

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 online and 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 greengroupsssss@gmail.com. Website: <http://2g3s.staplefordvillage.org.uk>
Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/2G3Sgroup/>

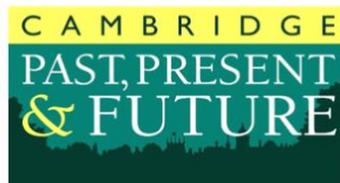
2G3S NEWSLETTER WINTER 2021

Hello everyone – and an especially warm welcome to all those receiving this newsletter for the first time. It comes out roughly quarterly; the next issue is due in May. You can unsubscribe at any time (or send items for inclusion) by contacting us at greengroupsssss@gmail.com.

FUTURE 2G3S EVENTS

These events will all be held by Zoom. To take part, email greengroupsssss@gmail.com with the heading 'Cambridge Nature Network', '8 April Planning' or 'Transport' as appropriate, and you will be sent the link (and an agenda for the planning meeting) nearer the time.

Talk: The Cambridge Nature Network
Thursday 11 March 8 – 9.30 pm by Zoom*



James Littlewood, CEO of Cambridge Past, Present and Future

To reverse the local decline in biodiversity, our nature sites need to be better, bigger and more connected. One way to achieve this is through a local nature recovery network. [The Cambridge Nature Network](#) is based on five priority areas for recovery, including the Gog Magog Hills and River Cam Valley. To be successful it will need the support of local communities, local councils, government agencies, business, landowners, university colleges and charities. Initial work is being progressed by local charities Cambridge Past, Present & Future and Wildlife Trust BCN.

James Littlewood is leading this work for CPPF, with whom 2G3S have a strong relationship. Wandlebury lies within Stapleford parish; 2G3S and CPPF jointly hosted an Apple Day there in 2019.

After his talk James will answer questions both on the Cambridge Nature Network and more broadly about the work of CPPF itself.

Planning meeting: Thursday 8 April 8.00 pm

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Talk: Transport Monday 10 May 8.00 pm

Edward Leigh, who has led the volunteer pressure group [Smarter Cambridge Transport](#) for over five years and who recently qualified as a transport economist, will talk on “a hot transport topic of the day” – to be determined! This could be, for example, East-West Rail, Cambridge South station, the South-East busway scheme, CAM, bus franchising - or will a judicial review have halted the £27 billion Road Investment Strategy? Our next newsletter will likely come out AFTER Edward’s talk, so keep an eye on the website for final details.

Later in the year

The following dates have also been pencilled in for 2021 (talks, planning, other events):

- Thursdays: 8 July, 12 August, 4 November, 2 December (Annual Open Meeting)
- Mondays: 7 June, 5 September, 11 October

Events we may arrange this year include a litter pick, running a fruit and veg swap, and arranging something around COP26 in November. We may also add in repair cafes or other events when it is safe to do so. Watch our [website](#) for news!

OTHER UPCOMING GREEN EVENTS

Anthony Browne news

Our MP’s last **Environment Forum** was on 8 October. We had hoped that he would hold them quarterly, but because of the increased needs of constituents during the pandemic he is currently aiming for twice a year. However, Mr Browne is holding monthly livestream discussions via FaceBook. Watch the 14 January one [here](#) –several green issues were raised.

The next is to be on 18 February.

Details of all his events are published on his [website](#) and social media.

You can also write to him about individual issues, or subscribe to his newsletter, at anthony.browne.mp@parliament.uk. Don’t forget to include your full address. And if you are writing on an environmental issue, do let us know.

House-building survey: In part as a response to the threatened 25,000 home Thakeham development in the southwest of the constituency, Anthony is currently undertaking a Development Survey to canvas constituents’ views on housebuilding. Click [here](#) to fill it in online, or respond to the paper copy delivered to all households, **by the end of February.**

Coping with the climate crisis

Free Webinar from the Centre for Alternative Technology, **7.30 pm Wednesday 17 February** Psychotherapist and Cambridge climate author **Ro Randall** explores the psychological effects of the climate crisis, and ways we can support ourselves and others. Spaces limited: book [here](#).

South Cambs District Council Climate & Environment Fortnight



We are pleased to promote the Council’s Climate & Environment Fortnight running **from 22 February** with a series of free webinars to help us think about how to live more sustainably, reduce carbon emissions and help tackle climate change. There will be sessions on business, farming, greening an older home, shrinking your carbon footprint, and food. More details [here](#).

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PAST 2G3S EVENTS

The Local Plan: 8 February 2021

Brian Milnes, District Councillor for Sawston and SCDC Lead Cabinet Member for Environmental Services, talked about local planning - in particular the [Greater Cambridge Local Plan](#) which includes our area and which is currently being drawn up by Cambridge City and South Cambridgeshire District Councils. There is a report on our [website](#).

Annual Open Meeting: 7 December 2020

We held our annual open meeting on 7 December – alas, by Zoom again. It will be great when we can meet in person once more! See the report on our [website](#).

Sustainable Dietary Choices: 23 November 2020

Duncan Catchpole, founder and owner of [Cambridge Organic](#), gave us his 10 top tips for food sustainability. Again, there is a report on our [website](#).

OTHER 2G3S NEWS

South Cambridgeshire District Council: Zero Carbon Action Plan

We are delighted to report that all the parish bids supported by 2G3S were successful: a tree planting consultant and a review of energy efficiency in the Parish Office (Sawston); a tree planting consultant and trees (with the Playscape Group) (Great Shelford); and an energy efficiency consultant for the Jubilee Hall (Stapleford). Congratulations to all!

CAMPAIGNS, CONSULTATIONS ETC

Laptops for Home Schooling

Great Shelford resident Mike Nettleton with others is setting up a scheme to provide refurbished laptops to local schools for home schooling. They have a small number of laptops which all have Windows 10, webcam, speakers and WiFi - fine for using the Internet and typing documents. The machines will be provided as a long-term loan.

If you have laptops you are happy to donate, or if you have a child who needs a laptop, contact Mike: mike.nettleton@eagleanalysis.co.uk or 01223 721366 / 07905 356468.

Show the Love

One for the craftspeople among us! There is a kind of soft activism called Craftivism: see Jenny Éclair's excellent programme about it on BBC4, available [here](#).

[The Climate Coalition](#) runs a campaign each February called **Show the Love**, inviting people to make green hearts and send them on a postcard to their MP to show their love for the planet/nature. You can also wear a heart as a badge or display some in your window. Find out more [here](#) – but hurry, the campaign (officially) finishes on **21 February**.



Wildflowers

The campaign group [Plantlife](#) are working to introduce more wildflowers (safely) to our road verges. For more information, and to sign a petition about this, go [here](#). Plantlife are also planning to repeat last year's 'No Mow May' campaign whereby we don't mow our lawns for a month and then count the wildflowers. Go [here](#) for more details.

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Water



Cambridgeshire chalk stream (picture from Cambridge Water Co)

The supply of water will be a limiting factor in the development of this area. Our aquifers are suffering from over-extraction for both housing and agriculture. It is also important that we protect the quality of our chalk streams: England is home to 85% of the world's chalk streams which are rare ecosystems of global significance. Cambridge City Council and others set up the Greater Cambridge Chalk Streams Project –report [here](#). The [Cam Valley Forum](#) is a voluntary group set up 'to protect and improve the environment of the River Cam and its tributaries'.

2G3S has been concerned about our water supply for a while: in 2019 we had an interesting talk from Anglian Water at which the issue of water conservation was much to the fore; and at last October's Environment Forum we asked our MP, Anthony Browne, about water supply and the environmental threat to our chalk streams. He is also concerned; his latest newsletter reads:

"Working with Water Resources East and the Cam Valley Forum, I have been campaigning to raise concerns about local chalk streams, which produce incredibly clear flows from stores of underground water that are normally replenished when it rains.

I am delighted that the Government is taking action and has created the Chalk Streams Working Group to tackle the continued over-abstraction and water shortage problems faced in Cambridgeshire."

So watch this space! For more info, see the YouTube video: '[Save the Cam](#)' presented by Feargal Sharkey on behalf of [Friends of the River Cam](#), who work together with the Cam Valley Forum.

Transport

There is a lot going on at the moment – for example, the proposed **East-West rail link** connecting Oxford and Cambridge. The section from Bedford to Cambridge is still subject to public consultation, and is a live issue in South Cambridgeshire, in particular the section east of Cambourne. This is the [official project website](#) which is advocating a southern route, which would follow the route of the Cambridge to King's Cross line somewhere east of Royston and enter Cambridge from the south. But there are two mutually supportive groups advocating a northern route: [CamBed Railroad](#) and [Cambridge Approaches Action Group](#). 2G3S position: neither route is without problems. We shall await further announcements.

Busway: 2G3S are lobbying for a pause in the process – given the current and projected effects of both the pandemic and climate change, are the arguments used to justify the project still valid? Our view is that up to 90% of our traffic problems could be solvable without it, for example by using existing buses more efficiently. We propose writing to Council candidates before the May elections. If you have views or would like to get involved, [email us](#).

And in advance of Edward Leigh's talk on 10 May, you might also be interested to read some of the pieces that Smarter Transport have produced on other issues, such as [this one](#) on **urban congestion** or [this](#) on their response to the **busway** consultation.

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Climate Crisis

The Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Independent Commission on Climate

Set up in 2020 'to provide authoritative recommendations to help the region mitigate and adapt to the impacts of climate change', the Commission is scheduled to produce its first interim report this month (February). The survey mentioned in our last newsletter has now closed, but you can find out more about the Commission [here](#).

The Cambridgeshire County Council Climate Change and Environment Strategy has now [been published](#).

Environment Bill

In the last newsletter I said that progress on the bill had restarted. Alas, I now have to report that progress did restart, briefly, but has now been halted again until the autumn.....



GREEN SHOOTS



(the section where we detail the latest 'green' developments in the area)

	Reminder that Green Weigh minimal waste shop is open in Sawston High Street, offering a range of foods, household cleaning products, toiletries and gifts. All goods are sustainably & ethically sourced and vegan/cruelty free. Use your own containers or those available to purchase in store; sustainable paper bags for dry goods also provided. A click and collect service or home delivery via their fully electric vehicle are also offered.
For enquiries, contact	
hello@greenweighshop.co.uk	
Instagram @greenweighshop	
Website coming soon	

There is also a new organic food shop called '**Harvest**' at 180-182 Mill Road, Cambridge. 2G3S supporter Maureen says: "They have an excellent selection of organic fruit and veg as well as lots of environmentally friendly products, and they also serve nice coffee and cakes. It is quite a big shop so lots of choice."

Thanks Maureen – and please, everyone, send me your items for this section!

And finally....a few links...

Just a few positive items to cheer us all up!

We could create [hydroelectric power on gentler slopes than previously thought](#).

The campaign group City to Sea on [what they achieved in 2020](#).

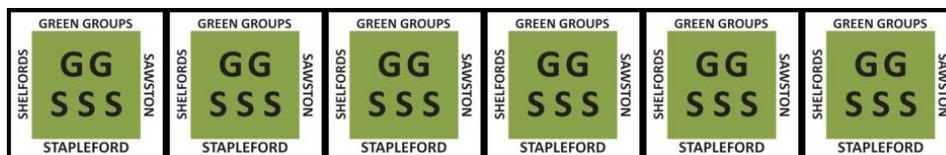
This [January edition of BBC's 'Countryfile'](#) has some lovely items about communities working together to supply local food and keep healthy.

This start-up believes [seaweed can change the world](#).

The next newsletter should come out early May; I welcome contributions which should reach me at the usual address by the end of April. Stay safe and well everyone!

Linda Whitebread

For Green Groups in the Shelfords, Stapleford and Sawston: greengroupssss@gmail.com



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