



Green Groups in the Sheldfords, Stapleford and Sawston (2G3S) is a non party-political group that acts as an umbrella group for local green groups and an information exchange about green activity in our local villages and surrounding area. We put on occasional events and publish a newsletter every couple of months.

Contact us at greengroupssss@gmail.com

See also our Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/2G3Sgroup/>
and discussion forum: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1707232106228495/>

2G3S NEWSLETTER NOVEMBER 2017

Green Living Afternoon and Mini Repair Café, Stapleford, 1 October

We had an enjoyable afternoon in Stapleford Jubilee Pavilion. This year, as part of the general theme of 'Green Living', we also held a successful mini Repair Café and had an interesting talk from Mike Brettle, Director of Gamlingay Community Wind Turbine. We hope to hold a similar event next autumn, although precise details may vary.



Getting to grips with the apple press



Repair Café



Talk on community wind turbines

Upcoming 2G3S events

Sustainable Food?

7.45pm Weds **22 November**, Free Church, 1 High St, **Sawston** CB22 3BG
2G3S, Greener Sawston, and Sawston Free Church present a discussion evening (part of the Sawston 'Your Village - Your Voice' series) covering different aspects of Sustainable Food, including

- Sustainable Food for the UK: options after Brexit (Ian Hodge, Professor of Rural Economy, University of Cambridge)
- Growing your own organic food: barriers to change (Simon Saggars, organic smallholder)
- An introduction to Cambridge Sustainable Food and latest news about establishing a Food Hub near Sawston (Bev Sedley, Chair of CSF & Duncan Catchpole, leader, Food Hub task force)

There will also be a display on recycling, including how to use left-overs; and kitchen caddies for waste food to give away – see item on Recycling Champions, below.

Admission free; donations welcome: any profit to Cambridge Sustainable Food

If you would prefer not to receive this newsletter, please email us at greengroupssss@gmail.com

And continuing our food theme, we are proud to present:

'Carnage'

a funny but hard-hitting mockumentary about veganism
written and directed by Simon Amstell

7.30 pm Mon **12 February**, Johnson Hall, 1 Gog Magog Way, **Stapleford**, CB22 5BQ
Part of the 'Films for our Future' film festival, a season of films with an environmental theme being organised by different groups around Cambridgeshire, including 2G3S.

More details in the next newsletter; but we are hoping to have a discussion about veganism after the film, with some vegan nibbles for us to try!

Admission free; donations welcome.

Other events

'Films for our Future' Festival

'TAWAI: A Voice From The Forest' film & Q&A with Bruce Parry

6.30pm Tues **21 November**, The Light Cinema, **Cambridge**, CB1 7DY

The full festival season is in February 2018 but this is a taster film and Q&A with explorer, BAFTA Award winner and presenter of BBC's 'Tribe': Bruce Parry. 'Tawai' (the word nomadic hunters-gatherers of Borneo use to describe the inner feeling of connection to nature) is a feature length documentary, complete with stunning footage of life in the forest and panoramic views of our changing landscape.

STOP PRESS: due to overwhelming demand, this has been moved to a larger auditorium. But don't delay! – get your tickets here:

<https://www.transitioncambridge.org/wiki/FilmsForOurFuture/Tawai>

and go to this website for more information about the other films and venues in February (films are still being added, so it's worth checking again in the future):

<https://www.transitioncambridge.org/wiki/FilmsForOurFuture/HomePage>

Campaigns

1 RECYCLING

Fancy being a recycling champion? We have been sent this information from Recycling Co-ordinator Birgitta Laurent:

Recycling Champions are go!

Did you know there is a secret army of volunteer Recycling Champions, who are helping to raise awareness about how, what and why to recycle in Cambridge city and the south of Cambridge? Over the summer they talked to over 800 people at events like Chesterton Festival, Cambridge Folk Festival and the Fen Edge Festival.

On the community action days the Recycling Champions run 'Take It Or Leave It' stalls for people to pass on unwanted items or pick up things they need (*so we aren't the only ones with that idea, having done something similar at our Green Living Afternoons! - Linda*), while supporting community clean-ups with Council staff and other volunteers.

The volunteers are motivated by reducing, reusing and recycling in many different ways and are very dedicated individuals who get satisfaction in making a difference for a good cause.

For more information about the scheme or how to become a recycling champion, please contact the Recycling Champions Coordinator Birgitta Laurent on: birgitta.laurent@scambs.gov.uk or ring 01954 713 614. (*We shall also have a display about the scheme at our Sustainable Food evening on 22 November, including leaflets on using leftovers, and some plastic kitchen caddies for food waste to give away – Linda*)

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And while we're on the subject of recycling:

No more Paper Caddies

Council waste bosses have confirmed there will be no need for South Cambridgeshire residents to use paper caddies from mid-December, in a move to simplify the recycling process. From 11 December 2017, residents should place used paper directly into their blue wheelie bins for recycling. Birgitta says:

'The withdrawal of caddies means fewer waste collection vehicles will be needed, because trucks that collect mixed dry recycling don't have split bodies and can carry more materials. So vehicles will not need to return to base to be emptied as often, thus saving money and reducing CO2 emissions.'

Incidentally, here is a **useful website which tells you what to put in which bin** (South Cambs): <https://www.scambs.gov.uk/what-goes-which-bin>

Would you like to look round Cambridge Waterbeach Waste Management Site (Amey Cespa)?

We are thinking of organising a guided tour of the site, if we can get enough people together. If you are interested in coming, email us at greengroupssss@gmail.com and we'll try to arrange it.

2 PLASTIC

Further to the item in our last newsletter about microbeads, the UK government has announced it will ban the sale of 'rinse-off' cosmetic products that contain microbeads, such as exfoliating scrubs, shower gels and toothpaste, from 30 June 2018. The US will implement a similar ban a day later.

Plastic Oceans – watch this

I strongly recommend this Wellcome Trust lecture on 'Plastic Oceans', part of their Environmental Sustainability speaker series, given by the self-styled Heavy Metal Marine Biologist Tom 'The Blowfish' Hird. He reviews other threats to the oceans before looking in more detail at both large plastics and microplastics. Tom is an entertaining and informative speaker but you will find some of it shocking, even disturbing. But he finishes on a positive note, with things that can be done! Here is the link (he starts 3 minutes in and speaks for 30, then takes questions):

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=|knTxYKfVAY>

How can we help?

Jointly: by lobbying for legislation and regulation on the use of plastics; by putting pressure on shops and food outlets to use fewer plastic containers, drinking straws etc. Unfortunately most large stores have backed away from offering a refill service; even the Body Shop no longer offers a refill shampoo service. This is apparently because of lack of consumer demand – we should start to create that demand!

There is positive news; for example, look at this 'Story of Stuff' blog:

<http://storyofstuff.org/blog/building-a-global-movement-to-breakfreefromplastic/>

And here is London's first plastic-free shop:

<https://www.bulkmarket.uk/>

Look for other items about alternatives to plastic on our FaceBook 2G3S Discussion Forum, <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1707232106228495/> This is a closed group (so people feel free to say controversial things) but we welcome new members.

Individually, we should all try to REDUCE our use of plastic (do you really need that straw?!!) RE-USE plastic when at all possible, and RECYCLE the plastic we have to discard. Get our milk in glass bottles! (Both **Plumbs** tel 01223 893033 and **Dairy Crest** tel 08456 063606 will deliver milk in glass bottles in this area.)

And locally we can still get Ecover containers refilled at **Organic Health** in Hauxton: 'a specialist organic and special diet food shop offering a large range of organic, gluten free, wheat free, dairy free etc foods; also local fruit and veg, honey, flour, ice cream, chocolates, cakes, juices, preserves, cereal etc as well as a wide range of organic meat. They sell cobs local organic bread range, Ecover refill systems and British toiletries and cleaning products.' Open from 9 am to 5 pm, Thursday to Saturday. 87 Church Road, Hauxton, Cambridge CB225HS, Tel: 01223 870101

Yes, a blatant plug for this shop, but it is a small independent business which deserves our support! Does anyone know of other retailers in the area offering a refill service?

3 WILDLIFE

Other things you may like to get involved in:

The call of nature – Giving Nature a Home, RSPB

Type your postcode and a few details about your green space into www.rspb.org.uk/plan to receive a personalised plan. It will pinpoint the species struggling near you and how you could help, from building nest boxes to installing hedgehog homes.

Sow what – Grow Wild

Grow Wild urges people to improve local spaces with native, pollinator-friendly wildflowers and plants. Sow a 'virtual wildflower seed' at www.growwilduk.com/sowingmap and commit to actions such as scattering seeds and organising nature walks.

2G3S next social/planning evening

We are meeting at **8 pm on Thursday 11 January** at our usual venue: The Rose, Stapleford. We are normally in the small bar to the left of the main entrance, but are occasionally moved to a quiet area in the main bar – ask the bar staff if you can't find us! There has been a request that we leave time at our meetings to discuss green issues – so if there is something you'd like to talk about over a drink, come along!

All for now – hoping to see you at an event soon!

Linda Whitebread