



*Transition Town Haslemere press release Tuesday 27 October 2009*

## **SUSTAINABLE HARVEST PICNIC SUPPORTS 350 DAY**

A pumpkin carving competition, apple tasting, a buffet of dishes with local seasonal ingredients and live music all in an historic local barn made for a special occasion when Transition Town Haslemere celebrated its first anniversary with a Sustainable Harvest Picnic.

Nearly 90 people attended the celebration held at Imbhams Farm, Haslemere, on Saturday 24 October. The date was also chosen to coincide with 350 day – a global campaign of action to raise awareness of the need to reduce carbon dioxide concentration in the atmosphere to 350 parts per million in order to prevent runaway global warming. Transition Town Haslemere's picnic was one of over 5,000 events held in 181 countries around the world aimed at encouraging politicians meeting in Copenhagen in December to negotiate an effective climate change agreement.

“It was a fantastic evening – we had a really big turn out of our supporters and their families and friends,” says Naomi Clarke, deputy chair of Transition Town Haslemere. “The food was delicious, much of it made with local ingredients, and the atmosphere was wonderful with the carved pumpkins and the decorations and community atmosphere. We are very grateful to Margaret and John Barlow for allowing us to use their lovely old barn.”

Transition Town Haslemere held its first meeting in October 2008. Since then it has embarked on a number of projects, including a household energy efficiency campaign, setting up a community fruit and vegetable garden and encouraging local food production and consumption. The group is currently helping St Bartholomew's school improve its energy efficiency. It is negotiating a plot of land for a community garden with a local farm, and over the summer it worked with the Campaign for the Protection of Rural England on a survey of local food resources and consumer attitudes. The group is also working with Haslemere Town Council, Waverley Borough Council and Surrey County Council on local climate change and sustainability issues.

Local band Boing Boing Zebedee featuring David O'Brien and David Hamilton entertained the partygoers, and the evening concluded with short talks by Transition Town Haslemere chair Clive Davidson about the group's progress and plans, Philip Valentino who discussed the significance of 350 day, and Ann Finlayson, education commissioner with the Government's Sustainable Development Commission and a member of Transition Town Haslemere's steering committee, who, with the help of the children present, looked at attitudes to climate change using characters from Pooh Bear.

The hotly contested pumpkin carving competition was won by Louis La Porta, 5 who goes to Grayswood School.

The event was supported by Waverley Borough Council, Secretts Farm Shop who donated 10 pumpkins and The Granary who donated 24 loaves of bread. Imbhams Farm had tastings of their pork and their grains baked into breads and apple crumble.

Transition Town Haslemere, Imbhams Farm and The Granary will be at the Haslemere Farmers' Market as usual on Sunday 31 October. To find out more about Transition Town Haslemere's activities go to [www.transitionhaslemere.org](http://www.transitionhaslemere.org).

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