

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 SPRING 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

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



Just under 20 of us gathered at The Rose in March to have a conversation about plastic. Elisabeth Whitebread, Programme Manager for Marine Plastics at Fauna & Flora International, gave a short talk and then answered questions. Elisabeth's main point was that we should try to reduce our consumption in the first instance; with the proviso that we shouldn't rush to replace plastic with something else which might prove just as harmful in different ways: better to query why we need the 'thing' in the first place. But we shouldn't beat ourselves up too much for sometimes using plastic when there is little alternative; instead try to take steps to change the system, eg lobbying MPs manufacturers and retailers to use less plastic, especially single-use plastic*. Did you know that S Cambridgeshire DC have a website about what to put in which bin: <https://www.scambs.gov.uk/bins/what-goes-in-which-bin/>.

* Note: The EU are to ban a list of items including plastic straws, plastic cutlery and plastic plates by 2021. Meanwhile the UK government is introducing measures to 'control the use' of plastic straws, plastic drinks stirrers and plastic cotton buds from April next year. For more information see <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/science-environment-48358002>

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

Talk by Anglian Water



Tom Pumfrey from Anglian Water came along to the Stapleford Jubilee Pavilion in March to talk to us about all issues water! He explained that in this area Anglian Water are responsible for waste water and sewage; Cambridge Water are the providers of our water. Tom had plenty of graphics to illustrate his talk, and we were also given electronic voting devices by which he assessed our views on a range of issues. Great fun, but there were serious points to be made. With less rainfall predicted in this region, and a fast growing population (by 2031 the number of households is expected to increase by 34%) one of the water companies' main concerns (no pun intended!) is to encourage us to use less water – ideally a reduction of 20 litres from our current per person daily usage of around 133 litres. For advice from Anglian Water on how to do this, visit their website at <https://www.anglianwater.co.uk/help-and-advice/save-water/>

FUTURE 2G3S EVENTS

2G3S next social/planning evening Tuesday 11 June

Do join us at our informal meeting at **8 pm on Tuesday 11 June** 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.

Guided Nature Walks (free)

1 Stapleford Parish Pit Saturday 8 June, 2-3pm

<http://www.staplefordonline.com/Stapleford-Cambridge-community-groups/stapleford-green-spaces>

A wildflower walk led by a member of the Friends Group. There is uneven ground on the site so sturdy footwear is advised.

Stapleford Chalk Pit is a small nature reserve adjoining Magog Downs, managed by a group of Friends under the trusteeship of the Parish Council. The pit was formed by the extraction of a hard chalk (clunch) for use as a building material and the repair of local roads. The Friends are working towards improving the rich grassland flora of the site. 70 wildflower species have so far been recorded.

Access: From the Magog Trust car park on Haverhill Road walk back down the road towards Stapleford. After 200 yards there is a signpost to the Pit just after the Gog Magog Cottages private road. Walk up the path and meet at the gate at the top. (Note there is a parking charge to non-members of the Magog Downs if you decide to drive.)

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2 Nine Wells Saturday 29 June, 2-3 pm

We shall also be visiting the Nine Wells reserve on 29 June. The name refers to the number of chalk springs that act as the source for Hobson's Conduit. This woodland reserve contains an interesting flora and fauna and is also of historic and geological importance. Assemble at the noticeboard at the entrance to the reserve. Again, sturdy footwear is advised.

(Note: there is no car parking near to the site but it can be reached via public footpaths.) Further details of the reserve, including location, can be found at the following websites: https://lnr.cambridge.gov.uk/nature_reserve/nine-wells/ and <http://www.cambsgeology.org/565-2-2>

Apple Day, Wandlebury, 1 – 4 pm Saturday 5 October 2019

(with CPPF) – more details later, but will include apple pressing, and a guided walk around the Wandlebury orchard, with information about different fruit varieties, tree care etc.

OTHER UPCOMING EVENTS

Repair Cafés

Linton Repair Café 8 June 2019 2:00 pm - 5:00 pm

Linton Village Hall, Coles Lane, Linton CB21 4JS

Toy Repair Café 15 June 2019 11:00 am - 2:00 pm

Storey's Field Centre, Eddington Ave, Cambridge CB3 1AA

Cottenham Repair Café 22 June 2019 All Day

Cottenham Village College, High Street, Cottenham CB24 8UA

Waterbeach Repair Café 13 July 2019 11:00 am - 2:00 pm

Waterbeach Barracks, High Street, Waterbeach CB25 9PA

For more information on each of these go to <http://circularcambridge.org/repaircafe/> and follow the links.

LOCAL NEWS

Carbon reduction grants

South Cambs District Council have agreed from this summer to give grants of up to £15,000 for community-based **carbon emission reduction schemes**. Examples of schemes that may attract grants include community energy projects such as solar power or wind turbines; energy-saving improvements to community buildings; tree planting; help with transport such as cycle paths, cycle racks, electric vehicle purchase for community use and provision of charging points; support for local circular economy initiatives. For a full list and more information, go to <https://www.scambs.gov.uk/fund-to-help-communities-shift-towards-zero-carbon-approved/>. And if you have any ideas for local schemes that need funding, contact your parish council, or get in touch with us at greengroupssss@gmail.com.

Greater Cambridge Greenways project

Representatives from the Greenways project will be at Stapleford Recreation Ground between 11 am and 12 pm on Sunday 23 June (part of the village weekend) with information about the proposals and to have a chat.

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GREEN NEWS FROM THE WIDER WORLD

Climate

Greta Thunberg! **Greta Thunberg!! GRETA THUNBERG!!!**

Spring 2019 has seen mass protest, from the school students' walkouts to the sit-ins and other actions of the newly-formed group Extinction Rebellion. These protests, plus the growing awareness of the climate crisis reinforced by warnings from church, business and government leaders (it's not just David Attenborough!) just might be starting to make a difference. If you are moved to join in, you might like to consider the Climate Coalition's 'The Time is Now' **mass lobby of Parliament** on Wednesday 26 June. The idea is that large numbers of people assemble at Westminster and speak to their MP, who will come out to meet them, on the need for urgent action to address the climate crisis. All sorts of organisations, from religious and environmental groups to the WI, will be there. Just google (or better still use Ecosia) '26 June mass lobby of Parliament' and pick the group you'd like to go with!

Aiming for zero emissions

Costa Rica has pledged to reach zero emissions by 2050. Scotland is aiming for 2045, but Glasgow says it will get there well before then, and Edinburgh is aiming for 2030. In the US, a number of cities have joined environmental group Sierra Club's "Ready for 100" campaign. For example, Chicago has announced a target of 100 percent clean, renewable energy in buildings community-wide by 2035.

https://www.globalcitizen.org/en/content/glasgow-edinburgh-scotland-race-zero-emissions-/?utm_source=Iterable&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=UK_21_May_2019_content_digest_alive

<https://solarmagazine.com/chicago-latest-us-city-to-announce-100-percent-zero-carbon-renewable-energy-goal/>

Natural Climate Solutions

You may have heard of the 'Natural Climate Solutions' idea, whereby global heating is ameliorated by restoring ecosystems, thus addressing two contemporary crises at once. It surfaced in a letter to world leaders and NGOs in April, signed by such luminaries as Greta Thunberg, Bill McKibben, George Monbiot, Naomi Klein and Brian Eno (??? – well yes, he does a lot of climate work). The idea makes a lot of sense, although after the initial publicity not much has been heard about it, alas. More info and a full list of signatories here:

<https://www.naturalclimate.solutions/>. There is also an organisation based in the US that provides quite a bit of background information on the concept itself: <http://naturalclimatesolutions.org/>

Reasons to be cheerful!

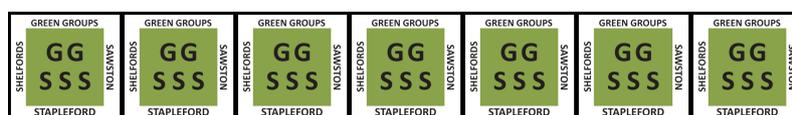
If you want a quick snapshot of some of the statistics behind the progress that has happened in the world in the past decade, see this infographic produced by Delayed Gratification, the slow journalism magazine (check out the growth in renewable energy!).

[https://www.slow-journalism.com/infographics/infographic-reasons-to-be-cheerful?utm_source=The+Slow+Post&utm_campaign=713be164c2-](https://www.slow-journalism.com/infographics/infographic-reasons-to-be-cheerful?utm_source=The+Slow+Post&utm_campaign=713be164c2-SlowPost_180105_COPY_01&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_373f3f2f3c-713be164c2-339335793&mc_cid=5db170442f&mc_eid=41b3265186)

[SlowPost_180105_COPY_01&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_373f3f2f3c-713be164c2-339335793&mc_cid=5db170442f&mc_eid=41b3265186](https://www.slow-journalism.com/infographics/infographic-reasons-to-be-cheerful?utm_source=The+Slow+Post&utm_campaign=713be164c2-SlowPost_180105_COPY_01&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_373f3f2f3c-713be164c2-339335793&mc_cid=5db170442f&mc_eid=41b3265186)

Linda Whitebread

For Green Groups in the Shelfords, Stapleford and Sawston



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