



2G3S aims to promote a positive vision of a society that enhances, rather than degrades, the natural environment on which we all depend. We hold events in our constituent villages and spread information to raise awareness of green issues and to show how we can work together, both at an individual and at an organisational level, to make changes to our way of life that will lead to a more stable and sustainable future.

Contact us at greengroupssss@gmail.com. Website: <http://2g3s.staplefordvillage.org.uk>
 Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/2G3Sgroup/> & <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1707232106228495/>

2G3S NEWSLETTER WINTER 2019

Hello everyone – and an especially warm welcome to all those receiving this newsletter for the first time. It comes out roughly quarterly; you can unsubscribe at any time by contacting us at greengroupssss@gmail.com

PAST 2G3S EVENTS

From Mince Pies to Birds-of-Paradise: a conversation about palm oil

This was our first 'Conversation Evening', held on 8 January. See our website for a report <http://2g3s.staplefordvillage.org.uk/category/campaigns/>. For a list of palm oil free products go to <https://www.ethicalconsumer.org/palm-oil-free-list> (Ethical consumer magazine, Nov 2018). A recent Radio 4 'Food Programme' about palm oil <https://www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/play/m0002lhw> comes to a similar conclusion - that we should not boycott palm oil altogether, but make sure the palm oil used in the products we buy is sustainable. More about palm oil below.

Repair Café, 2 February, Free Church, Sawston



Our Repair Café in February was great fun, with a busy, happy atmosphere! 14 repairers looked at 63 items, of which 40 were fully or partially repaired. In other cases advice was given as to whether a professional repair might be possible, or whether the item should be scrapped. Many thanks to the church, and also to Greener Sawston who looked after the catering – tea and cake being an integral part of these events!

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FUTURE 2G3S EVENTS

2G3S next social/planning evening Monday 18 March

Do join us at our informal meeting at **8 pm on Monday 18 March** at The Rose, Stapleford. We shall be in the lounge, to the left of the main entrance. All are welcome; if you'd like an agenda email us at the address above, but otherwise just turn up. I hope to put a mini agenda on the website nearer the time.

Conversation evening: Plastic Fantastic – but should we give it up?

Thursday 21 March, 8 pm, in the lounge, The Rose, Stapleford. Free; all welcome!



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Plastic is a fantastic material. It is light, easily shaped, strong and inexpensive - and it doesn't corrode. But there's a downside. Mass production started in the mid twentieth century and the vast majority of plastic ever created still exists. It is estimated that up to 12.7 million tons of plastic enters the ocean every year.

So are you worried about your 'plastic footprint'? If so, come along to the second 2G3S Conversation Evening for an informal discussion led by Elisabeth Whitebread, Programme Manager for Marine Plastics at Fauna & Flora International (daughter, since you ask!). Have your questions answered and find out how you can help.

Water – and why we shouldn't take it for granted.

Talk by Anglian Water

Tuesday 16 April, 7.30 pm, Jubilee Pavilion, Stapleford. Free; all welcome!

Representatives from Anglian Water are coming along to talk to us about how they operate, what issues they face, and the campaigns they run. Among other things they will cover:

- where our water comes from, how plentiful or otherwise it is, and how to save water
- how to dispose of waste down the sink or toilet wisely so that we don't pollute our waterways with corrosive liquids, poisons, fats, solid waste such as wet wipes, etc
- the use of 'grey water' in new housing, and whether there is any scope for modifying existing domestic water supplies to make use of waste water

They are interested in feedback from us, so come along with your questions and let us know what your concerns are.

Following this evening's talk we plan to organise a **trip to the Milton Treatment Works**. See village magazines, website or FaceBook page for details; more information on the night.

Coming up: **nature walks** in June; **Apple Day** with CPPF at Wandlebury in October. More details in a future newsletter or see village magazines or our website.

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OTHER UPCOMING EVENTS

Repair Cafés

Cambridge Repair Cafe

Saturday 16 March, 11am - 2pm, Kettle's Yard Gallery. An 'electricals only' Repair Cafe to tie in with Artist in Residence Hannah Kemp-Welch's sound-based projects with North Cambridge communities. Details from <http://circularcambridge.org/repaircafe/>

Fulbourn Repair Café

Saturday 6 April, 2 - 5pm, Townley Hall, Fulbourn Centre. Bookings open in March. Email fulbournforum@gmail.com if you would like to be sent details.

Cambridge Science Festival: Fashion the Future

Wednesday 13 March, 6 – 7 pm, St Paul's Church, Hills Road

Clothing and fashion account for 12% of global carbon emissions. Find out more and how to 'green' your wardrobe at this free event. More details from

<http://circularcambridge.org/events/cambridge-science-festival-fashion-the-future/>

CAMPAIGNS AND GREEN NEWS FROM THE WIDER WORLD

Transport

Greater Cambridge Greenways project

(extract from their newsletter 14 Feb 2019)

"The Greater Cambridge Greenways are proposals aimed at improved cycling, walking and equestrian routes linking surrounding villages with the city, creating a safe, largely off-road environment for everyone to use and enjoy. funded by the Greater Cambridge Partnership, which is investing in sustainable transport to help keep the area moving.

In the summer, we hope to consult on Greenways proposals including the Sawston route. We also aim to take the consultation results and detailed proposals back to our decision makers later on this year to ask for the funds to build the new paths."

To contact the Greater Cambridge Partnership, email: contactus@greatercambridge.org.uk

Website: https://www.greatercambridge.org.uk/?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery

Climate

On 21 February **Cambridge City Council** declared a 'climate emergency' and called on government, industry and regulators to implement the necessary changes to enable Cambridge and the rest of the UK to reach net zero carbon by 2030. Meanwhile in November 2018 **South Cambs District Council** unanimously agreed to support the transition to zero carbon by 2050 in the next Local Plan.

Palm oil

The pressure group 'Biofuelwatch' says in its latest newsletter:

*2019 will be a crucial year for stopping large-scale palm oil use in aviation fuels....We expect the International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO) to finalise its standards for 'sustainable alternative fuels for aviation'. The only biofuels that can be used in planes....are ones made from vegetable oils and animal fats...palm oil is by far the cheapest one. Sadly, there is every chance that ICAO will approve palm oil products as being 'sustainable' and 'low-carbon', despite **evidence that indirect land use change emissions alone make palm oil biofuels three times as bad for the climate as the fossil fuels they replace.***

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Plastics

Locally

- **Our Conversation Evening**, coming up on 21 March (see Future 2G3S Events).
- **Plumbs Dairy** report a big increase in people switching from plastic to glass bottles: <http://www.plumbs-dairy.co.uk/latest-news/glass-is-the-peoples-choice-in-cambridge/>

Nationally

- Here's a **Greenpeace petition** you could sign asking **supermarkets** to ditch throwaway plastic packaging: <https://secure.greenpeace.org.uk/plastic-free-supermarket-ef>
- The UK has recently unveiled plans for a bottle deposit scheme; a plastic packaging tax; and more money for weekly food waste collection. See this 'Global Citizen' article for more details: https://www.globalcitizen.org/en/content/britain-plastic-plan-recycle-2019-bottle-deposit-/?utm_source=lterable&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=UK_22_Feb_2019_content_digest_alive
- Finally, see this My Green Pod article on how a cross-party group of MPs are calling for a ban on exporting our **plastic waste** to the developing world: <https://www.mygreenpod.com/articles/turning-off-the-plastics-tap/>

Recycling and fashion

The House of Commons Environmental Audit Committee has just published its interim report on the sustainability of the fashion industry. The report is here:

<https://publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201719/cmselect/cmenvaud/1148/1148.pdf> All the main newspapers have covered this. For an article on the subject by the BBC environment analyst, Roger Harrabin, see: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/science-environment-47282136>

And don't forget the **Science Festival event** on 13 March (see 'Other Upcoming Events').

Finally, some **online publications** you might find of interest:

Klooker

"Our mission is to make sustainable products and services as mainstream as possible. If the majority of us use sustainable products, we can have a huge positive effect on the impact we make on ...the... planet, and the way in which we live and work together."

<https://www.klookerplatform.co.uk/>

Ethical Consumer Magazine

"All the information and inspiration you need to revolutionise the way you spend, save and live. Learn how to use your spending power to help change the world for the better."

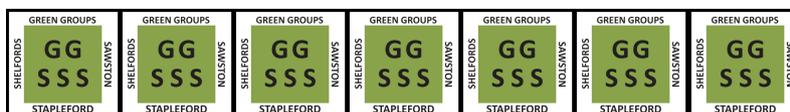
<https://www.ethicalconsumer.org/>

Ecological Citizen – journal

"An online journal that is striving to address the central issue of our time: how to halt and reverse our current ecocidal course and create an ecological civilization. Creating a harmonious, respectful and mutually flourishing relationship with the ecosphere is the basis of such a civilization. This involves preserving and restoring biological richness, ecological complexity and evolutionary potential – as well as the beauty, mystery and integrity of Earth. Nothing less will suffice." <https://www.ecologicalcitizen.net/>

Linda Whitebread

For Green Groups in the Shelfords, Stapleford and Sawston



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