

# Parish report from your District Councillors

14<sup>th</sup> April 2026

## Fusion Lifestyle and our leisure centres

Fusion Lifestyle, the operator of South Hams and West Devon leisure centres, has announced it has gone into administration. We have now awarded a short-term contract to Parkwood Leisure to operate our leisure centres. A national operator, Parkwood also runs leisure centres in Torbay and North Devon.



We are working closely with Fusion's administrator and Parkwood to ensure that the centres, their staff, swim school, fitness classes and memberships continue without any interruption and transfer seamlessly over to Parkwood.

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## Crisis and Resilience Fund – Support for Low-Income Households with heating oil costs

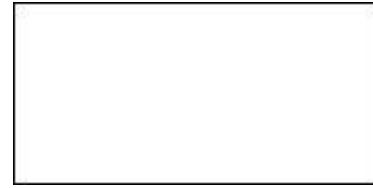


The Government has announced additional funding for heating oil to be delivered through the Crisis and Resilience Fund, due to the ongoing global events. South Hams' share of the funding from Devon County Council is £108,889. This funding is intended to go to low-income households experiencing a financial shock due to the spike in the cost of heating oil. The Benefits team have been contacting residents where existing datasets suggest they meet the eligibility criteria of the scheme and will fast-track these applications.

Further information can be found on our website [www.southhams.gov.uk/crisis-resilience-fund](http://www.southhams.gov.uk/crisis-resilience-fund) and we would be grateful if you could make residents aware of the scheme. Officers are working on a delivery plan for the other strands of the Crisis and Resilience Fund and will provide further updates shortly.

## Let's Talk sessions on teenagers

Residents can now sign up for three sessions to hear about the challenges young people face and how they can make a difference to their lives.



### Messages for residents:

- Let's Talk Teenagers is an opportunity for you as a parent or guardian of a teenager(s) to hear about the challenges young people are facing today, and the tools you can use to support your children and community.
- If you'd like to book please click the links on the SHDC website:
  - Session 1 - Tuesday 5 May at 7 p.m. – A reintroduction to your teenager
  - Session 2 – Tuesday 12 May at 7 p.m. – Community Risks
  - Session 3 – Tuesday 17 May at 7 p.m. – Family life

## South Hams Community Awards

We've celebrated the best of our communities through our South Hams Community Awards. It's the third year we have highlighted the organisations and individuals who are doing great things for their local communities. Big thanks go to Luke Rees and the Community Development Team who support the organisation and management of the South Hams Community Awards each year. From grassroots volunteers to established community groups, the awards highlight the people whose time, energy and commitment are having a real and lasting impact across the district.

Our winners are:

**Community Champion Award:** This year's Community Champion Award winner is **Pat Shepherd**, a Totnes resident who consistently gives her time, energy and expertise to strengthen the community. A long standing volunteer at Citizens Advice, Pat also supports the community through the 'Sasha' Charity, which dedicates support to individuals and families affected by domestic abuse.

**Under 18s Community Award:** **Emma Chekanovska**. Emma and her mother arrived in South Brent three years ago as refugees from the war in Ukraine. Emma has embraced the village and community, gained in confidence and blossomed as a person.

**Community Organisation of the Year Award:** **Modbury Lunch Club** has made a real difference. The Club started in 1995 with the aim of providing a monthly lunch for senior residents at a modest cost.

**Climate and Biodiversity Champion Award:** **Gary Joliffe** inspires people to care for nature, recruiting and organising groups of volunteers who are united by a shared desire to make a difference. Gary founded Till the Coast is Clear to help tackle plastic pollution along the coastline. He also founded Force 4 Nature, regenerating hedge planting and building leaky dams.

**Champion Special Award:** This special award goes to **Caroline Bricknell** and **Bonnie Kouki** for outstanding work in January's gas outage in the Salcombe area. Caroline and Bonnie established community hubs which served as warm welcoming spaces and also helped co-ordinate wider efforts, supporting residents to stay warm, fed and informed.