



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 AUTUMN 2021

Hello everyone – and as usual an especially warm welcome to those receiving this newsletter for the first time. It comes out roughly quarterly. The next issue is due in February; contributions should reach me by the end of January. You can unsubscribe at any time (or send items for inclusion) by contacting us at greengroupssss@gmail.com.

FUTURE 2G3S EVENTS

Events may be in-person, online, or a combination: if not stated, watch the website for details and email greengroupssss@gmail.com for the zoom link

Annual Open Meeting 2021

Thursday 2 December 2021, 7 pm, The Rose, Stapleford

This is an in-person event. Join us from 7 pm for social drinks and an informal review of the year. If you read this before 25 November you may still be able to book a meal (to be served at 8 pm). Contact Claire at greengroupssss@gmail.com for details.

Planning meeting

Monday 10 January 2022, 7.30 pm

What should we do in 2022? A short questionnaire inviting your suggestions has been sent with this newsletter (or follow the link on our website [here](#)). Please return the questionnaire to us as soon as you can (anonymously if you prefer) to inform our discussions at the meeting; thanks.

Conversation Evening: CamLETS

Monday 7 February 2022, 8.00 pm



Our film 'The Sequel' envisaged a society where we are less dependent on the money economy. Now Peter Pope from CamLETS will talk to us about Local Exchange Trading Schemes (LETS) which are a way for a local community to trade skills, services or goods without using money. Cambridge has had a thriving scheme (CamLETS) since 1993. People from all over Cambridgeshire can become members....or should we set up our own scheme in the 2G3S area?

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Repair Café, Great Shelford Free Church

Saturday afternoon 12 February 2022

We are delighted to be resuming our occasional Repair Cafes. Watch the website for updates.

Further ahead: provisional dates for 2022 (to be confirmed at the 10 Jan meeting):

Events: Mondays: 7 Feb, 6 Jun, 3 Oct

Wednesdays: 6 April, 3 Aug, 7 Dec (AOM)

Planning meetings Mondays: 9 May, 5 Sept

Wednesdays: 3 Mar, 6 Jul, 2 Nov

PAST 2G3S EVENTS

We have been quite active since the summer, and organised a **litter pick** and a **nature walk**, both in Stapleford. We also had an excellent talk from Pippa Heylings on **‘Tackling Climate Change and Biodiversity at a Local Level’**. Among other things, Pippa is Chair of the South Cambs District Council Climate Change and Environment Committee, and she is also lead for a national cross-party task force on climate change for all local government. Pippa went on to attend COP26 from where she hosted an online meeting about climate change and South Cambridgeshire.

More details about Pippa’s talk for 2G3S [here](#)

Unfortunately we had to postpone the **Workshop: ‘Action for Climate Justice’** planned for 20 October, but on 4 November in Sawston we showed the **film: ‘The Sequel: What will follow our troubled civilisation?’** More details [here](#).

OTHER LOCAL GREEN NEWS/EVENTS

Stapleford Parish Council have recently declared a **state of climate and ecological emergency** and 2G3S is looking forward to working with them in involving the local community in various green initiatives, for example wild-flower verges. They are holding an open Eco Social Evening to discuss what can be done at the Jubilee Pavilion on **Friday 26 November** from 6.00 – 9.30 pm. Book a place by emailing jenny.flynn@staplefordparishcouncil.gov.uk.

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!

Traces of Landscape - Stapleford Granary

Early days yet, but Stapleford Granary are planning a series of events and exhibitions in early summer 2022 with the overall theme ‘Traces of Landscape’ and have asked 2G3S for ideas.

More details as we get them; will probably be discussed at our Planning Meeting on 10 January.

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. Tuesday mornings at Wandlebury and Coton. More details [here](#).

Greater Cambridge Partnership Community Forum: South Area, Tue 23 Nov 6.00–8.00 pm

Making Connections consultation (see below for a link); brief update on other GCP schemes including Cambridge South East Transport, Foxton Travel Hub and Greenways.

To register, go to https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_HKN6ANRqTOat8G6jhlCEKg

Stop the Arc

The campaign group Stop the Arc did an alternative survey to the government’s Ox-Cam Arc Spatial Framework Consultation. With more responses than the official consultation, they found 93% were opposed to the plans and only 4% in favour. More info on their website [here](#).

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Computer recycling

Mike Nettleton has again arranged for unwanted or broken computer hardware (PCs, laptops, printers, monitors, mobile phones, ink cartridges, etc.) to be collected from his home in Great Shelford. Please contact him on 01223 721366/07905 356468 by **Wed 25 November**. He also asks that if anyone is prepared to act as a collection point in their local village to let him know. So far this year he has provided a couple of dozen laptops for home schooling, raised money for Arthur Rank and Tommy's, and prevented hundreds of pieces of hardware going to landfill.

Consultations

The **Greater Cambridge Partnership** are consulting on their proposals for public transport, cycling and walking and reducing pollution and congestion. (Also see above under GCP Community Forum). Go to <https://consultcamb.suk.engagementhq.com/making-connections-2021> and follow the links. The consultation closes on **20 December**.

Anthony Browne MP consultation on congestion charging. Go to:

https://www.anthonybrowne.org/news/join-1000-residents-and-give-your-opinion-congestion-charging?fbclid=IwAR2PLIM2gIFXx8NJBHbNVA1zV_8UkuUWmc9RRC0K9OuuA2q6m9recMSmqRw

Greater Cambridge (Cambridge City and South Cambridgeshire District Councils) **Local Plan**: currently proposes **58,000 new jobs in the area and 44,400 new homes to be built by 2041**. If you have something to say about that, go [here](#). Consultation closes on **13 December**.

NATIONAL NEWS/LINKS

The Environment Bill finally became law on 9 November. For a couple of takes on this, go to <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-politics-59225648> and <https://www.edie.net/news/11/UK-s-Environment-Bill-finally-passes-into-law-after-two-years/>

Recycling: a handy link: <https://www.recycle-more.co.uk/>

GrowthBusters: Hooked on Growth - the Movie. If you still need convincing that growth on a finite planet is not a good thing, watch this 53-minute movie [here](#). It's ten years old now (2011) but still packs a punch and is quite fun, as you can tell from the title – Dave Gardner on a one-man mission as a 'Growth Buster'! – and is now free to view. If you are already converted, tell others about it.

And finally a series of links about using enzymes and bacteria to combat plastic pollution:

[How a Plastic-Eating Enzyme is Helping Fight Plastic Pollution](#). Ocean Blue Project. 14/12/20

[The Race To Develop Plastic-Eating Bacteria](#). Forbes. 10/3/21

[The fungus and bacteria tackling plastic waste](#). BBC. 30/7/21

[New super-enzyme eats plastic bottles six times faster](#). The Guardian. 28/9/20

[A whopping 91% of plastic isn't recycled](#). National Geographic. 20/12/18

[Enzyme-based plastics recycling is more energy efficient, better for environment](#). Tech Explore. 20/7/21

[Plastic-eating enzymes trialled in Australian first to create infinitely recyclable plastic](#). News.com.au. 21/9/21

[Carbios launches industrial demonstration plant for its unique enzymatic recycling technology](#). Carbios. 29/9/2021

That's it from me; but in the wake of arguably one of the most important international meetings of our times, **COP26**, turn over to read a 'Last Word' from Katie Williams. Katie, a 2G3S supporter, was part of a delegation from the UK Youth Climate Coalition. She has come back disappointed by the official outcomes, but inspired by the dedication of climate activists from all over the world. Many thanks to Katie.

Linda Whitebread

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



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LAST WORD

Items are the views of the author and not necessarily those of 2G3S. Send 300 words (pic optional) to me at greengroupssss@gmail.com

Reflections on COP26 – from one who was there!



I was lucky enough to be in Glasgow for some of COP26 with the UK Youth Climate Coalition (a group of 18-30 year old activists from all around the UK who work to empower young people to take action for climate justice). We spent time observing the negotiations, attending events in the city, and engaging with others concerned about climate change. At the end of it all, many of us felt disappointed with the pace of change within the UN. The UK government had said that this would be the ‘most accessible COP ever’, but observers were kept out of negotiating rooms, there were reports that wheelchair users were unable to enter the venue, and many could not attend at all due to lack of access to the Covid-19 vaccine in developing countries.

Many campaigners, particularly young activists, feel the negotiations lacked urgency and ambition in the pace and scale required to tackle climate change. Wealthy countries have been slow to agree how much financial support to give developing countries as they adapt to a changing climate, and current funding commitments are insufficient. Many of the countries that have done least to cause climate change are already facing devastating impacts and lack the resources to support adaptation efforts. Additionally, urgently-needed commitments to phase out coal were watered down at the last minute.

Despite all this, we were inspired by the energy and passion of the campaigners we met. The People’s Summit, organised by the COP26 Coalition, provided opportunities for us to hear from activists from countries including Mexico, Kenya, Burkina Faso, and Senegal, who told us how their communities are being impacted by climate change. We also met with other youth groups, and organised protests on human rights issues and against greenwashing (claiming that your project or business is more eco-friendly than it truly is).

A highlight for many was the People’s March on Saturday, where over 100,000 of us walked through the streets of Glasgow to send a message to world leaders that they must act now to tackle climate change. As we marched, chanted, and danced in the crowd, we felt energised and inspired by all who had come together in a common cause. Each of those people will be going back to campaign for climate action, develop new solutions and to make a difference in the cities and villages where they live. COP26 has not gone far enough to tackle climate change, but we are returning home more determined than ever to keep working to create a low-carbon, fair and sustainable future in our communities and beyond.

Katie Williams

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