



Transition  
Haslemere

**Newsletter February 2011**



**Transition Haslemere gets networking.....**



We are now up and running on both Facebook and Twitter so follow us on Twitter ([@greenhaslemere](#)) and 'like us' on Facebook ([Transition Haslemere](#)).

Come and have a look as we are offering a prize of a £25 voucher to spend in Lower Roundhurst Farm shop. To enter just submit a Tweet or a message on our Facebook Wall with your best 'green' tip, or alternatively the thing that you like most about Haslemere. All entries will be entered into the draw to win the £25 voucher. The draw will close at the end of April.

Our Landshare Group also have their own Facebook page (Haslemere Community Veg Growers) so do join and follow us there as well.

## **Haslemere Community Veg Growers**

Our Community Gardeners are holding an open evening in the Georgian House Hotel where all are welcome. The meeting is at 7.30 pm on Wednesday March 9<sup>th</sup>

We will be covering what and who we are, our progress last year and plans for this year, some hints on good gardening and a chance to meet other local people who are interested in 'grow your own'.

Later in the month we are going to have 'Open Gardening Days' at Lower Roundhurst Farm on Sunday the 19<sup>th</sup> March and Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> March to which all are welcome.

For more details do come and visit us on our Facebook page 'Haslemere Community Veg Growers' and use it to keep in touch with us and what we are doing.

## **Compost Making**

Thinking of starting to compost but not sure how to go about it? Now you can follow a step-by-step guide in a new video made in Haslemere and available on our website [here](#).

The video talks you through the steps from how and where to set up a compost bin, what to put in it and when to harvest the soil it produces. It shows you what you should and should not put in the bin and in what proportions.

The four-minute video demonstrates how you can produce rich organic fertiliser for your garden within six to nine months, and how to go on producing it as long as you require. It also shows you how to avoid your compost bin attracting or harbouring rodents.

Composting will not only produce nutrients for your plants, but will also help you cut down on your household waste.

Filmed in a Haslemere garden, the video was made for Transition Haslemere by local filmmakers Focused Film ([www.focusedfilm.com](http://www.focusedfilm.com)) who specialise in technology marketing videos that inform web audiences and support sales forces through their clients' buying cycle.

## Speckled Wood at Swan Barn



Dave Elliott and his National Trust colleagues have asked us to send their thanks to all who attended the recent meeting at Haslemere Hall and especially to those who have already donated towards the project to build the extension at Hunter Base camp. This extension is being built by local woodsman [Ben Law](#) who was featured on Channel 4's Grand Designs programme and who built the village shop at Lodsworth. The project will use local timber and materials.

Following the Haslemere Hall event, at the last Famers' Market, Transition Haslemere offered visitors the opportunity to 'sign a roof shingle' and donate £5 towards the project. Many took that up and we will continue to have shingles available so that you can add your name to the growing number of people who will be able to point to the roof and Say "My name is up there on the roof and I played my part in this project".

You can find out more on Dave Elliott' s blog <http://swanbarnfarm.wordpress.com/>



Or to make a direct contribution visit <http://www.justgiving.com/SpeckledWood>



### Practical examples of energy saving

Interested in seeing how other people are saving energy and money by "greening" their houses? Then take a look at Greening Alton & Holybourne website (<http://www.greeningalton.org.uk>).

On Sunday March 6<sup>th</sup> some Alton and Holybourne residents are opening their houses to show others how they have improved their properties and saved energy and money. More details [here](#).

While this is open to all, visits are by appointment only - you will be able to:

- Look closely at the installations at each address
- Discuss the practicalities of installing them
- Consider the benefits, especially reduced fuel bills and enhanced facilities

To arrange visits see the website (<http://www.greeningalton.org.uk>) for more details.

## Save Our Forests



The Government's recent threatened sell off of the nation's forests has thrown a local spotlight on Alice Holt Forest, near Farnham. While many of us have enjoyed its woodland walks, not everyone knows about the world-leading work on climate change and forestry that is being done there.

Alice Holt is home to one of the Forestry Commission's three national Forest Research centres. They are investigating how forests and woodlands are being affected by global warming

and what can be done to help them adapt. Forest Research is also looking at the role that trees can play in climate change mitigation. Its studies have shown that, taking all environmental impacts into account, sustainably produced wood is comparable to wind or solar as a renewable energy source, and it has programs in Scotland and Wales to promote wood as an alternative to fossil fuels.

Forest Research is also examining the carbon cycle of woodlands and how some forest soils act as a carbon sink. It emphasises the multiple benefits of trees beyond their role in carbon sequestration, including soil erosion prevention, flood alleviation, biodiversity protection and water source purification.

## Cohousing : A model for more sustainable living

**Cohousing** is a way of living which brings individuals and families together in groups to share common aims and activities while also enjoying their own self-contained accommodation and personal space.

The main features of cohousing communities are:

- *They are set up and run by their members for mutual benefit*
- *Members are consciously committed to living as a community*
- *Developments are designed to encourage social contact and a sense of neighbourhood among members.*
- *Common space facilitates shared activities like community meals and other amenities like laundries, heating systems, guest rooms, transport, etc may be shared*

Two Transition Haslemere supporters, Sally Tarrant and Sandy Polak are launching a co-housing group in the Haslemere and Petersfield areas and want to hear from you if you are interested in the concept.

Cohousing can take many forms, see <http://www.cohousing.org.uk/> <http://www.lancastercohousing.org.uk/> and <http://www.therightplace.net/coco/public/> for UK examples.

The initial thought is a set-up where people have private dwellings, with the optional use of communal spaces and facilities. Ideally there will be a mix of people from various walks of life, and varying dwellings suitable for singles, couples, and families.

The hope is to set up cohousing either as new-build or by converting/extending existing buildings. Location could be rural, urban or semi-urban, according to the wishes of the group, and the availability of plots. By joining the group at this early stage, you have the opportunity to influence the direction.

Cohousing offers the opportunity to live well (in terms of environment, space, comfort etc.) with reduced cost, reduced environmental impact, and improved community spirit, compared to standard "nuclear" housing.

If you are interested, email [cohousingsouth@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:cohousingsouth@yahoo.co.uk), giving your name(s). Please forward to other people you think may be interested. When we have enough names, we will arrange a meeting to exchange ideas and plan a way forward.

## Dates for your diary

- February 28<sup>th</sup> Steering Group Meeting (Town Hall 7.30 pm)
- March 6<sup>th</sup> Farmers Market
- March 9<sup>th</sup> Haslemere Community Vegetable Growers Meeting (Georgian Hotel 7.30 pm)
- March 19<sup>th</sup> Open Garden Day at Lower Roundhurst Farm
- March 26<sup>th</sup> Earth Hour (8.00 pm)
- March 27<sup>th</sup> Open Garden Day at Lower Roundhurst Farm
- April 6<sup>th</sup> Peak oil and the impending oil crisis - a talk by international oil expert Dr Mamdouh Salameh (Georgian Hotel 7.30 pm)

For more details on any of these dates please see the website [www.transitionhaslemere.org](http://www.transitionhaslemere.org) or email [transitiontown@haslemere.com](mailto:transitiontown@haslemere.com)

For comments on this newsletter please email [newsletter@transitionhaslemere.org](mailto:newsletter@transitionhaslemere.org)