

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](mailto:greengroupssss@gmail.com). Website: <http://2g3s.staplefordvillage.org.uk>

Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/2G3Sgroup/> & <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1707232106228495/>

## 2G3S NEWSLETTER WINTER 2020

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](mailto:greengroupssss@gmail.com)

### FUTURE 2G3S EVENTS

#### 2019/20 Conversation Evenings: Climate Change

**Monday 24 February: Eco-friendly gardening at a time of climate change**



**8 pm, Cox's Close Community Centre,  
Stapleford**

No speaker this time. Come and share tips on how to modify your gardening practice to protect wildlife and adjust to a probably drier and warmer future.

**Monday 30 March: An introduction to Extinction Rebellion**



**8 pm, Cox's Close Community Centre,  
Stapleford**

We are delighted to welcome Jenny and Derek Langley from Cambridge XR who will give their personal insight into what XR is all about, followed by a chance to ask lots of questions.

If you have **ideas for next winter's Conversation Evenings**, we'd love to hear from you. As this year, we may have a theme, but we haven't yet decided. Email us at [greengroupssss@gmail.com](mailto:greengroupssss@gmail.com)

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## Visits: Heating your home with less carbon

Bill & Valerie Powell modernised their 1957 'semi' at 53 Bury Road Stapleford ten years ago. It has no boiler. Yet it became number 70 on the Sustainable Energy Academy list of 'SuperHomes', homes which achieve at least 60% CO2 reduction. You are invited to come and see how their unusual techniques keep them very comfortable, either from **12 noon - 1 pm on Sunday 9th February** or from **6:30 - 7:30 pm on Monday 17th February**. Ring Bill on 01223 843415, or just come.

## Repair Cafés

### **2G3S Repair Café: Great Shelford Free Church, Saturday 29 February, 2 – 5 pm**

Our latest Repair Café where we shall repair electrical, electronic and mechanical items, bikes, textiles, jewellery, and general bits & bobs. Watch the repairers work on your item and get their advice; have a cuppa and piece of cake while you wait. All free; donations welcome. You can just turn up with your item, but you may have to wait; it's better to book it in. Bookings will be open from 3 – 27 February\* inclusive – go to [circularcambridge.org](http://circularcambridge.org) and follow the links. This time we are immensely grateful to the District Council who have offered to fill in the online booking form for those who have no access to a computer: ring Emma Dyer on 01954 713344.

\*Please note that you may not hear back from us immediately.

Great Shelford Free Church are organising a **Swish** event (exchange of good quality second-hand clothes) at the church at the same time. Please drop off your clothes on Saturday February 29<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 for a Swish that will start at 2:30 and end at 3:30 pm. They are taking women's, men's and children's clothes, shoes and accessories. Bring along and take as much as you like. Items must be clean and in good condition. Whilst the team are sorting clothes you can enjoy homemade cake at Cara Coffee next door and catch up on other environmental activities - or visit the Repair Café! Entry is free but donations to Romsey Mill are very welcome. If you have queries, please email: [administrator@shelfordfreechurch.org.uk](mailto:administrator@shelfordfreechurch.org.uk)

### Other upcoming Repair Cafés

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

- [The Arbury Swap, Collect and Fix-Fest](#)  
15 February 9:30 am - 2:00 pm
- [Oundle Repair Café](#)  
15 February 11:00 am - 2:00 pm
- [Royston Repair Cafe](#)  
16 February 10:00 am - 1:00 pm
- [CB1's first Repair Cafe](#)  
6 March 11:00 am - 2:00 pm
- **2G3S Sawston Repair Café**: in late Spring/early Summer – watch this space!

## Planning Meetings

**Monday 17 February, 8 pm, The Rose, Stapleford**  
**Monday 16 March, 8 pm, The Rose, Stapleford**

Come and join us when we discuss the issues of the day over a drink and plan what to do next. It's all very informal! We should be in the lounge to the left of the main entrance – if in doubt, ask at the bar.

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## What hope for cooks and forests dying in Africa?

Demonstration, talk and discussion led by **Bill Powell**

Monday 27 April, Johnson Hall, Stapleford 7.30 pm. Free; all welcome



On visits to Africa 2G3S member Bill Powell was often annoyed it took so long to serve a meal. The reason was that cooking is typically done on charcoal or on wood between three stones.

Smoke from cooking kills over three million women and children world-wide. The black sooty particulates trap sunlight and are a major cause of global warming. Charcoal is cleaner but destroys forest three times as fast.

At this April talk Bill will demonstrate a clean cook stove recently developed in S Africa. These are almost as clean as N Sea gas and use only a third as much fuel. See the stacks of wood each cook needs in the picture above, from L-R: charcoal, three stone fire or a clean cook stove.

We will then discuss what we could do to help the poor improve health and fight global warming: big projects or grass root help, reforestation or other fuels, etc.

### Nature Walks

Following on the success of last year's walks, we are grateful to John O'Boyle who is going to lead some more this summer. Dates fixed so far:

**June 27 – Stapleford Parish Pit** (Saturday – jointly with Friends of Stapleford Parish Pit)

**July 28 – Challis Garden, Sawston** (Sunday – guided by a representative of Challis Garden)

Both walks will start at 2 pm for 1 – 2 hours. More details in the next newsletter.

### PAST 2G3S EVENTS

#### Conversation Evenings: Climate Change

##### **Tuesday 3 December: Fossil Fuel Divestment and why it matters**

Dr **James Smith**, Public Health Consultant, University of Cambridge, led a discussion on the importance of divestment and whether we are moving quickly enough to have a significant ameliorating effect on climate change. There was some debate as to whether fossil fuel divestment was unquestionably a good thing.

##### **Monday 20 January: Are natural disasters our fault?**

About 30 of us gathered in the Three Horseshoes to hear Bob White, a resident of Mingle Lane who is Professor of Geophysics at Cambridge University, introduce the topic of how climate change exacerbates natural disasters. Floods and droughts fairly obviously; but he also showed that volcanoes and even earthquakes are linked to the changing climate, often because of changing pressure on the earth when ice melts. A lively discussion followed.

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# CAMPAIGNS, CONSULTATIONS ETC

## GREATER CAMBRIDGE LOCAL PLAN

Cambridge City Council and South Cambridgeshire District Council are working together to develop a Local Plan for the area, to cover the period until 2040. The big themes are:

- [Climate change](#)
- [Biodiversity and green spaces](#)
- [Wellbeing and social inclusion](#)
- [Great places](#)

Further information [here](#)

Details on how to comment [here](#). The closing date for comments is **24 February 2020**.

## CAMBRIDGE SOUTH RAILWAY STATION CONSULTATION

For information on the proposals or to fill in the survey click [here](#) or email [cambridgesouth@networkrail.co.uk](mailto:cambridgesouth@networkrail.co.uk) The consultation will close on **2 March 2020**.

## AGRICULTURE BILL

You may be interested in the RSPB response [here](#)

## OTHER NEWS



### Green Shoots

This will be an occasional series which highlights any positive green developments that people have spotted in our local area recently. First up:

- As reported last time the Spar in Stapleford have started selling fresh fruit and veg from Les Ward of Cottenham. You can pick your own (mostly) and put in paper bags. Barker's (butchers) in Great Shelford have also started stocking Les Ward fruit and veg. - *Linda*
- Brickhouse Coffee Shop in Sawston use paper straws and using compostable products as much as possible, including cardboard boxes (though one sort includes some plastic because of the food it contains); card-recyclable coffee cups; wooden drinks stirrers and takeaway forks and knives; recyclable trays for two takeaway cups at a time. - *Celia*

Please send me your 'Green Shoots' items; next newsletter will be prepared early May.

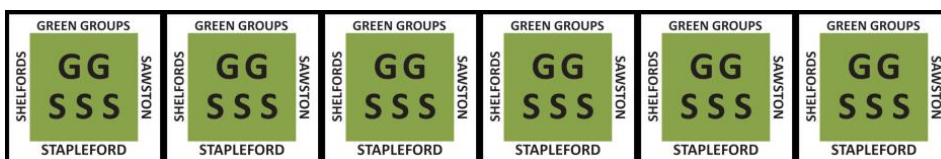
## SMART ENERGY GUARANTEE SCHEME

At last a replacement for FITs (feed-in tariffs) for small-scale renewable energy generation. From 1 January, homes and business that generate their own clean power from small-scale renewables can receive payments from energy suppliers if they export power back to the grid. To some extent, this is just a revision of the export tariff element of the old scheme.

The Energy Saving Trust commented: "... for some people, the Smart Export Guarantee (SEG) will make installing solar power an acceptable investment. However, for most, installations will remain an environmental rather than a financial decision." More information [here](#). *Peter*

*Linda Whitebread*

For Green Groups in the Shelfords, Stapleford and Sawston



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