



## **PRESS RELEASE**

**For immediate release**

### **More than Just a Food Festival**

Godalming & District Chamber of Commerce together with Godalming Town Council were delighted to bring the 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Food Festival to the town on Saturday, 1 July.

The globally themed “taste of the world” food festival saw a wide range of street food with cuisines including Mexican, Spanish, Thai, Southern Indian, South African and Australian fare served throughout the town and the festival would not have been complete without a traditional hog roast. Farmers’ market producers were on hand with their produce and products plus a selection of gin, wine, liqueurs and real ale stalls offering samples for visitors, giving the festival a really cosmopolitan feel.

Festival goers were treated to an exciting performance by the Bulgarian Folk Dancers (the Godalming Bulgarian School is based in the town). The dancers delighted the crowd with their colourful performance in national dress and handed out delicious Bulgarian cakes and pastries for people to enjoy. Sterling performances by the Godalming Rock Choir, The Riverboat Shuffle Jazz Band, The Blues Café and Mattie Elliott were enjoyed throughout the day at the Pepperpot.

Crowds poured into the festival all day and stall holders reported excellent trade. Godalming Chamber of Commerce President, Euan Davidson said “It was a great privilege to take part in the 8<sup>th</sup> Godalming Food Festival. By all accounts, it was a tremendous success, with many stallholders either selling out or having a better than expected day of sales and with thousands of people enjoying the food, sunshine and shopping. The festival is a key event for the town, that enables Godalming to build on its position as the best place in the area to eat, shop and spend time. On behalf of the Chamber, I would like to thank everyone who gave their time to make the day such a success and I already look forward to next year.”

The Star – Award-winning Cider Pub of the Year, hosted a Cider Festival in Church Street. At Kiddies' Corner children enjoyed face-painting and food related crafts organised the Moss Lane School PTA. The popular Dobby Horse Carousel and a fun performance from Sabrina's Sing "O" Lingo meant Church Street was a hive of activity throughout the day.

Godalming Ladies' Circle bought Bake Godalming to the Festival and some of the amazing, creative confections were on show at the Wilfrid Noyce Centre during the day. Godalming Town Mayor, Cllr Simon Thornton who was one of the Bake Godalming judges said "Another fantastic event, the Food Festival has gone from strength to strength. I had a great day meeting the shop keepers and stallholders. As a Godalming retailer myself I know that the food festival brings in people from far and wide. I was stopped in the street by a gentleman who has been coming to the Godalming Food Festival from Somerset for five years! A big thank you to the Godalming & District Chamber of Commerce, the Town Council and everyone who helped make it such a great event".

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Notes to editors: Godalming Food Festival began in 2010 and is a collaboration between Godalming Town Council and Godalming & District Chamber of Commerce.