



Transition  
Haslemere

**Newsletter February 2012**

## Green Drinks

**Georgian House Hotel, March 1<sup>st</sup> 7.30 pm.**



Just a reminder that we are showing the acclaimed documentary -

**“New Forest in Transition : Connecting to our Food”**

- which is an inspirational and informative look at the resurgence of local food activity in the New Forest.

Entrance is free and all are welcome. The 30 minute documentary will be followed by our usual green drinks.

## Waitrose - Community Garden



Thank you all for your contribution in green tokens to our cause this month, please do keep it up for the last few days of February. Every individual token counts!

Remember that Sunday March 4<sup>th</sup> is "Garden Drop-in Day" at our community garden at Lower Roundhurst Farm. Come, chat and see what we are up to between 11.00 am and 1.00 pm.

## Haslemere's local food web



In 2010 Haslemere was one of the pilot towns for 'mapping local food webs', led by the Campaign for the Protection of Rural England (CPRE).

The activity saw volunteers interviewing local businesses to map local food – creating the food web of produce that is sold within

the town and produced within 30 miles.

Shoppers were also interviewed and a report and a set of recommendations has been compiled which lays out Haslemere's food web and recommendations for improving the local food picture.

On the 2<sup>nd</sup> February the CPRE team came down to present the initial findings to Transition Haslemere, in advance of a local and national launch event which should happen in the next couple of months.

The report holds some fascinating facts about Haslemere's local food picture – for example the sale of local food in Haslemere brings benefits of almost £4 million to the town - and has some interesting suggestions for future activities to increase awareness and markets for local foods.

Watch this space for the full public launch of the report!

## Local Schools and the Sustainability



Our local schools, both state and private, have been making considerable efforts towards becoming more green and sustainable. Actions include energy efficiency measures, increased recycling and growing vegetables for the school kitchen – all involving pupils wherever possible and increasing their awareness and understanding of environmental issues. Many schools are part of the international Eco Schools programme and have achieved bronze, silver or top Green Flag awards.

Many Transition Haslemere supporters are also parents of children at these schools, and have helped and encouraged the schools in their green efforts. Sandy Polak, an engineer, has conducted energy audits for Camelsdale and St Bartholomew's.

Recently Anne Bristowe, head of Grayswood Infant School and coordinator of the local school federation attended a Transition Haslemere meeting to brief us on what the schools have been up to and to see where we might be able to further support them.

One idea is to identify people who might be able to offer skills or expertise from time to time. Areas of particular interest are energy efficiency, gardening and transport. If you have skills or expertise in any of these areas, or others you might think relevant, please let us know so that we can respond when schools need help. This might simply involve giving some advice, or going along to talk to children or staff or getting involved in a project. Please email us at [info@transitionhaslemere.org](mailto:info@transitionhaslemere.org) if are willing to go on our list of school resources.

We plan on having a regular series of reports on what are local schools are doing to promote environmental awareness in their schools and to reduce their carbon footprint. We start this month with Grayswood Infant school

### Grayswood Church of England (Aided) Infant School



Grayswood Infant School has been part of the Eco School Project for several years and has recently been re-accredited for the Eco School Green Flag Award. The Green Flag hangs proudly in our playground for all to see.

The school has an Eco School Committee comprising pupils from each class, three adult staff members, a governor and parent. Meetings take place at least each term, more if any issues arise. There is an Eco Code which was written in consultation with all pupils and is on display in each class and on our Eco School display.

The school has an Eco School Action Plan which considers the nine eco school areas – water, biodiversity, energy, global perspective, healthy living, litter, school grounds, transport and waste. Many of the areas are covered in our curriculum.

During the year we give consideration to all these areas, at the moment saving energy and water are a focus. The school takes part in the international Earth Hour, last year the children came to school in bright colours in response to the slogan 'turn off the light and wear something bright'.



Gardening is a popular activity and in addition to our flower beds, which provide colour and a cheerful environment, we have a variety of vegetable beds which enable us to grow vegetables both for the children to eat raw and as a supplement to their school lunches. Any surplus is given to pupils to be taken home. We encourage children to experiment with different foods grown by making cakes and savouries.

Children wrote to our local builders Coomers requesting materials to build a 'Bug Hotel', the builders very kindly delivered the materials and the hotel is now in place.

Recently the children raised their concern about waste food at lunch time so together with teachers it was decided to have a 'Table of the Day'. The 'Table of the Day' receive a notice to go their table, have sparkly beakers for their water and their own bread basket. This has proved popular and the children have told me there is less waste and less mess on the floor.

Parents are represented on the school eco-committee. This is primarily to support eco-activities by parents, in parallel to the learning of the children, but also to offer more general support to eco-activities at school and by the children. We also input into the school's eco-plan and make suggestions.

We have a parent theme each term which complements the themes the children work to. Our theme for autumn 2011 was sustainable food. We implemented this through establishing an organic veg-bag scheme with Abel and Cole. Parents buy veg-bags which are delivered to the school. The bags are supplied to school at cost price, and 25% of the price parents pay goes towards fundraising. Monies are split between our School Association and eco-activities such as recycling. It is useful to have a small budget available for school eco-activities. Organic veg bags help both parents and children to eat healthily and learn about sustainable and seasonal food.



Our current theme for spring 2012 is energy saving. We have borrowed 3 energy monitors from Waverley Borough Council, and will make these available on loan to parents for two weeks, to record their electricity use and costs in a 'before' and 'after' week. Our planned theme for summer 2012 is biodiversity.

Our Governor Representative on the committee also writes a newsletter for parents, picking up on our themes and other relevant information.

## Witley and Milford Commons – Introducing Ella



My name is Ella and I have recently started working at Witley and Milford Commons as the Learning and Community Officer for the National Trust. I am based at the Witley Centre, which has undergone a refurbishment.

All ages and abilities will be able to use the centre as a base to discover and enjoy the wildlife and stories of the Commons, through volunteering, learning visits, community projects, facilities hire and events. My role is to start up the

schools visiting program and to get different events and community projects up and running. I'm interested in sustainability, permaculture, I enjoy cycling, making things from recycled materials and would love to have chickens! I was involved with Transition Town Brixton and Peckham and use to run a community garden from my house.

### **Forest Garden at Witley Centre**

Adjacent to the Witley Centre, there is a fenced off clearing with two ponds, I think the space is perfect to develop a forest garden, to be used by schools and local community groups. Forest gardens are carefully designed diverse ecosystems of useful plants, which are modelled on the structure of a young natural woodland. Making maximum use of the space, plants are stacked in vertical layers with large and small trees, shrubs, climbers, herbs and root crops. Plants are mainly perennial and have a multipurpose which gives the system its self-sustaining and long-term nature. A forest garden would be visually exciting as well suited to the surrounding woodland. From what I know there are no permaculture based projects within the National Trust, so having the first would be fantastic!

### **Muck In at Milford Allotment**

We have just taken an allotment plot at Milford Cemetery Allotment where we will be creating a community allotment. All ages and abilities are welcome to muck in, come along, get involved and enjoy the produce every other Sunday 11 – 3, starting 11<sup>th</sup> March.

### **Easter open day and Easter egg trail**

We're having an Open Day and Easter Egg Trail on the Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> April, so come find out more about the continuing development of activities at Witley, meet the team, peak around the building and find out how to get involved. Bring along pictures and memories of Witley and Milford to be part of a one day pop up memory museum.

If you are interested in getting involved, have a questions or would like to volunteer please get in touch. Email [ella.perkins@nationaltrust.org.uk](mailto:ella.perkins@nationaltrust.org.uk) or call 01483 681054

Keep an eye on the website which is being developed and our notice boards for news and information [www.nationaltrust.org.uk/witley-and-milford-commons/](http://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/witley-and-milford-commons/)

## **Steering Group Meeting**

Just a reminder that the Steering Group meeting at 7.30 pm on February 27<sup>th</sup> will take place at the Royal Oak on Critchmere Hill, not in the Town Hall.

## **Dates for your diary**

- Feb 27<sup>th</sup> Steering Group Meeting (Royal Oak, Critchmere Hill 7.30 pm)
- Mar 1<sup>st</sup> Green Drinks (and film showing) at the Georgian Hotel (7.30 to 9.30 pm)
- Mar 4<sup>th</sup> Farmers' Market (10.00 am – 1.30 pm)
- Mar 4<sup>th</sup> Veg Growers Garden "Drop-in" L. Roundhurst Farm (11.00 am – 1.00 pm)

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

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