



Christmas Market



As usual we will have our stand at the Christmas Market on Sunday December 5th between 10.00 am and 4.00 pm so please do come and say hello and have a hot drink. We are looking for volunteers to help on the stand so if you can spare an hour or so then please email us at the Newsletter.

There will be over 150 stalls in West Street, the High Street and in the car park behind Collingwood Batchellor as well as in Haslemere Hall and the Museum.

A free shuttle bus will be running from the Fairground Car Park Wey Hill, Weydown Road, Railway Station & High Lane

Walking Bus



We are delighted with the introduction of St Bartholomew's "Walking Bus" initiative which started on Tuesday, October 19th. The initiative encourages pupils to walk all, or part, of the way to school. A walking bus means a group of children walking together, accompanied by parent helpers. A large group of children and parents were joined by Haslemere Mayor Melanie Odell. The walking bus started from Charter Walk, where parents enjoyed free coffee sponsored by Barista, before making its way in crocodile fashion up to the school, led by Freddie Fox, the Golden Boot Challenge mascot.

The walking bus is part of St Bart's continuing commitment to finding greener, more sustainable ways of living.

The initiative aims to reduce traffic congestion and thereby improve road safety around the school site on Derby Road, help children develop road awareness and at the same time give the children some healthy exercise and fresh air before school. Mr. Beach, Headmaster at St Bartholomew's said, 'We are really excited by this initiative; it's a great opportunity to encourage our pupils to develop lifelong healthy habits and at the same time address the parking issues at the school'. Walking in a large group can be great fun for children.

One six year old pupil commented, *'The walking bus is great, I can walk to school with my friends and we get house points!'* Pupils will be also encouraged by an incentive scheme kindly supported by the Haslemere Sports Locker, Nobbs the Newsagent, and Cycleworks. One pupil enthused, *'We even get prizes the more we do the walking bus!'*

Julian Price, Chairman of Governors, St Bartholomew's school supports the scheme. *"The walking bus is a great initiative from many points of view. It encourages safe and healthy lifestyles by allowing our children to walk to school in a safe and controlled environment. This means that they arrive at school having exercised their muscles and oxygenated their brains - a great start to the day. The initiative is also good for the environment because it means less cars in and around Derby Rd at school drop off time. We look forward to the success of this scheme and thank The Parent Reps (especially Nikki Barton), Surrey County Council and Mr Beach and his team at St Bartholomew's in helping to make this happen".*

How to compost



Thinking of setting up a compost bin but not sure how? Well, now you can watch our video for a step by step guide. Just click [here](#)

Composting is a great way to recycle your kitchen scraps into food for your garden. And it's not just potato peelings and vegetable trimmings that can go in the bin. A third of household waste can be used for composting, including

teabags, cardboard, eggshells and dead flowers.

Put the right balance of waste into your bin, allow earthworms, bugs and insects in, and Nature does the rest. In 9-12 months you will have rich, dark compost that you can spread on your garden to help it grow. And you can keep the process going indefinitely.

Composting prevents food and other waste going to landfill, avoids you having to buy environmentally harmful peat-based compost and enriches the soil. Waverley and Surrey councils offer compost bins at reduced prices – see www.surrey.getcomposting.com

Once you've got your bin, our video shows you how to set it up and get going. You can have a look first to see what's involved – and just how simple it is.

(*Turning waste into compost* was made for Transition Haslemere by local marketing video production agency Focused Film.)

New Website

We are delighted that our new website is now launched (the address is still www.transitionhaslemere.org). The website is the main communication hub for Transition Haslemere where you can go and find out what we are doing, what you can do and what's on.

We have made the move to enable us to do more and better things on the website such as hosting videos so if there are things that you would like to see on our website then please email the newsletter and let us know.

Transition Haslemere AGM

Our AGM will take place at the Town Hall on Monday January 10th. All supporters are welcome.

Weyhill in Bloom



Nobody could have failed to notice the fantastic difference that the Weyhill and Junction Place planting had over the course of the summer and it was all done by volunteers. The Committee are now looking for donations towards next year's planting and indeed volunteers to help with the planting itself. If you are interested then please send details (cheques made out to Weyhill in Bloom) to the treasurer William King, at 23 Deepdean, Haslemere or email the secretary David Trout at d.trout@sky.com

How to have a more eco-friendly Christmas



Christmas is a time of joy and celebration but it can also be time of excess and we don't mean of the eating and drinking type.

It is estimated that we put enough wrapping paper into the bin over Christmas to cover Guernsey and with up to 1 billion Christmas cards, an extra three-quarters of a billion glass bottles and half a billion cans circulating we generate something like an additional 3 million tons of waste. So what can we do about it?

Before Christmas

- Send electronic Christmas cards to friends and family and pledge your savings to a charity.
- Avoid buying food and presents that involve excessive packaging, especially that which will prove difficult to recycle (i.e. plastic and similar materials).
- Shop and buy locally. Buy locally produced food and presents.
- What you can't buy locally, shop on-line - it is more environmental.
- Buy food and drinks in larger containers so that the ratio of packaging is reduced.
- Plan your Christmas shopping so that you minimise your journeys to and from the shops.
- Always use reusable bags.

Your Christmas Tree

- Real vs Fake? The debate rages but the answer is that real trees are the more eco-friendly choice. Most artificial trees are made from metal and PVC derivatives and although they last longer they require large amounts of energy to produce. Real trees are carbon neutral; they absorb as much carbon when they grow as they release when they are disposed of.
- When buying try to find an organic and sustainable tree, grown locally. If you are concerned about needle drop buy one of the more expensive non-drop trees, don't use preservative sprays to try to keep the needles. Even cut trees are still growing so be sure to water your tree regularly.
- Make your own decorations out of pine cones and ivy – don't forget mistletoe as well. Use ribbons and bows from old material.
- Use LED lights on your tree rather than those with bulbs in. LED are much more energy efficient.
- Finally after Christmas either shred your tree and use it as mulch or recycle it.

Presents

- Buy recycled. It does not have to have been bought new to be valuable and valued. Support the charity shops. Shop online and if buying new, look for items that have been made from recycled materials and can be recycled again.
- Get creative with your wrapping. Use gift tags made from old Christmas cards, use ribbon, wool, yarns and string to wrap the presents rather than sticky tape, which makes it much easier to recycle the wrapping paper next year.
- Make your own bows and decorations from holly and other garden plants.
- If you have to buy wrapping paper make sure it is made from recycled materials.

- Give gift vouchers rather than presents and make a charity gift on behalf of all the family.

And after Christmas

- Recycle your Christmas cards.
- Save your used stamps and hand them into Oxfam.
- Give any unwanted presents to your local charity shop.
- Go out and have a family walk in our wonderful local countryside to reenergise yourself.

Dates for your diary

- November 29th Steering Group Meeting (Town Hall 7.30 pm)
- December 5th Christmas Fair and Farmers Market
- January 2nd Farmers Market
- January 10th AGM and Steering Group Meeting (Town Hall 7.30 pm)

The Newsletter is taking time off for Christmas and will be back in January.

Thank you all for your support in 2010 and have a **wonderful Christmas and Happy New Year.**

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 ttnewsletter@googlemail.com