



### **Enchanted evening in Imbhams Farm's Magical Barn**



Our supporters celebrated the bounty of the land at our Sustainable Harvest Picnic held on Saturday 15 October at Imbhams Farm.

The family event, which attracted 70 people, started with traditional games such as horseshoe throwing and bobbing for apples. The shared supper featured dishes made with as many local ingredients as possible.

The barn was decorated with local greenery and John and Maggie Barlow, the owners of Imbhams farm went out of their way to make us all most welcome, including baking the most delicious apple crumble made from local apples and their own grains.

A competition for the 'food least travelled' was won by Jane Devlin for a dish she baked in Chiddingfold which husband Bruce transported to the event by electric bicycle. The prize was a hamper of food donated by Crossways greengrocer in Fernhurst which comprised mostly of produce grown by local organic market gardener Rebecca Laughton.



There were also competitions for the best carved pumpkin and face drawn on a pumpkin with the pumpkins donated by



The evening ended with dancing to music by local singer-songwriter David O'Brien and friends,



*"The perfect autumn evening, the beautiful setting of Imbhams historic barn, the candlelit carved pumpkins and the warm and welcoming atmosphere made for a magical event,"* said Clive Davidson, chair of Transition Haslemere.

## Green Drinks



The November Green Drinks will again be at the bar of the Georgian Hotel on **Thursday November 3rd** between 7.30 and 9.30 pm. All are most welcome.

## Speckled Wood – What a Contribution!



Transition Town Supporters were among the many who supported our Shingle Sponsorship drive to raise funds for the new Speckled Wood building at Swan Barn Farm. We are proud to have raised £815 which means that over 160 shingles on the roof have been signed by sponsors.

Contributions have come, primarily through our Farmers' Market stand, not only from Haslemere residents but from afar as the USA, Hungary and New Zealand.

We have had shingles 'signed' by adults, children, dogs, cats and in memory of loved ones. You may have seen from the Speckled Wood blog that one was beautifully painted.

We can all be happy to know that our names are part of a spectacular roof!

BBC Countryfile have been to investigate the building and you can see how they got on at 6.25 pm on Sunday October 23<sup>rd</sup> on BBC 1.

## The Importance of Hedges



Today hedgerows are highly valued by people, and for many reasons. In the past they were considered essential for marking ownership boundaries, and for keeping livestock in or out of fields.

Although hedgerows remain vitally important for agriculture, these particular reasons for keeping hedges are less valid now, with the easy availability of accurate maps, GPS and wire fencing. However, there are additional, new, strong, justifications for looking after hedgerows and for planting more.

These new reasons recognise the importance of hedgerows as part of our cultural heritage and historical record, and for their great value to wildlife and the landscape. Increasingly, they are valued too for the major role they have to play in preventing soil loss and reducing pollution, and for their potential to regulate water supply and to reduce flooding.

Hedgerows may even have a role to play in taking greenhouse gases out of circulation through carbon storage, if they are allowed to expand in size. Certainly any loss exacerbates climate change to some extent.

There were two other major uses for hedgerows in times past, and those were as a source of firewood, and for providing shelter from wind, rain and sun for crops, farm animals and people. With fossil fuels becoming scarce and expensive, and the threat of more frequent and more violent storms, both these uses may soon once again come to prominence.

Other uses of hedgerows today include screening unsightly development, providing privacy to homes, and as a source of berries for jams and material for various crafts like walking stick making. Cattle, sheep and other livestock will often search out particular leaves and flowers from hedgerows to supplement their diet or to self-treat ailments - for example, ingestion of coarsely hairy plants like hogweed scours parasitic worms from the intestine.

For more information go to [www.hedgerowharvest.org.uk](http://www.hedgerowharvest.org.uk)  
For all things hedge related visit Hedgeline at [www.hedgeline.org](http://www.hedgeline.org)

## Local Green Investment Opportunity



The following is taken from the Wey Valley Solar co-operative website. [www.weyvalleysolar.co.uk](http://www.weyvalleysolar.co.uk)

Wey Valley Solar Schools Energy Co-operative is an exciting and pioneering new venture - a community owned energy co-operative, set up by local people to install and run electricity

generating solar panels on the roofs of state schools in the Waverley and Guildford area.

We have come up with a model that will provide each school with:

- an opportunity to produce renewable energy free of charge,
- Cut their carbon emissions by about 20 tonnes per year,
- an educational package to promote renewable energy and energy efficiency
- and an income stream once interest rates to investors reach over 6%

To raise the money the Co-operative is calling on the local community (but others are welcome) to invest in the scheme, in return investors are anticipated to receive returns of more than 5% and if you pay income tax may qualify for tax relief (equivalent to 30% of their investment in the scheme).

The scheme is already in place for Rodborough School in Milford as well as two others in the area. Woolmer Hill School will follow once investment funds have been raised. For more information please see [www.weyvalleysolar.co.uk](http://www.weyvalleysolar.co.uk)

## Interested in local wine?

..and who isn't? There is a talk on the history of viticulture in the Surrey Hills over the last two millennia, and the impact of past and future climate change by Professor Richard Selley of Imperial College, London at 8.00 pm on Friday November 18<sup>th</sup> at the Dorking United Reform Church Hall. See <http://www.surreyhills.org/Surrey-Hills-Society/Society-Events/Winlands-of-the-Surrey-Hills.aspx> for details.

## Dates for your diary

- Oct 23<sup>rd</sup> Speckled Wood on Countryfile (BBC 1 6,25 pm)
- Oct 31<sup>st</sup> Steering Group Meeting (Town Hall 7.30 pm)
- Nov 3<sup>rd</sup> Green Drinks at the Georgian Hotel (from 7.30 pm)
- Nov 6<sup>th</sup> Farmers Market (Haslemere High Street 10.00 am – 1.30 pm)
- Nov 16<sup>th</sup> Winlands of the Surrey Hills Talk (Dorking United Reform Church Hall 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)