



## **Do you commute from Haslemere station?**

If you do then we would like to hear about how you get to and from the station; whether you walk, ride or drive.

You have probably seen the Hoppa buses out and about around our area. The Hoppa team, in conjunction with Surrey County Council, Haslemere Town Council and Transition Haslemere are exploring ways to increase the services offered by the Hoppa team and ease congestion at the station.

The Hoppa bus is a registered charity offering a not for profit service in providing low-cost efficient community travel for Waverley Residents. If a way could be found to offer commuters an efficient service to and from Haslemere station then there will be significant benefits in terms of congestion, parking and reducing the commuters' carbon footprint. In addition it will add support to a well-used community asset.

We would value your opinion and would like you to complete a short survey which seeks to establish whether or not there would be a demand for such a service.

The survey can be completed by clicking [here](#)

## **Join us at the Haslemere Christmas Market**

We will be back again at the award-winning Christmas Market on Sunday December 4<sup>th</sup> between 10.00 am and 4.00 pm so please do come and say hello.



You will be able to make your own pedal-powered hot drink and take part in our "Find The Hamper" completion with a chance of winning a fabulous local hamper.

Come and tell us "What makes Haslemere special" for you – details below.

***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.***

Over 200 stalls will be situated in the High Street and West Street and also in the Haslemere Hall, Haslemere Educational Museum and the Georgian House Hotel

The High Street and West Street will be closed, but access to the main car park still available and there is also parking available in Chestnut Avenue and Tanners Lane. A free Hoppa service will run from Shottermill to Haslemere and there will be bus stops at the Shottermill Working Men's Club, Lion Green, St Christopher's Green,

Weydown Road car park, the station and the town centre car park. For return journeys, and on request, drivers will be able to return passengers to the High Lane area.

## What makes Haslemere Special?



What is it that makes Haslemere special for you?

We are starting a new project to define and capture the things that people value about Haslemere and the surrounding area. That might be the local habitats, natural environment or traditions, it might be the wealth of local providers and suppliers of food, or it could be the strong sense of community and volunteer groups – anything that you think makes this area special.

We will be collecting ideas on our stand at the Christmas and Farmers' Markets, so come along and stick a Post-It, or please email us with any suggestions. We will be using the answers going

forward in a variety of ways, including producing a 'local distinctiveness map'.

To see what people are already saying click [here](#)

## Green Drinks



The December Green Drinks will again be at the bar of the Georgian Hotel on **Thursday December 1st** between 7.30 and 9.30 pm. All are most welcome.

Are you interested in being involved in our **Community Garden** group? We are meeting up in the next few weeks to discuss how it's gone, and to talk about new plans for the coming year. The date of the meeting is yet to be finalised but we will advertise it on the website - or better still – come and talk to us at Green Drinks.

## Shop locally and keep the money going round

*Local author and smallholder Rebecca Laughton writes...*

*(picture courtesy of Dorset books)*



The mantra of 'think global, act local' has led to one local food initiative after another being invented to help us support local farmers and reduce our food miles. Pick your own, farmers markets, farm shops and vegetable box schemes – each in its turn cuts carbon

emissions associated with food transport while weaning us off our oil dependence.

One easy way to achieve all of the above and strengthen the local economy is to use traditional independent shops. We are so lucky in Haslemere and the surrounding villages to have a number of superb butchers, greengrocers, delicatessens, bakers and fish-mongers, not to mention village shops. Many of these are in a better position to source directly from local farmers, growers, gamekeepers and food producers than supermarkets, which are tied into centralised supply chains. Thus money is kept in the local economy, being passed from one trader to another, until somehow it may even come back to you.

It is so easy to be seduced by the apparently low prices, the special offers and the sheer convenience of supermarkets, especially when all you need to do is place an order on the internet and the next day a friendly man in a van turns up with your shopping. But think, though, how much of the weekly shopping bill is likely to stay in the locality once it has left your bank account.

All the talk of building resilience for an oil scarce future and creating a self-reliant community can feel rather theoretical when rushing around juggling work commitments, child care and household chores. Now is the time, though, when we can all direct the future with our own purses and choose to spend a slightly bigger proportion of our weekly food budget in local, independent shops.

Isn't it wonderful that you can be an environmental campaigner by doing something as simple and pleasurable as buying and eating high quality local produce? (For a longer version of this article click [here](#))

**If you fancy some local beef then the National Trust is offering cuts of beef from their Belted Galloway herd which has been reared on Blackdown. For more details please see [here](#).**

## European Bioenergy Exhibition & Conference

*Adrian LaPorta reports.....*



I visited this year's European Bioenergy Exhibition and Conference – a major event that included microgen (solar, small scale wind, heat pumps) and 'nextgen' looking at emerging technologies as well as bioenergy.

Anaerobic digestion involves rotting or fermenting agricultural materials, food waste or the organic bits of municipal waste to make 'biogas'. This gas is usually burnt in an engine to make electricity with waste heat used back in the process. It is taking off here because it not only produces energy but diverts waste from landfill. Biogas can also be upgraded to a vehicle fuel.

The 'biomass' industry contribution ranged from forestry processing kit through pelleting equipment to boilers and burners. Biomass means wood so it is of particular interest to us in South West Surrey.

Sweden now gets more than 50% of its energy from renewables but at the same time the stock of forestry has increased. Many people question whether importing wood to burn in power stations is sustainable. Better to import wood from Sweden than coal from Australia!

A clear message from the industry was this: the technology is there and proven, the barrier to its use is government policy. On a positive note, it can be done and these technologies can be applied at small scales.

For more information click [here](#)

### Dates for your diary

- Nov 28<sup>th</sup> Steering Group Meeting (Town Hall 7.30 pm)
- Dec 1<sup>st</sup> Green Drinks at the Georgian Hotel (from 7.30 pm)
- Dec 4<sup>th</sup> Christmas Market (10.00 am – 4.00 pm)
- Jan 9<sup>th</sup> AGM & Steering Group Meeting (Town 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)

### Finally....

Transition Haslemere would like to thank you all for your support during 2011. There are now over 480 of you supporting Transition Haslemere and promoting sustainability.

We would love you to come and see us at the Christmas Market so we can thank you and wish you all a...

**Wonderful happy, sustainable family Christmas**

For tips on having a green Christmas see our website [www.transitionhaslemere.org](http://www.transitionhaslemere.org).

The newsletter is taking a break and will be back in January.