

2G3S Newsletter Extra October 2021

Upcoming events (2G3S events in red)

Cambridge Zero Carbon Climate Change Festival 15 – 20 October

From: [Cambridge Carbon Footprint](#), as publicised in the [Transition Cambridge](#) newsletter:

10:00-23:00, Online; organised by [Cambridge Zero](#), a University of Cambridge initiative.

[Over 35 events](#) are running as part of this exciting festival, which aims to raise awareness of climate change and decarbonisation through engagement between academic and broader communities. This year's festival is focusing on the important work our communities are doing in the run-up to COP26 to raise ambition and catalyse action to help make the talks a success.

Saturday 16 October 2 – 3 pm: Nature Walk

John O'Boyle will be leading another walk, this time at The Stone House, Stapleford. Further details [here](#). John is hoping to lead monthly walks – keep an eye on the website for details.

Wednesday 20 October Workshop: 'Action for Climate Justice'

7.30 pm in the Community Room at Cox's Close, Stapleford; or 7.45 by Zoom.

Come along to this friendly workshop introduced by **Katie Williams** from the UK Youth Climate Coalition. She will address the following issues:

- What is climate justice?
- How are people around the world affected by climate change, and what are they doing about it?
- How is Cambridgeshire affected by climate change, and what can we do about it locally?

This will be followed by general discussion. We want you to leave the workshop with good ideas for things you CAN do locally to make a difference (see also below*), and some recommendations for books, websites, podcasts etc for further information.

Email greengroupssss@gmail.com to reserve a place. Free; all welcome – see you there!

Thursday 4 November Film: 'The Sequel: What will follow our Troubled Civilisation?'

7.30 pm Sawston Free Church, High Street, Sawston CB22 3BG. Free; donations welcome.

This important film (about an hour) is about the vision of the late green thinker, David Fleming. He was convinced that what he termed the 'climacteric', or a perfect storm of events which will disrupt climate, nature and economic systems, is inevitable – what we need to do is create resilience so that we can rebuild society in its wake. With speakers such as Jonathon Porritt and Rob Hopkins the film is serious but not gloomy -it offers hope and a way forward. There will be time to discuss it afterwards. More details [here](#).

Email greengroupssss@gmail.com to reserve a place and receive updates about details on the night.

COP Coalition day of action 6 November

The COP26 Coalition is a UK-based civil society coalition of groups and individuals mobilising around climate justice during COP26. They are planning a [day of action](#) on 6 November, halfway through the COP26 talks. For local events, contact: cambscop26@lists.riseup.net

Saturday 20 November: Path Clearing

10am to noon, Spicers level crossing. Run by our sister organisation, Greener Sawston.

Path clearing between Sawston and Whittlesford church. Bring your own tools (broom, loppers etc) and gloves. Tea, cake and sanitiser provided.

Meet at Spicers level crossing at 10am or on the path later. Will cancel if the weather is rubbish!

Contact Yasmin: greener@sawston.org

Saturday 27 November, 10 am to 1 pm: Whittlesford Eco Fair

St Mary and St Andrew's Church, Church Lane, Whittlesford, CB22 4NX. All welcome!

Thursday evening 2 December 2G3S Annual Open Meeting

This will be a mainly social occasion with a meal at The Rose, Stapleford.

Email greengroupsssss@gmail.com for further details and to put your name down.

Cambridge Past Present and Future: regular work parties

Help care for green spaces and their wildlife - get active, meet others and enjoy learning rural practices at the same time. Every Tuesday, 10.30 – 1.00 pm. More details [here](#)

Other news

2G3S supporter Rosemary Jones has prepared a petition to the UN asking them to co-ordinate global action to **reverse the loss of reflectivity**. Effective mitigation can be inexpensive and could provide employment for thousands of the world's poor. For example, see the short BBC clip [here](#) about the effect of painting roofs white (Life at 50C: Keeping cool in India's heatwaves). Please sign the petition [here](#) and help spread the word – there are few signatures at the moment, but Rosemary says “A global decrease in reflected heat caused by melting ice and snow and the construction of roads, runways and buildings in heat-absorbing dark colours almost everywhere on the planet now accounts for half of annual warming. [Research indicates](#) that even stopping emissions immediately would not alone stop the warming for about 40 years. We urgently need to introduce measures to re-enable solar reflectivity.”

Library of Things

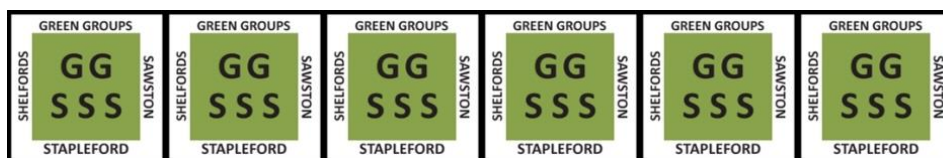
From [Transition Cambridge](#) Newsletter

A Library of Things is exactly what it sounds like - a place where you can borrow objects that you don't want to or can't buy. This helps you save money and reduce waste by affordably renting out useful stuff like drills, sound systems and sewing machines. Sharing things that we only use now and again cuts down on clutter, is more affordable, and is kinder to our planet. Things are moving fast and they could really use your help! Visit the [Cambridge Library of Things](#) campaign page, to receive news about how the project is progressing. Go to @cambridgelibraryofthings on Instagram and @ThingsCambridge on Twitter or [email](#) if you are interested in learning more.

Our next regular newsletter will be out in November. Meanwhile, please support the UK Youth Climate Coalition by [signing the open letter](#) to Anthony Browne about the [Climate and Ecological Emergency Bill](#) – preferably ahead of the second reading of the bill on **29 October**.

*And I've included again (overleaf) things you can do to help the climate and biodiversity crisis!

Linda Whitebread



Things you can do to help combat the Climate and Biodiversity Crisis

Eight ways to help the planet

1) **Start the journey!**

Nobody is perfect and the journey to sustainable living starts with a simple change. Try calculating your carbon footprint to identify where you can make changes that are easy or will have the biggest impact to start with. [Cambridge Carbon Footprint](#) (CCF) have a calculator.

2) **Look after your health and the planet in the kitchen!**

Global food systems account for 1/3 of total greenhouse emissions and the way food is produced and transported can impact negatively on nature e.g. damaging the soil and biodiversity. Small changes can make a big difference to the environment and our health; consider reducing your meat and dairy intake: 'red meat's a treat', or have a 'meat free Monday'. Where possible consider buying locally produced, seasonal, unprocessed and organic food; use up leftovers. Find lots of good ideas and tasty recipes from [Cambridge Sustainable Food](#).

3) **Reduce energy use in the home and save money**

Heating our homes and powering appliances is where we use a lot of energy. Simple changes such as remembering to put a lid on saucepans, turning off electrical items (not just using standby) and turning down the thermostat to the WHO recommended 18°C are free and easy habits to make. For lots of great ideas [go to CCF](#) for personalised home energy advice.

4) **Use Active or Public Transport where you can**

Cars and plane travel are carbon intensive forms of transport. Did you know for short distances petrol or diesel cars use 40% more fuel per km when the engine is cold, and produce more emissions? Did you know that SUVs consume, on average, 20% more energy per km than a medium sized car? Replacing short car journeys with walking or cycling benefits our own health, saves money, and improves air quality. How about replacing one car journey a week, or 10% a year, with cycling, walking or taking public transport? For more ideas go [here](#).

5) **Reduce, Reuse, Recycle!**

In that order! Everything we buy has an energy and resource cost at each stage of its production, transportation and disposal. The more affluent society has become, the more we consume, which means that each year we use up more of the planet's resources than can be replenished. [Earth Overshoot Day](#) marks the date each year when our demand for resources exceeds what the planet can regenerate in that year. In 1987 the date was 23 October; in 2021 it fell on July 29.

So buy less stuff! Do you really need it?! If so, can you get it secondhand or borrow/share? Think about whether something can be used lots of times and repaired before you buy it. Even recycling has an energy cost so should be seen as a last resort. Make your own compost, reduce food waste and support the circular economy. Watch ["The Story of Stuff"](#) for some inspiration.

6) **Help wildlife where you live**

One third of all major food crops worldwide are dependent on pollinators. Did you know that in the UK urban gardens total more hectares of land than all the nature reserves added together? If we all gardened for wildlife, just imagine what positive impact we would have, then add in all the land in verges, roundabouts etc. Native plants are best for native wildlife. Check out the [Royal Horticultural Society](#) for lists of pollinator friendly plants for your garden/window box and other top tips; and [The Wildlife Trust](#) for ideas on how to garden for wildlife. Simple ideas from mowing your lawn less to using rainwater make a big difference to the life in your garden. If you can plant a tree in your garden use the [Woodland Trust's guide](#) to choosing one, if not consider sponsoring a tree in your [community](#) or with the [National Trust](#).

7) Save water

Only 1% of the water on our planet is fresh, salt-free and available to us in streams and underground reserves. It is essential to life. We only drink around 5% of the water we use, the other 95% goes down the drain from showers, taps, laundries and toilets or into the garden. To get clean drinking water to our taps costs energy to extract it, pipe it, clean it and then pipe it and clean it again (hopefully!) before it heads back to the rivers. In Cambridgeshire the water is taken from the chalk aquifer, the ever-increasing demand for which is so high that not enough is left to flow down our rare and important chalk streams, causing them to dry up, which harms local biodiversity. Saving water is easy, from washing your clothes or flushing your toilet less to having shorter showers or installing rain water butts. Check out [Anglian Water's Love Every Drop campaign](#) for more ideas.

8) Consider Green Finance

Whatever your passions - be it anti-deforestation or opposing arms dealing - how do you know that your money is not being used to fund industries you don't agree with? Consider switching your current account to an 'ethical' bank or join a campaign to green your pension. Two websites with food for thought and ideas: [Make my Money Matter](#) and [Tiny Eco Home Life](#).

Five ways to help yourself and others

1. Talk about what you are doing

- The 'non-converted': It doesn't have to be an Earnest Conversation – a casual remark eg 'because it's better for the environment' will help to normalise this as a reason for what you are doing
- Those who are already committed to doing things: Try to touch base regularly with those who think like you do for fresh inspiration and support. 2G3S (of course!) [Cambridge Carbon Footprint](#); [Transition Cambridge](#); wildlife groups; issue-based groups such as [Cambridge Cycling Campaign](#), [Friends of the Cam](#).

2. Get involved

- Educate yourself; not just the problems but the many solutions being proposed. Loads out there: press, magazines, internet – or books. Two at random: 'There is no planet B' by Mike Berners-Lee; 'Gardening for bumble bees' by Dave Goulson. Watch out for the featured books on climate change and the natural world at Shelford Library this autumn.
- Take an interest in the news
- Sign petitions
- Write to your councillors or MP or the government
- Consider whether direct action – demos etc – is for you.

3. Engage with other people

- Smile or say hello when out walking
- People rather than profits; community rather than corporations – will be our salvation.

4. Don't be a misery!

- Have fun. Laugh with friends. Ritual, festival, celebration – all are important.
- Take time to appreciate things (remember – sing, even?! - the Simon & Garfunkel song 'Feelin' Groovy': 'Slow down – you move too fast. You've got to make the morning last.....I've come to watch your flowers growing.....').

5. Be kind to yourself and others

Do what you can and don't beat yourself up that it isn't more. It all helps. And try not to judge other people - you don't know what constraints they may be under. Lead by example!

Claire Lord and Linda Whitebread 2G3S September 2021