

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 SUMMER 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)

Despite the Covid 19 restrictions, we have quite a lot to report on this month, with one or two additional contributions from our loyal readers – I hope you make it to the end!

### FUTURE 2G3S EVENTS

<div style="text-align: center;">  <h3>Fruit and Veg Swap</h3> <p>Sunday <b>30th August</b> 2-4pm</p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;">  <p>Villedomer Gardens*, Stapleford</p>  </div> <p>Bring any surplus fruit or veg from your garden or allotment and swap it for others! If you don't have any fruit or veg but would like some please make a small donation. All fruit, veg and money remaining at the end will be given to a Cambridge based charity.</p>  <p><small>↑ The Villedomer Gardens is located behind the Slaughterhouse near the Three Horseshoes pub in Stapleford. Please bring your mask, a bag or box and remember to adhere to current social distancing guidelines. ↓</small></p> </div>	<p style="text-align: center;">This is not strictly a 2G3S event, but it is being organised by 2G3S member Sophi Berridge, and is very much in line with our 'green' principles of self-sufficiency and sharing - do support it if you can!</p>
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### Planning Meeting 8 pm, Monday 14 September

We are still meeting online because of the pandemic. It would be great to see you if you would like to come! We shall be discussing possible future events, and progress on various campaigns such as the South Cambridgeshire District Council Zero Carbon campaign; contact with Anthony Browne; local transport issues. Either stay for the whole meeting, or just drop in to say hello. Bring your own cuppa!

Email [greengroupssss@gmail.com](mailto:greengroupssss@gmail.com) with the heading 'Planning meeting' and you will be sent an agenda and the Zoom link. We hope to see you there!

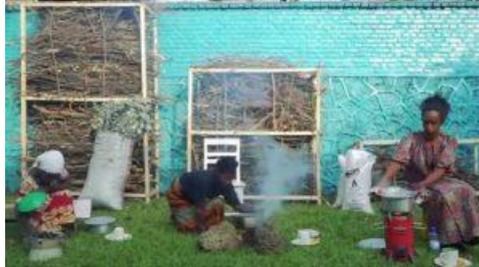
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## Talks /Conversation Evenings (all via Zoom)

To take part in any of these meetings, please email [greengroupssss@gmail.com](mailto:greengroupssss@gmail.com) with the header 'Africa Talk', 'Extinction Rebellion' or 'Sustainable Dietary Choices', as appropriate, and the Zoom link will be sent to you before the meeting. If you haven't used Zoom before there are tutorials on their website, or on YouTube.

### WHAT HOPE FOR COOKS AND FORESTS DYING IN AFRICA?

Monday 28 September 8.00 pm to 9.30 pm



**Bill Powell** was to have spoken at our April meeting about the need for cleaner and more efficient cooking methods using farm and forestry waste in Uganda, including demonstrating a stove that he had seen used. We have now arranged for him to talk to us online, show some slides, and answer questions.

Lockdown didn't only stop the UK in its tracks; it also came to Uganda, with all education closed down. This left a forestry college instructor stuck in Kampala and running out of money. Benedictor Waniala is an expert on many kinds of biomass stove and suddenly had time to work closely with Bill, who together with his family paid Benedictor to build ten large efficient family stoves of a kind also used in remote areas of Latin America. Bill will describe some of the people and cookstove projects he has been involved with in Uganda. Actual demonstrations of stoves will have to be postponed of course!

### Online Conversation Evenings

**Monday 26 October, 8 pm: EXTINCTION REBELLION**

We are delighted to welcome Jenny and Derek Langley from Cambridge Extinction Rebellion who will give their personal insight into what XR is all about, followed by a chance to ask questions.  
(This meeting was to have been held at the end of March)



**Monday 23 November, 8 pm: SUSTAINABLE DIETARY CHOICES**



With Duncan Catchpole. As the founder and owner of the Cambridge Organic Food Co., Duncan has over twenty years' experience in the sustainable food and drink sector. He is a founding committee member of Cambridge Sustainable Food and has been leading CSF's headline project of creating a Sustainable Food Hub for Cambridge since its inception.

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## PAST 2G3S EVENTS

### Online film screening: THE STORY OF PLASTIC



In May we arranged for a free showing of this film from 'The Story of Stuff' stable. We issued tickets via Eventbrite and ticket holders could choose when to watch the film; there followed an online discussion of the film on 18 May.

You can find my notes on 'The Story of Plastic' on our website [here](#).

Since then, another film, **Plastic Wars**, has been released. We are not proposing to arrange a special showing of this film, which is [readily available on YouTube](#). However, 2G3S member **Chris Cooper** has watched the film and says "Plastic Wars looks specifically at the motivation and tactics of the petrochemical industry over the past forty years. As renewable energy sources become more available, the industry is looking to switch uses of its raw materials, oil and gas, to the production of plastics. In some respects it is a better report than 'The Story of Plastic': shorter, slightly less pessimistic, and more focused on the root cause". Read Chris's full report [here](#).

### STAPLEFORD PARISH PIT NATURE WALK 27<sup>th</sup> June 2020

A group of 8 local residents had an interesting walk in the Parish Pit, sharing information on its history, flora and fauna. We discussed the importance of the high biodiversity of this small chalk grassland reserve, in relation to the greater landscape of industrialised agriculture. Many flower species were seen such as wild basil, scabious and milkwort. There were numerous yellow and black cinnabar moth caterpillars, the bright green pollen beetle and many large Roman snails. Further details of this special local wildlife site can be found [here](#)

*John O'Boyle*



Milkwort



Scabious



Wild Basil

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## THE TIME IS NOW VIRTUAL LOBBY OF PARLIAMENT, 30 June



In June 2019, a couple of us from 2G3S went to the 'The Time is Now' mass lobby of Parliament to speak to South Cambridgeshire MP (then Heidi Allen) about the climate crisis. We reported this, and subsequent conversations with Heidi, in this newsletter.

This June another 'The Time is Now' lobby was held, this time virtually, to ask that green principles be at the heart of our recovery from coronavirus. The South Cambridgeshire constituency had a Zoom meeting with our current MP Anthony Browne on 29 June. Of 40 participants, 10 were readers of this newsletter! There is a report of the meeting on our [website](#) (scroll down to 4 July) including a link to all the Q and A covered.

Three of us - myself, Claire Mackenzie (Barrington) and Darcy Simpson (Cambourne) are hoping to co-ordinate further action, and Mr Browne has already indicated a willingness to hold further Environmental Forums on a biannual or quarterly basis.

There has been a further development: on 13 August the One Nation group of around 100 Conservative MPs including Anthony Browne published a report entitled '[Building Back Greener](#)', which among other things urges the government to bring forward the ban on new fossil fuel vehicles from 2035 to 2030. There is also a chapter by Mr Browne on carbon capture and storage. It is good to see our MP getting involved in this campaign - 'Building Back Greener' may not go as far down the road to a green future as some would like, but its publication provides us with an opportunity to refocus the next 'Environmental Forum' on the green recovery and continue the dialogue.

Meanwhile, a [Climate and Ecological Emergency Bill](#) is being introduced to Parliament. It has been developed with members of Extinction Rebellion (XR), members of the successful Friends of the Earth 'Big Ask' campaign that led to the 2006 Climate Change Act, and the campaign group [Power for People](#); and has been written with contributions from prominent scientists and academics.

2G3S and XR supporter **Tony Warne** says:

"The CEE bill is well worth a look. I think that it will get a first reading on 2nd September, and it's hoped that we can get enough people behind it to make sure that it gets sufficient support for a second reading. This [introductory video](#) explains the origins and the aims, but of course XR will be supporting it with a variety of tactics. There will be a [London march in support of the bill](#) in London on Tuesday 1 September from 11:00-14:00."

*If you would like to be kept informed about these developments and possibly participate in the next Environmental Forum (we are hoping for September) email [greengroupssss@gmail.com](mailto:greengroupssss@gmail.com) with the heading 'Meetings with Anthony Browne' and we'll put you on the mailing list. If you would like to be put in touch with Tony, email us with the heading 'CEE bill'.*

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## CAMPAIGNS, CONSULTATIONS ETC

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

The SCDC Zero Carbon Communities Grant Scheme supports communities in South Cambridgeshire to take action on climate change at a very local level. Grants of between £1,000 and £15,000 were made in 2019, and the scheme is being repeated this year. 2G3S has offered to support our 4 constituent parish councils in applying for funding for a Tree Consultant to suggest sites, species, size of trees to plant, and aftercare (and next year then apply for funds to plant said trees); and to have an Energy Consultant to recommend energy-saving measures for a public building in each village.

### **GREATER CAMBRIDGE GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE SURVEY**

We weren't convinced of the value of this survey, but 2G3S member **Yasmin Emerson** coordinated a very comprehensive response on our behalf. See the report on our [website](#) dated 22 July; it links to our response and a map.

### **LOCAL TRANSPORT – WOOLLARD'S LANE, GREAT SHELFORD**

2G3S member **Jim Chisholm** proposed an idea to put a bollard or similar on the road between the two car parks, so through traffic has to go round rather than through the busy shopping area. This would allow widening of pavements to help pedestrians and enable social distancing. We have decided to do a survey at different times and days to see how much of the traffic is through traffic, and how much is just trying to park somewhere in the vicinity. If you would like to be involved, email [greengroupssss@gmail.com](mailto:greengroupssss@gmail.com) with the heading 'Traffic Survey'.

### **CAMBRIDGESHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**

#### **CLIMATE CHANGE AND ENVIRONMENT STRATEGY CONSULTATION**

No further developments (March meeting postponed because of pandemic).

### **AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT BILLS**

The **Agriculture Bill** had its third reading in parliament on 13 May, when MPs voted on a number of important amendments including an amendment which would have prevented future trade deals from allowing food into the UK not produced to the standards required of farmers and processors within the UK. The amendment was defeated by a majority of 51 – after failing to receive the support of the Conservative government, despite several previous commitments to safeguard our farming industry from cheap food imports, produced to standards that would be illegal in the UK. (from 'Farmers Weekly').

The Bill is now in the House of Lords, awaiting the scheduling of the Report stage.

**The Environment Bill** was being considered by a [Public Bill Committee](#) but due to the pandemic the sittings of the Committee have been suspended until further notice. The Committee is now scheduled to report by 29 September 2020. (from [www.parliament.uk](http://www.parliament.uk))

### **NATURAL CAMBRIDGESHIRE SURVEY**

Natural Cambridgeshire have created a [survey](#) on the role of nature in supporting people through lockdown and attitudes to green spaces.

We agreed to fill this in short survey individually. It doesn't take long!

# LINKS

A motley selection this time!

## Are You Ecologically Woke?

[A provocative proposal](#) from Gary Wockner, PhD, an environmental activist in Colorado, for ten principles to guide Ecological JEDI (Justice, Equity, Diversity, Inclusion) in trying to save the planet.

## Earth Overshoot Day

Analysts at Global Footprint Network analyse UN data and satellite imagery to estimate the planet's capacity to meet our needs (biocapacity), and humankind's footprint – or demand (ecological footprint) – on that capacity. Their analysis reveals we've been in overshoot since 1970.

August 22 is [Earth Overshoot Day](#) for 2020. That means in less than 8 months we've burned through the renewable resources it takes the Earth a year to regenerate. The good news is that this is almost a month later than last year. However, we only accomplished this by way of the COVID-19 shutdown of our economy. We need to develop ways to move the date even later – but by design, not disaster.

(from '[Growthbusters](#)')

## Changing lifestyles

### 1 Transport

You can add your views on **sustainable transport** to a [government consultation](#) which closes on **31 August**. [The Campaign for Better Transport](#) has information on this, and other campaigns.

Also on transport, read the case to end the advertising of the largest, most polluting new cars [here](#).

### 2 Wireless technology

An article from Local Futures entitled '[Ten Reasons to be concerned about 5G](#)' (and none of them relate to Covid 19!)

### 3 Fashion and clothes

A link to an Oxfam-sponsored campaign to [only buy secondhand clothes](#), and how one young woman managed to do this for a year.

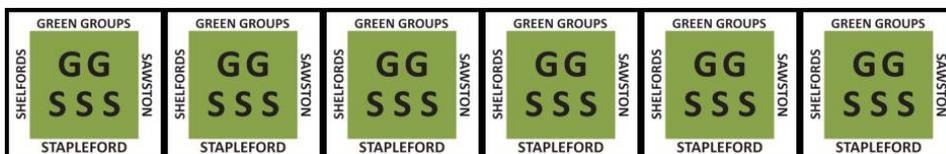
### 4 Green Villages

Finally, 2G3S is keen to promote the greening of our villages in terms of wildflowers as well as trees and open spaces. The charity Plantlife is running a '**Restore our Road Verges**' campaign. You can read more about it, and if you like support it financially, [here](#).

That's all for now. The autumn issue of the newsletter will come out some time in November; contributions are most welcome and should be with me by the beginning of the month (email [greengroupssss@gmail.com](mailto:greengroupssss@gmail.com) with the heading 'Newsletter Item'). Meanwhile, stay safe and well everyone!

*Linda Whitebread*

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



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