

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

2G3S NEWSLETTER SPRING 2021

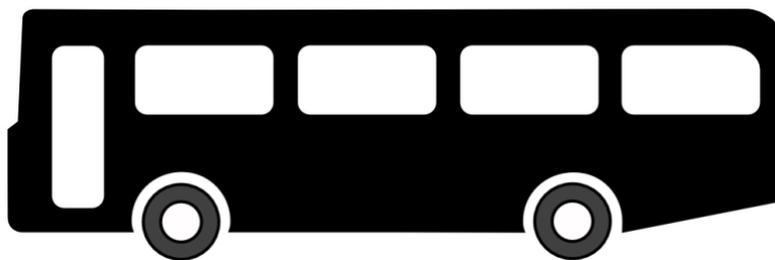
Hello everyone – and an especially warm welcome to all those receiving this newsletter for the first time. It comes out roughly quarterly; the next issue is due in August. You can unsubscribe at any time (or send items for inclusion) by contacting us at greengroupssss@gmail.com. Meanwhile, please note our exciting new section, 'Last Word', at the end of the newsletter!

FUTURE 2G3S EVENTS

These events will all be held by Zoom. To take part, email greengroupssss@gmail.com with the heading 'Bus Services' 'Planning' or 'River Cam' as appropriate, and you will be sent the link (and an agenda for the planning meeting) nearer the time.

Monday 10 May: 8 – 9.30 pm by Zoom

Talk by **Edward Leigh**
of [Smarter Cambridge Transport](#)



How to pay for better bus services?

Few people would disagree that we need better rural bus services. Franchising (re-regulation), which would make it easier to provide an integrated, consistent service, is now an option in Cambridgeshire. But to expand service provision significantly will require additional money. So, the key question is, where do we get the money from?

Smarter Cambridge Transport is an apolitical, voluntary organisation, advancing integrated, sustainable and equitable transport for the Cambridge region.

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Monday 7 June 8.00 pm: Planning meeting

Agenda items will include the East-West Rail consultation and planning for future events. If you would like to participate in our discussions on E/W rail please email 2G3S with your thoughts.

Thursday 8 July: 8 – 9.30 pm by Zoom (and potentially also in person)

Talk by **Stephen Tomkins**
of [Cam Valley Forum](#)



Why all is not well with the River Cam

Cambridgeshire has nationally important chalk streams and the chalk aquifer that supplies 97% of our public water supplies is under unsustainable pressure. Stephen will explain our ground water crisis and suggest that our own behaviour towards our water resources is the key issue.

Stephen read Natural Sciences at Cambridge and taught Biology in schools in Uganda and Cambridgeshire before moving into teacher training. With a long-standing interest in environmental education, he developed the first International GCSE in sustainable development. He now chairs the Cam Valley Forum, working for optimal benefit for us, as users, and for the river's own long term wellbeing.

Plastic Free July: what 2G3S is doing and how you can help



[Plastic Free July](#) is a campaign to get people to sign up to a pledge to use less plastic (especially single-use plastic) for July (and hopefully longer). The website includes lots of resources and ideas of how to reduce plastic use.

Apart from committing to using less plastic, we are suggesting that for PF July, 2G3S supporters might also like to help raise awareness of the campaign, and share some ideas for reducing plastic use, by hanging "labels" around our villages. The labels could include pictures with messages and signposts to Plastic Free July resources. The aim is to take inspiration from '[Craftivism](#)' to raise awareness in a passive, non-aggressive way.

Towards the end of June, we'll make labels to hang on, for example, trees in the front garden, our gateposts, nearby benches, lampposts, railings, public places, etc etc - the more the merrier. We want them to catch people's eye and get them to stop and look, and be inspired to find out more.

To start you off, [here](#) (photos) and [here](#) (whale drawings) are some examples of pictures and captions for your labels. At its simplest, you can print them off, cut up and stick the back of a picture to the back of a caption, and then hang them up in a place of your choosing. Or if you or your family have an artistic bent, feel free to apply your craft skills to colour in, write beautifully/stencil on luggage labels or card, draw pictures, or even embroider messages if you want to – but please don't use any plastic!

If you would prefer not to receive this newsletter, please email us at greengroupssss@gmail.com

Please take photos of your labels and where you've hung them, put on social media if you use it, and send your pictures to 2G3S. We will put them on local social media and our website, and in local magazines, and perhaps send them to our MP to increase the reach of the messages.

At the end of July please take your labels down! We can't be seen to be adding to the litter problem. If in the meantime you notice your labels getting tatty/falling off, it would be great if you could refresh them.

There are also email signatures, social media logos etc on the PF July website if you would like to use them.

Thank you - *Helen and Claire*

Later in the year

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

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

Events We are also planning a local litter picking event in support of the Great Big Green Week (18-26 Sep), a focus on Green Finance, a fruit and veg swap, screening the film 'The Sequel' and raising awareness of COP26 in November. We may also add in repair cafes or events such as nature walks when it is safe to do so. Watch our [website](#) or [Facebook page](#) for news!

OTHER UPCOMING GREEN EVENTS

From Ambition to Action

Carbon reduction plan: 3 seminars for businesses & organisations 11 May–8 June

[Cambridge Carbon Footprint](#), in partnership with [Investors in the Environment](#) (IiE) is hosting three, *free* expert led sessions for businesses and organisations looking for advice on how to get started on systematically addressing their carbon footprint. The [series of online seminars](#) will introduce participants to the three key areas of an Environmental Management System (EMS):

Tues 11th May 1:30 – 3pm Understanding your organisation's carbon footprint

Tues 25th May 1:30 – 3pm. Setting targets and monitoring progress

Tues 8th June 1:30 – 3pm. Communication and engagement

Cambridge Sustainable Food [Community Plant Swap](#)

Saturday, 15 May 10:00 to 12:00

Abbey People are holding their first ever Community Plant Swap on Saturday 15th May at The Hub, 15 Barnwell Road. If you have some extra plants, seeds or seedlings bring them along to The Hub and swap for some new ones. All plants and gardening abilities welcome, so if you are an avid gardener or just starting out it's a great opportunity to try growing some different plants.

(And watch out for [Cambridge Sustainable Food](#) 'Food for our Future' reducing meat and dairy campaign from Friday 16 July to Sunday 15 August)

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Talk: 'Can biodiversity make children happy?'

Monday 24 May: 19:00-20:30, online

Kate Howlett, a PhD student at the Museum of Zoology, will explore the benefits of exposure to biodiversity and green space, including how this can reduce social health inequalities, and how this could be used to improve children's wellbeing at school. She will also talk about her own research with local primary schools, what biodiversity can be found there, how these green spaces are used by teachers and what children's drawings can tell us about children's awareness of local wildlife and their favourite animals.

Tickets are £4, or £2.50 for Wildlife Trust members. Link to more info and booking [here](#).

From: Wildlife Trust - Cambridge local group.

Precious Water - Earth Optimism: to watch in advance of the Stephen Tomkins talk?

Transition Cambridge's water project, "[Precious water](#)" was in this year's Earth Optimism event, which formed part of the Cambridge Festival. The page is still available and includes several videos and lots of information, so do take a look! The videos describe and explore the effects of our consumption on the environment and what we can do about it. You will hear from Cllr Katie Thornburrow, from Cambridge City Council, and Ruth Hawkesley from the Wildlife Trust. You can also experiment with an animated aquifer and use a water calculator to see where the water goes in your home.

Anthony Browne news

Next Environment Forum (taken from his website):

*Thursday, 17 June 2021 from 16:00 to 15:00 Price: free · Public · Anyone on or off Facebook
I will be holding another **Environment Forum** on **Thursday 17 June at 4pm** via Zoom.*

I passionately believe we have a duty to future generations to stop global warming, and support the target of the UK going carbon neutral by 2050. But how best can we achieve this, both nationally and in South Cambridgeshire? Should we encourage more electric cars, for example, by requiring charging points in new build housing, and provide more charging points in the public space? Join me on the 17th to discuss these and other environmental issues.

Please register by emailing anthony.browne.mp@parliament.uk with Environmental Forum in the subject line to better identify your email. You will receive the Zoom joining details shortly after. Whilst we will have time to accept live questions on the day, it may not be possible to answer them all. Therefore, I do ask that you pre-submit questions to ensure they are answered.

Please note, only residents of South Cambridgeshire will be allowed to attend the forum, so please provide your full name and full postal address, so we can verify if you are a constituent.

If you intend to submit a question to the Forum, it would be really good if you could let us know at greengroupssss@gmail.com. As before, we are hoping to co-ordinate the questions if possible.

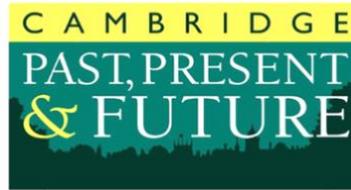
Details of all Anthony's events are published on his [website](#) and social media. You can also write to him about individual issues, or subscribe to his newsletter, at anthony.browne.mp@parliament.uk. Don't forget to include your full address. And if you are writing on an environmental issue, do let us know.

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PAST 2G3S EVENTS

Thursday 11 March Talk: The Cambridge Nature Network

James Littlewood, CEO of Cambridge Past, Present and Future



See the report on our website [here](#)

OTHER 2G3S NEWS

As you will know from our recent Newsletter Extra, we approached **election candidates** with a series of questions to help readers decide how to vote on 6 May.

We are consulting local councils with a view to introducing wildflower verges. And encouraging 2G3S members to support the Plantlife UK [No Mow May](#) initiative.

East/West rail: a small subgroup has been set up to draft a 2G3S response (consultation closes 9 June). To contribute to the discussion, contact us at greengroupssss@gmail.com



GREEN SHOOTS



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

	<p>A new business based in Duxford, using local produce, with a special offer for 2G3S supporters. Grace writes: <i>From my table to your door, Grace's Kitchen is the home of the artisan breakfast bag in Cambridgeshire. Sourcing the best local produce for you to enjoy, choose your very own bag from our hand-picked selection, delivered direct to your doorstep every Saturday morning. If you use code MAY2G3S you will get 10% off when you spend £15 or more before the end of May.</i></p>
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LINKS

A ragbag of interesting links:

- [Cambridge and Peterborough Independent Commission on Climate: Interim report March 2021](#)
- [Coffee pulp helping to restore forest](#)
- Really good news re reclaiming nature on [Redonda island](#)
- ['Right to repair' law](#) to come in this summer

And now turn over for.....

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LAST WORD

A chance for you, dear reader, to have your say about something important to you which is relevant to 2G3S. This could be, for example, a description of a green hobby, ideas for green things we could do either individually or as a group, or just an opportunity to let off steam! The item will be the views of the author and not necessarily those of 2G3S. Send 300 words (pic optional) to me at greengroupssss@gmail.com

Our first contribution comes from Yasmin Emerson, of Greener Sawston:

Car-free family



My family of two adults and three children became a car-free family at the beginning of March 2020 - what timing! Our car was failing through lack of use, so we decided to sell it and see what happened - not knowing no-one was going anywhere for a year.

It started ten years ago with the book 'Energy Glut' by Ian Roberts, which presents a compelling case for doing all food shopping by foot or cycle - for the health of the planet and us. I was pregnant with our third child, and the commitment was daunting. But actually, it made our lives easier. Except for an ethnic food shop, Sawston has pretty well everything we need. Our local baker is also a fire-fighter: rather than give money to a faceless supermarket exec, I choose someone who would literally save me from a burning building.

Families have not always had a car. Households don't always have a car now: in 2019, 17,023 households in UK didn't own a car. In 2013-14, 15% of households in rural towns had no car, and 6% of households in rural villages had no car. We now choose to use a car when it's necessary - we hired a car three times in the last year. I'm glad that fossil fuel isn't extracted in my name to the same extent as before.

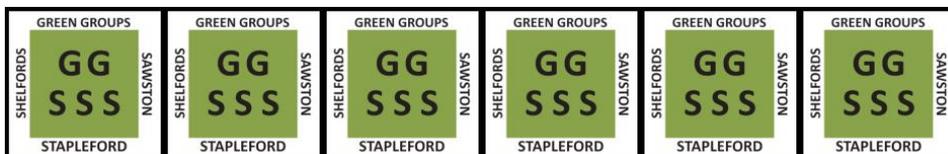
Being car-free isn't like being on a sugar-free diet. We don't stare out of the window, wondering what we would do today if only we had a car. Our world is probably smaller, but it is more detailed. We've been to beautiful places and seen intriguing things, and are all the happier for it.

Yasmin

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

Linda Whitebread

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



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