

# **Modbury Annual Parish Meeting**

## **Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> June 2021**

### **Reports from local organisations**

#### **MODBURY ASSOCIATION for RECREATION & SPORT**

The Pavilion and Recreation Ground are emerging from Lockdown busier than ever. Since organised activities were allowed to resume in late March new regular events in the shape of a Toddler music group, Taikwondo Club, Adult Football group and Touch Rugby Club have emerged and nearly all the previously established clubs, groups and societies have resumed, or are about to resume their regular activities. Demand for the facilities has never been higher and in terms of scheduled organised activities both field and Pavilion are at or extremely close to full weekday capacity.

MARS has, for a number of years, been trying to enlarge the Rec Field in anticipation of a growing population and a corresponding growing demand. All efforts to acquire additional space have been unsuccessful whilst at the same time the predicted growth in demand has occurred and probably been accelerated by the recent experience of lockdown. Whilst it is incredibly inspiring to see the Rec facility generating such a vibrant atmosphere and hosting such a broad range of activities and choice for our community, we need to be in little doubt that the scope to increase this further is very limited both in physical space available and spare capacity in the diary.

The project to increase the Rec's capacity by improving the facilities such that they are less impacted by bad weather and therefore useable for more of the year is ongoing. This project, to be funded largely by the S106 funding arising from the Palm Cross phase 1 development, will install drainage to both grass pitches, dramatically improve the quality of the small pitch, improve the quality of floodlighting for the small pitch, overhaul the Multi Use Games Area, renew the cricket nets and install fencing at the top end to reduce the number of balls lost. Tenders were invited for the work at the end of April. This process is just concluding, and we are expecting a report from Traction Sports, the Sports field design team contracted to oversee the project, with respect to the companies that have bid for the work and a recommended way ahead. We remain hopeful of having the work scheduled for the back half of this coming Summer, but with the targeted completion date being ahead of the 2021/22 football season, this could well slip into Spring 2022.

It is really important to acknowledge that the facility continues to be provided and maintained almost entirely by a small team of volunteers, without whom none of the activities up here would be possible. As the site becomes busier and busier, if this team's task is to remain sustainable, we really need everyone using the facility to do so with consideration for others and be particularly aware of; littering, sensible car parking, leaving the air ambulance landing site (small pitch) free of obstruction and generally aiming to leave the facility as you would wish to find it.

Finally, we are at the moment without a cleaner for the Pavilion and would be keen to hear from anyone who would like to become involved with the care and maintenance of the Pavilion on the basis of 2-hours paid cleaning per week.

### **Modbury Badminton Club**

We meet on Tuesday evenings in the Memorial Hall. The main club meets from September until the beginning of May and we now have a summer group playing all year round.

This year we have only played a handful of times, when the Covid rules have allowed.

We have about a dozen members with average attendance between 6 and 9 players.

We are always on the lookout for new members. Our standard is variable but you'll usually get a good game and if it takes your fancy some of us retreat to a local hostelry afterwards to recover.

Mark Lawrence, Chair, Modbury Badminton Club.

### **Modbury Caring**

The charity wishes first of all to thank the council of its continued support which is greatly appreciated. The charity is in good order with good reserves and has continued to provide a transport service to all that require it throughout the pandemic.

Our befriending service continues as usual but due to the circumstances has been carried out over the telephone, thanks to the efforts of our co-ordinator Sheila Harrison. We have a number of spare befrienders available and would encourage anyone who knows someone that could benefit from the service to get in touch. We believe that the service is currently being underutilised.

Turning to the transport side of the charity we have continued to operate on a reduced scale throughout the pandemic. Unfortunately there has been a misconception that the charity has not been operating normally and therefore there has been a drop in demand, which with time will right itself as the pandemic subsides.

On a personal note may I also thank the Parish Council for their continued support of CAB.

Bill Cole

### **The Modbury Gospel Singers**

Have had a quiet year, as many other choirs have done. We have not met in full force since the beginning of March 2020, which is a terrible shame for all sorts of reasons, but partly because leading up to that point we had been going from strength to strength, with growing

numbers, excellent attendance at rehearsals and an increasingly strong and harmonious sound.

I decided not to instigate online rehearsals, but we did manage an enjoyable and successful morning of outside carol singing just before Christmas. We met in groups of 6, each with a leader, and went around Modbury singing a variety of carols, with some harmony and even some instruments to help us.

We are looking forward to meeting up after restrictions are lifted and our first public event, after a couple of rehearsals (dates to be notified), will be an appearance with the Pedigree Jazz Band at St. Lawrence Bigbury on 31st July. We will resume Monday evening rehearsals at the Pavilion at the Modbury Recreation Centre on 13th September. If you would like to join us for fun and harmony, please contact Jo Highley at [jo@springbankmusic.co.uk](mailto:jo@springbankmusic.co.uk).

### **Modbury Litter Pickers report 2021**

The litter pickers consist of a group of Modbury Parish residents and was started up in March 2020 in response to the challenge of litter on our roads. Founder members were Evelyn Armstrong, Alison Wood and Caroline Bower but numbers have gradually increased to 15. We have established a steering group for practical organisation and development, consisting of Adrian Myatt, Caroline Bower, Marina Auburn, Sally Smale, Sarah Wyatt and Kim Jones.

Our initial aim was to clean up and maintain a litter free status on parish roads, car parks and lay-bys, as much as we were able, and in order to do this we gradually equipped ourselves with hi vis vests, litter grabbers and loops, rubbish bags, gloves, and road signs. All members of the group take responsibility for a certain area or road within the parish, and in addition we are aware of (and receive feedback from) a number of other residents who report or collect litter when walking or cycling. We are all very mindful of safety when working on roads.

Our equipment has been funded by grants from Modbury Parish Council and South Hams District Council, to whom we are grateful, and we have also recently had some extra gloves and litter grabbers donated by a group in Plymouth called 'Clean Our Patch' (who received some funding from the Co-op).

Our next aim is to encourage and help establish litter picking groups in neighbouring parishes. So far this has been successful in Ermington and Yealmpton, and we hope to engage and motivate others in the coming months as restrictions for meeting up ease. During the pandemic we maintained contact within our group mainly through WhatsApp and Zoom.

Some of the busier roads traversing our parish have been badly neglected for a number of years. During the pandemic, when there was very little traffic and the vegetation had been cut back to reveal all the litter, it was possible to organise early morning litter picks involving up to six litter pickers, socially distanced and working in pairs. Marina Auburn has regular contact with South Hams localities to ensure litter collected is removed. We also assisted Ermington and Yealmpton to clear some of their roads, in order to show support as they became established. David Trigger, at California Cross, personally donated a few extra hi vis vests and grabbers which we passed on to help Ermington and Yealmpton get started.

In April 2021 we placed 19 road signs as part of an effort to help prevent litter in the parish. These signs were kindly designed by Jason Edwards. Adrian Myatt designed and constructed a bag dispenser to accompany the sign at the Q.E recreation ground, and Paul Romney has taken on responsibility for keep it stocked so that users of the ground are encouraged to take their litter home. The message on our signs is 'Bin it or Bag it and Take it Home'. Caroline Bower was interviewed on Radio Devon about our work and the challenge of litter in the U.K. and Sarah Wyatt and Caroline also talked about litter prevention to Modbury Primary School at a Zoom assembly.

Most recently the litter pickers instigated a Modbury Spring Clean, encouraging residents to clean the areas of pavement and road near their own houses. The pickers spent two evenings cleaning around the car parks, Church Street and part of Dark Lane, and cleaned the street signs around town.

We are disappointed that there are so few bins available to help support litter control and question whether the South Hams are going to provide any for the sites which we and Colin Whybrow suggested early this year. We also question why the South Hams rubbish subcontractors did not appear to have cleaned any of the busy roads such as A 379 and B3121. The same subcontractors are responsible for the A 38, which has been in a disgusting state for several years and only now, after many citizens have complained, and after many phone calls and e mails from Marina Auburn, have they cleaned some sections of it in the last 6 weeks.

Aims for the future are to link up and support/encourage other local litter groups, continue to keep our parish clean and look for other opportunities to educate the general public.

We have £150.18 in our account

### MODBURY MEMORIAL HALL

In line with all organisations, the Memorial Hall was greatly affected by the pandemic resulting in either closure or only limited activities taking place. Adherence to Government guidelines was maintained and regular checks made with 'Devon Communities Together' ensured a safe operation when permitted.

Hire of hall revenues were significantly reduced achieving only 20% of the previous year. However, the support provided by Government grants made up the shortfall and provided cash reserves for future renovation projects.

Working closely with the Parish Council, plans for the new children's playground were finalised. The project commenced in May and is due to open in July. Improvements to the Hall car park will also take place this Summer.

As always, the Trustees would like to thank the Parish Council and all the other groups and individuals who use the hall for their support during the year and particularly to Pauline Ryder who does so much to care for the building.

For your information the Memorial Hall AGM is on Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> June at 7.30 pm and copies of the report and accounts will be available from the Treasurer on or after that date.

Peter J H Lowe

(Treasurer and Trustee, on behalf of the Memorial Hall Committee)

### **Modbury Messenger**

The outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic made a radical change to the Modbury Messenger with the April Messenger being re-written 3 times because of the ever changing situation and the need to include Modbury Parish Council's Covid Emergency Plan. It was just possible to deliver the April Messenger before lockdown prevented printing and delivery of the Messenger for May and June. The decision was taken to publish the May and June Messengers online so the domain name [www.modburymessengercic](http://www.modburymessengercic) was purchased and the Editor produced full colour online editions of 22 pages for May and 34 pages for June. Because there was no cost restriction in length it was possible to include all articles submitted. There was no cost for advertising and no charge made for typesetting for the online May & June Messengers. These online versions also had additional videos not available in the printed edition. All subsequent printed Messengers have also been published online and advertised via social media to most of the South Hams. With the closure of many businesses due to lockdown several businesses asked for their adverts to be suspended and several chose not to renew by the end of the Messenger Financial year but expected to restart once businesses had reopened. The Modbury Messenger continues to be published online and advertised to the rest of the South Hams via social media and this has had the unexpected bonus of gaining several new advertisers from beyond Modbury. Due to Covid-19 several distributors of the Modbury Messenger are shielding and the Distribution Co-ordinator was unable to continue in the role as she was a front-line medical worker so all the extra distribution workload has been undertaken by members of the Board. The Covid pandemic caused some financial concerns because of the loss of advertising and expense of setting up a website to enable the Messenger to be published online. However due to grants from Modbury Parish Council and the South Hams District Council Covid fund the Modbury Messenger has weathered the storm and hopes to raise additional advertising revenue as we emerge from the pandemic. It is hoped enough new

advertising will enable the Messenger to expand to 20 pages for each issue rather than just occasionally as we usually get more copy submitted than we have room to publish. The Modbury Messenger is seen within the community as a way to inform the community and as it is physically put through people's doors it connects with people who have difficulty with online information. Going fully online has been considered but dismissed due to the reasons given and because the advertisers prefer the hard copy and would not advertise in an online magazine.

Lynne Barnes, Editor, Modbury Messenger

### **Modbury Pantomime**

Last winter we rehearsed "Ali Baba and the 4 Thieves" with a reduced cast and Covid secure conditions limiting our ambitions. But before we had reached even putting on sale the reduced number of tickets we were planning, lockdown struck and we had to postpone a restart of rehearsals and eventually cancel the show.

Ever optimistic, we are now planning a full-scale Pantomime this year, to be staged just after Christmas. It will be the fiftieth year since the pantomimes started with "Cinderella" in 1972 and it is to Cinderella we return this year, transferring some of the songs and routines from last year's attempt at Ali Baba.

Much of the organisation, audience sizes for example, will depend on Covid guidelines when we get there. However, we are planning to kick off rehearsals with an Open Meeting in September.

Jo Highley, Peter Lowe

Nigel & Felicity Guild

07831 619746

### **Modbury Twinning Association 20/21**

Last year I reported that the visit by our friends in Lanveoc was postponed from May due to Covid and would hopefully take place later in the year.

That was wishful thinking. We hoped it could take place this May but again it has had to be postponed, probably until this time next year.

The only event we have had is a zoom AGM at which the existing team were re-elected.

We have over 40 members and are very receptive to approaches from anyone in Modbury or neighbouring villages who enjoy things with a French flavour.

We visit Lanveoc every other year (attendance isn't compulsory but you'd be missing something!) and they visit us the other year, Covid rules allowing.

We also have regular events, lunches, films and BBQ's to keep us occupied during the rest of the year.

If anyone would like to know more please contact me on 07900487826 or at [mark.lawrence45@gmail.com](mailto:mark.lawrence45@gmail.com)

Mark Lawrence, Chair, Modbury Twinning Association

### **MODBURY WILDLIFE ACTION GROUP (ModWAG)**

Modbury Wildlife Action Group (ModWAG) was set up by a group of residents with an interest in wildlife and a wish to promote the conservation, protection and improvement of the natural environment of Modbury. We welcome all who are interested in wildlife and would like to share their interests and love of our local environment, whether it is insects, mammals, birds or plant life

Projects we are currently working on are:

#### **A wildlife survey in the churchyard**

This is inspired by a national project called "God's Own Acre" which encourages parishes to allow growth of wildflowers in their church yards to provide food and habitat for wildlife.

By kind permission of the Vicar and the Parochial Church Council, a section of the church yard has been left unmown so that we can document the effect of leaving the vegetation undisturbed rather than cut down. The survey will continue throughout the year and monthly information will be posted at the entrance to the church to keep everyone up to date. We are also producing a more detailed record over the year which we will share with the PCC and the community.

#### **No Mow May**

Recent work by the Highways Authority and some Parish Councils have shown the value in managing roadside verges and small patches of land to allow wildflowers to flourish rather than cutting at peak times in early summer. Anyone who has travelled along the A38 towards Exeter will have seen the display of wildflowers growing alongside in what could be seen as a challenging environment. These flowers are providing valuable food for pollinators and habitat for other insects.

With the kind cooperation of the Parish Council, some verges around Modbury have been taken out of the summer mowing schedule to allow flower growth. People may have seen the blue heart shaped posts for No Mow May in these areas. We will be documenting the progress of these areas throughout the summer.

### **Modbury Memorial Hall recreation area**

Work is now underway on the redesign and improvement of the playground next to the Memorial Hall. The redesigned area is intended to provide both play and a planted amenity area. Members of ModWAG are working in collaboration with the playground working group to design and plant the area with species which will be both beneficial to the environment and provide a pleasant natural setting for everyone using the area.

### **Hedgehog Survey**

A survey of hedgehog numbers and locations will be starting shortly. More information to follow on this topic soon.

### **Working with others**

We are developing links with organisations such as Devon Wildlife Trust to learn from their experience and to link in to any appropriate projects.

We know that there are a number of people in Modbury who have interest or expertise in wildlife and who may be involved in their own projects. We are always keen to hear from others about what they are doing or who want to work with us. We welcome comments, enquiries and information. We can be contacted by our Face Book Page ([Modbury Wildlife Action Group | Facebook](#)) or email [carolinebower@btinternet.com](mailto:carolinebower@btinternet.com).