



# Chorlton's Big Green Festival

## **Press Release: 1 March 2010**

Chorlton's Big Green Festival announces details of What Next? discussion event

South Manchester residents will be able to get practical pointers on cutting their carbon footprint at a new event from the organisers of Chorlton's Big Green Festival. The inaugural What Next? Forum takes place on Thursday 25 March in the run-up to the actual festival.

Three experts in green living will give brief, interesting and enjoyable talks during the evening, followed by Q&As and an open forum in which audience participation is actively encouraged. Marc Hudson, editor of Manchester Climate Fortnightly and the recent report Call to Real Action, will start things off by giving a lively overview of the latest climate change science. Next up, a resident of Ashton Hayes in Cheshire will explain how the village is pulling together in a bid to become England's first carbon-neutral community. Andrew Leask from the Trafford Eco-House will then share a personal account of his family's efforts to make their three-bedroom home in Sale as sustainable as possible. To wrap up the evening, there will be some short presentations from members of the Green Festival Discussion Group, leading into an open forum where audience members can discuss ideas and projects to make Chorlton a greener place to live.

The What Next? Forum is free and open to all, and will take place at St Clement's Church, Edge Lane/St Clement's Road, Chorlton from 7.15pm on Thursday 25 March. This year, festival organisers decided to invite guest speakers to appear at a separate event on the Thursday to give participants more of an opportunity to think about the environmental issues behind Chorlton's Big Green Festival on Saturday 27 March. Nigel Rose, one of the What Next? Forum organisers, has lived with his family in Chorlton for more than 20 years. He says: "To prevent global warming, we need to create a greener, low-carbon Chorlton that is an even better place to live in. Come to the What Next? Forum to discuss how we get there and think about how to get involved."

Chorlton's Big Green Festival takes place this year on Saturday 27 March, starting at 11am. It is an annual event that launched in 2009, with an estimated 4,000 people joining in the first-ever festivities. The idea behind Chorlton's Big Green Festival is to offer local people the chance to sample sustainability in fun and friendly surroundings. The festival puts environmental issues centre stage with a vibrant and varied programme of live entertainment, activities and workshops, and festival-goers are encouraged to get actively involved with swapshops, a bike parade and a huge ceilidh. The festival also provides a showcase for local suppliers of ethical, responsibly sourced food and drink, and gives eco organisations a chance to promote their activities.

**For more information, quotes and interview requests, please contact:**  
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**Chorlton's Big Green Festival images and logos are available to download:**  
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