

## INTRODUCTION

In June 2003, GRCC's In Touch project, in partnership with Age Concern Gloucestershire, held the first of a series of Information Days for Older People in Cinderford, Forest of Dean. The Information Days were as a direct result of older people expressing their concerns about lack of information in rural areas. Whilst it was appreciated that there were many services available to older people, the fact remained that many did not know how or where to access this information.

With this in mind, we organised further events in Stroud, Tewkesbury, Cirencester and Moreton-in-Marsh. Each venue held between 25 and 35 exhibitors including the Police and Fire Service, Pension Service, Warm and Well, local district or borough council, Primary Care Trust, alternative therapists, volunteer centres, GUIDE Information Services, Care and Repair, transport providers and Home Safety Check .

Older people were invited to drop in at any time during the day to collect information, speak to exhibitors or book appointments. Entry, refreshments and raffle were free and we can confirm that each event was highly successful with our best attendance in Stroud – over 140 people through the doors!

Having completed and evaluated this project, it was clear that there was a need to continue on with the good work. In order to maximise on the success and take this project down to 'grass roots' level, we decided to produce a special 'toolkit' for parish councils/village hall committees.

The toolkit provides a community with all the necessary information to hold their own localised mini information event specifically tailored to their own need. A copy of the toolkit can be obtained either in hard copy by telephoning Barbara Piranty at GRCC on 01452 528491 or Linda Shepherd at Age Concern Gloucestershire on 01452 422660. Alternatively, it can be downloaded from either website at [www.grcc.org.uk](http://www.grcc.org.uk) or [www.ageconcernglos.org.uk](http://www.ageconcernglos.org.uk)

Whilst we appreciate that many users of this toolkit will have a wealth of knowledge, we understand that some may be less experienced. It is with this in mind that we have assumed we are starting from scratch. Please also bear in mind that with these events, it is quality rather than quantity. You may experience lower numbers than you anticipate, but those who attend will most probably be the ones with the greatest need.

We hope you find this useful and wish you every success with your own information event!

**June 2007**