday of every month and speak in the public forum.

### Devon County Councillor (Salcombe Division):

Louise Wainwright

Tel: 07908 525663

[louise.wainwright@devon.gov.uk](mailto:louise.wainwright@devon.gov.uk)

### South Hams District Councillor (Charterlands Ward):

Bernard Taylor

Tel: 01548 830844

[Cllr.Bernard.Taylor@southhams.gov.uk](mailto:Cllr.Bernard.Taylor@southhams.gov.uk)

# Modbury Parish Council Meeting

Tuesday 2nd September 2025, 7:00pm



Present were seven councillors, Cllr Louise Wainwright (Devon CC) and five members of the public. Apologies were received from Cllr Richard Foss, Cllr Ann Turner and Cllr Bernard Taylor (South Hams DC).

## Public Forum

A member of the public raised the issue of the recent flooding event. It was suggested that those likely to be affected are issued more sandbags by DCC or SHDC, but it was reported that they no longer do so free of charge.

## Matters arising from the August MPC meeting.

- MPC was successful with the grant application to SHDC for the maintenance of the town clock.

## Report from Louise Wainwright, Devon County Councillor

- The recent flood brings into focus what is required given the climate and other issues we face. As MPC are doing, the other parishes are also updating their flood management policies.
- There will be a twice-yearly magazine drawing together all of the South Ham's 61 parishes.
- Octopus have withdrawn their planning application for a wind turbine in Bigbury as it is currently not financially viable for the local low voltage input it would provide.
- Louise Wainwright is spending much time with DCC Highways department to resolve local issues.
- Louise Wainwright thanked MPC for supplying her with a priority list of DCC work requested in Modbury.

## Maintenance and Emergency Planning & Flooding

- The Modbury Emergency Plan needs to be revised to be more concise and to involve more people within the community. A Working Group is being set up and will meet at the end of September, including all the new volunteers who have responded to the notice.
- Friday's flood raised assorted issues. Prevention is important and when alerts should be given were properly considered.
- MPC met with DCC Highways management today to discuss drain clearance etc. It was pointed out that if MPC is given warning of work to be done then they could assist – notice of work schedules is crucial.
- It was pointed out that street cleaning by SHDC, as a preventative measure, would be a major help.
- There is a problem with flooding near Whympton Cross because the buddle hole is blocked and the silt has built up too much to allow the flood water to drain off the road. Solutions have been proposed and the site is to be included in the forthcoming priority action DCC Highways visit.
- Tenders have been sought for the replacement of the internal fence at the Modbury Memorial Hall and the contract is expected to be finalised at the October MPC meeting.

## Policy updates

- Health and Safety Policy: this has been updated and will henceforth be re-considered monthly.
- Grant Policy: updated to make it clear that grants cannot be made to individuals but only to community groups with their own bank account. Applications for 2026/27 must be made before 31<sup>st</sup> October 2025 so that they can be fully considered in the annual budget setting process.

## Heritage Group

- The MPC Heritage Working Group has compiled a display on the history of traders in Modbury which is placed in the window of the Parish office.
- Work continues to improve and update the Modbury heritage website.

## Finance

- It was agreed to subsidise one day's free parking at Christmas in addition to the two paid for by SHDC.

**Date of next meeting: Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> October 2025 @ 7pm, QE2 Pavilion**

## Modbury Table Tennis Sessions

**Wednesday Evenings 07:30pm to 09:00pm The Pavilion, Queen Elizabeth II Recreation Ground, Modbury For all people aged 16 – 105. 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](mailto:colinalow@hotmail.com).

**Colin Low**



## Modbury Branch Royal British Legion

The next Meeting of the Modbury and District Branch of the Royal British Legion will be in The Club and will be the AGM of the Branch on Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> October.

New members welcome

**David Scott**



**MODBURY FRIENDS OF ST LUKE'S**  
*invite you to a*  
**PIG RACING NIGHT**



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**St Luke's**  
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St Luke's Hospice Plymouth is a registered charity number 280481

Tickets  
 for sale at  
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**Friday 17 October**  
 at Modbury Memorial Hall at 7.30pm

**Tickets £12.50**

(from Jane Jones 07748 385352 or Post Office)

Please bring your own picnic but purchase your drinks from the licensed bar.

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**

# Churchyard working party

Can you spare some time?

**Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> October**

Bring your own tool,  
gloves and family!

**Come along from 9.30am**

And give whatever time you can  
spare

**St George's  
Church**

**Refreshments  
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## 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](mailto:s.chapman@modburyteam.org).

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

	Service	Service Leader
October 5th	Harvest Festival with Holy Communion and Kids' Church. 9.30 am	Rev. Oli Long
October 12th	Holy Communion BCP 8.00 am	Rev. Oli Long
	All-Age Service and Baptism 9.30 am	Rev. Oli Long
October 19th	Holy Communion and Kids' Church 9.30 am	Rev. Oli Long
October 26th	Sunday Worship 9.30 am	Rev. Simon Franklin
	Rooted - a service of contemporary worship 6.00 pm	Rev. Oli Long

### Christian Comment: Harvest

It is fair to say that our experiences of Harvest will vary according to where we live and what we have known growing up. It may also be that our understanding of Harvest has changed over time. Traditionally, Harvest was a time of the community gathering to work hard at bringing in the crops which had been carefully tended throughout the summer. This would be followed by the opportunity to celebrate everyone's endeavours with a church service and a feast. For those living in rural areas, or who work in agriculture, or even perhaps those who grow fruit and vegetables in their gardens or allotments, Harvest will continue to mean much the same.

Those who live and work on the land very much know the delicate balance of the right weather, good soil and careful timing which results in a successful crop. This year our farmers have struggled with turbulent weather patterns, giving unseasonal bouts of wet and dry, hot and cold that have paid havoc with the growing crops and, in some cases, resulted in failure. A bountiful Harvest therefore is a true cause for celebration, for both the work of the farmers and the providence of God.

Those who are less connected to how our food is grown and produced will experience Harvest differently. Food is generally bought in a shop with minimal knowledge of those whose energies have gone into producing it. Equally the ability to ship produce across the globe means we are not always bound by what crops are in season and whether the weather has been kind this year.

Harvest is a time to consciously take time to pause and give thanks for the food we so often take for granted, and those who have laboured to produce it.

Our Harvest Festivals have evolved quite a bit in recent years with a greater emphasis on bringing non-perishable packets and tinned goods rather than the fat marrows, potatoes and cauliflowers of yesteryear, but the principle remains the same: to give thanks for our food, for those who have worked to produce it and for God's goodness in providing it.

Of course, our proper response to God's generosity to us is to be generous to others. Traditional Harvest Festivals included giving to the poor and needy. Today we do the same as we share our food with our Foodbank.

So please, join us in St George's, as we celebrate Harvest this month, recognising God's goodness to us.

**Based on an article from "A Church near you" website**

### 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 8958rcdtr.org.uk  
Web: staustinsivybridge.co.uk





## South Hams Arts Trail, October, Venues in Modbury

There are many venues around the South Hams where you can view local talent. Brochures will be available from some shops in Modbury.

**You are most welcome to visit us: Venue 16, Diana Booth, 9, Benedict Way, Modbury PL21 0TJ 01548 830274**



There are many original oil paintings of varying sizes in a contemporary colourful style inspired by the coast here and abroad and some flower paintings.

Open every day from Sat 11<sup>th</sup> Oct – Sun 19<sup>th</sup> Oct 10.00 - 5.00pm

Opening day, Sat. 11<sup>th</sup>, drinks and nibbles to celebrate!

**Venue 17, Nigel Grist, The Unseen View, 5, Cromwell Park, Modbury PL210RS 01548 831398**

There will be photography, a huge variety of original prints and unique handmade wooden tables. Dartmoor, wildlife and science has been the inspiration.



Open every day 10-5.00pm Sat 11<sup>th</sup> Oct – Sun 26<sup>th</sup> Oct

Except Wed 15<sup>th</sup> Oct and Wed 22<sup>nd</sup> Oct

**It would be so very good to see you and share our art.**

*Diana Booth*

## MODBURY RBL HONOURS AND CELEBRATES VJ+80 DAY



Some people have stated that the War in the Pacific, which came to an end after two atomic bombs were dropped on Japan, has been known as the Forgotten War, but the Modbury Branch of the Royal British Legion did ensure that Thursday 15 August 1945 was remembered, honoured and celebrated. I, as the Modbury Chief Yeoman, had planned a special Flag Hoist that took place at 0930 at Palm Cross Green. Then, as the RBL Branch Standard Bearer, was at the Modbury War Memorial for a special Service of Remembrance starting at 1000 with many other RBL members and people from the town, which was led by Rev. Oli Long, who is the

Modbury Mission Community Curate. The Exhortation and Kohima Epitaph was said by the Branch President, John Robinson, whilst the Chairman Dave West MBE was able to operate a Hymnal Machine for the Last Post; two minute silence and Reveille.



*David Scott*

## INTENDED MONTHLY FLAG HOIST AT PALM CROSS GREEN - October

Date	Masthead	Starboard Yard (Plymouth) - West	Port Yard (Modbury) - East	Event
07	Union Flag	AFGHAN	Ans202 <sup>nd</sup> sub1	Start of Afghanistan War 2001
11	Union Flag	2BOER	Ans1893 <sup>rd</sup> sub	Start of Second Boer War 1899
14	Normandy Flag	HASTNG	1063 <sup>rd</sup> sub	Battle of Hastings 1066
19	White Ensign	TRAF3 <sup>rd</sup> subL	SUN	Trafalgar Sunday
21	White Ensign	TRAF3 <sup>rd</sup> subL	1805	Battle of Trafalgar 1805
24	UN Flag	FOUND	1945	Founding of the UN 1945
25	Army Flag	AGINCT	141 <sup>st</sup> sub5	Battle of Agincourt 1415
28	RM Flag	FOUND	162 <sup>nd</sup> sub4	Founding of RM 1664
29	Union Flag	SUEZ	Ans1956	Start of Suez Crisis 1956
31	RAF Ensign	BRITAN	1940Ans	End of the Battle of Britain 1940



## **The Modbury Vixens, First Ever South Hams Woman's Walking Football Team**

The First Ever South Hams Woman's Walking Football Team, the Modbury Vixens, made history in 2024 by joining the first ever Devon Woman's Walking Football League! The season commenced in September 2024 and concluded in April 2025. It was a great success.



This year The Modbury Vixens will play two teams in the Devon Woman's Walking Football League season 2025/26, with a second team called The Modbury Foxies.

We are looking for ladies over 40 to join our exciting adventure, with or without previous footballing experience, for fun, friendship, fitness and, of course, football. We are based in Modbury at the Queen Elizabeth II Recreation Ground, during the spring and summer months on a Tuesday evening between 6:00 pm - 7:30 pm. On a Sunday we train 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm at Ivybridge Rugby Club astro turf ground.

Winter training moves indoors at Ivybridge Community College sports hall starting on 14th October on a Tuesday evening 6:00 pm - 7:30 pm and, for those who are hardy, we all-weather train on Sunday evenings throughout the year on the astro, but only one hour from 6:00 pm to 7:00 pm.

The Modbury Vixens/Foxies are recruiting across the South Hams. We are a Ladies Walking Football Team, inaugurated in January 2024, we are open to all players of all abilities over the age of 40. The ethos of the club is Friendship, Fun, Fitness and Football.

Walking Football is the fastest growing sport in the UK and is a slightly slower, non contact sport, which provides a team environment and a friendly atmosphere for women over 40 wishing to finesse or improve their fitness and footballing skills. At the moment we have 20 players of varying ages and abilities between 40 and 74, some who have never played football before, some who are mums to football mad kids and some who played 11 a side in their younger years.

We currently have an active registered Football Association league squad of 20 players who play league games all over Devon in small mini tournaments. The games are in a 6 v 6 format of 16 minute games, and in the tournament format we play four games at each league competition. The tournaments are spaced out every couple of months throughout the autumn up to spring 2026 and games are held on a Sunday morning or afternoon.

We are also looking for purely recreational players, who just love a team sport and atmosphere. We are Accredited and Affiliated to The Football Association and belong to The Walking Football Association. Both of these associations give us access to charity tournaments and games across the Devon area and further afield for those more adventurous players. The rules are simple, with no complicated offside, and smaller pitches.

If you are interested in joining us, or would like more information please contact Bev Davey at [bevdavey@btinternet.com](mailto:bevdavey@btinternet.com) or find us on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/modburyvix>

**Bev Davey, Chair / Secretary The Modbury Vixens**

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## **THANK YOU**

I have now retired after working in Modbury Post Office for 17 years, and would like to take this opportunity to thank Peter and Justine Slade for all their support and friendship over the years. Also, a big thank you to my colleagues: Steve and Alison, I will miss you.

Most importantly, a huge thank you to all you lovely customers who have made my job so worthwhile and enjoyable.

To those of you who have sent kind messages and gifts, thank you so much, I will miss you all.

**Karen Beazley**

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## **TO WEED OR NOT TO WEED??? - A REPLY**

What a very sensible and thought provoking article in last month's Modbury Messenger! Too many residents seem to think that any weeds, overhang etc outside of their property are the responsibility of the infamous "someone else!" Assuming that we are physically able, it's time that we took back the responsibility for where we live.

Well said, Mervyn Kettle !

**Sue Irish**



## The Modbury CC Season of 2025

Another summer gone, another scorebook closed, and Modbury CC emerge with six wins, seven defeats, and the vague air of men who have fought the good fight and mislaid the map halfway through. Draws, of course, are for the faint of heart — and Modbury were never going to be accused of indecision.



### Runs on the Board

At the top of the list stands **Guy Speed**, the season's leading bat with 202 runs and a brace of fifties. When Guy is in, he lends the air of a Roman consul taking his place in the Senate — firm of jaw, immovable, and only occasionally undone by an ill-placed yorker.

**John Compston** (162 runs, one fifty) provided middle-order ballast, as reliable as a medieval stone mason and twice as solid. He also had the unnerving knack of popping up with useful bowling overs, like a Swiss army knife that insists on bowling medium pace.

**Ethan Bell** (148 runs) promised much and frequently delivered in flashes, though sometimes vanished sooner than expected — a Greek tragedy curtailed not by the gods, but by an enthusiastic umpire's finger.

**Lee Merchant** added 130 runs, while **Mike Lemmings** smashed 93 at a strike rate suggesting he had somewhere better to be — most likely the tea table. **Trevethan** and **Holmes** chipped in with gritty runs that held the line, and both feature again in the tale of the partnerships.

### Wickets and Wizardry

With the ball, **James Sloman** led the merry assault, scooping up 15 wickets at 10.53 and doing it all with the serene air of Wellington who, finding Waterloo rather a bother, calmly ordered another pot of tea.

**Lee Merchant**, meanwhile, refused to let the batsmen have all the fun; he nabbed 13 wickets (best 4/14) in the manner of a medieval knight who insists on jousting before breakfast, raiding a village before lunch, and still being home in time to carve the roast beef.

**Tom Hatch** (12 wickets, best of 4/12) bowled with relentless persistence — if patience is a virtue, Tom has it in stock. **Sam Collidge** (10 wickets) chipped in with miserly spells, as if rationing runs in wartime.

### Stands to Remember

The season's highlight partnership was **Trevethan and Holmes** stand of 78 against East Prawle — less a partnership than a small work of art, reminiscent of Castor and Pollux sticking together through thick and thin, though with rather more running between the wickets.

**Hatch and Compston's** 59 against Cornwood was another tale of unlikely comradeship, like Caesar and Antony deciding they rather enjoyed sharing a tent. **Bell and Lemmings'** 32 against Ermington was shorter but no less spirited, a quick skirmish rather than a campaign.

### Curtain Down

And so, as the last stump is drawn, we pack away the kit. There were runs, wickets, ducks and dropped chances — the full classical drama. There were days of triumph, days of disaster, and days when the scorer's pencil wore down quicker than the opposition's batting order.

Yet through it all, Modbury played with the good cheer of men who know that, like Rome, a cricket club is not built in a day.

Roll on 2026.

Howard Williams

## Holbeton Film Club



October's film **Small Things Like These** (certificate 12A) is based on the 2022 Orwell Prize winning novel by Claire Keegan and is set in the lead up to Christmas in the 1980s. Coal merchant Bill Furlong (played by Cillian Murphy) becomes aware of disturbing secrets in a small Irish town that's controlled by the Roman Catholic Church.

This is screening on **Friday 10<sup>th</sup> October 2025** in Holbeton Village Hall. Doors open 7:00 pm. The programme starts at 7:30 pm. Tickets on the door are still only £4, or £2 for accompanied children (card or cash). Ice creams on sale for £1.

Our programme continues with:

A Complete Unknown, 15  
Paddington in Peru, PG  
Mr Burton, 12A

Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> November  
Friday 12<sup>th</sup> December  
Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> January 2026



Harry Baumer 01752 830274, [harryluson@gmail.com](mailto:harryluson@gmail.com)

<https://holbetonfilmclub.com/>

Harry Baumer

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9.30 – 11.00am

QE2 Recreation Ground (PL21 0FS)

£2 per family

Contact: [s.chapman@modburyteam.org](mailto:s.chapman@modburyteam.org)



## Modbury History Society

The next meeting of Modbury History Society will be held at 7.30pm on Tuesday, 14th October 2025 when Stephen Fryer will talk about **'The History of RAF Harrowbeer, Yelverton, Plymouth's WWII Fighter Airfield'**.

The History Society meets at the MARS Pavilion, the Queen Elizabeth II Recreation Ground in Chatwell Lane, Modbury PL21 0FS where there is ample parking.

The current series of eight lectures started in September. Membership of the society is £20 per annum but guests are welcome to attend individual meetings for a fee of £5.

The Modbury Heritage website is a comprehensive database with a wealth of information about the town including historic photographs, a walking guide and parish records of use to family historians. [www.modbury-heritage.co.uk](http://www.modbury-heritage.co.uk)

For further information please contact:

[rosiejaneparker@gmail.com](mailto:rosiejaneparker@gmail.com)

**Rosemary Parker**



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# Bumblebees & Pizza



We all appreciate the valuable work that honeybees do out in the farmers' fields and orchards, pollinating their crops and also producing the wonderful golden honey for our morning toast; but let's not overlook the contribution that our humble wild bumblebees make in helping to produce the 'five a day' we need on our plates. Whilst a managed hive of honeybees may contain up to 50,000 bees, a bumblebee nest may only support 50-100 bees, depending on the weather, food source and nest habitat available.

- o There are 24 surviving species of bumblebee in the UK, some unique to specific regions.
- o Two species are already extinct.
- o Each species has a different tongue length, some short, some long, which enables them, as a group, to feed from a wide source of flowers, and in turn they pollinate a huge variety of plants.
- o The single species of honeybee in the UK have short tongues which only allows them to feed on open flowers, limiting the range of plants they are able to pollinate.
- o Bumblebees also have a unique ability to vibrate their thorax known as "buzz pollination" which make them extremely effective at pollinating tomato plants and increasing yields.
- o Bumblebees have no need to store honey as the colony will die off naturally at the end of the summer.
- o Only the new bumblebee queens will survive and after hibernating during the winter months, will *hopefully* emerge the following spring and produce new colonies.
- o Bumblebees can tolerate cooler temperatures so will also be active earlier and later in the year, so by providing some plants for late and early flowering we can help them to thrive. Winter heather, sedums, aster (for late) and single hellebores, crocus, aconites, grape hyacinths (for early) would be a good start.

It is estimated that up to 65,000 colonies of bumblebees are imported each year into the UK from Europe to assist glass house growers with pollination of tomato plants and other soft fruits.

The risk is that the imported bumblebees can introduce lethal viruses to our native wild bees. Whilst the imported bumblebees are restricted to the glass houses and polytunnels, and should never be released, inevitably some will manage to escape and endanger our wild bee colonies.

**Our remaining 24 species of native bumblebees need some help**, so next time you have a family pizza and film night, or reach for the passata for bolognese, or ketchup for a hot dog, spare a thought for the humble bumblebee. Whilst many young children are not so keen on tomatoes, tell them how reliant we are on bumblebees for their pizza and many other of their favourite foods.

There are plenty of simple things we can all do to help protect our wild bumblebees, such as providing suitable habitat for nest sites and planting a few of their favourite plants in the garden/or tub; one or two **for each season** of the year will be really beneficial.

There is an endless choice of bee-loving perennial plants and bulbs that will come back year after year and if you grow vegetables and can allow two or three of your onions, leeks and brassicas to go to seed the bees and other pollinators will flock to them. Take a look at the planting guide at:

[www.bumblebeeconservation.org](http://www.bumblebeeconservation.org)

where you can also read about the complete life cycle of the bumblebee and find loads of information on how you can help this charismatic icon of the British summer. And why not team up with your children's friends and families and take part in the BeeWalk national recording scheme.

**Jane Bullen**



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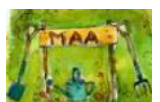
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If you are interested in taking up an allotment contact the Parish Office:

Tel: 07467 134225

email: [parishclerk@modburyparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:parishclerk@modburyparishcouncil.gov.uk)



**Jane Bullen**



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### Modbury Messenger November 2025

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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.

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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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