



Green Groups in the Shelfords, 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 quarterly newsletter. Contact us at greengroupssss@gmail.com. Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/2G3Sgroup/> and <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1707232106228495/>

2G3S NEWSLETTER SPRING 2018

UPCOMING 2G3S EVENTS

Great Shelford Repair Café 2 June



With the support of South Cambridgeshire Sustainable Parish Energy Partnership (SPEP), Transition Cambridge, and Cambridge Carbon Footprint, 2G3S are pleased to announce our second Great Shelford Repair Café. As last time, it will be held at The Scout and Guide Headquarters, behind the Memorial Hall, Woollards Lane, Great Shelford, CB22 5LZ from 2:00 - 4:30 pm on Saturday 2 June 2018.

It's a free event (donations very welcome) where we match amazing repairers with people who need stuff fixing. Bring along the following to be repaired and to pick up repair skills: **jewellery** (and jewellery cleaning), sewing and **fabric** repairs (no alterations; and clean items only please), small **household appliances** and **electrical** items, **knives** or tools to be sharpened, **computers**, **mobile phones**, **bicycles**, and general bits'n'bobs. This time we are also offering a **book repair** service, so if you have books with broken spines or damaged/loose pages, we can look at those too. /cont'd

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

You can turn up with your item on the day, but as before we expect to be very busy so it's best to book it in. Bookings will be open throughout May - visit <http://circularcambridge.org/repaircafe/> (where you will find more information about Repair Cafes) and follow the links. The repairers are brilliant and can fix most things but there are no guarantees. Lots of tea and cake available of course!

Other RCs (not organised by 2G3S) coming up soon:

20 May Soham

23 June Cottenham

Details on the Circular Cambridge website: <http://circularcambridge.org/repaircafe/>
Meanwhile, here's a link to a recent Guardian article about Repair Cafes:

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2018/mar/15/can-we-fix-it-the-repair-cafes-waging-war-on-throwaway-culture>

2G3S next social/planning evening 11 July

Do join us at our meeting at **8 pm on Wednesday 11 July** at The Rose, Stapleford. The meeting usually includes an 'open forum' to discuss green issues – so if there is something you'd like to get off your chest over a drink, or if you'd just like to come and meet us, come along! We're very informal. We use the small bar to the left of the main entrance, but are sometimes in a quiet area in the main bar – ask the bar staff if you can't find us!

PAST 2G3S EVENTS

Film evening

In February, as part of the Cambridge 'Films for our Future' festival, 2G3S showed 'Carnage' - a mockumentary written and directed by comedian Simon Amstell - which looks at veganism in an informative but entertaining way.

Around 50 people attended the showing at The Johnson Hall in Stapleford, including several representatives of Cambridge Veg*ns. They not only answered questions after the film, but also treated us to some delicious vegan nibbles!

Trips to Cambridge Waterbeach Waste Treatment plant

In April we organised a couple of trips to the Amey Waste Treatment plant in Waterbeach. On each occasion about a dozen of us toured the site, took part in a light-hearted quiz and a 'which bin?' exercise, and were given the opportunity to find out all we've ever wanted to know about recycling in Cambridgeshire!

Stall at Shelford Feast: Jon Crisp, the Information Officer at Amey, is going to have a stall at Shelford Feast on Sunday 15 July, where he will not only have answers to all your recycling questions but also games and quizzes for your enjoyment. If you would be willing to lend him a hand on the day, please let us know by the end of May – greengroupssss@gmail.com

OTHER ORGANISATIONS' UPCOMING EVENTS

Global Sustainability Institute

16 May - ARU event: The Apocalypse: an update

Don't be put off by the gloomy title! This is the inaugural lecture by Dr Aled Jones, head of the Global Sustainability Institute at ARU - his nickname is 'Dr Apocalypse'...! The organisers say: 'The world faces increasing social, environmental and climate pressures, which link together and reinforce each other. However, these challenges also create opportunities for us to unlock an energy and financial transition to a more prosperous future. Despite the significant political barrier of short termism there are glimmers of hope that the world is at a turning point that will create sustainable prosperity for all.' More info and booking at <https://www.anglia.ac.uk/community-engagement/inaugural-lecture-prof%20aled-jones>

CirculArt Cambridge 2018

Cambridge Carbon Footprint is hosting another CirculART trail, in which local artists who work with repurposed materials are showcased in the windows of Cambridge's finest charity shops. For 3 weeks from 7th June the public will be able to pick up a CirculART Trail map from participating shops and other select locations around Cambridge. Go to <http://circularcambridge.org/events/circular-art-trail-2018/> for further details.

CAMPAIGNS

PLASTIC

There has been a huge increase in awareness of plastic pollution, due in no small part to publicity such as David Attenborough's 'Blue Planet' programme. We have seen victories both small and large, from PG Tips resolving to remove plastic from their teabags (did you sign the petition featured in our last newsletter?!), and the pub in Bristol which is switching to using drinking straws made from pasta; to the government commitment to introduce a deposit scheme for single-use drinks containers (plastic, glass or metal), and the UK Plastics Pact whereby in April companies responsible for 80% of plastic packaging in supermarkets pledged to crack down by 2025. And more people are signing up to get their milk delivered in glass bottles - must have read our November newsletter! Will 2G3S save the world, we ask ourselves?!

Local action on packaging

There have been several responses to my suggestion in the last newsletter that you let us know of positive initiatives by local shops:

We said that **Barkers butchers, Great Shelford** are very happy if you take a Tupperware container in when buying ham, sausages, cheese etc. It turns out that **Searle's butchers in Sawston** do likewise.

Shelford Deli are now using degradable materials for their takeaways.

Dorrington's Bakers in Sawston will give you your sliced loaf in a paper, rather than plastic, bag if you ask.

Slightly further afield, **Arjuna** on Mill Road, Cambridge, routinely allow you to use your own containers for herbs and spices.

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2G3S survey – packaging and local sourcing

We have decided that we are going to do a more systematic survey of local food retailers and eateries to find out their policy on plastic packaging; and while we are at it we shall ask them to what extent they source their food locally. We hope to collate the results in time for the summer issue of this newsletter.

PALM OIL

Again, campaigns to reduce palm oil consumption, based on a concern for the loss of forests in Indonesia and elsewhere with its drastic effect on air pollution, global warming and indigenous peoples' lifestyles, have been boosted by the much publicised 'collateral damage' to the orang-utans who are losing their habitat and being killed in the process. In 2017 the EU voted to ban biofuels made from vegetable oils including palm oil by 2020. And some retailers are taking action – in March the supermarket chain 'Iceland' announced it will stop using palm oil in its own-brand products by the end of 2018. But earlier this year there was a report that the UK is pushing for a deal to boost palm oil imports in defiance of EU trends:

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2018/mar/09/uk-defies-eu-over-indonesian-palm-oil-trade-leaked-papers-show>

Partly in response to this, Rainforest Rescue have set up a petition against a free trade agreement on palm oil – go here if you want to sign it:

<https://www.rainforest-rescue.org/petitions/1132/no-to-free-trade-with-palm-oil?mtu=326768568&t=4023>

Finally, a few useful links for you:

Unhappy about increasing Google's profits? Try this search engine – with every click it plants a tree! <https://www.ecosia.org/>

Want to see when that bus is going to arrive? Look at this interactive bus map: http://smartcambridge.org/transport/map_real_time/

Have stuff you're happy to share – or looking to borrow? Try Streetbank! <https://www.streetbank.com/splash?locale=en>

Fed up with the unceasing Gloom and Doom? Take a look at 'Positive News' – the independent publication telling you about good things happening in the world: <https://www.positive.news/>

OPT IN!

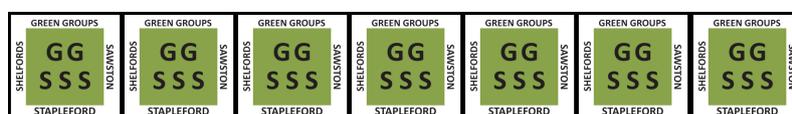
As you may know, the GDPR changes to data protection regulations mean that all organisations - including 2G3S - need to meet a new, higher standard to keep track of who wants to hear from them. From 25 May 2018 we can only send you emails (and newsletters!) if you have let us know that you want to continue receiving them.

So to continue receiving these newsletters, please send an email to greengroupssss@gmail.com with the title YES PLEASE, giving us your name – not always obvious from the email address! Thank you very much; we hope to hear from you.

The next newsletter will come out in the summer. Until then - enjoy the fine weather!

Linda Whitebread

For Green Groups in the Shelfords, Stapleford and Sawston



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