



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 WINTER 2022

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 May; contributions should reach me by the end of April. You can unsubscribe at any time (or send items for inclusion) by contacting us at greengroupssss@gmail.com.
Linda Whitebread

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

Conversation Evening: CamLETS

Monday 7 February 2022 at 8.00 pm



All welcome!

Community Room, Cox's Close, Stapleford

from 7.45 pm (refreshments) or by Zoom from 8 pm. To be sent the Zoom link, email greengroupssss@gmail.com with the header line CamLETS.

Our film 'The Sequel', shown last November, 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?! Join us for a discussion (free) of this community initiative.

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

Repair Café Great Shelford 12 February



**2:00 - 4:30 pm at Great Shelford Free Church, Ashen Green,
Great Shelford, Cambridge CB22 5EY**

Repair Cafes are **free events** (donations very welcome) where we match amazing repairers with people who need stuff fixing. The repairers are brilliant and can fix most things but there are no guarantees. Tea and cake available of course!

You can turn up with your broken item on the day, but we're usually very busy so it's **best to book it in using the booking button [here](#) from 1 - 9 February inclusive**



Bring along the following to be repaired and to pick up repair skills:

- jewellery / jewellery cleaning
- sewing repairs (clean items only please)
- small household appliances
- small electrical items
- sewing machines
- computers
- bicycles
- general bits 'n' bobs

New feature: Recycling of small electrical items

During the event we will have a recycling bin for small electrical items which are beyond repair, so that they can be used for parts or broken down and recycled. This can be used both for items that we've looked at in the Repair Café, and for others that you wish to bring along to recycle. Most small items with a plug or a battery will be accepted, including:

- Electronic toys
- Kettles or toasters
- Hairdryers or straighteners
- Cables and plugs
- Lamps
- Power tools
- Printers

We're sorry but we won't be able to take smoke alarms, damaged batteries, ammonia fridges, pressurised cylinders, laptops or screens, or items larger than 40cm in their biggest dimension.

See you there!

Planning meetings

Wednesdays 3 March and 9 May 2022, 8.00 pm

Note the dates for now; keep an eye on our [website](#) for details. It is likely that at least the March meeting will be either fully by zoom, or a hybrid zoom/in person meeting.

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Nature walks (Saturdays at 2 pm)

Our next nature walk will be at **Wandlebury Country Park** from 2-4 pm on **Saturday 19 March**. Meet by the main information boards by the car park. The Country Park offers walks through woodland and meadows grazed by Highland cattle. There are also several lengths of laid hedges of high biodiversity. Note there is a car parking charge for non-members of Cambridge Past, Present and Future. For further details, including directions & transport, see [here](#)

For all our walks, sturdy footwear is advised and appropriate outdoor wear. Note these walks are intended to raise awareness of our local wildlife sites and are open to all, though you attend at your own risk. Future walks: 16 April – Bury Farm track; 21 May – Magog Downs.

John O'Boyle

Social Cycle rides (Mondays at 10 am)



Mondays 21 March, 25 April, 16 May all starting from **Stapleford Pavilion** at 10.00 am. Join us for a leisurely ride on quiet roads and traffic-free paths of around 20 miles, to include a coffee stop. Returning to Stapleford by about 1pm. Contact me to book at greener@sawston.org
Yasmin Emerson

Other suggested events for 2022 (further details to be confirmed):

Mondays: 6 Jun, 3 Oct; Wednesdays: 6 April, 3 Aug, 7 Dec (Annual Open Meeting)

Email us at greengroupssss@gmail.com to tell us which of the topics below you would support, or to suggest other ideas. We hope that all the meetings will either be entirely in-person, or a hybrid with a zoom option:

- River Conservation and The Wild Trout Trust
- Agricultural Policy and Rewilding
- Green Finance and Investments
- Action for Climate Justice (workshop)
- promotion of reduce/reuse/recycle, eg a jumble sale or swish alongside future Repair Cafes
- workshop on 'How to shrink your carbon footprint'.

Book Club

Would you like to join us in discussing books (and articles, podcasts etc) with an environmental theme? We expect the group will probably meet quarterly, in person. Books currently under consideration include 'Climate Justice' by Mary Robinson; 'How Bad are Bananas?' by Mike Berners-Lee; 'English Pastoral' by James Rebanks; 'Wilding' by Isabella Tree. If you would like to be involved, contact us at greengroupssss@gmail.com with the header line Book Club.

PAST EVENTS

The Sequel: What will follow our troubled civilisation?

On 4 November just over 20 of us assembled at Sawston Free Church to watch this important film which imagines a thriving, resilient civilisation after the collapse of our current economies, drawing on the inspirational work of **David Fleming**, grandfather of the global Transition Towns movement. Afterwards we had a brief discussion of some of the ideas. Many thanks to the [Fleming Policy Centre](#) for their kind permission to show the film; and the church for their generous hospitality.

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Stapleford Parish Council Eco event, 26 November

Helen Hale and I went along to talk about 2G3S – who we are, what we do, etc. I have put a video of our talk on the 2G3S website [here](#). Thanks to Beth and Pete for the camera work!

OTHER LOCAL GREEN NEWS/EVENTS

South Cambridgeshire District Council (SCDC)'s Zero Carbon Communities team have announced their annual online **Climate and Environment Fortnight, 21 February - 7 March**. For more details, and to sign up for free tickets, go [here](#)

- 21 Feb: 7 - 8pm: Community Action in Response to the Climate Emergency (with [CCF](#))
- 23 Feb: 7 - 8pm: Cycling for Sustainability (with [Camcycle](#))
- 24 Feb: 1 - 2pm: Making your business greener (with the SCDC [Business Support Team](#))
- 1 Mar: 1 - 2pm: Planning for the Climate Emergency (how SCDC is planning for climate change)
- 3 Mar: 1 - 2pm: Installing Electric Vehicle Charge Points for workplaces and public use
- 7 Mar: 6 - 7pm: Post Covid Community Support Workshop (with the [Sustainable Communities Team](#))

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](#).

Cambridge SE Busway: A reminder that Anthony Browne's Cambridge SE Transport survey closes today (2 Feb). If you haven't yet completed it, please record your views [here](#).



GREEN SHOOTS

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

....except that it's clearly winter; I haven't heard of any green shoots this time. Please keep a look-out for new sustainable and eco-friendly businesses in or close to our area, and drop me a line – you'll get grateful thanks, although I-Spy badges will not alas be awarded....

INTERESTING LINKS

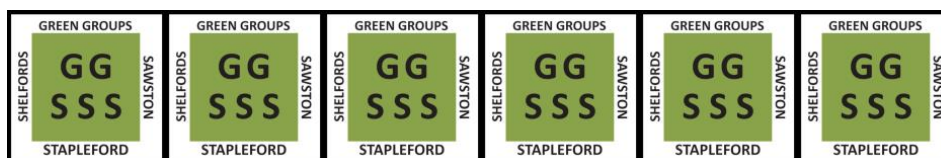
- **Is there anybody else out there?!!** The Heaton's are located in an area of Greater Manchester, NW of Stockport. They have a very similar group to 2G3S –see their newsletter, [here](#), for ideas, such as this [excellent and timely article](#) on how to **reduce our internet carbon footprint** – something we don't often consider, but should.
- If you are interested in helping to **grow extra veg to donate to local food banks**, see the Cambridge Sustainable Food initiative 'Grow a Row' [here](#).
- Have you heard about [solar trees](#)?
- Go [here](#) for a fascinating article about how Japan achieved **a sustainable but prosperous society** during the Edo period from 1600 to the mid 1800s; with implications for both capitalism and how to address climate change.

That's about it for this winter edition – except that our Last Word this time is from Charlie Hull, known to many of us as 2G3S supporter, sometime repairer at our Repair Cafes – and juggler! He talks about his philosophy of life, and his company 'OpenSource Connections', overleaf.

Stay safe!

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

Sustainability and open source



Charlie Hull

Managing Consultant at OpenSource Connections

Open source is about sharing information for the greater good - open source software, open source hardware and open data. To help conserve the earth's resources and mitigate climate change we must be able to innovate, share and collaborate in a way that doesn't just benefit single companies or individuals.

I've been on a personal journey towards improved sustainability for many years. I was an early advocate of working from home, with the travel reduction it encourages (bicycle and trains being the preferred methods when I do have to visit clients or events). The home office I'm writing in today is heavily insulated and even in the UK in October the solar panels on our roof are currently generating enough to feed some of it back to the grid while powering the creation of this article. Over the 11 years we've lived here we have made our house hugely more energy efficient, reduced our waste and resource consumption. We also grow some of our own food, avoid buying things we don't need, buy second-hand and repair everything we can. In short, we're trying to live as sustainably as we can.

The last point is something I've taken even further having been a volunteer repairer and organiser for the local [Repair Cafe](#) group. One of the frustrating things one encounters when repairing items - particularly electronics - is the lack of information, help and spare parts provided by manufacturers which often actively work to prevent repair, and I've been encouraged to see the rise of [Right to Repair](#) initiatives.

The open source movement is clearly aligned with this aim. In a recent article, Software Conservancy Executive Director Karen M. Sandler writes:

"It is important to be able to repair products we already own. Even without supply chain challenges, the forced obsolescence of devices like TVs isn't in the best interest of the consumer or even the planet. This is another aspect of what we mean by 'ethical technology.' Throwing away a TV because its software is no longer supported by its manufacturer is not only wasteful, it has dire environmental consequences."

Solutions and information need to be available as widely as possible as building blocks for change. By sharing information and technology we can make a real contribution to the creation of a sustainable society.

(edited extract from Charlie's blog, October 2021)

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