

South Hams

The magazine from South Hams District Council

Issue 10, Winter 2007

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South Hams

Issue 10, Winter 2007



South Hams District Council

Thanks to everyone who got in touch following our 'green' Autumn issue - it seems to have generated lots of discussion and debate!

Unfortunately, not all of this debate was down to the content of the articles. In some areas of the South Hams there was some duplication in the delivery of the magazine, which caused some complaints. Royal Mail, who has the contract to deliver the magazine on our behalf, has apologised for this error.

If you receive more than one copy of this magazine please get in touch and let us know - we can only rectify problems if you make us aware of them.

I work hard to ensure this magazine is produced in the most environmentally sensitive way possible whilst still being excellent value for money at just 8p per issue.

With Christmas almost upon us, residents and local businesses alike are bound to be busy preparing for the festive season. Check out p8 for tips on how to keep your Xmas 'waste free' and p21 for ideas on how to support local businesses by buying local for all your festive gifts and goodies.

And finally don't forget to check out the event listings on p22 for some great local events to get you out and about over the winter.

From everyone at SHDC I wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year,

Jenny Bishop, Editor

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Cover Photo: Martyn Norsworthy of Norsworthy Photography

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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www.manpublishing.co.uk

For advertising sales contact Marie at

Manning Publishing Ltd Tel: 01954 212906

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This magazine is printed on paper which is:



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ISSN 1749-5172

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Recycling rates at an all time high

SHDC would like to say a huge thank you to all residents for making the effort to sort and recycle as much of their household waste as possible.

In 2006/07, over 48% of household waste in the district was recycled or composted. Early results for 2007/08 indicate that over 50% will be saved from harmful landfill, making South Hams residents some of the best recyclers of household waste in the UK!



Christmas and New Year opening

Once again, SHDC will be open for business between the Christmas and New Year holidays.

Our Follaton House offices in Totnes will be open during the times set out below. As always, you can contact the council by calling 01803 861234, by emailing customer.services@southhams.gov.uk or by visiting Follaton House.

Monday 24th December	08.00-15.30
Tuesday 25th December	CLOSED
Wednesday 26th December	CLOSED
Thursday 27th December	09.00-17.00
Friday 28th December	09.00-17.00
Monday 31st December	09.00-17.00
Tuesday 1st January	CLOSED

Should you require emergency assistance from the council outside these times please call our 'out of hours' service on 01803 867034.

Ivybridge Council scoops top honour

Congratulations to Ivybridge Town Council on being awarded the title of Local Authority of the Year.

Ivybridge Town Council won the accolade at the National Association of Local Councils (NALC) Conference in Bournemouth in October. Judges praised Ivybridge, which is building a £4.1m library and community resource centre, for taking a lead in community projects.

Cllr Alan Wright, Mayor of Ivybridge, said: "Ivybridge Town Council is delighted to be named Council of the Year 2007. This was a momentous year with work finally starting on a much needed £4.1m library and community resource centre, which will provide a key focus in the regeneration of our town. I hope that we have demonstrated qualities that are important in our sphere of local government, as well as understanding the needs of our community."

SHDC's Cllr Michael Saltern, former Mayor of Ivybridge added: "I am absolutely delighted for the Town Council. This honour reflects the dedication and commitment of not only the elected members, but also the Town Clerk and her staff who all serve the Ivybridge community so well."

Tetrapak bank for Totnes finally finds a home

In the Autumn edition of South Hams Magazine we reported that a new Tetrapak recycling bank was to be installed at Morrison's, Totnes. Unfortunately, the recycling bank was unable to be installed there and has since found a home at Heath's Nursery Car Park in Totnes.

Due to the popularity of these new recycling banks, there have been overflows as our environmentally minded residents cram the banks full to save the waste going to landfill.

SHDC is determined that the packaging industry should take responsibility for the waste it creates and is working with Tetrapak to resolve this problem. We are also looking to expand the number of recycling banks for Tetrapaks across the district in the future. We'll bring you more news on this in future issues of South Hams Magazine.



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WASTE FREE CHRISTMAS

Christmas can be a very wasteful time of year, but the great news is that most of this waste can be recycled, so please remember to 'Check it before you chuck it'.

- Christmas wrapping paper and Christmas cards need to be put into your blue recycling sacks and saved from landfill
- Recycle any cans and plastic bottles leftover from the festivities by putting them into your clear recycling sacks
- All those glass bottles and jars can be taken to your nearest recycling bank for

recycling. We currently collect 2,563 tonnes of glass each year – but there are still loads of glass bottles and jars sent to landfill that could be recycled. Please help us to get it sorted and use your local bottle bank

- There is always lots of food waste produced at Christmas. For those people on the 'brown bin' scheme all your leftover turkey, vegetables, fruit and peelings need to be placed into the brown bin for composting
- For those householders not yet on the brown bin scheme you could use a

wormery or place your peelings into a home compost bin.

Compost bins and wormeries make an ideal Christmas gift and are available from the council through West Country Worms at reduced prices. Compost bins and wormeries not only make useful Christmas presents for keen gardeners but keep the rubbish bins empty and provide goodness for the garden throughout the year. Contact West Country Worms by visiting www.westcountryworms.co.uk or by calling 01803 712738.

Sign up for a shared ownership home in Totnes



Good progress is being made with the current phase of the Southern Area development in Totnes. Midas Homes, in partnership with South Hams Council and Sovereign Housing, has now started work on all four housing sites which will provide 51 homes – more than half of which will be affordable.

Development at The Lamb is well underway and the first 10 properties have been released for sale, with several already reserved. The remaining homes will be released over the coming months.

Sovereign Housing Association is providing 10 shared ownership units as part of the development and is looking for potential purchasers to register their interest now. Anna Snow, Marketing Manager for Sovereign Housing, will be happy to help with any queries and can be contacted on 01392 888015.

SHDC is now looking at bringing

forward the final phase of the Southern Area development which will involve Heaths Way and The Nursery car parks. More information will be provided as proposals for this element of the scheme, which is already at concept stage following the earlier community consultation exercise, take shape.

If you'd like to see the model of the Southern Area development (above), it can be viewed at Marchand Petit's office on The Plains in Totnes.

Making space for recycling

Clever new compactor recycling vehicles are on trial in some areas of the South Hams to collect the blue and clear recycling sacks. These new vehicles look like traditional refuse trucks and are helping to make collection of your recycled paper, card and plastics more efficient and effective.

The 'caged' trucks that are widely used to collect recyclables have limited capacity and carry a lot of empty space in them, in the form of plastic bottles that are difficult for residents to compact at home. This means we are transporting air along with your recyclables to the Severnside processing plant in Plymouth, space that could be used to collect even more recyclable waste.

Our recycling service in the South Hams is one of the most successful in the country, but we are always striving to find the most efficient and effective way of collecting the material. We are looking to trial 'dual' refuse vehicles in the near future that separate the blue and clear sacks before compacting, to make the sorting of waste at the Severnside plant even easier!

So, don't be alarmed if you see what looks like a traditional style refuse truck collecting your carefully sorted recyclable waste. These materials are being compacted and then recycled, contributing to a whopping 48% of household waste in the district being saved from harmful landfill.

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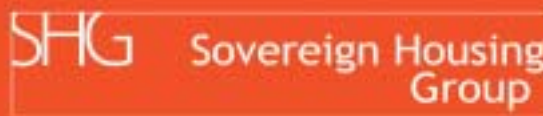
New Build Homebuy is a stepping stone between renting and owning a property.

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Sovereign Housing Association are pleased to be offering a selection of 1, 2 & 3 bedroom properties at the new Midas development - South Gate Totnes. Properties will be sold on a 40% share and priority will be given to local residents in the Totnes and South Hams area.



If you would like further information, please call our sales team on 0845 602 1618



The Sovereign Housing Group includes Sovereign Housing Group Limited, Sovereign Housing Association Limited (a charitable association), plus its subsidiaries: Plymouth Housing Association Limited and The Vale Housing Association Limited (a charitable association).



Don't Suffer in Silence



Domestic Violence - Raising Awareness Week November 26th – 1st December 2007

- A woman calls the Police every 60 seconds in the UK regarding domestic violence
- Two women a week and 30 men a year lose their lives as a result of domestic violence
- Domestic violence and abuse affects at least four women and 1 in 6 men at some point in their lives
- There were 8,600 reported incidents of domestic violence in Devon in 2006

Domestic Violence Forums across Devon will be organising Silent Marches to raise awareness of the issue. The nearest Silent March to the South Hams will be in Okehampton, starting from Okehampton Police Station in Exeter Road at 12.30 on Monday 26 November 2007.

South Devon Women's Aid would like to encourage everyone to join this march in order to demonstrate publicly that domestic violence is a crime.

If domestic abuse has affected your life or someone you know, or if you would like to support the work of South Devon's Women's Aid, please come along and join us. Telephone 01364 643866 for more details.

Other useful contacts:

- South Devon Women's aid helpline
01364 644088
- Men's aid helpline
0808 8010327
- Local Police Domestic Violence Unit
01626 336552

Local Housing Allowance is coming!

The Government is changing the Housing Benefit scheme from April 2008 to make it fairer and easier to use. For private tenants, a new Local Housing Allowance will replace Housing Benefit. Many people will be better off following the changes and no-one will be worse off.

Under the new scheme we will, in most cases, pay Local Housing Allowance directly to you – not to your landlord. Even after April 2008, you will only move onto Local Housing Allowance if you make a new claim to benefit or you change your address.

What is Local Housing Allowance?

Local Housing Allowance is a payment to you to help towards the cost of your rent.

Who is Local Housing Allowance for?

Local Housing Allowance is for private tenants on lower incomes. A 'private tenant' is someone who rents a property or a room from a private landlord. Local Housing Allowance will not apply to you if:

- you rent your property from the council
- your landlord is a housing association
- your rent has been registered by the Rent Officer as a 'fair rent'
- your tenancy started before 1989
- you live somewhere providing you with care, support or supervision
- you live in a caravan, mobile home or houseboat.

Local Housing Allowance may not apply if your rent includes an amount for meals.

If your circumstances fall into any of the categories above, you will continue to receive Housing Benefit under the current rules.

How much Local Housing Allowance will I get?

The amount of Local Housing Allowance you get will depend on:

- the number of rooms you need for your family
- the area you live in
- any savings, or money you may have coming in
- whether you have someone who is not a dependant living with you.

The rules on Local Housing Allowance set out how many rooms you need, based on how many people live with you.

The area you live in

The South Hams will be divided into areas by an independent Rent Officer. You will be able to use your postcode to work out which area you live in.

Local Housing Allowance will pay the same amount wherever you live in your area. The Rent Officer will decide what the level of Local Housing Allowance will be. It will be based on the rents that most people pay in your area.

- If your rent is LESS than the Local Housing Allowance, you will be able to keep up to £15 per week of the difference.
- If your rent is MORE than the Local Housing Allowance, you will normally have to make up the difference yourself.
- You will not lose out if your circumstances stay the same.

What do I need to do?

At the moment you do not need to do anything. Look out for more information in the next issue of South Hams Magazine.

Homes for rent and shared ownership



Tor Homes is a registered housing association, providing homes for rent and shared ownership in Devon. For more information please call Lynne Kelly on 01803 869603



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Leader's question time

Cllr John Tucker was elected Leader of South Hams District Council in May 2007 and one of his aims for his term in office is to improve communication between the council and the community it serves.

To this end, the Leader of the Council is happy to attend meetings of community groups, residents associations and town and parish councils to talk about the work of SHDC, expand on some of the issues the council is facing and to answer questions about the services it delivers.

If you would like Cllr Tucker to attend a meeting of your group please contact him on 01803 861363 or email cllr.tucker@southhams.gov.uk

Keeping youngsters safe

Over 800 primary school pupils across the South Hams had the chance to learn crucial lifeskills at some very special events organised by SHDC in October.

The Junior Lifeskills Project acknowledges Year 6 at primary school is an important milestone in the lives of young people. Moving from primary school to secondary education brings exciting challenges but can also be a time of anxiety. The Junior Lifeskills Project aims to equip young people to meet some of those challenges by encouraging an understanding of health and safety issues and by developing coping skills.

Held at the district's four leisure centres, the interactive project invites children identify hazards in a number of different scenarios. The sessions started with a dramatic chip pan fire demonstration by Devon and Somerset Fire and Rescue. Other topics covered included electrical safety, water safety, drug awareness and the importance of a healthy lifestyle.

The Junior Lifeskills project is designed to develop a child's understanding and awareness of potentially dangerous situations, to equip them with the skills to assess situations and to respond appropriately and to help build their confidence and raise their self-esteem.



Council joins forces with Devon Air Ambulance

Cllr John Carter, Chairman of SHDC would like to wish you all a very Happy Christmas and a peaceful and healthy New Year. Cllr Carter would also like to thank everyone who has supported his Charity "The Devon Air Ambulance Trust".

He has had the pleasure of meeting volunteers of the Trust and crew members of the Air Ambulance during the past few months and has been impressed by their enthusiasm and commitment.

As a member of the Hope Cove Coastguard he is very aware of the difficulties rescue teams can experience in reaching casualties, especially on our

congested roads and long coastline. He has seen the marvellous work they do first hand and felt that this charity would benefit residents and visitors alike.

Funds have been raised from a variety of sources including selling cakes to staff at Follaton House and fundraising by Mr and Mrs Wills at the Hope Cove Family Weekend. A Charity Race Night at Malborough Village Hall brought the community closer together to help three charities. Funds were divided between (MAD) The Malborough Amateur Dramatic Group, KM United Football Club and The Devon Air Ambulance Trust.

On your bike!

The extension of the Devon Wheels 2 Work scheme in the South Hams is making it easier for residents to access training and employment opportunities, thanks partly to a grant of £25,000 from South Hams District Council.

Devon Wheels 2 Work is a not-for-profit community interest company which loans scooters to individuals living in Devon who find it difficult to get to work or attend training courses because they do not have access to private or public transport.

The company was launched in April 2007 from the merger of the successful Wheels 2 Work projects in Holsworthy, Honiton and Tavistock. The scheme now covers the whole of Devon and is available to people between the ages of 16 and 65.

The scheme will deliver at least 32 transport packages in the South Hams over the next two years. Each transport package consists of the loan of a scooter for three months (individuals must pay a weekly contribution), Compulsory Basic Training, personal protective equipment, regular maintenance checks on the scooter and support in progressing users towards sustainable transport at the end of the loan period. The scheme is already proving popular, with 19 transport packages being provided to South Hams residents during August and September 2007.

Devon Wheels 2 Work also has a fully functioning workshop and a showroom selling a variety of new and second hand bikes and clothing.

Further information is available at www.devonwheels2work.co.uk or by calling 0845 0944308.

A charity golf day is planned for Friday 25 April 2008 to Thurleston Golf Club, who have donated the day free of charge. Teams of four can enter at £25 per person to include a buffet lunch. Businesses can advertise by sponsoring a hole for £100.

If you would like further details about this event, sponsorship or the Charity please contact – Muriel Chapman, Chairman's PA & Members' Secretary on 01803 861113, or see our website www.southhams.gov.uk/ksp_council-chairmans_charity



Cleaning up in the South Hams

Police officers and South Hams District Council officers will be working together to tackle the growing problems of graffiti and dog fouling across the district.

The South Hams is a fantastic place to live and work with its miles of glorious beaches, acres of beautiful countryside and plenty of interesting towns and villages to explore.

Now a joint working agreement between Devon and Cornwall Police Authority and South Hams District Council aims to help preserve the unique character of the South Hams.

Graffiti

Graffiti is becoming more widespread in some areas of the South Hams. Not only does it damage property, it can also be an eyesore and often the property owner is left with the expense of clearing up afterwards.

SHDC's Street Scene officers will be gathering photographic evidence of the graffiti which will then be used on the 'Name That Tag' poster campaign throughout the South Hams. Members of the public who can help identify the

culprits will be asked to call Crimestoppers, in confidence, with any information which could help the police deal with the offenders.

Graffiti is considered to be an offence of criminal damage. The police can issue a fixed penalty notice of £75 or the offence can be dealt with through the courts.

Dog Fouling

Dog owners who fail to clean up after their dog are also being targeted by the police and South Hams District Council.

Police Community Support officers will now be able to issue £50 fixed penalty notices to those anti-social people who fail to clear up their dog's mess.



Fixed penalties can be issued to anyone above the age of criminal responsibility which is ten years old.

Responsible dog owners who clean up after their pets can put the bagged waste into dog litter bins. If necessary it can be put into ordinary litter bins but dog owners are asked to think of the council staff who empty these bins and to double wrap the dog excrement.

Anyone with information on offences of graffiti/tags or any other crime can call Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555111.

Young people get a taste of democracy

As part of this year's Local Democracy Week (LDW) in October, young people aged between 11 and 18 from across the district were given the opportunity to comment on the council's spending priorities for the future.

Organised by the council's community development team, a series of interactive budget setting sessions were held at King Edward VI Community College, Totnes, Ivybridge Community College, Kingsbridge Community College, Dartmouth Community College and the Steiner School, Dartington.

Cllr John Baverstock, as Member Champion for Children and Young People, took part in the sessions. He said: "It is important to involve the young people in the activities of South Hams District Council. The budget exercise gives them the opportunity to examine the types of expenditure the council is obliged to undertake to run public services. It was very worthwhile to see how

enthusiastically everyone joined in. I'm keen to get young people involved as much as possible in understanding the decision making processes of the council."

Students took part in various activities including role play with each group deciding how they would spend the council's budget. Each group was given a role to play representing a cross section of the community and was asked to make decisions about council spending based on the needs of their 'character'. This exercise put the youngsters in the position of decision makers and encouraged them to think about the impact of politics on their local areas. The students then repeated the exercise from their own point of view by completing a questionnaire, the results of which are currently being analysed and will be taken into account when South Hams Councillors meet to review the council's priorities and set the annual budget.

Students at Kingsbridge Community College were also able to take part in consultation exercises organized by the council's housing team. Officers from Devon and Cornwall Police worked alongside South Hams Council and organized their own consultation with students at Kingsbridge and Ivybridge Community Colleges. Both the council and the police are members of the South Hams Strategic Partnership and took this opportunity to work together in Local Democracy Week.

LDW is an annual autumn event and is the focus of the Local Democracy Campaign, which is about getting young people more involved with, and making them more aware of, their local council. The campaign aims to make councils more relevant and useful to young people and to encourage them to 'take part take power'. Further information is available at www.campaigns.lga.gov.uk/local-democracy/home



Back row L-R: Jamie Douglas, Chloe Harvey, Helen Parkinson, Peggy Douglas
Front row L-R: Richard Forman, Martin Luker, Ollie Buddell



Dart Totnes Amateur Rowing Club's junior scullers

Celebration of sporting success

Young people in the South Hams have proved that not every youngster is a couch potato with another round of remarkable sporting achievement which has been recognised at the annual Sport South Hams Awards. This year's event was held at the Aerial centre in Totnes and attended by more than three hundred people from across the district.

16-year-old Martin Luker, who won a gold medal at the Tae kwon Do World Kup Championship for black belt patterns and a bronze for sparring, took top honours when he was awarded the overall Young Sportsman of the Year 2007 trophy. He

also beat 21 other nominees to become the Young Sportsman of the Year in the 12 to 18 age group. A member of Totnes Tae kwon Do Club, Martin has also been picked for the national sparring team and won silver and bronze medals at the Southern national championships. He's hoping to represent the UK at the international contest in Sardinia next April.

Table tennis champion Ollie Buddell walked off with the Young Sportsman of the Year prize in the 11 and under category. A member of DML Woolwell Table Tennis Club, Ollie is currently Devon under 11 champion, winner of the South West U12 teams championship and the

South West Region U11 Trials. He is also a member of the England U12 Training Squad and the South West Region Squad and was runner up in the national regional championships.

Chloe Harvey from Loddiswell took the Endeavour award for 12 to 18-year olds thanks to her efforts captaining the netball and hockey teams at Kingsbridge Community College. She's also captained the school's football, rounders and athletics teams and unsurprisingly has also been the school's sports girl of the year. Chloe coaches primary school children in her favourite sports and gained a 'C' umpire award for netball.



In the 11 and under age group Richard Forman swam away with the Endeavour award, after finishing third in the breaststroke at the South West regional sprint gala and at the Devon County sprint gala. He also came second in the Devon County championships at 50m and 100m freestyle. Richard, 11, from Slapton is only able to train twice a week but still made it to the regional swimming finals at Millfield and Gloucester.

Rider Jamie Douglas took the Disabled Sports Person award for his show jumping prowess. He's Devon team captain, has achieved premier placings and was points champion and class winner at the Hare Systems championships 2007. Jamie, 24,

Sports South Hams Awards 2007

Overall winner Young Sportsman of the Year 2007
Martin Luker

Young Sportsman of the year up to 11-years-old
Ollie Buddell

Young Sportsman of the year 12 to 18-years-old
Martin Luker

Disabled Sportsman of the year
Jamie Douglas

Endeavour Award up to 11-years-old
Richard Forman

Endeavour Award 12 to 18-years-old
Chloe Harvey

Digger Cooper Commemorative trophy for the coach of the year
Peggy Douglas





only competes against able-bodied riders and is hoping to represent Great Britain.

The Team of the Year award went to the Dart Totnes Amateur Rowing Club's junior scullers squad. They won a silver medal at the national championships and gold at the Anglo-French junior match, and also gold, silver and bronze medals at the south coast championships.

The Digger Cooper award for the Coach of the Year was awarded to Peggy Douglas for her tireless work teaching young people with disabilities to ride. Peggy has been a volunteer with Erme Valley Riding for The Disabled for 20 years and works with an average of 80 riders per week including young people with severe disabilities and pre-school children.

Chairman of Sport South Hams, John Coates, from Radio Devon acted as compere for the awards ceremony held at the Ariel Centre, Totnes.

The awards were presented by Helen Parkinson, quadrathlon world champion, Cllr John Carter, Chairman of SHDC, Cllr Mike Saltern who sponsored the team award, Cllr Rufus Gilbert and Trevor Lethbridge of Greencrop Ltd who sponsored the award ceremony. Greencrop are landscape gardeners and farmers who have been involved in sponsoring the awards for several years. They recycle green waste into garden compost.



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Annual Report 2006/7

Each year South Hams District Council publishes an Annual Report explaining its financial situation. This is our Annual Report for the financial year ended 31st March 2007.

Balance Sheet

This balance sheet summarises our financial position at the year end and provides an indication of the value of the assets owned by the council.

31 March 2006		31 March 2007
£000		£000
53,104	Fixed Assets and Long Term Debtors Includes land, buildings, roads, vehicles and sea defences	55,061
23,006	Net Current Assets Short term assets such as cash and stocks less liabilities such as creditors and short term borrowing	22,621
(7,500)	Pension Liability	(7,680)
(5,946)	Other Long Term Liabilities	(6,539)
<u>62,664</u>	Total Net Assets	<u>63,463</u>
48,826	Capital Finance Reserves A combination of different reserves, most of which are non-useable	50,952
10,593	Useable Capital Receipts Proceeds of the sale of assets which can be used to fund capital expenditure	10,126
10,024	Earmarked Reserves and Fund balances Amounts set aside for future revenue or capital spending	9,115
721	Collection Fund Balance The excess of council tax collected over budget. Available to keep future council tax levels down and is shared between all precepting authorities	950
(7,500)	Pensions Reserve	(7,680)
<u>62,664</u>	Total Reserves and Balances	<u>63,463</u>

Capital Expenditure

Capital expenditure is spending on assets that have a lasting value e.g. land, buildings or vehicles. It is funded from asset sales, external grants/contributions and reserves. Capital expenditure for the year was approximately £3m. The major items are analysed below.

	£000
Housing	1,401
Leisure facilities	308
Environmental schemes	285
Purchase of vehicles	226
Computer hardware and software	208
Community development	114
Employment estates	82
Coast and flood protection	70
Public conveniences	58
Totnes Southern Area	52
Other schemes	123
Total	2,927

Council Tax

The council tax bill for a band D property for 2006/7 was £1,317.15 distributed as follows:

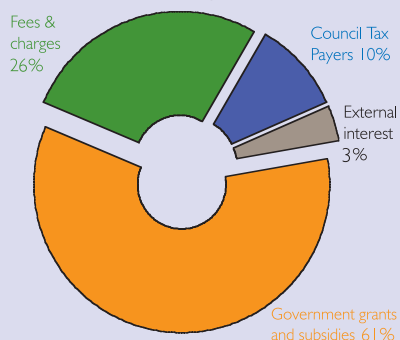
	£
Devon County Council	977.49
Devon and Cornwall Police Authority	125.53
South Hams District Council	120.36
Devon and Somerset Fire and Rescue Service	61.26
Parish Council (average)	32.51
	1,317.15

Revenue Account

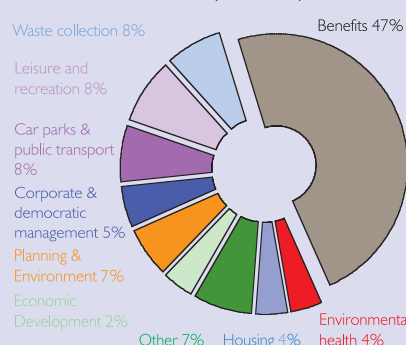
Revenue expenditure represents the ongoing costs of carrying out day-to-day operations and is financed from council tax, fees and charges, Government grants and interest earned from investments. The council set a budget of £9.71m for the 2006/07 financial year. The extension of the successful, but costly, concessionary fares scheme and the delay of the transfer of the council's leisure centres were largely responsible for a recorded deficit of £161,000.

However, our wide and varied range of services were provided very much in line with the original plans. The council continues to provide value for money to our residents as demonstrated by the fact that it has the third lowest council tax in Devon and Cornwall. Overall, our financial position remains strong and sustainable and the council is well placed to meet the challenges of the future.

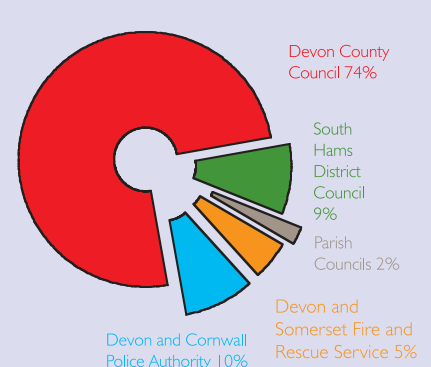
Where the money came from



Where the money was spent



Council Tax





The net weekly cost of our main services based on a band D property is shown below	Pence per week
Leisure and recreation inc. tourism	53
Corporate and democratic management	35
Waste collection inc. recycling	35
Planning and environment	33
Environmental health	29
Housing	16
Street and beach cleaning	14
Benefit payments	11
Council tax collection	9
Community development	6

The full Statement of Accounts can be accessed via the council's website www.southhams.gov.uk. To obtain a hard copy please contact John Foxworthy, Head of Financial Services at SHDC or email john.foxworthy@southhams.gov.uk

We welcome your views on the format of this Annual Report. If you have any comments or suggestions please contact John Foxworthy as above.

SHDC praised for swatting fly tippers

Our efforts to clean up illegally dumped waste have been praised by DEFRA. The Government department responsible for environment and rural affairs has commended SHDC for being 'highly effective', the top grade awarded in the fight against fly tipping.

SHDC received this high praise due to a record of clearing most reported fly tips within 24 hours and a policy of investigating fly tipping and taking the culprits to task. The council can take a range of action against fly tippers, from serving fixed penalty notices to issuing summonses to appear in court.

Don't be an un-witting fly tipper

Rogue traders, who clear waste for cash with no questions asked, are the main cause of illegally dumped waste. People who clear and carry waste must be licensed by the Environment Agency and should be able to show their customers evidence of a licence. If a business or a domestic householder passes waste to an unlicensed carrier they can also be prosecuted.

To find a licensed waste carrier near you visit www.environment-agency.gov.uk or call 08708506506.

For information and advice on how to deal with your bulky household waste, please visit www.southhams.gov.uk or call 01803 861234.

South Hams Stars Shine in Commando Challenge



South Hams District Council staff have raised £725 for charity by taking part in the 2007 Royal Marines Commando Challenge event at Woodbury Common in October.

A plucky team of five Community Regeneration staff, one management team P.A. and one honorary 'Shamstar' left the starting gate at 10:37

on Sunday morning wondering what they had let themselves in for. Encouraged by veteran 'challenger' Graham Swiss's declaration that the first hill would be the worst the team remained undaunted when they found out just how untrue this was!

The seven mile course through Devon lanes and across three miles of heath saw the team wading through water filled ditches and glutinous bogs, splashing through streams and crawling through pitch dark tunnels, one of which - the infamous 'sheep dip' - being totally submerged in muddy water. However the weather was fine and the knowledge that their efforts were raising much needed money for deserving local charities kept their spirits high.

Having taken just under two hours to complete the course and being covered in various shades and thickness of mud, when asked if they would do it again, everyone replied with a resounding "yes" adding, "We'll be faster next time".

Around 4,000 people took part over the two days of the challenge, raising over £180,000 for the Gemini Radio Charitable Trust whose adopted local charities for this year are Dream-A-Way and The Elisabeth Svendsen Trust for Children and Donkeys.

Congratulations to the team for completing the course and thank you to all those who generously sponsored them.

FACT FILE

- In 2006/07 Local Authorities in England dealt with more than 2.6 million incidents of fly-tipping
- 48 per cent of fly-tips occurred on the road side
- 53 per cent of fly-tips were of a car boot or small van load in size
- 56 per cent of all fly-tips involve household waste



Sustainable Farming and Food Grants

Grants from £5,000 upwards are available from Devon Renaissance to deliver projects to improve skills and productivity in the farming and food sector.



The programme is open to formally organised groups of farming and/or food businesses or not-for-profit organisations working in farming and food.

At least half of the project costs must be met from other sources of funding, and to qualify for support the project must:

Improve sector skills

Delivering training programmes which improve skills such as management, sales & marketing, vocational training and diversification.

Develop business infrastructure

This could be via funding initiatives to support collaboration, skills and asset sharing.

Promote innovation and the application of technology

This could include projects supporting the re-use, reduction and recycling of farm waste or the promotion of innovative working practices aimed at raising business productivity.

To find out more contact Devon Renaissance by emailing farmingandfood@ruraldevon.org or calling on 01837 658643.

Changes to Business Rates

ATTENTION ALL BUSINESS RATEPAYERS WITH EMPTY PROPERTIES

The government has recently introduced reforms to empty property relief which may affect you if you are responsible for rates on an empty, or partly occupied, business or industrial property.

The aim of the reforms is to encourage owners to get the properties back into use which will increase the supply of properties available to rent and also reduce the need to develop on greenfield sites around the country.

In a nutshell, any business property which has been empty for longer than three months – six months for industrial – will be liable to pay the full rate effective from April next year. Effectively this means there will no longer be a reduction in rates beyond the initial three or six month period from the date the property becomes empty. SHDC will be writing to all those cases which are currently registered as being empty, but all businesses need to note this change in rate relief as it could affect them in the future.

If you own a property that is in poor condition and cannot be economically repaired, the Valuation Officer (VO) may judge that it should be taken out of the rating list altogether.

The VO is not part of the council, it is an independent government agency which forms part of Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs. You can contact the Valuation Officer at:

Plymouth Valuation Office, 190 Armada Way, Plymouth, Devon PL1 1EG
 Tel: 01752 614100
 Fax: 01752 614199
 Email: southwestgroup.vo@voa.gsi.gov.uk

If you feel you may be affected by this change and would like further information and advice please contact SHDC on 01803 861234.

Advertising and Sponsorship Opportunities

As budgets become tighter across the public sector, local authorities up and down the country are looking at ever more inventive ways of generating additional income to keep Council Tax as low as possible.

One of the more popular ways, as can be seen on any city centre roundabout, is sponsorship and advertising on council owned land and assets.

A new project is being launched by SHDC to see what opportunities there may be to realise advertising and sponsorship income from a number of assets owned by the council and our

partners. We will be considering the potential attractiveness of things like car parking, signage, parks, recreation facilities, roundabouts, publications, websites, vehicles, and recycling facilities.

However, because of the unique nature and protected status of many parts of the district, such as Areas of Natural Outstanding Beauty, we are not talking about large garish Vegas-style bill boards. Instead, we need to find more aesthetically sympathetic but commercially viable advertising opportunities that businesses will find attractive and communities will find acceptable.

The project is expected to have various advertising and sponsorship opportunities available from next year, some of which may be managed on behalf of SHDC by agencies, others may be handled in-house.

At the moment, nothing is ruled-in or out. So, if you have any ideas for advertising or sponsorship on council land or assets, then please contact Alan Dunster, Business Development Officer by emailing alan.dunster@southhams.gov.uk or calling 01803 861234.



Sustainable Tourism Grants available

Grants from £5,000 upwards are available from Devon Renaissance to deliver projects to improve skills and productivity in the tourism sector.

The programme is open to formally organised groups of businesses, for example Chambers of Commerce or not-for-profit organisations working in tourism.

At least half of the project costs must be met from other sources of funding, and to qualify for support the project must:

Improve sector skills by delivering training programmes which improve skills such as management, sales & marketing, vocational training and diversification.

Develop business infrastructure through initiatives to support collaboration, skills and asset sharing or the provision of information and interpretation.

Develop or expand tourism markets and the length of the tourism season.

Introduce an innovative approach to tourism via a range of environmental, cultural or heritage activities, technologies, marketing or branding.

To find out more contact Devon Renaissance by email on tourism@ruraldevon.org or by calling 01837 658643.

Trading with South Hams District Council

It takes a considerable amount of goods, supplies and services to carry out South Hams District Council's responsibilities for a population of over 80,000 people.

As part of the council's commitment to supporting the local economy, SHDC wants to help local small and medium sized enterprises and voluntary and community sector organisations understand how the council makes procurement decisions. By sharing how we work, we hope to encourage local groups to bid for council contracts and participate in our procurement activities.

All businesses, irrelevant of size, can play an important role in helping SHDC deliver services to the local community by offering goods, works and services. In many ways our local SMEs can offer better value for money than their larger competitors through:

Innovation

Small businesses can bring innovation through, for example, the early exploitation of new technology, providing products and services in new or underdeveloped markets, or by using innovation to differentiate themselves from established market players

Responsiveness

Shorter management chains and approval routes allow a quicker response to changing requirements

Bringing greater competition to the market place

This helps to drive down costs

Lower Cost

Administrative overheads and management costs are typically lower for smaller organisations which may result in lower prices

Quality of Service

Small businesses can often offer more personal levels of service

Specialism

Many small businesses survive by offering specialist products or services that larger suppliers find unattractive, for example because of limited demand

Visit www.southhams.gov.uk/business for further details.

Procurement and the Law

South Hams District Council adheres to a set of rules and procedures which require that:

- The council obtains value for money when procuring goods, works and services as defined in section 3 of the Local Government Act 1999
- The council complies with English law and European law in force in England that governs the procuring of goods, works and services
- The council has a set of internal procurement regulations which govern how procurement activities must be carried out

Visit <http://europa.eu.net> for further details of EU thresholds and the EU Directives

Doing Business Electronically

South Hams District Council is starting to use e-procurement to enable it to trade electronically. E-procurement means the use of an electronic system to acquire goods, works and services and payment from third parties.

Key to making e-procurement an effective way of doing business is the involvement of the supplier community. All sizes of supplier will need to embrace new ways of working, such as:

- Receiving orders via e-mail, fax and the internet
- Electronic billing
- Processing quotes and tenders electronically
- Automating Accounts

SHDC has joined the Devon Tenders portal which is an e-tendering system enabling tenders and quotes to be completed electronically with suppliers. All suppliers can register their business on the website www.devontenders.gov.uk for free and by doing this will open up other potential opportunities with local authorities such as Devon County Council, Plymouth City Council, Torbay Council and Torridge, Mid Devon and Teignbridge District Councils.

If you have any questions about trading with the council, contact Mel Staton, Corporate Procurement Officer by email on mel.staton@southhams.gov.uk or by calling 01803 861234.



Walking for health

South Hams Walk & Talk has been up and running for over a year now, with hundreds of individual walkers benefiting from regular programmes of led walks in Ivybridge, Kingsbridge, Totnes, South Brent and Dartmouth.

The walks are aimed at differing abilities. Level 1 walks are 45 minutes to an hour, and are gentle flatish walks for beginners, whilst Level 2 walks offer a few moderate slopes for improvers, and last a little longer. Level 3 walks are more challenging coast and country routes of around 1.5 hours.

There is already a lot of evidence that people are feeling the benefits of the walks with people graduating up from Level 1 to Level 3, and enjoying better physical health as a result. It is known that regular walking can help improve all aspects of both physical and mental health. Some of the areas that can be improved through walking are confidence, stamina, energy, weight control, high blood pressure, osteoporosis, coronary heart disease, anxiety and stress.

The success of the Walk & Talk scheme is down to the enthusiasm and commitment of 30 volunteer leaders, who give their time and energy to organise the weekly walks, and make all the walkers feel very welcome. The social benefits of walking can also be seen, with people making new friends through walking with the groups. The volunteer walk leaders have all undertaken a national leaders training course, which enables them to take groups out and about with full insurance cover.

With so many people in the South Hams now getting out and about on these walks, the demand for walking opportunities has been met by the first South Devon Walking Festival, organised by the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) team, which took place in October. More than 30 walks were organised, ranging from traditional wildlife and history rambles to walks for young people and families with toddlers.

South Hams Walk & Talk offers opportunities for everyone to be involved. New trained leaders are always needed, so please

get in touch if you feel you would like to give some regular time to the scheme. And of course, people are always welcome to join a programmed walk, no need to book - just turn up in comfortable walking shoes, with a waterproof if wet, and maybe some water to drink if it's hot.

Further information about the walks in Dartmouth, Ivybridge, Kingsbridge, South Brent and Totnes can be found online at www.whi.org.uk using the 'walkfinder' section. Details are also available from SHDC on 01803 861234.



Giving a little extra this Christmas could go a long way...

Christmas is such a crazy time, dashing through the busy streets, buying presents and stocking up the cupboards until they're fit to burst with festive treats!

Nowadays many people try to avoid the mad rushes by doing all of their Christmas shopping online. Quick and simple – a few clicks and Christmas is sorted! If you're planning to buy online this Christmas why not try searching through a brand new website called Everyclick?

www.everyclick.com is a new search engine that donates half of the revenue from all searches to charity. And the even better news is that it's completely free to use!

The Dame Hannah Rogers Trust in Ivybridge has already received over £300 from people using Everyclick to search the internet. You too can help support the school's vital work with profoundly disabled young people with your internet searches. Simply go to www.everyclick.com/damehannahrogersschool today and sign up to pledge your searching to the school.

Once you've finished the Christmas shopping why not visit the Dame Hannah Rogers Trust website at www.damehannah.com The new site has been up and running for a little while now and you

can make secure online donations by clicking on their fundraising mascot - Billy - from anywhere on the site.

From the comfort of your own home you could give an extra gift this year that will transform a young life for ever.

Go on – make this Christmas special for a disabled child in the South Hams.



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Need help exercising?

Six out of ten men and seven out of ten women do not take enough exercise to benefit their health. Exercise is critical to wellbeing and can help prevent or manage chronic medical conditions.

Tone Leisure – who run SHDC's four leisure centres – offers a revolutionary GP referral scheme at South Dartmoor Leisure Centre, Ivybridge; Quayside Leisure Centre, Kingsbridge; and Dartmouth Leisure Centre to help people with certain conditions take part in exercise.

The GP referral scheme is designed to help people who are inactive or have certain medical conditions such as controlled diabetes, hypertension, weight problems and osteoarthritis.

This service offers one to one confidential assessments and individualised exercise programmes specific to the client's condition and needs. All classes are supervised by specially qualified staff who will monitor the progress of each individual.

The programme lasts for eight weeks initially, with the ultimate goal to get patients into mainstream exercise or fitness class attendance.

If you are interested in this scheme or would like to know more please speak to your GP.

Winter walkies for man's best friend



Whether ambling along the leafy lanes or exploring some of the fantastic beaches along our beautiful coastline, the South Hams is a great place for you and your dog to explore and enjoy.

During the winter, dogs are welcome on all the beaches in the South Hams as the seasonal dog ban on selected beaches only operates between 1st May and 30th September.

Public footpaths, bridleways and byways also provide miles of paths and tracks along which you can walk with your dog. Often these paths are marked by official signs or coloured arrows along the route. Your right to walk along these paths is protected by law but walkers also have a duty to prevent harm to wildlife and farm animals.

Since 2004 new laws have opened up areas of land to walkers. It is possible to walk with a dog across many of these areas although some may have restricted access at certain time. Details of any restrictions can be looked at on Ordnance Survey Explorer maps or online at www.countrysideaccess.gov.uk

There are several things that dog walkers can do to help protect the environment and keep it safe and enjoyable for everyone. By following the advice given by the countryside code it is possible to enjoy 'worry-free walkies'.

- Control your dog so that it does not scare or disturb farm animals or wildlife. Even well-behaved and friendly dogs can scare birds and other animals away from their young.
- Take care that your dog does not scare sheep or lambs or wander where it could disturb ground-nesting birds or other wildlife.
- Make sure your dog does not chase any wildlife. This can cause injury and distress to both the wildlife and your dog, especially if your pet gets lost or runs across a road.
- Take extra care when there are lambs or other young farm animals about.
- On public paths a dog must be kept under close control. It is best to keep your dog on a short lead if its obedience cannot be relied on.
- If a farm animal chases you and your dog it is better to let the dog off the lead rather than risk it being injured.
- Always clean up after your dog and dispose of the mess responsibly.

Xmas shopping, South Hams style

The South Hams is proud to be home to many independent retailers, offering a more individual selection of gift ideas than the average high street chain - so why not make an effort to buy local this Christmas? With the fantastic range of local shops and traders in the South Hams, there really is no need to look any further than your local market, high street or Farmers' Market for all your Christmas gifts and goodies.

Your local market can offer gift ideas as well as local produce.

Markets are held on the following days:

- The Quay, Kingsbridge – Tuesdays and Thursdays
- Glanvilles Mill, Ivybridge – Thursdays
- Civic Square, Totnes – Fridays
- The Old Market, Dartmouth – Fridays

To help with the Christmas rush, Totnes will once again host its popular late night shopping evenings on Tuesday 4th, 11th and

18th December. These events capture the spirit of the season with street traders, market stalls, mulled wine and mince pies and best of all, parking is free in SHDC's Totnes Car Parks on these selected dates (not including Long Marsh).

Special Christmas Farmers' Markets will also be running in our Market Towns during December on these dates:

- The Quay, Kingsbridge on Saturday 1st & Sunday 23rd
- The Old Market, Dartmouth on Saturday 8th & 22nd
- Glanvilles Mill Car Park, Ivybridge on Saturday 15th
- Civic Square, Totnes on Saturday, 22nd

Buying choosing to buy your food, drink and gifts locally this Christmas you will not only help support local businesses, but will also create a special South Hams flavour to your festive season – enjoy!



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 during the next few months ...

DECEMBER

- **1 Winter carnival**, South Brent. Carnival procession starts at 6.00pm.
- **2 Learn to prune**, Totnes. 10.30am – 4pm. Orchard expert Charles Staniland teaches how to prune apple trees on a hands-on day course. £20 (£15 Orchard Link members) All participants must be prepared to work up a ladder. For details call 01364 653169.
- **4 Late night Christmas shopping**, Totnes. Enjoy buskers and street stalls, locally made gifts, alfresco food and entertainment. Free car parking.
- **7 Christmas lights switch-on and parade**, Ivybridge. Late night shopping, craft market, street entertainment and a visit from Santa. Contact Ivybridge Town Council 01752 893815.
- **8 Late night shopping**, Ivybridge. Street entertainment including Santa's grotto.
- **8 Christmas Fair**, Woodlands Park Primary School, Ivybridge, 2.00pm - 4.30pm. Stalls, refreshments, meet Father Christmas in his Grotto. For details call 01752 690046.
- **8 Learn hedge steeping**, Higher Badworthy, South Brent (map ref. SX 682 618). For more details call 01548 821156
- **8 Stanborough Chorus**, Malborough Village Hall, 7.30pm. The choir will be performing 'Make we Merry' – a Christmas concert with seasonal refreshments.
- **9 Story canoe and hot mince pies**, Tuckenhay 3.30pm -7.30pm. Canoe downriver, rig a snug shelter, share hot mince pies round a camp fire and hear tales of many kinds. Minimum age 9 years. £17 per person, booking essential. Call 01803 865301.
- **11 Late night Christmas shopping**, Totnes. Enjoy buskers and street stalls, locally made gifts, alfresco food and entertainment. Free car parking
- **12 Tree care at Combe Royal**, Kingsbridge 10.30am – 3.30pm. Come and help Trees for Health care for young trees in this beautiful woodland and garden. Bring lunch and wear sturdy shoes. Call 01803 867018
- **14-16 Candlelit Dartmouth**, Royal Avenue Gardens, the Boat Float and around Dartmouth. From 5pm on Friday. Lantern lighting processions, entertainers, stilt

walkers and musicians, Santa arriving by boat, late night shopping markets, Carol singing. For details visit www.candlelitdartmouth.co.uk or call 01803 839000.

- **14-16 Christmas Tree Festival**, St Peter's church, Stoke Fleming 10am – 9pm. A church full of sparkling Christmas trees decorated by local people to raised money for the church and Children's Hospice South West. Contact Gill 01803 770556
- **14 Stanborough Chorus**, Buckfast Abbey, 7.30pm – a service in celebration of Christmas
- **15 Kingsmen Christmas Show** Kingsbridge Community College 7.30pm. Tel. 01548 856528
- **15 Concert of Christmas Music**, the Great Hall, Dartington 7.30pm. Programme of music by Dartington Community choir to include Bernstein's Chichester Psalms and carols with the audience. Box office 01803 847070.
- **16 Harberton Folk present St Agnes Fountain**, The Ariel Centre, Totnes. 7pm. A special Christmas concert featuring four top national folk musicians. Tickets £12.50 / £7.50. Call 01803 863468 or book through www.harbertonfolk.co.uk
- **18 Late night Christmas shopping**, Totnes. Enjoy buskers and street stalls, locally made gifts, alfresco food and entertainment. Free car parking
- **20 Winter solstice decorations**, Sharpham 10.00am. On a walk around the gardens and woods of Sharpham collect natural materials to create winter wreaths, mobiles and woven willow decorations. Adults £6, children £4, booking essential. Call 01803 732799.
- **24 Stanborough Chorus**, St Edmund's church, Kingsbridge 4.30pm – traditional carols for all the family
- **28-31 Dick Whittington**, Flavel Centre, Dartmouth. The Dartmouth Players perform seasonal pantomime. Performances daily at 2.30pm except Saturday at 7.30pm. Tickets £9.50 concessions available. Box office 01803 839530
- **30 Car boot sale and auction**, Ivybridge & District Vintage Club are holding a 'Crank Up', Car Boot Sale, Auction and sort out

with miniature railway rides for children and pets corner in field adjacent to the Lyneham Inn Pub between Plympton and Lee Mill. 10am (Auction from 12noon)

JANUARY

- **12 Orchard wassail**, Stoke Gabriel community orchard. 6.00pm Celebrate the ancient traditions of twelfth night. Enjoy a barbeque supper and apple cake then watch the wassailing of the trees, Morris dancing and singing in the orchard. Warm up in the pub with storytelling into the night. Meet outside the scout hut next to Church Orchard. Please bring a torch and wrap up warmly. Adults £2, children £1, families £5.

FARMERS' MARKETS

Like locally grown vegetables, 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 the following places:

Kingsbridge – the Quay

1st Saturday of the month

Dartmouth – the Old Market Square

2nd Saturday of the month

Ivybridge – Glanville's Mill car park

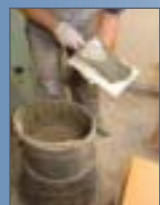
3rd Saturday of the month

Totnes – the Civic Hall

Last Saturday of the month

If you have an event taking place in the South Hams during March, April and May which you would like to see listed in the Spring 2008 edition of South Hams Magazine then please email details to public.relations@southhams.gov.uk or write to the address on pg 3 by no later than Friday 18th January 2008.

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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WE ARE HERE TO HELP



South Hams Farmers Markets for December 2007

1st/23rd December
Kingsbridge

8th/22nd December
Dartmouth

15th December
Ivybridge

22nd December
Totnes

The markets operate
between
9.00am - 1.00pm



*The markets provide local people with
the opportunity to purchase fresh,
home-grown local produce.*



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Celebrate in style and have double the fun as you see the New Year
in once in French time and again one hour later in UK time!

- Choice of entertainment and bars on board
- A full day ashore to explore St Malo
- Bring back some great shopping bargains
- Take your car for just £25 extra

Don't forget to bring your passport!

Mini cruise itinerary

Depart Plymouth	Sun 30 December	22.00
Arrive St Malo	Mon 31 December	08.30
Depart St Malo	Mon 31 December	22.00
Arrive Plymouth	Tues 1 January	10.30

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brittanyferries.com/offers

or call 0871 244 1484

quote NY07YM



*Price based on 3 or 4 sharing an inside 4 berth cabin; supplements apply for lower occupancy and outside cabins. Credit card charge applies, no charge for UK debit card. Conditions apply, available on request.



The model of South Gate

We've got something new to show you

South Gate - a new development of two and three bedroom apartments in Totnes

Prices from: £225,000

Come and view the new model at Marchand Petit's Totnes office



South Hams District Council



Waterside, The Plains, Totnes
01803 847979

Only local people from Devon were able to reserve a property at South Gate in the first 15 weeks of sales (ended 22nd September). Subject to scheme rules.

southgatetotnes.com

Midas Homes

