

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/>

## 2G3S NEWSLETTER SPRING 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)

We are certainly living in a rather surreal world at present. We hope everyone is well and, if having to self-isolate, managing to cope with the restrictions. One day at a time...

Clearly the pandemic has affected 2G3S activities. We are doing what we can online: I am trying to put more on the website; Beth Atkin has taken over doing the posts to our Facebook page; and the planning group is 'zooming' away.

### FUTURE 2G3S EVENTS

#### Online screening: The Story of Plastic



We are delighted to announce our latest film show: an online screening of 'The Story of Plastic'. The Story of Stuff project was set up in 2007 to protest about our consumption-crazed culture, with a slogan of 'Better, not More'. 'The Story of Plastic' is the latest in their series of award-winning films which use animation to get their points across in a challenging but accessible way. The film takes a sweeping look at the man-made crisis of plastic pollution and the worldwide effect it is having on the health of our planet and the people who inhabit it. Coming after our Conversation Evening on plastic last year, and amid continuing concern for the amount of plastic in the environment, this is a timely topic for our latest film screening.

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We have a licence for a limited number of tickets, available via [Eventbrite](#). Ticket holders will receive a link to stream the film at least 48 hours before 8pm on Monday 18th May. The link will be delivered to the email address you supply to Eventbrite. The film is 96 minutes long, and the screening link will expire at 8pm on Monday 18th May.

After having watched the film from the comfort of your own home, you are also invited to join a follow up conversation about issues raised in the film via Zoom, on Monday 18th May at 8pm. You will receive a separate link for the zoom discussion, alongside the streaming link for the film via Eventbrite.

Do [register early](#) for your tickets, as we only have a limited number available – you can then choose when you screen the film. We hope to see many of you at the Zoom discussion on 18 May.

## Planning Meetings

We are holding an online planning meeting on **Monday 22 June** at 8 pm. If you would like to join us (by Zoom) contact us by email ([greengroupssss@gmail.com](mailto:greengroupssss@gmail.com)) and you will be sent a link.

## Guided Nature Walks

### Stapleford Parish Pit Saturday 27 June, 2-3pm

<http://www.staplefordonline.com/Stapleford-Cambridge-community-groups/stapleford-green-spaces>  
(We are continuing with our plans for this walk, but note we shall be complying with whatever social distancing restrictions are in place at the time. If for any reason we have to cancel, we shall let you know.)

A wildflower walk led by 2G3S member John O'Boyle. There is uneven ground on the site so sturdy footwear is advised. There is no charge for this event.

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. For those who came on this walk last year, it will be interesting to see how the site has developed.

Access: Try to come by foot or bike, but if you need to drive, and if the Magog Trust car park on Haverhill Road is open by then, you can leave your car there and walk back down the road towards Stapleford (note there is a parking charge for non-members of the Magog Downs). 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.

### Challis Garden, Sawston

Unfortunately we have had to cancel this trip, which was to have happened in July. They look forward to welcoming us next year.

We hope to resume a full programme of walks next year. Suggestions welcome.

## Conversation Evenings

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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## PAST 2G3S EVENTS

### Heating your home with less carbon

2G3S member Bill Powell opened his house to visitors a couple of times in February and demonstrated how he is able to heat his house without a boiler! It is possible we can repeat this event in the future if there is sufficient interest.

### Monday 24 February: Conversation Evening: Eco-friendly gardening at a time of climate change

We didn't have a speaker this time; we met in the Cox's Close Community Room in Stapleford, and over coffee and cake exchanged gardening tips. Very relaxing but also informative – many thanks to the more experienced among us who shared their advice!

### Saturday 29 February: 2G3S Repair Café: Great Shelford Free Church



Our latest Repair Café was very busy, with nearly 70 items seen of which over half were completely or partially repaired. Of the 56 people who completed feedback forms 54 were happy with the service received. The Free Church held a 'Swish' ((exchange of good quality second-hand clothes) at the church at the same time which also proved very popular.

We had a most enjoyable afternoon and thanks are due to all our wonderful repairers and the many helpers, from those providing the excellent tea and cake, to all those who helped on the desk. Special thanks to Beth Atkin, who worked tirelessly on the day but also helped with the bookings (no mean feat!). Beth is going to be our lead person on Repair Cafes in future.

Another special mention to Emma Dyer at South Cambridgeshire District Council, who as ever organised the posters and this time took telephone bookings for us from those who do not have a computer – a first for us which we hope can be repeated.

The money we raised in donations has been split between the Church, 2G3S, Cambridge Carbon Footprint and Transition Cambridge. (CCF and Transition Cambridge provide support to all Cambs Repair Cafes, along with SCDC and Mackays of Cambridge who loan out a tool box for the repairers to use.)

### Postponed events

Unfortunately the following events have had to be postponed:

(Monday 30 March): Conversation Evening: An introduction to Extinction Rebellion

(Monday 27 April): What hope for cooks and forests dying in Africa: demonstration and talk

(May/June): Sawston Repair Cafe

We hope we can put on these events in the future; we'll let you know.

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## CAMPAIGNS, CONSULTATIONS ETC

### CAMBRIDGESHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

#### CLIMATE CHANGE AND ENVIRONMENT STRATEGY CONSULTATION

The consultation closed on 31 January; the council were due to approve the strategy in March but the meeting was postponed because of Covid-19.

### AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT BILLS

The **Agriculture Bill** is currently in the Commons and due to have its Report Stage and Third Reading next Wednesday, 13 May. On 19 March the Commons also suspended progress on the **Environment Bill** until further notice.

### SOUTH CAMBRIDGESHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL: ZERO CARBON ACTION PLAN

Over the coming months the Council will be working to put flesh on the bones of their zero-carbon plans (you may remember that Councillor Martin Cahn led one of our Conversation Evenings about this last October). Now Shelford Ward District Councillor and 2G3S member Peter Fane is seeking our suggestions of how the Council can develop its low carbon strategy post-lockdown. Contact him at [cllr.fane@scambs.gov.uk](mailto:cllr.fane@scambs.gov.uk).



The section where we detail the latest 'green' developments in the area. None to report this time; but please send in items for the next newsletter by early August.

## LINKS: CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC

All the links this time relate to the coronavirus pandemic; from how our treatment of animals and deforestation have caused the problem, to how we can learn from what has happened and use the lessons of the pandemic to move towards a greener future.

[Jane Goodall's](#) take on the causes of Covid-19

Encouraging words from a (disappointingly small) number of world leaders including the UN Secretary General, Antonio Guterres, and the EU Commission President, Ursula von der Leyen, at a meeting co-hosted by Germany and the UK at the end of April:

[Petersberg Climate Dialogue: how world leaders are rallying for a green Covid-19 recovery](#)

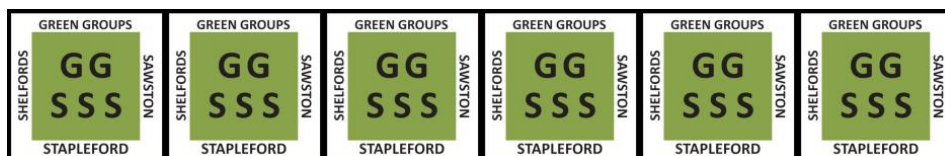
The UK Committee on Climate Change have warned the government to avoid lurching from the coronavirus crisis into a deeper climate crisis. More [here](#)

And, finally, a couple of articles from 'Local Futures'  
[5 ways coronavirus could help humanity survive the ecological crisis](#)  
[Coronavirus and the Death of connectivity](#)

Stay safe and well everyone; we look forward to seeing you, actually or virtually, before too long.

*Linda Whitebread*

For Green Groups in the Shelfords, Stapleford and Sawston: [greengroupssss@gmail.com](mailto:greengroupssss@gmail.com)



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