Festival of Youth Sport celebrates 10th anniversary
Healthy eating and exercise is child’s play

Four to eleven year-olds and their families are benefitting from a fun weekly club that helps them rethink their food and exercise habits. Rethinking Eating and Activity for Children’s Health (REACH) is a free, community based scheme for children who are above the recommended weight for their age group.

From making their own dips to trying out smoothie recipes, the programme is interactive and full of practical tips and advice. The children also enjoy a variety of exercise including swimming, team games, go-karting and dance.

Cllr James Hunt, executive member for communities, said: “REACH is a new way of supporting children and their families to enjoy healthy lifestyles. It also arms them with the skills and knowledge to manage the family’s weight and exercise patterns long in to the future and can have a positive impact on a child’s confidence by making small changes to their diet and overall health and well-being.”

Another programme is due to start in the autumn. For further details about the joint scheme run by the council with funding from NHS South Gloucestershire, visit www.southglos.gov.uk/reach Email foodandhealth@southglos.gov.uk or call 01454 863499.

New food hygiene scheme launched

If you’re eating out or ordering a takeaway, look out for the council’s new food hygiene rating scheme displayed in the windows of shops, restaurants and other food outlets. You can even check out ratings for individual businesses before leaving the house at www.food.gov.uk/ratings

We’re on YouTube

From free cycle training to sorting your rubbish and recycling, the council has produced some short films, with the help of students at the University of the West of England, which residents can view on YouTube.

One of the council services featured is in partnership with Better by Bike – a campaign to encourage anyone who lives, works or studies in South Gloucestershire to start cycling. There are two films covering adult and children’s cycle training. This training is offered free of charge, so whether you are a beginner or just haven’t cycled in a while why not get inspired to get on your bike.

Another film shows you all you need to know about the rubbish and recycling collection service. Visit www.youtube.com/southgloscouncil to watch them. Registered users can subscribe by clicking the yellow ‘subscribe’ button on our page which will keep you updated when new videos are uploaded.

And don’t forget, you can also follow all the latest council news on Twitter. Go to www.twitter.com. Once you’ve set up an account, search for ‘southglos’ and select follow.

Shaping our communities

A big thank you to everyone - over 600 of you - who took the time to give us your views on the draft Sustainable Community Strategy for South Gloucestershire.

This is a key document which will help us to focus on the long-term priorities for the district and improve your quality of life over the next fifteen years.
**Goal!**

**Festival of Youth Sport celebrates 10th Birthday**

It has been a bumper year for the Festival of Youth Sport which celebrated its tenth anniversary with children taking part in a feast of sporting events over the spring and summer.

A special event was held at the new sports pavilion at Popham Hill, Emersons Green, to celebrate the festival’s achievements with a look back over the last ten years, which included a film showing some of the past participants in action.

Cllr James Hunt, executive member for communities, said: “I am proud to support the tenth anniversary of the festival. This event is a perfect example of the public and private sector coming together to deliver something great for the community in which we all live.

Encouraging, providing and celebrating youth sport brings people of all ages together and teaches children about fitness, confidence and discipline and has a really positive impact on our younger residents.”

Amy O’Kane, left, who got into boxing as a result of the festival, became a fully qualified sports coach and now works with children across South Gloucestershire schools. She is currently training with the women’s county boxing squad.

Amy said: “The South Gloucestershire Festival of Youth Sport has proved a resounding success over the last ten years. This inspirational event continues to deliver so many quality outcomes. It strengthens our communities by bringing people together in a coordinated way and the festival is a fantastic opportunity for young people to develop skills they will find useful in later life whilst having fun and enjoying a wide range of sports and physical activity.”

The festival started its life at Filton BAWA Club in 2001 when Airbus in the UK was on the look out for a community event to sponsor. Since then, the festival has gone from strength to strength winning several national awards and organisers are already planning next year’s event.

**Multi-million pound boost for communities**

The voluntary sector and local communities are set to benefit thanks to a £2.4million investment by the council.

This cash injection will see £1.6m invested in a new ‘Big Society’ fund to deliver and support council initiatives, £600,000 to help the voluntary sector grow and become stronger through promoting the benefits of volunteering and recruiting more volunteers, and a further £200,000 boost to the council’s area forum community grant scheme.

Cllr James Hunt, executive member for communities, said: “We have given the green light to a massive multi-million scheme.

Cllr John Calway, leader of the council, said: “This council is absolutely committed to providing our communities with the help and resources they need to come together, take control of the issues they are concerned about in their areas and further improve their quality of life. Even in tough financial times, we recognise the importance of a strong and thriving voluntary and community sector to make South Gloucestershire an even better place in which to live and work.”

**More PCSOs on the streets**

Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs) are already a regular sight on our streets, and now numbers are being boosted thanks to an extra £100,000 investment.

The PCSOs will provide support for police officers and bring added reassurance for communities.

Cllr John Calway, leader of the council, said: “This funding will allow Avon and Somerset Police to be flexible in providing a visible, uniformed presence where it is needed most. This is all part of our drive towards safer and stronger communities in South Gloucestershire.”

District commander for South Gloucestershire, Chief Superintendent Andy Francis, added: “We welcome the additional investment from the local authority which will allow us to put more resources into the areas within South Gloucestershire with the most need for that visible presence to help people feel safe and be safe.”

**New park and ride officially opens**

South Gloucestershire’s first park and ride facility near Parkway Station in Stoke Gifford opened in May. The facility provides residents with the option to leave their car behind before continuing by train or local bus.

The park and ride facility has 200 parking spaces with CCTV monitoring and is accessed from Hunts Ground Road. Charges are just £5 per day during the week and £3 per day over the weekend.

Users of the facility will either be able to walk to Parkway Station to continue their journeys or link to the large number of bus services that stop at Parkway Station, including services travelling to Emersons Green, Thornbury, Yate, Chipping Sodbury, UWE and Bristol city centre.

**Leisure ride leaflet**

We have developed a new booklet of cycle routes designed for leisure cyclists and families.

There are 10 rides, ranging from between 3 and 13 miles. Each ride has been given an ability rating from between 1 and 3 to enable cyclists to pick the ride that suits them best.

To get a copy of this great new leaflet download from www.betterbybike.info/leisure-rides or email transporthobbies@southglos.gov.uk or telephone 01454 863840.

**New benefits for Youth Untld card holders**

Students who sign up to the South Gloucestershire Youth Untld bus discount scheme can now also benefit from discounts in local shops and restaurants. We have worked with local retailers to develop a discount booklet. The discounts include 10% off Thornbury book shop, 10% off Patesserie Valerie and 15% off food at Frankie and Benny’s.

There are now more than 3,000 students signed up to the Youth Untld schemes and the number is continuing to increase.

The Youth Untld card is a concessionary fares pass for those aged 14-18 years old, in full time education and living in South Gloucestershire. It entitles the pass holder to half adult fare after 6pm weekdays, all day at weekends and during school holidays.

To apply for a ‘Youth Untld’ card just go to www.southglos.gov.uk/YouthUnltd or ask at your school or youth centre.

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**On the Move**

“Welcome to the latest edition of On the Move. This pull out supplement features the district’s first ever park and ride site and also the latest news on the North Fringe to Hengrove transport bid which if successful would secure funding to develop South Gloucestershire’s first ever rapid transit route.

“We have also been busy making a number of improvements to the Ring Road and are looking at ways to further improve it, with the aim of improving road safety and reducing congestion.”

Councillor Brian Allinson, executive member for planning, transportation and strategic environment

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**South Gloucestershire Council**

**Issue 07 | Summer 2011**
North Fringe to Hengrove update

The North Fringe to Hengrove major transport scheme bid is a package of measures designed to improve the links between residential areas and employment, leisure and retail centres. The bid is being jointly developed between South Gloucestershire and Bristol City Councils. It links the areas of Cribs Causeway, Aztec West and Emersons Green with Bristol city centre and with Hengrove in the south of Bristol.

Key elements of the project include:

- **Rapid transit routes**, including a new direct link by road from the ring road (near UWE) to Bradley Stoke (the ‘Stoke Gifford Transport Link’);
- **Park and rides at Emersons Green (near Sainsburys) and near Parkway Station**;
- **New junction onto the M32 for rapid transit vehicles only, between junction 1 and junction 2**;
- **Public transport and urban realm improvements to the centre of Bristol**;
- **New bridge over the Avon New Cut for rapid transit, cyclists and pedestrians**.

Since the initial consultation on the scheme in 2010, the bidding process for transport projects has become much more competitive. In order to increase the chances of receiving funding, some changes have to be made to reduce the scheme’s costs. These are as follows:

- The length of separate running lanes for rapid transit services has been reduced and targeted at areas most affected by congestion. This includes a more direct route between Aztec West and Cribs Causeway;
- The ‘Stoke Gifford Transport Link’ has been kept in the scheme, but the rapid transit lanes have been reduced to key sections on approaches to junctions;
- The park and rides at Emersons Green and Parkway Station have been retained but with reduced on-site facilities at Emersons Green and fewer spaces near Parkway Station;
- The M32 park and ride is no longer part of the scheme. A bus only junction onto the M32 has been kept in the scheme so that priority can be given to rapid transit services from the North and East Fringe getting onto and off the motorway;
- The proposed bus, cycle and pedestrian bridge over the New Cut has been revised to deliver a more affordable structure whilst still meeting appropriate design criteria;
- Further enhancements to public spaces in the Bedminster district centre have been deferred to be funded from separate sources.

**Next steps**

The North Fringe along with four other bids, as part of the West of England, are being submitted as the ‘best and final’ to the Department for Transport by 9 September and it is expected a decision on the results will be announced by the end of the year.

For more information on the scheme visit [www.travelplus.org.uk](http://www.travelplus.org.uk)

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### Cycle roadshow team

The cycle roadshow team are getting out in and around Bristol and South Gloucestershire meeting people and giving them practical advice and support about starting cycling.

The team have already met hundreds of people and helped them get cycling again and will be visiting lots of locations in South Gloucestershire over the summer.

**We can:**

- Help plan work and leisure cycling routes using giant maps and expert local knowledge
- Run one-to-one sessions tailored to your individual circumstances and needs
- Give your bike a quick once over and refer you to a mobile bike mechanic if necessary
- Accompany you on those first few rides if you need a hand getting started
- And if you need a bike, they can provide advice on buying a bike and how to get a bike for a free month-long loan.

You can book a one-to-one advice and support session if you’d like help getting started. To find out more or to book the roadshow team visit [www.betterbybike.info/roadshow-team](http://www.betterbybike.info/roadshow-team)

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### Road deaths and injuries at a record low

The number of fatalities and injuries on roads within South Gloucestershire has fallen to a record low according to new figures.

South Gloucestershire already has some of the safest roads in the country but latest figures show that last year they became safer.

Statistics show that the total number of people killed or injured on the roads in 2010 was 796, the lowest figure since South Gloucestershire became a unitary authority in 1996. The total number of children killed or injured on roads within South Gloucestershire (61) was also the lowest since 1996.

We implement a number of road safety engineering schemes each year on roads where there is a history of injury accidents. We work to increase awareness of local road safety issues as well as working closely with schools and businesses to improve the safety of all road users. For more information visit [www.southglos.gov.uk/roadsafety](http://www.southglos.gov.uk/roadsafety)

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### Local Sustainable Transport Fund

On 29 September 2010, Norman Baker, the Under Secretary of State for Transport announced a new funding stream for transport, the Local Sustainable Transport Fund (LSTF).

The fund, with a total value of £560m, provides an opportunity for local transport authorities outside London to bid for funding for packages of sustainable transport measures with a primary focus of supporting economic growth and reducing carbon. In addition these packages should seek to address problems of air quality, delivering improvements in public health, improving safety, and delivering wider social and economic benefits for communities.

Applications to the fund can either be for small (up to £5m) or large (up to £50m) projects.

We have worked with West of England Partners to submit an expression of interest on 6 June for a large bid, of this a £5m bid was submitted to the DfT as a key component in April 2011. Announcements on these bids are expected shortly and for the larger bid, if successful, there will be a further round of bidding to develop a full business case for submission in December.

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### Improvements to the Ring Roads

We have been working to improve several roundabouts on the Ring Road to improve road safety and ease congestion.

In 2009 improvements were made to the Deeney Road roundabout, (A4174/A420), which have resulted in a more efficient and safer junction for commuters, reducing both journey times and personal injury accidents. Similar improvements, involving new traffic signals and road widening, were carried out on Kingsfield roundabout, (A4174/Marsham Way), in 2010. Exploratory work is currently underway for the A4174/Naisawall Road roundabout to see what could be done to improve road safety and traffic flow at the roundabout. If there is a potential solution local residents and road users will be consulted.
Information to help you moving

All the transport services offered by the various departments within South Gloucestershire Council have been pulled together on one handy page www.southglos.gov.uk/onthemove where you can find out anything from cycling to buses, and cars to trains.

You can contact us via email onthemove@southglos.gov.uk to request our transport leaflets please contact us on 01454 868004 or email onthemove@southglos.gov.uk

Severn Beach Sunday train service

The popular Severn Beach Sunday train service has restarted again in time for the summer holidays.

We are funding the extension of this service which on Sundays off peak only reaches Avonmouth. As well as providing an hourly facility into Bristol for Severn Beach residents, it also gives opportunity for people from elsewhere to enjoy the scenic train ride and to explore Severn Beach.

The extension was introduced last summer and proved hugely successful with more than 2000 passengers boarding at Severn Beach on Sundays during the summer months.

Sustainable Infrastructure Achievement of the Year award

South Gloucestershire Council has been short listed for the Municipal Journal award for the Sustainable Infrastructure Achievement of the Year for the work on the Cycling City project work.

The council was nominated jointly with Bristol City Council for the national local government award which commends local authorities and their partners that clearly demonstrate contributions to cutting carbon emissions or establishing long-term sustainable solutions.

The team will find out shortly if they have won.

Successful demolition of ageing Filton footbridge

A 1970s footbridge over the A4174 ring road near the Filton Roundabout has been demolished.

The bridge, which was reaching the end of its life and would have required significant ongoing maintenance to keep it safe, was causing concern to local residents. Over recent years pedestrians have chosen to use the nearby light-controlled crossing which is much more attractive, user-friendly and more accessible for people with disabilities.

Making the grade

Pupils and staff at Hanham High are celebrating after the school was named in the top five most improved schools in the South West.

The school, which specialises in performing arts and includes comedian Stephen Merchant among its famous past pupils, was awarded this accolade by the Specialist Schools and Academies Trust (SSAT).

The SSAT praised the school’s approach to learning and were impressed with examples of one-to-one tuition, revision packs and the availability of BTEC and diploma courses, in addition to studying more traditional GCSE subjects.

Head teacher, Peggy Farrington, said: “We are absolutely delighted with this award because it places us in the top five most improved schools in the South West. It is an excellent tribute to the hard work of the staff and students. Many of last year’s Year 11 students are now in our sixth form.”

Student achievement awards

Young people from secondary schools across South Gloucestershire have taken part in a special event to celebrate their educational achievements.

Special guest Mark Lewis, deputy chief test pilot for Rolls Royce, presented the prizes for the Student Achievement Awards 2011.

The annual awards ceremony, organised by the council, celebrated achievement in a range of categories, including key stage 3, GCSE and post-16 results for both highest performing students and for those making the most progress. Awards were also presented to students from all three of South Gloucestershire’s special schools.

Cllr Sheila Cook, executive member for children and young people, said: “Many congratulations to the students for all the hard work that went in to winning their awards. We are fortunate that we have a very dedicated teaching staff in the district who help our young people achieve their potential – all of the students receiving awards will have benefited from their skill and expertise. They are supported by non-teaching staff, school governors, parents and the wider community in their efforts and I would like to pay tribute to everyone for their hard work.”

Test pilot Mark Lewis (centre), surrounded by achievement award winners

Youth venue and café opens

Yate Armadillo Youth Venue and Café was preparing to open its doors to the public as SGN went to print.

The new £1.3milloon venue is a joint project between South Gloucestershire Council and Yate Town Council.

It provides a fantastic meeting place for young people to enjoy and as well as the café, there is a state-of-the-art live performance space, IT and film screening facilities. Young people are planning to run the film venue as a social enterprise, so children and adults of all ages will be able to come along and see films at this welcome addition to the local community.

Young people get their first glimpse inside the Armadillo
How the council wards break down

More ExtraCare homes on the way

Falcon Court ExtraCare housing scheme in Kingswood will be ready in the autumn.

This is the latest scheme to near completion and joins three other schemes already up and running in Yate, Downend and Filton.

ExtraCare homes provide a range of communal facilities including a restaurant, a hairdressing salon, open lounges and 24 hour care and support. They help the over 55s to lead a full and independent life with space to socialise with neighbours, family and friends.

An exciting addition to the Cambrian Green site in Yate is the construction of ten self contained cottages which is due to start this month. Each of the cottages will have a garden and owners will be able to access the same services and activities as those on the main site. The cottages are due to be completed in early 2012 and will be available for leasehold sales to South Gloucestershire residents over 55.

Cllr Matthew Riddle, executive member for Gloucestershire residents over 55.

Calling all cooks – recipe ideas wanted

Do you have a mouth-watering recipe for making the most of your leftovers? Then why not enter the SORT IT!* ‘Love Food Hate Waste’ recipe competition.

There are great prizes to be won and the ten best recipes will be published in a special book to celebrate the Love Food Hate Waste campaign.

To enter the competition, simply visit the website www.southglos.gov.uk and search for Love Food Hate Waste or call 01454 868005.

For further details about the Cambrian cottages contact Housing 21 sales team by email at sales@housing21.co.uk or telephone 0345 6084021.

Bedtime story with a difference

Children with dads in prison at HMP Leyhill are benefiting from a unique library service. Prisoners record stories which are sent home to their children. This project helps to promote literacy by encouraging reading to children and is also a good way of maintaining contact between family members. It can also help a prisoner’s rehabilitation process.

Funded by the Home Office, the service is supported by South Gloucestershire Council library staff and the charity Storybook Dads.

The charity helps dads record a story in prison. These are then edited and enhanced through the use of sound effects, before being recorded to CD. Since the project began in 2006, over 300 fathers and grandfathers have recorded their messages.

Mick Bell, Leyhill Prison governor, said: “Prisoners’ children feel punished, missing daily contact with their fathers. Storybook Dads helps keep them connected, providing a link between the prison and the family.”

Feedback from fathers and their children has been encouraging:

“The whole family sat down and listened. They loved it and now the older girls want one so that they feel nearer to me at bedtime.”

“I miss my dad. When I’m lonely I listen to the story and it makes me feel better.”

Demand for the service has been so well received that further funding has been secured for a small digital recording facility at Leyhill.

If you would like this document in another language, large print, braille or audiotape please contact 01454 868009 - there may be a charge for this service.