



New Year is a time for resolutions and a fresh start.

Here are some suggestions on how you can make your life a little greener in 2011.

1. Leave for journeys earlier so you can drive a little more slowly and efficiently. With petrol prices being sky-high at present, you will not only save carbon emissions but money too.
2. Buy seasonal vegetables and look up new ways to cook them. Parsnips don't always have to be roasted. Celeriac makes a tasty addition to mashed potato and kale is a versatile green.
3. When planning your budget for the year, look at what energy efficiency measures you might afford, remembering they will pay back over time. Can you upgrade your heating boiler or your fridge to more efficient models? Or could you insulate your loft or double glaze your windows?
4. Plant a tree – preferably an indigenous species. Although we are surrounded by woodlands in Haslemere, the planet can always use more trees. Britain is the least wooded country in Europe. Trees absorb carbon dioxide, provide habitats for wildlife, hold the soil and nourish the soul.
5. Eat less meat. Having one or two meat-free days a week is one of the most effective ways to reduce your carbon footprint. And when you do eat meat, try to use local, free range and organic products.
6. Consume less. We can learn a lot about living more sustainably from the generation who lived through the War years. As they used to say: use it up, wear it out, make it do or do without.
7. There are three more "Rs" you can try besides Reduce, Reuse and Recycle. Respect the natural world around you – it is what provides use resources and sustains us. Rethink your lifestyle – are there greener ways you could live? Restore – try to give back as well as consume, for example by composting your waste.
8. Use water more sparingly. It may seem that we have enough water around us at this time of the year but remember it takes resources – and produces carbon emissions – to collect, purify and distribute water. Install a rain barrel for watering the garden.
9. Take your own water in a reusable bottle rather than buying bottled water.
10. Get an energy monitor and find out just how much energy your various appliances use and how you might reduce your electricity consumption. You can borrow energy monitors from your local library.

Making the National Trust's Swan Barn Farm a working model of sustainability



The National Trust recently secured planning permission to extend the Hunter Base Camp to accommodate long-term volunteers.

Not only will these countrymen be able to work on the local National Trust properties, they will also be running Swan Barn Farm, 50 acres of traditionally managed farmland just behind Haslemere High Street, as a working model of sustainability. There will be 2 orchards, bee-hives, chicken-run and a vegetable garden.

The extension itself has been designed by the talented local woodsman, Ben Law using natural materials from National Trust properties as far as possible. It is intended to be a state-of-the-art example of environmentally-friendly building.

If you would like to hear more about this exciting, worthwhile project, and how you can follow the construction process and support the scheme come to **Haslemere Hall at 7.30 pm on Friday January 28th** where Ben Law will speak about his buildings and his designs for the project at Swan Barn Farm.

Dave Elliott, the National Trust Head Warden, will be there to explain a little of the background to the project as well as how it links some of the beautiful countryside surrounding the town. There will be an opportunity for people to ask questions afterwards.

We encourage you to attend as this will be an interesting evening and is in support of an important local environmental initiative. Entry is FREE and includes a glass of wine afterwards.

You can follow Dave Elliott on his blog <http://swanbarnfarm.wordpress.com/>

Community Garden

Our Community Gardeners (aka Landshare Group) are deep in planning for 2011 and have changed their group name to better represent what they are about. Welcome the "Haslemere Community Vegetable Gardeners". They are planning an open meeting in the evening of March 9th – just in time for the planting season so please keep that date open – more news next month

Transition Haslemere AGM

We held our second AGM on Monday January 10th and are very pleased to announce that Caroline Gowing has been elected Deputy Chairperson of Transition Haslemere. Caroline follows Naomi Clarke, one of our founding members who has relocated with her family back "home" to bonny Scotland. We are very grateful for all the hard work, effort and enthusiasm that Naomi put into Transition Haslemere and are fortunate to be able to appoint someone as capable as Caroline. Clive Davidson was re-elected as Chairman, also re-elected were Ann Finlayson, Treasurer and Adrian Wimbush, Communications Officer.



Transition Haslemere goes networking.....



We are currently working on taking Transition Haslemere further on-line and will soon have a presence on both Facebook and Twitter. This will give our supporters new and different ways to stay in touch with what is going on – more of this next month

Lost your spectacles?

Haslemere Museum have had a pair of spectacles (we think they are men's) in their lost property box with a note saying that they were left over from our 25th August meeting when we showed the BBC documentary "Rebecca's Wild Farm". If you think that they are yours please collect them from the Museum.

Dates for your diary

- January 28th Swan Barn Meeting (Haslemere Hall 7.30 pm)
- January 31st Steering Group Meeting (Town Hall 7.30 pm)
- February 6th Farmers Market

Early Warning

- March 9th Haslemere Community Vegetable Growers Meeting (Georgian Hotel 7.30 pm)
- April 6th Peak oil and the impending oil crisis - a talk by international oil expert Dr Mamdouh Salameh (Georgian Hotel)

For more details on any of these dates please see the website www.transitionhaslemere.org or email transitiontown@haslemere.com

For comments on this newsletter please email newsletter@transitionhaslemere.org