



**Green Groups in the Shelfords, Stapleford and Sawston (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](mailto:greengroupssss@gmail.com). Website: <http://2g3s.staplefordvillage.org.uk>  
Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/2G3Sgroup/>

## 2G3S NEWSLETTER AUTUMN 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 February; contributions should reach me by the end of January. You can unsubscribe at any time (or send items for inclusion) by contacting me at [greengroupssss@gmail.com](mailto:greengroupssss@gmail.com).

*Linda Whitebread*

### UPCOMING 2G3S EVENTS

#### REPAIR CAFE



**Saturday 19 November 2 - 4.30 pm**

**Sawston Free Church, 1 High Street, Sawston CB22 3BG**

Bring along your broken item and a skilled volunteer will help you fix it! We can tackle a wide variety of repairs including clothes and fabrics, electrical items, jewellery and other items (please note that we will not be able to replace cracked screens on phones or tablets). We may be able to accept some repairs on the day, but for electrical repairs in particular it is better to book in advance. This is a free event but donations are very welcome. The repairers are brilliant and can fix a lot of things but there are no guarantees.

Other features:

- Recycling bin for small electrical items
- Tea! Cake!
- Opportunities for conversation and networking with interesting people!

You can book your item in via the [booking link](#) on the Cambridge Carbon Footprint web page. Bookings will remain **open until Tuesday 15th November**, or earlier if we become fully booked.

If you would prefer not to receive this newsletter, please email us at [greengroupssss@gmail.com](mailto:greengroupssss@gmail.com)

## Dr Bike in Stapleford!



### Stapleford Slaughterhouse: A volunteer-run bike repair shed

A small group of volunteers is using the Old Slaughterhouse, next to the Three Horseshoes pub, in Church St, Stapleford, as a community bike repair shed. This is a 2G3S initiative with support from local Cycling UK members, and the local Repair Café organisation. Stapleford Parish Council have kindly allowed the use of their Grade 2-listed building for this purpose.

We will do free 'Dr Bike' type safety checks, with adjustments and minor repairs for a donation. In the first instance we will run every Thursday between 15:00 and 18:00 from 3 November until 15 December. We'll continue in the New Year, depending on demand and volunteers.

Drag that bike out of your shed or garage, bring it to us, and hopefully we can show you how we make it easier and safer to ride. Whether or not you ride regularly we will try to improve your bike with our simple checks and service. We can't do major work, or deal with hydraulic brake or electric bike issues. But normally only a series of simple things are needed to make a bike serviceable, and then it should require much less effort to ride!

*We need more volunteers, and for those with a little skill we can easily show you how to do important basic 'Dr Bike' checks, with help from those with decades of fiddling with cycles. With a little more volunteer help, even just once a month, we hope to extend our service in the New Year.*

Please do bring your bike along, and at the least we can pump up your tyres, adjust your brakes, and do a little lubrication, making your bike easier and more pleasant to ride. You will also get an opportunity to see inside this historic little local building!

Contact us either by email at [greengroupssss@gmail.com](mailto:greengroupssss@gmail.com) with 'Bike Repair Shed' in the subject line, or just come and pay us a visit when we are open.

*Jim Chisholm*

## 2G3S Book Club Thursday 24 November 8.00 pm



This month we are discussing '**Silent Spring**' by Rachel Carson / '**Silent Spring Revisited**' by **Conor Mark Jameson**. Jameson's book was published in 2012, and focuses on what happened to particularly birds in the 50 years after Silent Spring was published. All welcome – do come along having read both, either, or neither!

**Venue: The Rose, Stapleford** which should have re-opened by then. Check the website for up-to-date info or email us at [greengroupssss@gmail.com](mailto:greengroupssss@gmail.com) for latest details.

2023 Book Club dates for your diary (All Thursdays. Ideas for books welcome):

23 February: 'Regenesis' by George Monbiot; 25 May; 24 August

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## **Christmas Social**

**Wednesday 7 December, 7.30 pm, The Three Horseshoes, Church St, Stapleford**

Join us for a festive meal at The Three Horseshoes and get to know other 2G3S supporters in a relaxed setting! For more information and to book a place email us BEFORE 20 NOVEMBER at [greengroupssss@gmail.com](mailto:greengroupssss@gmail.com) We look forward to meeting you!

## **Re-imagining Our Future...Together**

**Sunday 15 January, 3.00 - 6.00pm**

**Whittlesford Memorial Hall, free tickets via Eventbrite on our Facebook page soon.**

We have been liaising with [Haslingfield and Harston Eco Group](#) and [Eco Whittlesford](#) to jointly organise a family-friendly event aimed at bringing together people from neighbouring villages. We aim to inspire each other, learn from what we are all doing and explore opportunities for synergy. It will be a fun afternoon with films; an 'imaginarium' arts/craft exercise based on the work of Rob Hopkins (of Transition Towns fame); games for kids; and a Veganuary-inspired family meal. Should be an enjoyable and interesting way to beat the January blues!

Watch our website/Facebook page for more info; and see the poster on P4 of this newsletter.

*Claire Lord*

## **PAST 2G3S EVENTS**

### **Great Shelford Repair Café Saturday 10 September**

We had 46 items for repair, of which 28 were pre-booked and the rest walk-ins. Overall, over 50% were successful repairs, with many of the remainder fixable with the right spare. All the cake miraculously disappeared over the course of the morning, as is generally the case! There was a great atmosphere with unanimously positive comments received, both on the feedback forms and from talking to people as they left. A good number signed up for our newsletter, and some new helpers have come forward, as well as several people interested in setting up repair cafes elsewhere.

*Peter Woods*

### **Green Energy: two linked talks about low carbon heating and retrofitting**



### **September: Heat Pumps and other low-carbon heating options**

**Warren Pope**, Volunteer Trustee for Peterborough Environment City Trust

Warren gave a wealth of information and links to companies supplying equipment. He stressed that we should use a MCS certified heat pump installer, and ensure their proposals meet the design spec MIS 3005 – a guarantee that the system will keep us warm and work well. He gave details about costs, longevity, and space needed outside and inside the house for equipment, suggesting alternative low energy heating solutions, such as Warmstone, Laminaheat, and infrared heaters. He also discussed hybrid systems, such as a heat pump topped up with another energy source for very cold weather.

We were advised that as the cost of electricity is now high and very volatile it may be best to wait awhile before installing a pump system, but that meanwhile it makes sense to insulate our home (borrow an infrared camera from Cambridge Carbon Footprint to check where the cold spots are) and to install solar PV if we can. That way we'll save money on bills and save carbon emissions whatever energy source we use. Then if prices settle we can decide about a heat pump.

For a full set of the slides, see [here](#).

*Helen Hale*

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## October: Less Carbon, More Comfort? Retrofitting your home

Bart Hommels, DIY low-energy retrofitter

After researching and carrying out a full retrofit of his 1940s council house, Bart has a lovely warm house that is cool in summer and doesn't emit tonnes of carbon or cost him huge energy bills. The ideal time to do retrofitting is if you are extending, or remodelling a house, so that the disruption can all happen at once.

You need to be clear whether your objectives are to save cash, save carbon, or increase comfort. The two things that do all three are making your home airtight (but with adequate ventilation), and insulation. He advocated exterior wall insulation, as it is very effective but doesn't reduce the size of your rooms, and is not as disruptive as underfloor insulation.

Further details of this extremely useful guide to retrofitting, including a checklist of cheaper and simpler things we can do, are on our [website](#). And a recording of the talk, including slides, is available [here](#).

## Strategic Planning Meeting (Planning for 2023!)

At our planning meeting in November we began to plan for 2023. We hope to continue the repair cafes, nature walks, bike rides and conversation evenings, and to try and work with other local organisations towards improving our local environment and raising awareness of how people can help minimise their impact on nature and the climate.

## OTHER GREEN NEWS/EVENTS

**Trumpington Eco Christmas Market**

• Sunday 27th November •  
• 10am - 2pm •  
• At the Clay Farm Centre, CB2 9FN •

Plantable Christmas Cards • Natural Soaps  
Macrame • Jewellery • Plants & Pots  
Homewares • Candles • Chocolates  
Plastic Free & Minimal Waste Goodies...  
Plus Lots More!

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**RE-IMAGINING** 15 JAN

OUR FUTURE ... TOGETHER

How can our communities work together for a sustainable future?  
Family (and planet) friendly shared pot-luck meal  
Short inspiring films  
Junk art IMAGINARIUM

Sunday 15 January 2023  
3pm - 6pm  
Whittlesford Memorial Hall  
CB22 4NE

FREE EVENT  
BOOKING REQUIRED

SCAN ME

A MULTI-VILLAGE ECO EVENT FOR SOUTH CAMBS

Organised by Eco Whittlesford, 2035 Green Groups in Shefford, Stapleford and Sawston, Haslingfield and Harlow Eco

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## From the Transition Cambridge newsletter:

### Saturday 19 November: Mya-Rose Craig: Birdgirl

14:00-15:00, St John's College, Palmerston Room

Meet Mya-Rose Craig, otherwise known as 'Birdgirl'. British-Bangladeshi birder, environmentalist, and diversity activist she has seen over five thousand different types of bird: half of the world's species. Mya-Rose is joined by fellow birder and award-winning nature writer, Helen Macdonald, author of award-winning *H is for Hawk*. They discuss Mya-Rose's ornithological passions and her tireless campaigning for equal access to nature, and to end the climate and biodiversity loss crisis whilst also promoting Global Climate Justice. Come and hear what motivates this impressive 20-year-old whose latest book "Birdgirl" has recently been published.

In conversation with writer Helen Macdonald. [Book tickets here](#).

This event forms part of the [Cambridge Literary Festival](#). [More details here](#).

## CAMPAIGNS/CONSULTATIONS

The Greater Cambridge Partnership (GCP) is consulting on its plans to improve travel in Greater Cambridge. This includes the now widely publicised 'congestion charge' proposals, but there is much more to it than that. Please make time to read the [consultation brochure](#) and respond with a considered view – the survey is open until 23 December.

Better Ways for Busways (BW4B), which campaigns against the GCP proposed busway from Babraham to the Cambridge Biomedical Campus through the 2G3S area, now has a [website](#).



### GREEN SHOOTS

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



Triple Kiss Designs is an eco-friendly greetings card and prints business based in Cambridge, run by Hannah. They primarily focus on plantable cards that are embedded with wildflower seeds and once planted after use, grow a selection of wildflowers for our precious bees and butterflies. Find the selection of cards and prints available on their [Etsy](#) shop now, or follow them on [Instagram](#) to see which local events they pop up at, including the Trumpington Eco Christmas Market which Hannah has organised (see above).

## INTERESTING LINKS

For 9 practical ways we can all help with the climate crisis, see this [very positive article](#) by Isabel Losada (author of 'The Joyful Environmentalist') on how to stay hopeful!

This issue's **Last Word** is from 2G3S supporter Rosemary Jones, who, among other things, says that as well as reducing emissions we need to replace dark surfaces with paler ones which reflect sunlight.

**The next newsletter** will be published in February. Contributions by the end of January please. Meanwhile, very best wishes for Christmas, Winterval, or whatever you celebrate!

*Linda Whitebread*

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## LAST WORD

A chance for readers to have their say about something relevant to 2G3S. This could be, for example, a description of a green community project or personal 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](mailto:greengroupssss@gmail.com)

### STOPPING WEATHER EXTREMES AND WILDLIFE DEVASTATION

#### Reflectivity

Some of the most relevant responses to the climate crisis are not being implemented because most people do not realise that dark surfaces absorb sunlight and pale surfaces reflect it. Even the environmental NGOs are wary of promoting what is called solar radiation management, most likely because they think it will detract from attention to reducing emissions. This thinking is untenable not least because stopping emissions tomorrow will not stop the warming process for many years.

The extent to which climate extremes are affecting people in less wealthy countries and wildlife everywhere demands we immediately apply the measures promoted by the [Cool Cities Alliance](#).

To this end local authorities need to distribute leaflets showing how to reverse the negative geoengineering of the past two centuries, measures which include making pale the dark heat-absorbing roads and asphalt-covered front gardens and driveways, and covering heat-absorbing dark roofs with solar panels or pale-coloured roof tiles - this reducing room temperatures by as much as 10C. (A pale makeover of an average-sized roof costs about £80. Insulation stops heat escaping from buildings and cold getting into them.)

#### The value of trees and their contribution to cooling

Most people nowadays are very much against ecocidal policies and appreciate that trees contribute to cooling our environments, both by the shade they provide and their sequestration of CO2. Each mature tree also supports hundreds of different species and for these reasons local authorities must stop felling healthy mature trees with the excuse they are being replaced by saplings. Destroying complex ecosystems maintained by mature trees is wrong and saplings do not have the same capacity to contribute to the biosphere's sustainability. Essential tree warden work includes planting and maintaining trees, hedgerows and different species of grasses in all available places, providing log piles for field mice, beetles and myriads of smaller insects and removing ivy from the thousands of affected trees in the area.

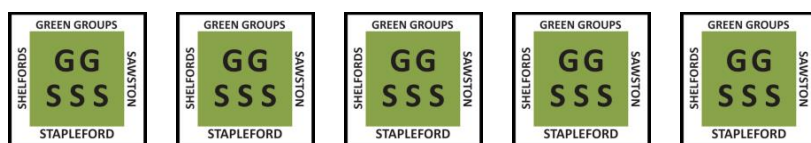
#### Community action in related areas, eg food

Councils are also in a prime position to facilitate community street leaf and estate composting and community food growing - including positioning vertical horticulture on the side walls of buildings and inside empty buildings.

See also the [Incredible Edible Network](#), which seeks to connect communities through the power of food; and the [Soil Association's](#) climate change campaign.

*Rosemary Jones*

*Retired teacher and 2G3S Supporter.*



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