

South Hams

The magazine from South Hams District Council

Issue 7, Spring 2007

Local Elections
- make your voice heard

**A healthy
South Hams**



South Hams
District Council



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South Hams[®]

Issue 7, Spring 2007



South Hams
District Council

Spring is an exciting time of year when everything seems fresh and new. This spring, the district, town and parish councils in the South Hams will go through their own period of change when all their seats go up for election. Check out p14 for our easy guide to voting and make sure your voice is heard on May 3rd!

Elections prompted me to think about what motivates people to work in local government, or to stand as elected members. At SHDC our vision is to improve the well-being of the people of the South Hams. We try to achieve this by providing essential services that are easy to access and understand and which are good value for money.

The purpose of this magazine in particular, is to ensure that people living and working in the district are getting vital information from SHDC and are given help to make the most of the services on offer. At just 8p per issue to design, print and deliver to your door, it is also the most cost effective way of communicating directly with our customers.

If you have any comments about the magazine I would really like to hear from you, just write or email to the address below.

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Cover Photo: Tony Cobley www.tonycobley.com

This publication is available in alternative formats, such as large print or a language other than English. Please contact us on 01803 861234 or e-mail enquiries@southhams.gov.uk

Council Priorities



Affordable housing

Securing a supply of housing for local people at affordable levels



Good jobs

Creating the conditions for the growth and maintenance of quality economic activity



Retain the district's character

Maintaining the district's distinctive environment whilst enabling access and sensitive development



A clean district

Maintaining a clean environment



An accessible council

Work with others to improve access to key services



Value for Money

Improve service performance in a cost-effective way



Climate change



Needs of young people



A Healthier community

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£280,000 boost for eco-friendly business space

A £280,000 European grant will bring a welcome boost to Dartmouth's economy later this year, thanks to work by SHDC's Economic Development team.

In December last year SHDC's Executive agreed to the building of five

additional employment units at the council-owned Admiral Court site in Dartmouth. The decision was taken subject to external funding towards the project being found. The estimated total cost of the project is £560,000. Now, thanks to this injection of Objective 2 funding, the scheme will be self-financing.

SHDC's Economic Development Officer, Michael Cozens, said: "These five units are the next step in our on-going scheme to support Dartmouth's economy at Admiral Court. The nine units completed over the last two years gained 'good' and 'very good' sustainable construction ratings and we expect these next five units to be completed to an equally high standard at least."

"Creating the right conditions for the growth and maintenance of quality economic activity in the district is one of SHDC's top priorities and this kind of investment is absolutely crucial to achieving economic progress."

When completed in autumn 2007 the five new units are expected to accommodate up to five businesses - with 12 new jobs created and a further six safeguarded.



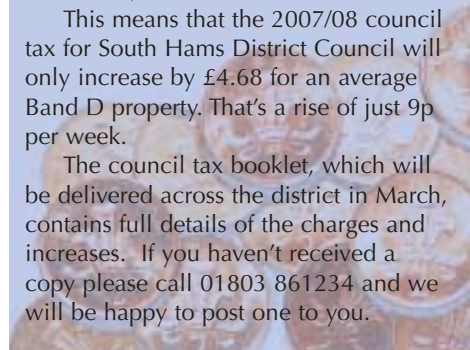
INCREASE just 9p per week

Residents in the South Hams pay one of the lowest levels of council tax for district councils in the whole of Devon & Cornwall. In fact, it is the third lowest across the districts in Devon & Cornwall and £21 lower than the national average charged by district councils.

In the budget for 2007/08 SHDC has made £250,000 worth of savings and has managed to close a budget gap of over £650,000.

This means that the 2007/08 council tax for South Hams District Council will only increase by £4.68 for an average Band D property. That's a rise of just 9p per week.

The council tax booklet, which will be delivered across the district in March, contains full details of the charges and increases. If you haven't received a copy please call 01803 861234 and we will be happy to post one to you.



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West Alvington Primary School Scoops £1,000 In National Yellow Pages Recycling Competition

Congratulations to West Alvington C of E Primary School, which has won the 'Community Involvement' award in the UK Finals of the Yellow Woods Challenge – the environmental competition for schools run by Yellow Pages, working with South Hams Council and the Woodland Trust.

The Yellow Woods Challenge rewards schools for recycling old Yellow Pages directories while learning about the environment and raising funds for the Woodland Trust.

West Alvington Primary School, near Kingsbridge, was unanimously chosen by the judges as the school which best demonstrated and encouraged community involvement in the Challenge. Helped by the community, the 38 pupils recycled an impressive 2,363 old Yellow Pages directories – that's a fantastic 62.2 directories per pupil. This amazing effort won the school £1,000 prize money plus match funding for the Woodland Trust's 'Tree For All' campaign.

Colin Butler, headteacher at West Alvington Primary School, said: "The overwhelming support and enthusiasm of the local community helped the children to understand the importance of recycling and demonstrated what can be achieved when a whole community works together towards one goal. Our pupils have suggested spending the £1,000 on projects such as creating a wildlife area on the parish field, providing more picnic benches for lunchtimes and purchasing more reading books and bean bags for the library."

Local schools are currently taking part in this year's regional competition to collect as many Yellow Pages as possible. The winners of the local competition will then have the chance to compete for the £1,000 national prize and hopefully follow in the footsteps of West Alvington. Look out for the results in the next issue of South Hams magazine.



REAL NAPPY ROADSHOW

Parents interested in finding out more about 'real nappies' are invited to come along to a roadshow on Monday 12th March at Tesco's car park at Lee Mill. The event runs from 10am to 4pm and 'real nappy' experts will be on hand to show the wide range of reusable nappies parents can choose from.

A follow up nappucino event will be held on Tuesday 20th March at The Chapel Place Community Centre, Ivybridge between 10am and 12pm. Why not relax, enjoy coffee and biscuits and discuss the pros and cons of reusable nappies with local 'real nappy' advisors. Babies and children are welcome at both events.

New heart for Ivybridge

Investment totaling £4.1 million has now been agreed for a new state of the art library and community resource centre for Ivybridge. Locating at Erme Court, it's hoped this landmark building will help put the heart back into the town centre. South Hams Council has agreed to contribute £470,000 towards this exciting project. Ivybridge Town Council has pledged £760,000 and Devon County Council has agreed to spend £1.9 million. Further pledges include £400,000 from Devon Renaissance, £200,000 of European Regional Development Funding from the South West Objective 2 programme and £260,000 from other sources.

The centre will be home to various facilities including a brand new library equipped with an IT centre, a cafe, a one-stop information shop and conference and meeting spaces. Hoping to encourage new enterprise the building will also house 16 'business incubation units' alongside training and other business support services. These should bring in vital revenue which will help make the centre sustainable.



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Disposing of bulky waste needn't be a big problem

Over a million fly tips were recorded across England and Wales in 2005/6, costing an estimated £100 million to clean up and dispose of the waste.

As part of the national campaign to prevent fly tipping, new regulations came into force in November 2005, to ensure that household waste, in particular bulky items such as kitchen refurbishments, old three piece suites and washing machines, are only disposed of to an authorised person.

Bulky items of household waste can be disposed of by contacting SHDC to make use of the bulky waste collection service. If you are able to transport bulky items they can also be taken to the household refuse and recycling sites at Kingbridge, Ivybridge and Totnes. Alternatively you could employ an authorised, licensed waste carrier to collect and dispose of it.

Waste carriers are licensed by the Environment Agency and must provide a receipt, called a transfer note, when collecting and disposing of the waste. It is illegal for them not to do so.

Unlicensed carriers often fly tip the waste they clear. This means that ultimately, the council tax payer ends up footing the bill as it falls to South Hams Council to remove fly tips from public land in the area and pay for its disposal.

Businesses are often successfully prosecuted and fined for not using licensed carriers. Under these new regulations householders can also be prosecuted if they do not ensure that their waste is disposed of legally.

You can check to see if a waste carrier is licensed by calling the Environment Agency on 08708 506506.

For advice on bulky waste collection and local recycling centres please call 01803 861234, email esenquiries@southhams.gov.uk or visit www.southhams.gov.uk



Success of caddy liners inspires wheelie big brother

Over 4,500 rolls of compostable corn starch liners for residents' kitchen waste caddies have been sold across the district since we launched them in July 2006. The overwhelming success of these little liners has inspired the production of a big brother – a compostable corn starch bag to line your brown bin!

While residents can use newspaper or paper liners to wrap their food waste, the SHDC green compostable caddy liners and wheeled bin liners offer a complete solution for residents concerned about keeping their kitchen caddy and brown bin clean.

Despite their plastic appearance, our liners are made of corn-starch, so decompose entirely during the composting process. They are also water tight and reduce any unpleasant odours emitting from the organic waste in your brown bin.

Other caddy liners are available in the shops but not all are 100% compostable. Householders can continue to use either newspaper or paper liners to wrap their food waste, but if you wish to use a corn starch liner, these distinctive green liners printed with the South Hams Council logo are the only ones which will be collected by the refuse crew.

A roll of 50 SHDC kitchen caddy liners is on sale at a not-for-profit price of £3.50 including postage, or £3 if collected from Follaton House. The wheeled bin liners will be available in rolls of 5 and are expected to go on sale at £3.75 including postage or £3.25 on collection from Follation House.

For information on the caddy and wheeled bin liners please call the Recycling Helpline on 01803 861199.



Need assistance with your waste?

Do you need help moving your recycling and household refuse to the boundary of your property for collection? SHDC recognises that for people with disabilities or mobility issues, placing sacks or bins out for collection can be difficult.

In these circumstances we are able to help by offering an assisted collection for waste and recycling.

For more information on assisted collections and to find out if you are eligible please contact Customer Services on 01803 861234 or visit www.southhams.gov.uk



Seagulls in the South Hams

Love them or hate them, seagulls (usually the herring gull) are very much part of the South Hams. SHDC's Environmental Health service regularly receives calls about seagull problems, particularly in the breeding season when the gulls get louder and can be aggressive when they are protecting their chicks. Other problems include fouling of washing or cars, ripping open bags of rubbish or nesting on chimney pots.

SHDC believes that seagulls are a natural part of our area and as such, we do not have any plans to carry out any culls. We consider that the best way to deal with gull problems is through education and advice for residents and visitors.

FOOD GLORIOUS FOOD!

Feeding gulls your fish and chips or sandwich crust might be fun, but they get into the habit and take swoops at people who have no intention of sharing their food. Seagulls are quite happy to fly 20 or 30 miles to the nearest landfill site then stock up on breakfast, lunch and dinner in one go. So they really don't need any extra food!

Besides the local rubbish dump, seagulls will raid dustbins and litter on the street. If you don't have wheeled bins make sure you put your black plastic sacks in seagull proof bags which can be re-used, just like a dustbin, and are available from Totnes Town Council for £4.30. Putting your rubbish sacks out as late as possible the night before your collection also reduces the amount of time that gulls have to locate them and spread the contents out over the street or your driveway!

HOME SWEET HOME

Seagulls, like us, want an easy life and have worked out that a roof gully or chimney pot is a nice place to build a nest or to perch rather than a cold, blustery cliff face. This means you (and your neighbours) may need to consider seagull proofing with nets, spikes or wires. You will need to get expert advice and help, as poorly designed proofing can either just move the problem on elsewhere or injure the birds. Remember that seagulls are a protected species under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981. There are exceptions however, for more information please contact DEFRA or the RSPCA for more advice.

If you have seagulls in your area and you have a chimney pot, keep an eye on it to make sure that they don't nest on it as this could cause a blockage which may lead to a build up of harmful gasses in your home. Chimneys need to be swept and gas flues need to be serviced once a year to

ensure that your heating system is functioning safely.

So, where there are signs asking you not to feed the birds or not to drop litter - please follow them.



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DINNER, BED AND BREAKFAST AT NEWLY CONVERTED CONVENT!



Congratulations to Mr C Kelland of Dartmouth who was the lucky winner of the competition in the Winter 2006 issue of South Hams magazine. His prize is dinner, bed and breakfast at Plymouth's newest boutique hotel, St Elizabeth's House in Plympton St Maurice. The competition was very popular and we received approximately 300 entries.

The hotel has 15 individually designed bedrooms each with en-suite facilities, plasma televisions, exquisite Egyptian cotton sheets and big fluffy duvets and pillows. The luxurious suites also offer the option of a two-person Jacuzzi bath or an elegant hand carved limestone bath and even feature walk-in wet rooms!

The hotel bar and restaurant facilities are open to the public and the interior has a distinctly French feel featuring a large open plan bar with comfy leather sofas, plus a private dining room for up to 40. Head Chef, Jean-Paul Kiely (JP)'s menu offers fabulous modern French flavours whilst at the same time acknowledging classic dishes so combining a complimentary mix of tastes to suit every palate. The restaurant is open for breakfast, lunch and dinner daily, also offering a late morning Sunday brunch. There are daily set menus (from just £9.95) for lunch and dinner as well as A La Carte choices, to cover all tastes! If it is a lighter bite that you are after, the bar is open from eleven in the morning to midnight serving excellent food and an extensive drinks selection.

For more information on St Elizabeth's House contact 01752 344 840 or email enquiries@stelizabeths.co.uk. You can go online at www.stelizabeths.co.uk



Affordable Housing for Salcombe



Pictures contributed by Tor Homes

A large crane has been dominating the skyline over Salcombe as developers stay on course to complete much needed affordable homes for local people at Bonfire Hill. Developers Coyde Construction brought in the crane to help in the timber construction process. A flagship property on the site is to be completed by autumn 2007 with the remaining 33 homes ready in January the following year.

Seventy per cent of the homes will be designated affordable with priority being given to people from Salcombe and the surrounding parishes.

The high level of house prices in Salcombe has pushed the cost of housing out of the reach of many local people



especially as levels of income have not risen at the same pace. With average house prices in the South Hams at £270,000 and the average district income just under 16

times less at £17,000, South Hams District Council has made the provision of affordable homes like the ones on Bonfire Hill its top priority.

The Bonfire Hill development is a departure to the adopted district-wide plan and was brought forward by SHDC in response to the level of need. Funding for the development has come from second homes council tax money reinvested by Devon County Council in the area, together with a contribution from The Housing Corporation.

South Hams District Council's target of 50% affordable housing on all new sites is still one of the highest levels in the country - although other authorities are beginning to follow South Hams' lead.

Save on your gas bill and pay less council tax!

If you're a property owner in the South Hams who's left out in the cold with the cost of winter heating bills, then a joint initiative from SHDC and British Gas could be the key to staying warm, spending less and saving the planet!

Over 300 homeowners in the South Hams have already taken up the offer of reduced price insulation and a £50 reduction from their council tax bill.

Supported by Friends of the Earth, this energy efficiency scheme helps owner-occupiers to reduce their heating bills by fitting cavity wall and loft insulation.

With cavity wall insulation from £250 or loft insulation from £274 - payable over 2 years - you will also receive a "green home package" including a Home Energy Audit, energy efficient light bulbs and a £50 reduction on your next council tax bill.

Proper insulation could cut your fuel bills by up to £200 a year, giving a return on your investment in around 12 months. Not only will you save money on future bills, using less energy is helping to save the environment.

For further information call 0845 971 7731 and quote "SHDC".



Planning advice online

A new online facility has been developed at the council to enable South Hams homeowners to find out if they require planning permission for any development projects.

The 'Expert Planning' software leads users through a set of simple questions, asking for details of the land or property the enquiry relates to and what improvement or development is being planned.

From the answers given by the user, the computer programme will be able to advise whether planning permission is required.

Users can work through the questions at their own pace, save enquiries and go back to them at a later date.

If you want to speak to one of SHDC's Planning Officers about your enquiry, just quote the unique reference number to enable them to instantly access your enquiry details - no need to repeat information!

SHDC is the first council in Devon to offer this kind of facility. It is free and available 24 hours a day, seven days a week, 365 days a year. Just log on to the council's website at www.southhams.gov.uk click on the 'Residents' tab, follow the links to 'Planning' and give it a go!



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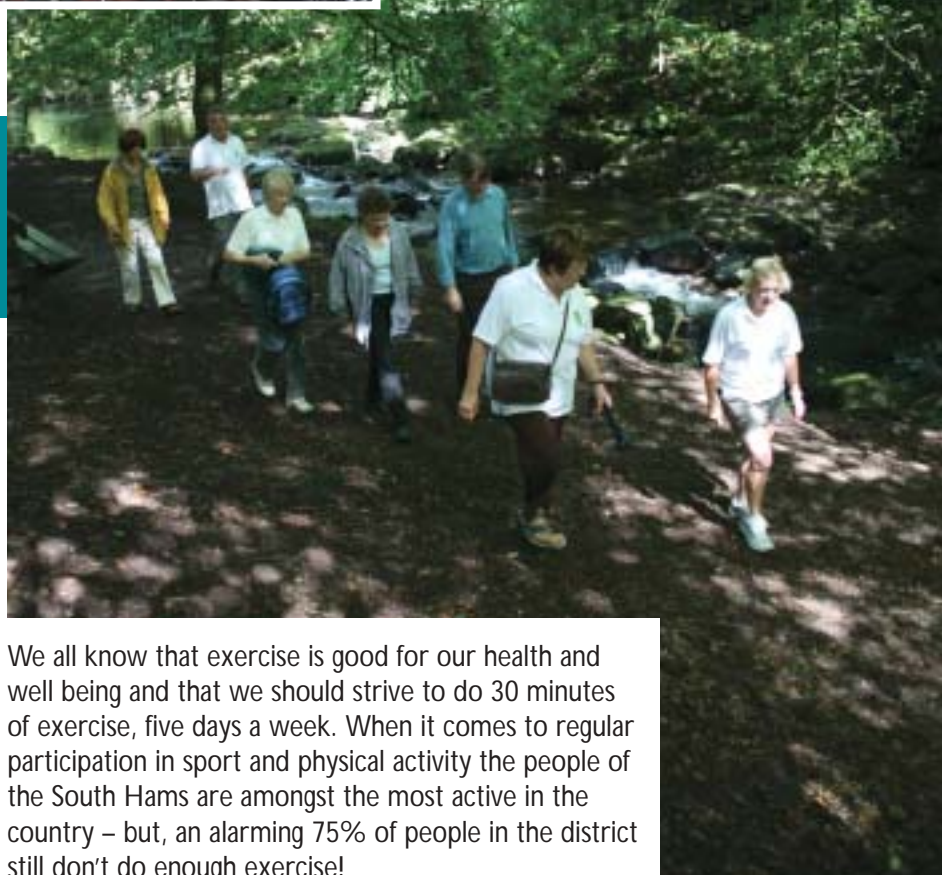
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A *Healthy* South Hams



We all know that exercise is good for our health and well being and that we should strive to do 30 minutes of exercise, five days a week. When it comes to regular participation in sport and physical activity the people of the South Hams are amongst the most active in the country – but, an alarming 75% of people in the district still don't do enough exercise!

ACTIVE PEOPLE

According to a new survey of 1,000 residents from every local authority area in England, the South Hams ranked 5th best in the South West. While nationally 22% of people are regularly active, an impressive 25% of people in the South Hams regularly take part in moderate physical activity and sport.

While questioning people about their sport and active recreation habits, the 'Active People' survey also recorded that around 75% of people living in the South Hams are satisfied with their local sports provision, significantly more than the 69% average across the country. And, when it comes to volunteering for sport, people in the South Hams triumph with 5.4% of residents offering at least one hour of their

time every week to help run a club or activity, compared to 4.7% nationally.

Despite these positive results showing the South Hams as one of the most active communities in the region, many of us are still not taking enough exercise and need to make sport and physical activity a regular part of our lifestyle.

Living in the South Hams offers numerous and varied ways to get fit and stay active. SHDC plays a major part in ensuring that leisure services and facilities are accessible to all members of the community. Whether you prefer exercising indoors or out, taking part in an adrenaline fuelled activity or something a little gentler, the South Hams offers something to get everyone up, moving and more active.

THE GREAT OUTDOORS

With 60 miles of the South West Coast Path and hundreds of miles of rights of way crossing the area, one of the best ways to explore the South Hams is on foot. Not only is it an eco friendly way of travel, but walking is good for you too! You don't have to be a rambler to enjoy a stroll on the coast or through the countryside: just take it at your own pace and enjoy the scenery.

Whatever sort of walk you enjoy, the South Devon Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) unit offers a wide range of easy to follow trail leaflets, giving you directions for circular or longer distance walks and information on the things you'll see along the way. From the Coast Path to the Two Moors Way, Green Lanes to Town Trails, there is so much to see whilst walking in the South Hams.

The AONB unit also publishes a calendar of events in the district, featuring canoeing and sailing activities, organised walks and cycling days. Look out for the Spring 2007 events brochure, due out this March.

For more information on AONB walks and events visit the website at www.southdevonaonb.org.uk or contact 01803 861384 for details.

If you prefer to join an organised walk, then why not try the Healthy Walking Programme, run from South Hams Leisure Centres. This programme of guided walks is an ideal way to exercise gently and socially while enjoying the beautiful surroundings of the South Hams. Trained leaders help people of all abilities to step out for their personal health on guided walks which last about an hour. Different groups are available for people to walk at their own pace. No booking is required, walkers can simply turn up at the start with comfortable walking shoes and loose clothing – don't forget waterproofs if it is wet!

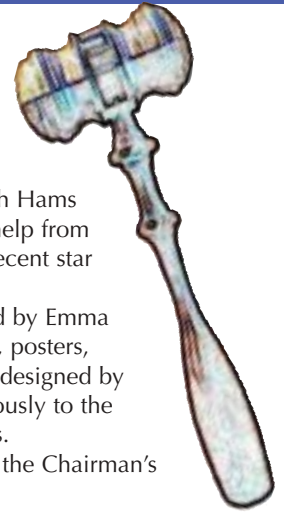
Walking is the sure, safe way to health and fitness. You can start slowly and build up gently but you will very quickly start to feel the difference.

For more information on Healthy Walks visit www.whi.org.uk or call 01803 861234, or drop into your local leisure centre.

the good work done every day around
the district in activity programmes



Celebs donate lots for Chairman's Charity



Over £2,000 was raised at a recent charity auction held by South Hams District Council Chairman, Cllr Bryan Carson, thanks to a little help from Posh and Becks and another former Spice Girl, Emma Bunton, recent star of BBC 1's Strictly Come Dancing.

Auction lots of a signed CD and signed posters were donated by Emma Bunton, whilst Victoria and David Beckham sent signed pictures, posters, bottles of their signature fragrances and an exclusive iPod cover designed by Posh herself! Numerous local businesses also contributed generously to the auction, held late last year at the Royal Seven Stars Hotel, Totnes.

All proceeds will be donated to the Alzheimer's Association, the Chairman's charity for his year in office.

▶ DON'T WANT TO BRAVE THE WILDS?

Exercising in a leisure centre is a sure fire way to make sure Mother Nature doesn't get in the way of your fitness routine. Tone Leisure (South Hams) Ltd took over the management of SHDC's four leisure centres in December and immediately embarked on an ambitious building project to develop gym facilities at Quayside Leisure Centre, Kingsbridge and South Dartmoor Leisure Centre, Ivybridge. The refurbishments have just been completed and offer state of the art fitness facilities, treatment rooms and induction areas for people of all abilities.

To celebrate the fantastic gym facilities, new membership schemes have been launched across all four leisure centres. An all inclusive membership is available for just £28 per month. This allows members unlimited use of all facilities at any of the four leisure centres. Other membership packages are available.

Looking for a personalised approach? Then Results! Fitness could be just what you need. It offers users and members an opportunity to consult with a gym professional and set personal goals. If by the end of their consultation they can't see any improvement, people can claim a refund of their consultation fee!

New group fitness classes have also been launched in each of the leisure centres, including Body Training Systems' popular Body Pump and Body Balance classes. Around 100 people took part in the free taster sessions of the various classes on offer. The classes are proving to be popular and bookings are now being taken for more than 20 classes available weekly at each leisure centre.

A new dance studio has been opened at South Dartmoor Leisure Centre. The additional space will enable a wider variety of fitness classes to be offered.

The results of the Active People Survey, carried out by Sport England, will help us understand what prevents people from taking the recommended amount of regular exercise. It will also help identify what obstacles need to be overcome to enable more people to be more active more often. In the meantime the positive results from the most recent survey are encouraging and reinforce the good work done every day around the district through activity programmes and schemes to benefit the health and physical well being of us all.



Compost giveaway

South Hams residents can now help their gardens grow with the fruits of their recycling efforts.

As a thank you for recycling a whopping 45% of all residential waste, South Hams Council is organising four compost giveaway days in different parts of the district during February and March.

All the compostable materials, including food waste and garden clippings, which are collected in the brown wheeled bin are taken to the In-Vessel Composting plant at Heathfield near Newton Abbot. After going through a carefully controlled process the material is left to mature into a soil conditioner for use in the garden. Much of the finished product is given away to farmers for agricultural use.

Now, SHDC has a quantity of the soil conditioner to give away to local residents – free of charge.

To obtain your free compost bring a maximum of five sturdy bags to one of the locations listed below, between 9.30am and 1.30pm. We will help fill the bags with the free compost and load them into your car.

- Saturday 24 February** - Totnes, Longmarsh car park
- Saturday 10 March** - Dartmouth, Park & Ride car park
- Saturday 17 March** - Kingsbridge, Cattle Market car park
- Saturday 31 March** - Ivybridge, Park & Ride car park

West Country Wormeries will be at each event, except Dartmouth, to give advice on home composting.

Please note:

Only five bags per vehicle will be allowed.
Residents to supply their own bags.
The compost is for garden use only and should not be used on grazing land.



When you have finished with this magazine please recycle it.



Affordable homes for Kingsbridge people

The number of affordable homes in the South Hams has been boosted with the official opening of 20 new homes in Montagu Close and Montagu Mews, Kingsbridge.

The Chairman of SHDC, Cllr Bryan Carson, members of Kingsbridge Town Council and representatives from Tor Homes attended the event and had the opportunity to meet some of the residents who had just moved into their new homes.

The properties are of mixed tenure, with six being offered on a shared ownership basis and twelve homes available to rent, provided by Tor Homes. A further two homes were available for outright sale, with a 20% discount on the market price.

Nominations for the Montagu Close and Montagu Mews site were allocated to people either from Kingsbridge or who had a local connection with the town. Emma Hutchings, her partner Philip Hine and their four-year-old daughter Kaci, think their home is 'brilliant'. She said; "We waited so long for a home of our own and we fell in love with it the minute we walked through the door."

Earlier this year Kingsbridge was identified as an area suffering from a shortage of affordable housing by the Commission for Rural Communities.

Situated adjacent to the northern edge of the town's Conservation area, the site of the Montagu Close and Montagu Mews development was formerly a depot owned and operated by SHDC for the provision of local services within the area.



Pictures contributed by Tor Homes

SMOKE FREE South Hams

South Hams Council will be bringing in a Smoking Ban across all its sites from 1 June 2007 – a month ahead of the national smoking ban due to take effect across the country from 1 July this year.

The national smoking ban will cover virtually all enclosed public places including offices, factories, pubs and bars but not outdoors or in private homes.

For SHDC the ban will cover its Follaton House headquarters, including some designated outdoor space, the depots at Ivybridge, Totnes and Tor Quarry and the Harbour Office in Salcombe as well as all four council owned leisure centres.

The national legislation will help to prevent the unnecessary deaths caused every year from second-hand smoke. The Government predicts approximately 600,000 people will give up smoking as a result of the law change.

Cancer Research UK chief, Prof Alex Markham, said the introduction of a smoking ban across England would be a 'historic day'. "Making workplaces and enclosed public places smoke free will bring about some of the most significant health improvements the country has seen in decades," he said.

Check out the next issue of South Hams Magazine, due out in June, for special guidance for local businesses regarding the smoking ban.



Development Strategy adopted

SHDC's Local Development Framework (LDF) Core Strategy document, which sets out the vision for development across the district up to 2016, has been formally adopted by the council.

An independent examination in July 2006 found SHDC's Core Strategy to be 'Sound', making South Hams just the second local authority in the country to have its strategy approved by an Inspector.

SHDC's corporate priorities are woven into the Core Strategy document. There is specific reference to the top priority of securing a supply of affordable housing for local people and the council's commitment to creating the conditions for the growth and maintenance of quality economic activity.

Within the document there is also a Statement of Community Involvement, outlining how SHDC intends to engage the local community to help shape the development of the district. A copy of the newly adopted LDF Core Strategy is available by visiting the Forward Planning pages online at www.southhams.gov.uk or by calling 01803 861234.





Community wishes 'granted' by SHDC

Community Grants from SHDC have helped many local projects get off the ground since the launch of the funding scheme in 2005. The awards have helped fund a shopmobility scheme, a coast watch station and a local transport scheme for young workers without access to their own vehicles. Some of the most popular and well supported bids have come from parish and village halls asking for help to improve their facilities.

SHDC recognises that parish and village halls are valuable resources to small communities and help to provide a wide range of services to residents in more rural parts of the South Hams. Let's take a look at three local venues whose wishes were 'granted' by SHDC last year...

Newton and Noss Village Hall

The village hall in the parish of Newton and Noss re-opened its doors on 16th December 2006, following a major make-over.

Back in March 2006, SHDC gave a grant of £13,000 to contribute towards the costs of a project to improve disabled access. This added to a donation of £50,000 from the lottery's 'People's Millions' towards the major refurbishment works.

The newly refurbished hall opened with a day of fun and games, attended by Cllr Mike Saltern, Executive member for Communities. Cllr Saltern praised the local community for their work, he said: "I'm delighted to see the positive difference our Community Grant Fund can make to South Hams communities. My congratulations go to the dedicated and hard working residents of Newton and Noss who have been connected with this village hall project."

Sparkwell Parish Hall

The completion of a two-year-long project to provide Sparkwell parish hall with a new stage and better changing rooms was celebrated over Christmas with a performance of the "Wizard of Oz". This was the first time the new facilities had been put to the test and proved the hall's place at the heart of the community.

Residents in Sparkwell were so committed to improving their hall that they rallied together and decided to undertake the building improvements and project management themselves. The improvements include a new stage with better storage facilities and new changing rooms with showers and toilets. The changing rooms will be available to people using the nearby playing field as well as to those using the hall.

SHDC contributed to the cost of the refurbishment with £10,000 from the Community Grant Fund. The Parish Council, the Community Council of Devon and the Lottery also made donations which were added to with fundraising, donations and gifts in kind from local residents.

Kay Dawson, Community Development Officer at South Hams District Council said: "We were delighted to be able to support this project through our Community Grant Fund. The hall is clearly a very valuable community resource, much appreciated by local residents."

"Hopefully the recent improvements will ensure it continues to be so."

Strete Parish Hall

The parish hall in Strete was awarded a grant of £11,000 from SHDC's Community Grant Fund in September, to help improve access for people with disabilities. The works included

door widening, extending ramps, providing a new toilet and also creating a disabled parking space. This accessibility work is part of a £49,850 project to refurbish the parish hall.

The parish hall provides a vital resource to Strete residents. It hosts clubs, groups and acts as a surgery for local doctors. Strete has the highest population of retired persons in the South Hams and this grant towards improved access will help to keep it a useful community facility for many years to come.

SHDC member for Skerries, Cllr Ian Longrigg, said: "This hall enjoys much use by residents, many of whom are elderly and will benefit directly from the improved access. As is the case for so many other villages, the hall is at the heart of the community and this grant will allow and encourage greater use of the facilities for all residents."

The Community Grant Fund

SHDC's Community Grant Fund provides up to 50% match funding towards projects that meet a council priority. The fund is designed to provide one-off 'seed bed' funding, up to a maximum of £25,000, to new projects and initiatives. All projects must involve the community and already have their match funding identified and preferably secured.

The current round of the Community Grant Fund opened on Monday 27th January 2007. The closing date for applications is Friday 29th June 2007. If you have an idea for a community project that you feel could be eligible, please contact the Community Development Team on 01803 861234.



Make your voice heard on May 3rd

Voting is the most important way to make your voice heard on the issues that concern you and your community.





Decisions are made on your behalf every day, ranging from local issues such as where houses will be built and what recreational facilities you have, to national issues like

healthcare and education, to global issues like defence and the environment.

In many countries around the world, including the UK, people have fought to gain the right to vote. But having the right to vote is not enough. A strong and stable democracy also relies on people using their votes.

On Thursday 3 May, residents of the South Hams who are eligible to vote will go to the polls to elect members to fill all 40 seats on the district council.

Check out the easy guide to voting below and make sure you make your voice heard on May 3rd.

<p>How do I start? 1</p> <p>It's easy to vote.</p> <p>The register of electors is a list of everyone who is registered to vote. You must be on the register to be able to vote. You need to fill in a registration form. A form is sent to every home each autumn, but you can register to vote at any time. If you're not registered, contact your local electoral registration officer. You can download a form at www.rollingregistration.co.uk</p> 	<p>What is a poll card? 2</p> <p>If you are on the register of electors, you will be sent a card just before an election. This is called a poll card. It tells you where and when to vote.</p> 	<p>Where do I vote? 3</p> <p>On election day, go to the polling station. The polling station is often a school or local hall near where you live. "Polling" is another word for voting. Tell the staff inside the polling station your name and address so they can check that you're on the register. You can show them your poll card, but you do not need it to vote.</p> 	<p>What is a ballot paper? 4</p> <p>The staff at the polling station will give you a list of the people or parties you can vote for. This is called a ballot paper. It will be stamped with an official mark. You may be given more than one ballot paper if there is more than one election on the same day.</p> 
<p>How do I vote? 5</p> <p>Go into a polling booth so that no one can see how you vote. You will be asked to put a cross (X) in the box next to the person or party you want to vote for. Do not write anything else on the paper or your vote may not be counted.</p> 	<p>What do I do next? 6</p> <p>Fold the ballot paper in half and put it in the ballot box. If you are not clear what to do, ask the staff at the polling station to help you. Do not let anyone see your vote.</p> 	<p>Can I vote by post? 7</p> <p>Yes If you want to vote by post, you need to fill in a postal vote form. Contact your local electoral registration officer or download a form at www.postalvotes.co.uk You can also pick one up at selected post office branches.</p> 	<p>What happens after I've voted? 7</p> <p>When voting is over the votes are counted. The winner or winners are the people with the most votes. These people are responsible for representing you. You can tell them what you think about issues that affect you, by phone, by letter or by email. You can also ask to meet and speak to them in person.</p> 

For more information on the local elections in May please call SHDC on 01803 861234. For details on voting please visit www.aboutmyvote.co.uk

Student visit

Arranged visits for students from three South Hams colleges to SHDC's HQ in Totnes turned out to be an enlightening experience for all involved.

Groups of student representatives from the school councils of KEVICC, Ivybridge Community College and Kingsbridge Community College have all visited in the last few months and received a warm welcome from SHDC Chairman, Cllr Bryan Carson. The students listened to a brief presentation on the broad range of services provided by the district council and were taken on a grand tour of the council offices. The students had the opportunity to sit in on a meeting of the council's Executive.

Finally, the students took part in a lively discussion on methods used by SHDC to consult young people. They offered council officers and members ideas on how this channel of communication could be improved.

Ivybridge Community College's Head of PSHE, Ed Lamb, said: "Both the students and I found the meeting to be extremely productive. It highlighted the need for young people to really get involved in local issues. It is vitally important for schools and colleges to be constantly forging links with local government. This will benefit councils in bringing young people into the political arena and also the schools in the teaching of subjects such as Citizenship."

Following the visits, Cllr Carson said: "This is hopefully just the first step in the council developing better links with our local colleges. By using the ideas of young people themselves, we will hopefully be more successful at encouraging them to participate in consultation activities."





Disabled Entrepreneurs Project launch

Budding entrepreneurs who are disabled and live in rural Devon can now get information, advice and training from a new organisation which specialises in helping people with disabilities set up their own business.

Enterprise South Devon's (ESD) Disabled Entrepreneurs Project which was launched in November, currently operates across the South Hams and West Devon, but will take in North Devon and Torridge from April. The management team has high hopes to roll this out to other parts of the region and the UK in the future.

"There are just over 30,000 people of working age with disabilities in the Objective 2 areas of Devon of which nearly 13,000 are economically inactive. Our research tells us that there are many among them who want to be their own boss and work at a pace of their choosing," said Stewart Barker ESD's chairman, "In

short, the Disabled Entrepreneurs Project is about reaching the potential entrepreneurs through a programme of business advice, guidance and support from experienced business advisors. The aim is to give people the information and confidence they need to launch and develop successful businesses."

During the coming 18 months the project aims to work with over 100 individuals identifying training needs, writing business plans and helping to create at least 35 new businesses and 42 new jobs.

This ground breaking project was initiated by one of ESD's business advisors, Andi Robertson, who was diagnosed with Parkinson's disease just over five years ago. A combination of personal and professional interest fuelled a desire to find out how disabled entrepreneurs thought the existing support network could be improved. The research indicated that there was a need



for advice and guidance from people knowledgeable about both business and disability issues. This led to the birth of the Disabled Entrepreneurs Project.

"I'm very grateful to everybody who has helped with this project particularly our funders Devon Renaissance, North Devon Leader and the four district councils," said Andi, "The interest this launch has generated is wonderful.

We are particularly grateful to the agencies and individuals who are referring people with disabilities to us." To find out more about the Disabled Entrepreneurs Project contact Jessica or Sue on 08456447558.

Enterprise South Devon is a private limited company operated on a not-for-profit basis. It is supported by SHDC but is run independently from the council.

factfile

1. The Department of Trade and Industry estimated that there were 10.8 million people with disabilities in the UK in 2003. This equated to more than 1 in 5 of the population.
2. There are 6,860,000 people with disabilities who are of working age in the UK. Of these, it is estimated that 3,389,000 are in work with only 13% of those being self-employed.
3. Of the total number of people of working age who are out of work in Britain, 40% have a disability.
4. Latest statistics indicate that 17% of people with learning disabilities are in paid work.
5. Only 50% of people with disabilities who are of working age are in employment. This compares to 81% of able-bodied people who are employed.
6. A recent survey showed that there are approximately 600,000 people working in small businesses who have a disability.
7. Almost one third of people with disabilities living in Britain live in income poverty. This is higher than a decade ago.
8. It has been estimated that there are 133,000 people with disabilities living in Devon.

'We need to ensure that all disabled people optimise the vocational and personal skills they need to live independently and get on with life.'

(The Disability Rights Commission - The Disability Debate)

Therapeutic and Sports Massage

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National recognition for 'flexible' SHDC

South Hams Council is one of just 50 councils across the UK to be awarded the British Retail Consortium's (BRC) Flexible Landlord Standard.

The council has been praised for supporting local businesses by adopting a system of collecting commercial rents on a monthly basis rather than demanding rents each quarter, three months in advance. The custom and practice of quarterly rent collection dates back hundreds of years to the era when the horse and cart was the fastest means of transport! It has been estimated that this archaic rent collection practice costs UK retailers more than £145 million annually.

The award recognises the commitment by SHDC to local businesses and the importance the council places on creating the conditions for the growth and maintenance of quality economic activity within the district. SHDC and the BRC are now calling on commercial landlords in the South Hams to follow the council's example and show a similar commitment to more flexible terms for local businesses.

Technology Transfer Programme

There are still a few places left on the Technology Transfer Programme, funded by the European Union and Devon Renaissance, but you will need to act quickly to take advantage. Businesses in the South Hams can benefit from a free consultant's assessment of needs and opportunities and a search of available technologies to match their requirements. Support is then available to help test and implement priority opportunities. Any business with a technical product or service could potentially benefit, particularly those in manufacturing.

For more information, please contact Jon Vernon at the North Devon & Exmoor Regeneration Company, email jon@ndexreg.co.uk or call 01237 420662.

The word on waste

SHDC's Street Scene Team is working closely with the Environment Agency and neighbouring councils to target illegal waste handling in the South Hams. If you produce waste as part of your business, for example a builder, a shop or restaurant, you must keep records of any waste disposal. These records are called transfer notes and can either be individual disposals or part of an annual contract. Transfer notes must be kept for two years and the council may ask to see them at any time. Failure to keep the proper records is an offence which could lead to a fixed penalty notice of £300 or a court appearance.

If you run a business carrying or clearing waste you must hold a 'Waste Carrier Licence' issued by the Environment Agency and keep proper records of the collection and disposal of waste. This is the law under the Environmental Protection Act 1990.

SHDC offers a trade waste collection for local businesses, for more details please call 01803 861234. For details on the regulations visit the Environment Agency's website at www.environment-agency.gov.uk and click on waste.

New life for old Buildings



Grants to bring redundant buildings back into use are available through Devon Renaissance, the rural development partner for Devon.

The Redundant Buildings Grant (RBG) is a funding scheme to help local businesses bring redundant buildings back into productive use and to address local demand for workspace. The RBG will help businesses to expand their premises, enabling new jobs to be created and supporting the development of the rural economy.

Suitable Buildings

Most types of building, regardless of age, which can be used for business premises, will qualify. A building must be completely unused or unusable for its future purpose whilst in its current state.

What can the grant cover?

Grants can cover up to 25% of eligible expenditure which can include those costs associated with building works, installation of services, access and parking, ICT infrastructure and professional fees.

Who can apply for a grant?

Sole traders, partners, limited companies, co-operatives and charitable trusts are all eligible, provided the project meets the RBG criteria.

What type of businesses/buildings can get a grant?

Grant aid is available for:

- space for manufacturing, service or craft activities and office premises.
- tourism facilities and activities designed to enhance tourism.
- warehousing and distribution facilities which create jobs locally.
- agricultural and other land-based businesses not related to primary production.

For further details please visit

www.ruraldevon.org or contact Hilary Rhodes, Redundant Building Grant Project Officer by emailing hilary@ruraldevon.org or calling 01837 658643.

Devon Renaissance is a not-for-profit organisation which aims to help businesses in rural Devon by improving skills and attracting high value business to the area. SHDC has been one of the key players in developing the Devon Renaissance programme. Funding comes from The South West Regional Development Agency, European and other public and private funding streams. The scheme covers the rural districts of the South Hams, West Devon, North Devon and Torridge.



Looking for Friends?

If you're looking to get out and about, make new friends and enjoy social events across the South Hams and Devon, then try contacting Devon Social Group. The group organises a regular programme of nights out to restaurants, pubs and the theatre in the Totnes, Torbay, South Hams and Plymouth areas.

The 'group of friends' aims to get people together for friendship, fun and to enjoy a better social life together. Devon Social Group is a good way to make a new start, meet new people, make new friends and make more of your life – everyone is welcome!

So no need to be home alone this spring, just get out and about with Devon Social Group and widen your circle of friends!

Readers Special Offer – mention South Hams Magazine to obtain a discounted membership of Devon Social Group. For details and a free information pack, please visit www.devonsocialgroup.com or call Cathy Haglington on 08456 121 770.

Lifeguards back on beach patrol



Last year RNLI lifeguards helped 564 adults and children on South Hams' beaches. This year, residents and visitors can be assured that beaches in the South Hams will remain safe places to relax and have fun in the summer when, once again, RNLI lifeguards will be on beach patrol. Check out the table below for details of the beaches which will be covered this season.

The continued presence of lifeguards on our beaches is all thanks to an agreement between the RNLI and SHDC. Money from SHDC helps pay for the lifeguards' salaries while the RNLI, a lifesaving charity, provides the uniforms, equipment, training, facilities and management.

However for RNLI lifeguards to continue their lifesaving work on local beaches it's vital for the community to remain supportive. One way to support the RNLI lifeguard service is to take part in a summer beach walk. Families will be able to enjoy a great activity which combines fun, exercise, fresh air and fundraising.

The South Hams beach walk will take place on 2 September from Thurlstone to Bantham Beach, starting at 2pm. Anyone wanting to take part can register for the walk in advance by visiting www.rnli.org.uk/events where they will receive a discounted entry and children go free. Alternatively walkers can register on the day, subject to availability, at the RNLI stand on Thurlstone Beach, from 11am.

The Beach Walk is not only an enjoyable way to raise funds, it will also enable families to meet the RNLI lifeguards, enjoy the beach and learn about beach safety. Please call the RNLI regional fundraising office on 01752 850680 or email [Carla Rowley crowley@rnli.org.uk](mailto:Carla.Rowley@rnli.org.uk) for more details of this event.

RNLI lifeguard South Hams season cover 2007

Beach	Season Start	Season End
Challabrough	19 May	23 September
Burgh Island	19 May	23 September
Sedgewell Cove	19 May	23 September
Bantham	1 May	30 September
Thurlstone	7 July	9 September
Torcross	7 July	9 September
Blackpool Sands	7 July	9 September



The South Hams really is somewhere special to live, work and play. So why not make some time to enjoy one of the many interesting and exciting events taking place around the district over the next few months...

MARCH

- **8-30 Spring walks at Greenway**
Discover the colourful blooms in Greenway's woodland garden. Walks will be held on various days in March, at Greenway Gardens near Galmpton. Call 01803 842382 for further details.
- **18 Rockpool science** Join marine ecologist Nigel Mortimer to explore the science of the foreshore – a mix of slime and grossology, a few memorable long words, a squirt of evolution and a measure of worm poo all mixed up in a test-tube. Meet at 11 am, North Sands car park entrance, Salcombe (map ref. SX 730 382). Return at 1.30 pm. Wear wellies and warm clothing. No long-handled nets. Adults £3, children £1.
- **25-31 Funfair**, Leonards Road car park, Ivybridge

APRIL

- **1 East Prawl Archaeological walk** tracing the history and development of the village. Rugged beautiful scenery guaranteed. Meet at 10.30am on the village green. Three mile walk with some steep slopes and rugged parts. Adults £3, children £1. Please contact 01803 861384.
- **14 Table Top Sale** Market Hall, Kingsbridge from 9am. In aid of 2nd Kingsbridge Guides' trip to Adelboden Switzerland.
- **25-28 South West Sound**, Dartington Hall, nr Totnes. Confirmed guest speakers include Billy Bragg; Tom Bewick, Creative & Cultural Skills Council; and Korda Marshall, MD Warner Records UK. Performances from Jerry Dammers, Roberto Pla and more. For more information visit www.southwestsound.org.uk

- **29 Surf's Up** Bigbury on Sea. Try a beginners 2 hour surf lesson. You'll need to be able to swim 50 metres. Wetsuits and surfboards are included at less than half the usual price. Meet at 11am, main car park. Adults and children over 8, £12. Open to South Hams residents only. Booking essential call 01803 861384.
- **29 Duck Race**, Loddiswell Bridge. In aid of 2nd Kingsbridge Guides as above.
- **29 April - 31 May Art @ Delamore**, View works of more than 100 leading painters and sculptors in aid of The Children's Hospice South West. Experience the magnificent rhododendrons in full bloom during May. Wander among the sculptures on the lawns, view over 120 paintings in the gallery and visit Dartmoor's newest 'prehistoric' artefact – the incredible Cromlech. Entry £3.50, under 16s free. Open daily 10.30am – 4.30pm. For information call 01752837711 or visit www.delamore-art.co.uk

MAY

- **3 South Hams local elections** to elect district and parish councillors – get out and vote, make your voice heard!
- **6 Worm Charming** competition & village festival, Blackawton.
- **7-14 Modbury Fair week**,
- **18-20 Dart Music Festival**, Dartmouth. Call 01803 833943 for details.
- **19 Kingsbridge and South Hams Art Club Exhibition and Sale**, Kingsbridge Market Hall, Fore Street, Kingsbridge. Open 10.00am - 5.30 daily including Sundays. Work sold on a cash and carry basis only.

- **20-28 Ivybridge Walking Festival**, in and around Ivybridge. Join a wide range of walking activities of all lengths including walks on Dartmoor and along the River Erme. Please call 01752 897034 for details.
- **26-29 Totnes Open Studios**, Totnes. Arts trail taking in various locations around the historic town of Totnes.

FARMERS' MARKETS

Like locally grown veg, but don't have the time or space to grow your own? Then why not visit a South Hams farmers' market – it's a fun way to buy fresh fruit, meat, cheeses, breads, plants and much more whilst supporting our local farmers. Every weekend you will find local produce on sale in the South Hams at one of the following places:

- **Kingsbridge** – the Quay
1st Saturday of the month
- **Dartmouth** – the Old Market
2nd Saturday of the month
- **Ivybridge** – Glanvilles Mill car park
3rd Saturday of the month
- **Totnes** – the Civic Hall
Last Saturday of the month

If you have an event taking place in the South Hams during June, July, August or September '07 which you would like to see listed in the Summer 2007 edition of the magazine then please email details to public.relations@southhams.gov.uk or write to the address on p3 by no later than Friday 20 April.

Disclaimer: South Hams District Council cannot be held responsible for the events listed above. We recommend you call ahead to check times and details wherever possible. This is a free listing service - events will be included strictly subject to space.

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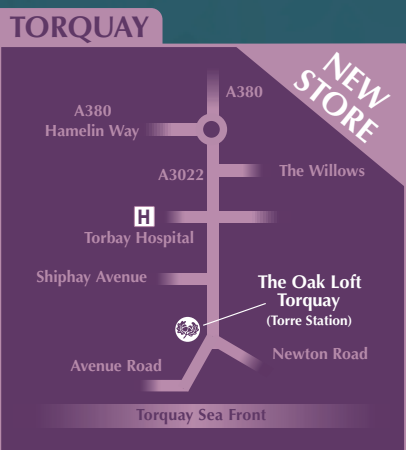


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