



our area our future **Our News**

The newsletter of the South Gloucestershire Partnership Autumn 2010



Inside this issue:
National Family Week
Wildways forest festival
Child car safety seats
Carers week
Creating a smokefree South Gloucestershire
Plus much more ...



Welcome to the autumn edition of **Our News**. We are living in challenging financial times but despite this partners are working together on many projects and events in our local communities. Please enjoy reading about the local initiatives featured and seeing what is possible when individuals, groups and partner agencies come together to deliver some truly memorable and life changing projects.
Cllr John Godwin
(Chair of South Gloucestershire Partnership)



National Family Week

enjoyed by many

Over 4,500 people attended the family fun day at Coronation Park, Cadbury Heath as part of National Family Week. The event was organised to celebrate family life and the important role families have in our communities. It was also aimed at promoting the ways in which partnership organisations work together to support families.

Local charities, community groups and organisations such as the NHS, the fire and rescue service and the council joined forces to run the festival, which was complete with a huge stage showcasing bands, singers, dancers and other acts.

The sun shone down as families gathered together in the park to enjoy the carnival atmosphere. Tucked away in one corner was the Eco-zone, where young and old could participate in a range of activities. These included making pencils out of wood, hands on learning about bats, owls and hedgehogs, climbing amongst the trees and having a go at making willow crowns and colour banners using nothing but mud! It was a wonderful experience for all who attended and a chance for people to unwind from their busy lives and relax together.

Since last year, the event has quickly grown thanks to


the increase in partner organisations coming forward wanting to participate.


For further details -

 www.southglos.gov.uk/nationalfamilyweek

Contact:

John Morris  01454 863581

George Kousouros  01454 868152

Abdul Choudhury  01454 863003

 community_projects@southglos.gov.uk



Children tried out wood carving using a shaving horse



Smooth Moves' pedal powered smoothies - raising awareness about healthy eating with a touch of fun!

Photography cover and page 2: Neil Phillips

Wildways

connecting nature, people & communities



Wildways is a three year project working within the priority neighbourhood communities of Kingswood, Staple Hill and Cadbury Heath to develop opportunities for local people to experience their natural environment in enjoyable ways.

Highlights from the first year of the project include a Community Forest Festival at Warmley Forest Park, bushcraft and tree trekking workshops for young people, a six week Forest School project for pupils from Staple Hill primary, a Wassail event at Grimsbury Farm, Apple Day celebrations at Willsbridge Mill, the establishment of five community orchards, the development of a bat audio trail at Willsbridge Valley (with accompanying library information pack and audio guide), numerous health walks, guided nature walks, buggy walks and much more!

Plans for the Autumn include the development of a Batmobile which will be designed with the help of local teenagers and used to take groups out for bat walks; hedgehog conservation workshops for local schools; an orienteering trail at Warmley Forest Park; and, a packed programme of guided walks to encounter bats, owls and other wildlife in wild spaces across the project area.



Children learn some outdoor survival skills



Children had fun making art out of mud

Making willow crowns



For Further information visit

Wildways

<http://www.southglos.gov.uk/Wildways>

Wildways bat audio trail

www.southglos.gov.uk/bataudiotrail

Exciting events coming up this

Autumn <http://www.southglos.gov.uk/outandabout>

For further information contact

Wildways Project Officers:

✉ Rowena.kenny@southglos.gov.uk

✉ Sally.pattison@southglos.gov.uk

☎ 01454 863556



Green Flag Award for local nature reserve



Wick Golden Valley Local Nature Reserve has been awarded its third Green Flag by Keep Britain Tidy in recognition of the high standard of site management. The reserve is owned by CEMEX Aggregates and is managed in partnership with the council and a local community group - the Friends of Wick Golden Valley Local Nature Reserve.

The nature reserve is a unique place with a diverse habitat readily accessible to the local community. It was once an ochre* processing factory and has now become a haven for wildlife, with the remnants of its industrial past hidden amongst the vegetation. Visitors flock to the woodland to follow the bat audio trail. The river provides a home for many birds including kingfishers and dippers and it also supports otters and a wide variety of fish and aquatic life.

Matthew Wild, regional director of CEMEX Aggregates Southern region, said: "As one of the UK's leading providers of aggregates, cement and ready mixed concrete, we recognise that our business has consequences for people and the

environment. It is a key challenge for us to balance these impacts with the need to build a more sustainable future. We're a major landowner in the UK, and with land ownership and quarrying come good stewardship responsibilities and the moral obligation to return land to good use with enhanced biodiversity once operations have ceased."

He added "The Wick Golden Valley Local Nature Reserve is a prime example of how land that has been disturbed by quarrying and industrial processes can be returned to nature, and how partnerships between CEMEX, the local authority and community groups can result in flagship, high quality nature reserves with improved habitats for wildlife."

For more information about the Friends of Wick Golden Valley Local Nature Reserve, contact:

John Morris ☎ 01454 863581

✉ Johnv.morris@southglos.gov.uk



Wick Primary School children join in with the Green Flag Award celebrations



L-R Chief Superintendent Andy Francis who is the police representative on the IAG, with new vice chair Sachin Singhal and new chair Amarjit Singh

The South Gloucestershire Independent Advisory Group (IAG) advises South Gloucestershire Police on how they can best serve under-represented people.

The group includes representatives from different sections of the community who can face prejudice because of their disability, age, ethnicity, faith or sexual orientation. The group aims to improve the police service across South Gloucestershire.

Amarjit Singh, manager of the Asian Day Centre in Easton has been appointed as the new chair to the group and Sachin Singhal has become vice chair.

Amarjit Singh said: "The South Gloucestershire IAG is looking for new members from minority community groups to make sure we are representative of the communities we serve. Joining the IAG gives people the chance to bring a real benefit to their community as well as the police."

Anyone interested in joining the group can contact South Gloucestershire police on ☎ **0845 456 7000**.

Hate crime can be reported to police at local police stations, by calling ☎ **0845 456 7000** or through the website, 🌐 www.avonandsomerset.police.uk

It can also be reported through other agencies displaying the Partnership Against Hate Crime logo. You can find full details of reporting centres and their opening times at 🌐 www.safersouthglos.org.uk/HateCrime

If a crime is happening or someone is at risk of getting hurt always call ☎ **999**.

Child safety event finds faults in 80% of car seats

A child car seat safety event held in Kingswood found faults in eight out of ten child car seats. Avon Fire & Rescue Service (AF&RS) teamed up with Mothercare, Britax, the council's Road Safety Team and Avon and Somerset Constabulary for a child car seat safety event at Kingswood Fire Station.

Twenty drivers pulled into the station to have their child seats checked by experts, who found 80% weren't fitted correctly or had faults. The issues identified by staff from retailer Mothercare and car seat makers Britax included twisted belts, headrests in the incorrect position and fasteners not connected. Matt Peskett, AF&RS Kingswood Station Manager, said: "The outcome of the event matched national statistics which show 80% of child seats aren't fitted correctly. All the issues identified by the experts were easily rectified, proving the importance of thoroughly reading the instructions or getting children's seats checked by a specialist.

"Figures suggest that a child is 90% less likely to be killed in a collision if they are properly restrained, so it is great that we have been able to keep 16 families safer." Kingswood Fire Station will be hosting another child car seat safety event at the station on Tenniscourt Road on Tuesday 21 September between 10am and 3pm.

For more information contact Station Master Matt Peskett, Kingswood Fire Station

☎ 0117 926 2061 or 🌐 www.avonfire.gov.uk

🌐 <http://www.childcarseats.org.uk/>



Kingswood firefighters were joined at the station by representatives from Mothercare, Britax, the council and the police to provide advice to drivers and checking the fitting of child seats.

Criminal Justice Intervention Team

South Gloucestershire is a safe place to live and work. But the council and its partners are working with the very small number of repeat offenders who commit crime in order to fund their drug use, to help them turn their lives around and make our communities even safer.

The South Gloucestershire Criminal Justice Intervention Team is part of the council's Safer & Stronger Communities division and works closely with probation, prisons and the police to reduce re-offending. Working with 23 adult prolific offenders, the team monitors their Class A drug use and helps them kick the habit. Education, training and employment opportunities are provided so offenders can stop committing crime and become law abiding citizens.

Olwen Kelly, Community Safety and Substance Misuse Manager for the council's Safer & Stronger Communities division, says, "By helping these individuals, re-offending has been reduced locally by 14% in a single year. This is good news not just for offenders and their families, but also for the local communities that are safer from the effects of crime and disorder as a result."

John (not his real name) was one such offender. He was 25 years old and addicted to heroin. John would fund his drug habit by committing burglaries, and had already been in prison for previous crimes. The team worked closely with John, providing drug treatment and an educational course to improve his skills. John no longer takes drugs or commits crime to fund his drug habit. He is now in full time employment and says the support of the team helped to change his life around .



For more information on the work of CJIT contact
Olwen Kelly
☎ 01454 868756
✉ Olwen.kelly@southglos.gov.uk

Partnership working in our South Gloucestershire Custody Suite

Joint Carers Strategy

Partner agencies in South Gloucestershire such as the NHS, the Princess Royal Trust for Carers, the council and other carers organisations are developing a new Carers Strategy.

Workshops with carers (or care partners) revealed it is important to recognise carers as experts in the provision of care for their loved ones. It is also important to acknowledge every carer is unique and they need support to sort out the simple things that make a difference to their lives.

The strategy identified five key aims

- Carers will be respected as expert care partners and have access to personalised services to support them in their caring role
- Carers will be able to have a life of their own alongside their caring role
- Carers will be supported so they are not forced into financial hardship by their caring role
- Carers will be supported to stay mentally and physically well and treated with dignity
- Carers will have access to a wide range of advice and information to support their caring role

The draft strategy is now out for consultation. We want to hear your ideas and priorities to help shape our plans for the future.

To give your views either email

✉ CCHengagement@southglos.gov.uk

Or join the discussion on our facebook page 🖱 <http://www.facebook.com/pages/South-Gloucestershire-Joint-Strategy-for-Carers/110827465630138>

If you require a questionnaire by post or information about local organisations contact Cathy Truman ☎ 01454 868272



South Gloucestershire

Carers enjoy a week of celebrations

The huge contribution made by carers was celebrated in June during National Carers Week. The need to make sure support and information is available to assist individuals in their caring role was a key feature of the week.

The council funded partner organisations to put on a range of events and activities for carers to celebrate their important role and the week was a great success.

Amongst the organisations provided with funding to run events were - The Princess Royal Trust for Carers, Paul's Place, Dhek Bhal*, Bristol and Avon Chinese Women's Group and the Stroke Foundation.

Events laid on included:

- **healthy eating demonstrations**
- **a pampering day**
- **Tai Chi**
- **CV writing**
- **job seeking seminars**
- **an information event for local carers**



Carer and child enjoying arts and crafts together



Carer speaking out about her experience in caring responsibilities

For more information on the support available to carers in South Gloucestershire, contact -

- **Cathy Truman - South Gloucestershire Council** ☎ 01454 868272
- **Dhek Bhal** ☎ 0117 914 6671
- **Bristol Area Stoke Foundation** ☎ 0117 964 7657
- **Paul's Place** ☎ 01454 777236
- **CarersLine** ☎ 0117 965 2200
- **The Young Carers Project** ☎ 0117 958 9978
- **Bristol and Avon Chinese Women's Group** ☎ 0117 935 1462



Bristol and Avon Chinese Women's Group celebrating carers week

Carers at a seminar to identify stress and learn relaxation techniques said it was "good to understand how stress affects our health" and the day was a "lovely change".

The week ended with a relaxing afternoon in the garden of The Chantry in Thornbury with cream teas and therapies for carers and the person they care for.



Carers from Paul's Place opted for a relaxing lunch and sunny afternoon at a garden centre

* Dhek Bhal means 'look after' in Punjabi and Urdu



The First Contact Scheme identifies and supports older people aged 60+ to get services to help their wellbeing and independence. It brings together the following partners:

Avon Fire and Rescue

Avon & Somerset Constabulary

Department of Work and Pensions

Age Concern South Gloucestershire

Care and Repair

Consumer Council for Water

Living (dlc)

**Kingswood Community Transport,
Four Towns & Vale Link, Yate &
District Community Transport**

South Gloucestershire Council

**NHS Community Nurses for Older
People**

Partners offer a variety of services to older people, most of which are free but there is a small charge for: gardening services, toenail cutting and the Handyvan.

How it works –

- When staff from the partner agencies visit older people as part of their normal service, they complete a checklist to identify if a person will benefit from additional services
- The checklists are then processed by the council's Community Care and Housing Department and then passed to the relevant partner agency
- Older people can also complete the form themselves. It is available from the council's One Stop Shops and Staple Hill, Kingswood, Yate, Cadbury Heath and Patchway libraries.

Since the scheme started in September 2009, 301 checklists have been completed leading to 924 referrals to partners.

The project has been a great success. For example, a gentleman who recently moved to Thornbury completed a First Contact Checklist and requested a visit from the volunteer library service, in turn this helped him find out about what goes on in Thornbury, make new friends and join social networks.

Over the coming year, the scheme will be expanded across partner organisations and it will become easier for individuals wishing to self refer.

For further information contact

Sue Jaques ☎ 01454 868267

✉ sue.jaques@southglos.gov.uk

Denise Swain ☎ 01454 864323

✉ denise.swain@southglos.gov.uk



Well Aware is a new information service developed and run by the Care Forum. The free service is a comprehensive database of health, wellbeing and community resources across three local authority areas.

Whether you are looking for:

- personal health services
- a lunch club or social group
- somewhere to volunteer
- someone to help round the home or in the garden
- benefit, legal or debt advice
- counselling
- a helpline
- or any other form of support

All you need to find is just a few clicks away.

The Care Forum is a voluntary sector organisation working across the area to support partnership working and provide information about health and wellbeing services.

Well Aware is produced in partnership with:


South Gloucestershire Council
Bath & North East Somerset Council
Bristol City Council
NHS South Gloucestershire
NHS Bristol
NHS Bath and North East Somerset

The partnership also includes other partners such as the Royal National Institute of Blind People and the South West Improvement and Efficiency Partnership.

Even if you can't access the website directly, you can still find help by getting in touch with the Well Aware team directly on (freephone)

☎ 0808 808 5252

✉ info@wellaware.org.uk

Go to  www.wellaware.org.uk to start using it yourself!

Getting it right together South Gloucestershire Compact launch

The South Gloucestershire Compact was launched by the South Gloucestershire Partnership on 12 July.

South Gloucestershire Compact – Getting It Right Together is an agreement that aims to improve relationships and partnership working between the council, our partners and the voluntary and community sector. All the organisations signed up to the Compact agreement share the same goal: "To serve, represent, develop and promote the wellbeing of local people and communities".

By working together through the Compact, it will help the council and its partners identify key areas where the public sector and the voluntary and community sector should be working more closely together. From the smallest community group to the largest public sector organisation, everyone will have a part to play in providing the best possible services for the people and communities of South Gloucestershire.



Pictured from left to right are: Jon Doble (SW Faith & Belief Groups), Stella Milsom (Government Office SW), Melanie Gibbs (NHS South Glos) Helen Black (CVS South Gloucestershire), Andy Williams (Avon & Somerset Police), Cllr John Godwin (Chair of South Gloucestershire Partnership), Amanda Deeks (SGC), Cllr Roger Hutchinson (SGC), Mike Collins (Airbus UK), Penny Harris (NHS South Glos), Lance Mason (Filton College), Peter Heffer (Police Authority), Cllr Ruth Davis (SGC).

More information on the Compact at:
 www.southglos.gov.uk/compact

Reducing South Gloucestershire's mortality rate

Spotlight

Our residents enjoy a higher life expectancy than the English average. Even so, the mortality rate for all ages from all causes is an important issue for the South Gloucestershire Partnership and reducing it poses some key challenges. These are being tackled through the development of a Health Improvement Strategy which aims to ensure good health and wellbeing is experienced by all residents.

Partnership working deals with a range of factors influencing the mortality rate. It involves proactive work across a spectrum of individuals, groups, communities, and public, private and voluntary sector organisations.

Some local partnerships targeting important health concerns related to the mortality rate include the Tobacco Action Network and the Physical Activity and Sports Network. Action plans developed by these and other groups identify initiatives that provide health benefits for local people.

In South Gloucestershire recent results show good progress with a continued steady decline in the male mortality rate from all causes. However, this is not repeated for women where rates are higher than expected and have not reduced as the partnership aimed. The graph below shows between 2006 and 2010, the male mortality rate reduced from 636 to 571 per 100,000 of the population (by 10.2%), while the female mortality rate reduced from 424 to 423 per 100,000 of the population (by 0.2%).

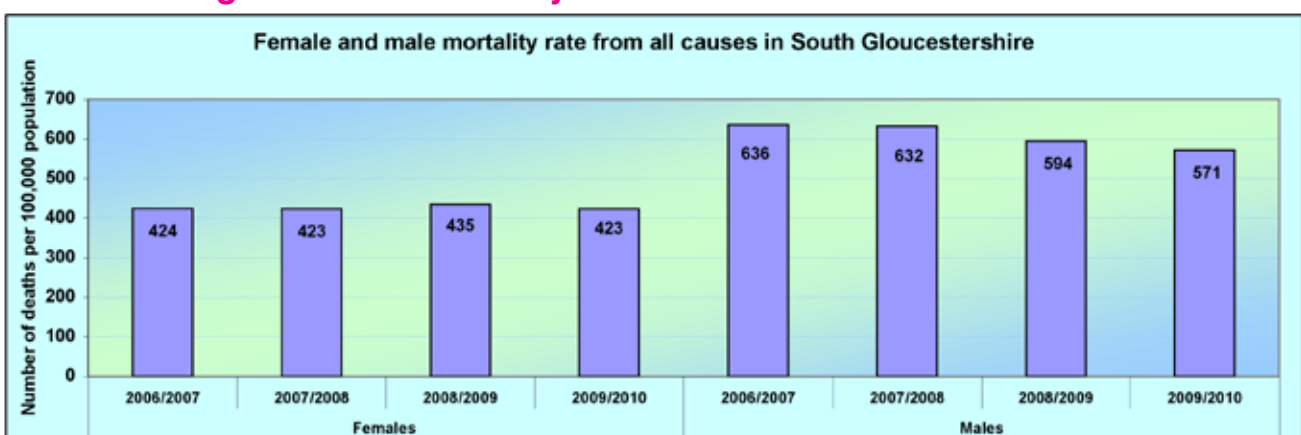
There are many factors that affect mortality rates but an aspect of women's health that is worsening compared to men's health is related to cigarette smoking. Both nationally and locally there has been a slower reduction in smoking in women over the past 60 years.

In the South West 21% of men smoke (the England average) and 22% of women smoke (1% higher than the England average). In South Gloucestershire the number of smokers broken down by gender is not available but there has been a declining mortality rate from lung cancer in men and a slight increase in women. This evidence corresponds with records showing more men have been quitting smoking than women over recent years and may explain why the female mortality rate has not gone down as expected.

The Tobacco Action Network is addressing this by ensuring the national strategy "A Smokefree Future" is delivered locally. Additionally, NHS South Gloucestershire's successful work in smoking cessation continues and works towards the reduction of all smoking levels.

For more information on this article contact Lindsey Thomas
Assistant Director Public Health (Health Improvement) NHS South Gloucestershire
☎ 0117 3302422

All Age All Cause Mortality in South Gloucestershire 2006 – 2010



Source: NHS South Gloucestershire

Creating a smokefree South Gloucestershire



Spotlight

Smoking is still the single greatest cause of preventable illness and premature death in England. In February 2010 the Department of Health launched a comprehensive Tobacco Control Strategy for England titled "A Smokefree Future". This aims to reduce the numbers of young people who start smoking, motivate and assist every smoker to quit, and protect families and communities from tobacco-related harm.

Work focuses on ensuring these aims are achieved through a multiagency partnership – the South Gloucestershire Tobacco Action Network – and includes:

- Carrying out under-age sale operations, encouraging premises to remove their vending machines and discouraging the sale of counterfeit cigarettes
- Further developing the Smoke Free Homes and Zones initiative - working with children's centres to provide information and supporting families who want to be smokefree
- Providing information and education to all age groups in the community on the harmful effects of tobacco
- Focusing on children and young people through schools and youth services
- Maintaining Smokefree compliance at a high level - providing advice on smokefree legislation to business premises and taking action on individuals/premises failing to comply with the legislation
- Ensuring sustainable and accessible specialist stop smoking services are available throughout South Gloucestershire for people who want to quit smoking

Progress towards the reduction in smoking rate is measured through the smoking "quit" rates by the NHS. Please see graph which shows during 2009/10, the rate per 100,000 of the population aged 16 years and over was 725, exceeding the target rate of 625. This means in total there were 1,532 quitters during 2009/10.

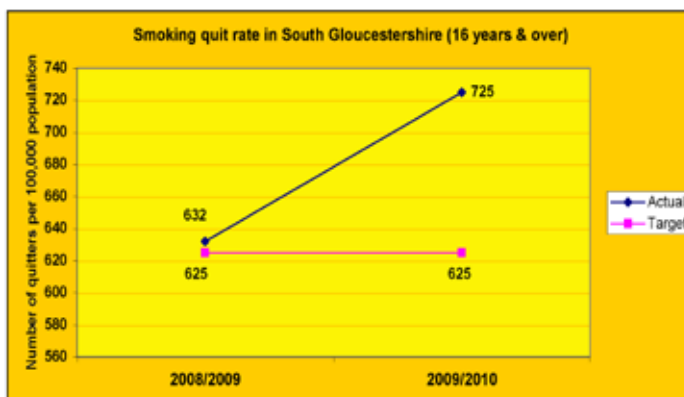
Anyone living or working in South Gloucestershire can access the local NHS Stop Smoking Service through a network of trained NHS stop smoking advisors in a variety of settings. Support is available either in groups with other smokers or in one-to-one sessions in GP surgeries, pharmacies and community settings. Specialist support is also set up for pregnant smokers or families with young children, for young people who wish to quit smoking and for people in prison.

For more information contact:

NHS Stop Smoking Service

☎ 0117 330 2439

🌐 www.southglos.gov.uk/smokefree



Source: NHS South Gloucestershire

In England in 2009 an estimated 81,400 deaths of adults aged 35 and over were attributable to smoking - 18 per cent of all deaths in this age group

£16.3 billion was estimated to be spent on tobacco in 2009

In 2009/10 757,537 people in England set a quit date through NHS Stop Smoking Services. At the four week follow up 373,954 had successfully stopped smoking

In England 6% of children aged 11 to 15 are regular smokers

Source: <http://www.ic.nhs.uk/>

For further information on this publication, please contact:

The Strategic Partnership and Planning Team,
South Gloucestershire Council,
The Council Offices, Castle Street, Thornbury, BS35 1HF
☎ 01454 863862 ✉ strategicplanning@southglos.gov.uk

DATES for your Diary

Strategic Partnership Meetings

Economy and Skills Strategic Partnership*

7 September, 2010 10.00 am
Thames Room at the UWE Conference Centre
&
7 December, 2010 10.00 am
Venue –TBC

Safer and Stronger Communities Strategic Partnership*

10 September, 2010 9.30 am
&
3 December, 2010 9.30 am
Council Chamber, Council Offices, Castle Street,
Thornbury

Health and Well Being Strategic Partnership*

21 September, 2010 2.00 pm
&
7 December, 2010 2.00 pm
Council Chamber, Council Offices, Castle Street,
Thornbury

Environment Strategic Partnership*

23 September, 2010 3.00 pm
Council Chamber, Council Offices, Castle Street,
Thornbury
&
11 November, 2010 2.00 pm
Nibley Court, Westerleigh Business Park,
3 Turner Drive, Yate, BS37 5YU

South Gloucestershire Local Strategic Partnership*

28 September, 2010 2.00 pm
&
30 November, 2010 11.00 am
Nibley Court, Westerleigh Business Park,
3 Turner Drive, Yate, BS37 5YU

Children & Young People Strategic Partnership *

(replaced by Children's Trust Board with effect from
29 June 2010)
20 October, 2010 1.00 pm
&
26 January, 2011 2.00 pm
Council Chamber, Council Offices, Castle Street,
Thornbury

Partner Events

Thornbury Food Market*

11 September, 2010
10.00 am – 2.00 pm
Castle Street, Thornbury
For further information
☎ 01454 858007
🌐 www.thornburyfairfood.co.uk

Yate International Festival *

18 September 2010
10:00 am – 4:00 pm
Yate Green, Yate Heritage Centre and St Mary's
Church Yate
☎ 01454 868152
✉ Community_Projects@southglos.gov.uk

Child car seat safety event*

21 September, 2010
10.00 am – 3.00 pm
Kingswood Fire Station
For further information
☎ 0117 926 2061
🌐 www.avonfire.gov.uk

Domestic Abuse Awareness Week

22 November (week commencing)
Begins with a 'Better Health Forum' on 22 November,
12:00 pm – 2:00 pm at Yate Leisure Centre. This
event is for colleagues in the local authority, the
health authority and the third sector to improve their
understanding of domestic abuse and how to tackle it
in South Gloucestershire. To book a place
☎ 01454 863632

'TASTE' Festival 2010

October

The 6th 'Taste' local food & drink festival starts on
Friday 1 October with a cookery demonstration at
Turnberrie's, Thornbury and ends on Sunday 17
October with The Big Apple Day at Grimsbury Farm.
Some of the 38 individual events include

'Trading Local' - theatre in shops performed in
Staple Hill - 2 October *

Apple cooking workshops - 15 and 17 October,
Grimsbury Farm – booking required

Film "Food Inc" - 2 October, Cossham Hall,
Thornbury at 7pm *

Chipping Sodbury Food Festival - 9 October *

For full programme visit:

🌐 www.southgloslocalfood.org/festival.html
Contact: Local Food, Sustainability Team, South
Gloucestershire Council
☎ 01454 863883 or ☎ 01454 863592
✉ localfood@southglos.gov.uk

Engage Festival *

16 October, 2010

10:00 am – 6:00 pm -
WISE Campus, Filton.

Fun for all the family with a celebration of music,
dance, drama, food, cookery, crafts and workshops
☎ 01454 868152

✉ Community_Projects@southglos.gov.uk

* Open to everyone



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braille or audiotape please contact 01454 868009