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2G3S is short for Green Groups in Sawston, Stapleford and the Shelfords. You can find out more about us and our aims on our [website](#).

## 2G3S Newsletter - Winter 2023

### Editor's Note

If you are receiving our newsletter for the first time - Welcome!

If you are a regular subscriber, you will notice some differences compared to previous editions. Linda Whitebread has handed over the role of editor to me, and this is my first newsletter as the new editor.

We have updated the format of the newsletter to be more easily readable on electronic and in particular mobile devices, with working links to online resources and articles.

There is also a new email address for contacting the editor: [2g3snewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:2g3snewsletter@gmail.com)

(This is in addition to the general email address for contacting 2G3S which remains unchanged: [greengroupssss@gmail.com](mailto:greengroupssss@gmail.com)).

I would like to thank Linda for her support in helping me take the reins. Linda has been a powerful voice promoting green issues in our community, and even though she is no longer editing the newsletter, I hope we will continue to hear from her (in fact she has penned the report on the Re-imagining Our Future event in this edition as well as the "Last Word").

*Peter Woods*

## Upcoming 2G3S events

### Great Shelford Repair Cafe - 11th February

Our next Repair Cafe is in Great Shelford on Saturday 11th February. Bookings have closed early, due to the high level of booking requests, especially for electronic and electrical repairs.

We may have some capacity for walk-ins on the day for fabric and clothing, jewellery and general mechanical repairs, but you will need to be prepared to wait for a repairer to become available.

It's a free event but donations are very welcome. The repairers are brilliant and can fix a lot of things but there are no guarantees. **Tea and cake** will be available of course!

2pm - 4:30 pm Saturday 11th February Great Shelford Free Church, Ashen Green, Great Shelford CB22 5EY.

## Whittlesford Repair Cafe 22nd April

2pm - 4:30 pm Saturday 22nd April - Whittlesford United Reformed Church, Duxford Road Whittlesford CB22 4ND

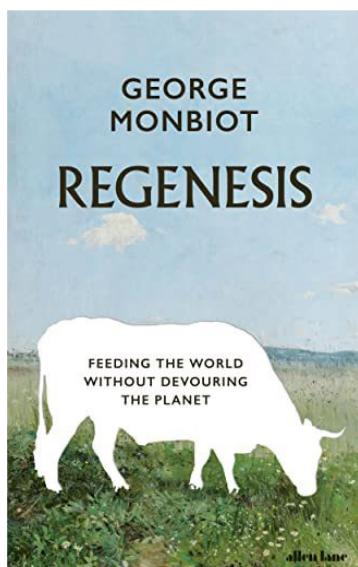


Bring along your broken item and a skilled volunteer will help you fix it!

We can tackle a wide variety of repairs typically including clothes and fabrics, electrical items, jewellery and other items. We may be able to accept some items on the day, but please note that for electrical repairs in particular it is better to book in advance. (Please note that we will not be able to replace cracked screens on phones or tablets).

Details of the event and how to book an item for repair will be issued nearer the date of the event on the [Cambridge Carbon Footprint](#) website, and on the 2G3S website.

## Book Club - 23rd February



In February we will be discussing 'Regenesis' by George Monbiot, who attended the Cambridge Literary Festival recently to discuss the issues raised in this book.

As usual with George Monbiot, this is a well-argued and challenging book. The depth and breadth of his research is impressive, and yet the book is very readable with the serious stuff being leavened with anecdote and humour. His conclusions, and their implications, are both shocking and inspiring. Do come and find out more, whether or not you have already read the book – you'll certainly want to afterwards!

If you want to join us at Book Club please send an email to [2G3S](#) with "Book Club" in the title (so we can let you know of any changes and future events).

Venue: The Rose, Stapleford, 7:30 pm

## Planning meeting

Our next planning meeting will be in Stapleford in early March - details, when confirmed, will be posted on the 2G3S website. If you have ideas for topics we could discuss, please email 2G3S.

## Dr Bike Stapleford - Thursdays 3pm - 6pm



Volunteer-run weekly Bike Repair Sessions at the Old Slaughterhouse in Stapleford, which is on Church Street near the Three Horseshoes pub.

3 pm – 6 pm every Thursday. (Schedule is subject to revision after end of February, any updates will be advertised on the 2G3S website).

We offer a free 20-point check, and we can do minor repairs for a donation (just to help us maintain a stock of commonly used spares).

Children are welcome but must bring a responsible adult with them as well as their bike. We can't work on hydraulics or e-Bike electrics.

We close at 6pm, so please try to arrive by 5:30 or earlier to give us time to check your bike.

If you are interested in joining our team of volunteers, or have any questions on Dr Bike, get in touch using [drbikestapleford@gmail.com](mailto:drbikestapleford@gmail.com).

## 2G3S social cycle rides

Our monthly social cycle rides begin again in March. Join us for a leisurely ride on quiet roads and traffic-free paths of around 20 miles, to include a coffee stop.

Here is a list of the dates for this year's bike rides:

- Mon 20 March
- Mon 17 April
- Mon 15 May
- Mon 19 June
- Mon 17 July
- Mon 18 September
- Mon 16 October

All are 10am start at Stapleford Pavilion. Returning to Stapleford by about 1pm.

Booking essential: [greener@sawston.org](mailto:greener@sawston.org)

## **2G3S Nature Walks**

Our Nature Walks are held on the 3rd or 4th Saturday of the month and start at 2 p.m. Walks are intended to raise awareness of local wildlife sites and associated fauna and flora. Participants are welcome to share their knowledge. All walks are at attendees own risk.

Here is a list of the walks planned for 2023:

- Dernford Reservoir – 18 March
- Jenny's Path Great Shelford – 22 April
- Little Shelford Community Orchard and Woodland – May 20
- Stapleford graveyard meadow – 17 June
- Nine Wells – 22 July
- Bury Farm Track – 19 August
- Wandlebury – 16 September
- Wale Recreation ground and woodland – 21 October

Please remember that dates and details may change, so we advise participants to check the 2G3S web site beforehand.

### **Nature walk at Dernford Reservoir - 18th March 2023**

Join me for an informal local nature walk around Dernford Reservoir on Saturday 18th March between 2-4 pm. The reservoir area has public access following amelioration of the former gravel quarry. There is a meadow flora around the reservoir and some interesting bird life.

Meet at 2 p.m. at the car park next to the reservoir off Cambridge Road just south of the village (Map reference TL471511). As you come out of Stapleford on the Cambridge Road you will see the Rose pub restaurant on the left. Continue over the road bridge and take the first right up the former quarry service road. Continue for 250m and the small car park is on the right.

Sturdy footwear is advised and appropriate attire for the weather conditions. Binoculars would be useful. Note these walks are intended to raise awareness of our local wildlife sites and share knowledge of the local fauna and flora, though you attend at your own risk.

*John O'Boyle*

## **Reports on Recent 2G3S Events**

### **Sawston Repair Cafe - November 2022**

Thank you to the Sawston Free Church who provided the venue for this event as well as to the repairers, cake bakers and other helpers who made it all happen.

Our team of repairers were once again kept busy by a range of items brought in for repair that ranged from broken gardening implements to mechanical clocks, and from moth damaged clothing to DVD players.

## Re-imagining Our Future Together - the Imaginarium



On Sunday 15 January 2G3S, Eco Whittlesford and Haslingfield and Harlton Eco Group combined to hold a family-friendly 'Imaginarium' based on the ideas of Transition Town founder Rob Hopkins.

We all know about the doom and gloom: in contrast, this was a chance to think positively about what a sustainable future could look like. So while the children used their imaginations to sit quietly making things, or to play vigorously in their own fantasy world, the adults were able to watch a series of inspiring films, visit the various stalls, and ultimately to work in groups to come up with lots of ideas of how to make our visions become reality.

We covered a wide range of topics from, for example, community development to transport; education to farming. The organisers have distilled all the ideas, with links to resources and further reading, into a report, and have also set up a google drive folder of resources. The plan is to strengthen the networks we have begun to set up and meet again before long, perhaps focusing on particular topics.

At the end of the day I left having had a fun afternoon making friends, eating wonderful food, and feeling more energised and hopeful about the future than I had been before I went!

If you want to know more, and perhaps participate in future events, contact Michelle Golder at [hasandharlecoogroup@gmail.com](mailto:hasandharlecoogroup@gmail.com)

*Linda Whitebread*

Additional note - This event, originally conceived as an informal get-together between three local green groups, revealed a much wider level of interest and highlighted the potential for small local groups to combine their resources. If you are interested in getting involved in a future event of this type, and helping us to organise it, please contact Michelle (as above) or 2G3S.

Photos from the event



Plenary session(left), and Claire, our convenor, crafting with some of the children (right).

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## Response to the Making Connections” Consultation on the future of transport in Cambridge

In the last quarter of 2022 the Greater Cambridge Partnership issued a consultation document on how travelling in and around Cambridge might be transformed, and invited responses from the public and local organisations.

The principal proposals were:

- From mid-2023, transform the bus network through new routes, additional services, cheaper fares and longer operating hours
- Investment in other sustainable travel schemes such as better walking and cycling links
- A Sustainable Travel Zone in Cambridge including a road user charge.

Much of the reaction to this, especially in the press, focussed on the road user charge element, even though this would only be introduced after the new bus network had been successfully introduced.

In December, we sought views from the 2G3S newsletter readership to feed into our response as 2G3S, as well as encouraging all of us to submit our own responses as individuals. Thank you to all who responded. You can still see our message on our website:

<http://2g3s.staplefordvillage.org.uk/category/campaigns/>

The consultation closed on 23rd December with over 23,000 replies received. GCP will issue a report in June taking into account the responses.

## Dr Bike Stapleford Launched



2G3S is pleased to have been able to help Jim Chisholm and colleagues launch the Dr Bike bicycle repair workshops, which are now held every Thursday afternoon between 3pm and 6pm. We are grateful to Stapleford Parish Council who have provided the venue - the Old Slaughterhouse on Church Road.

The initial pilot period which ran from the beginning of November until 15th December attracted enough customers each week to keep us busy and enough volunteers to keep it running on a regular basis, so it was decided to continue the same arrangements in the New Year (see above for details).

## 2G3S Book Club - November 2022

In November we discussed **‘Silent Spring’ by Rachel Carson / ‘Silent Spring Revisited’ by Conor Mark Jameson.**

Jameson’s book was published in 2012, and focuses on what happened, particularly to wild birds, in the 50 years after Silent Spring was published. It chronicles the development of the RSPB and its transformation from primarily trying to protect wild birds in their natural habitat from pollution,

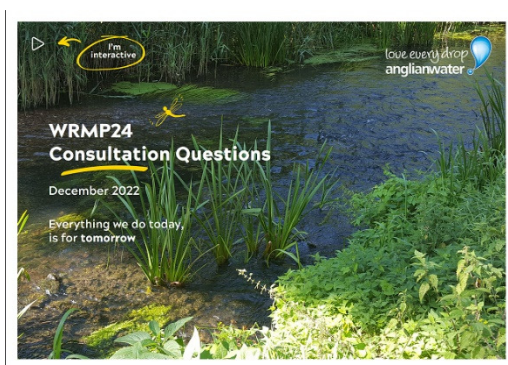
pesticides, and poisoning, to providing and protecting the habitats themselves which are increasingly threatened.

Some of the themes are all too familiar, with governments reluctant to ban materials shown to be harmful, and worrying declines noted in wild bird populations – issues which are persisting despite the warnings raised by Carson in her more scholarly work of 1962.

Our next Book Club meeting is on 23rd February, see above.

## Other Local News

### Water Quality



Anglian Water has opened a public consultation on its Water Resources Management Plan. This is open until 29th March.

[Cam Valley Forum](#) is continuing to publish reports on water quality in our local rivers, which highlight some of the problems Anglian Water and other ought to be addressing, in particular the [unsustainable level of water abstraction](#) from the Chalk aquifer which supplies our drinking water.

### Guided busway campaign

The Better Ways 4 Busways group ([BW4B](#)) are encouraging local residents who share their objections to the proposed busway to sign their online petition:

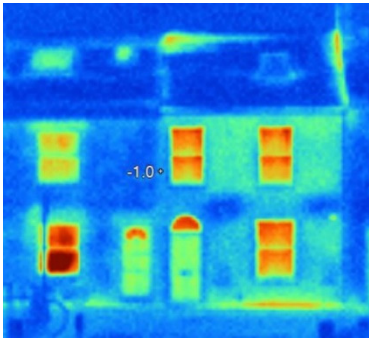
<https://chng.it/SB7xzpFJx2>

You can read more about this group and their campaign in the [Stapleford Online](#) blog.

### Home energy efficiency



Cambridge City Council has issued a [comprehensive guide](#) to retrofitting different types of property.



Cambridge Carbon Footprint has expanded its range of thermal imaging cameras, which can be used to survey houses to look for where heat is being wasted or where cold air is getting into a property, to help identify the best ways to improve the comfort and energy efficiency of the home. Several in 2G3S have attended one of the on-line training sessions and are qualified to borrow and use these cameras.

## Other news

Congratulations to **Yasmin Emerson**, who has been included in [Cycling UK's 2022 list of 100 Women in Cycling](#), "celebrating inspirational women in cycling".

Yasmin is of course also active in 2G3S and has written for this Newsletter about her's being a car-free family (See the [Spring 2021 Newsletter](#)). The image below is reproduced from the 100 women article on the Cycling UK site.



## Magog Downs Working Parties

Once a month, on a Wednesday afternoon, the Magog Trust organises a working party for volunteers to help maintain the downs with task such as clearing unwanted vegetation. New volunteers are always welcome. Details can be found on the Magog Trust website:

<https://www.magogtrust.org.uk/volunteering/monthly-working-party/>

## News from further afield

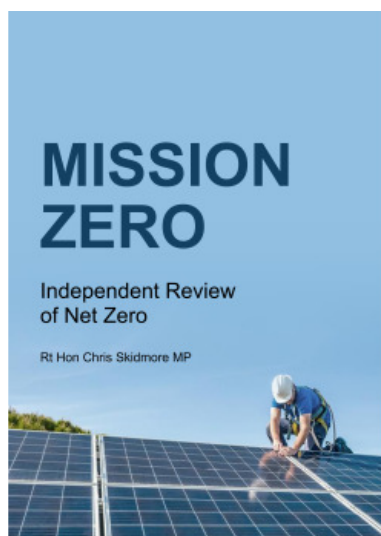


UK Charity Carbon Copy has recently launched its “[23 community actions](#)” initiative with ideas for projects we can join or getting going in our own community, with links to case studies and advice on how to go about it.

One of their examples is the [low-carbon district heating system](#) in Swaffham Prior which has also featured on BBC Radio 4's [Money Box](#) (1st Jan 2023).



On the [Carbon Copy website](#) you can also find links to South Cambridgeshire's Climate Action Plan and compare it with those of other parts of the UK.



Conservative MP Chris Skidmore has published a review of the UK's Net Zero policy. His [Mission Zero report](#) outlines the strong economic case for reaching net zero, and his concern that the UK is being left behind in this vital area. Something worth reminding our own MP about perhaps, if you are contacting him.

## Other links



Repair cafes have had quite a bit of coverage lately. For example this [BBC article on a Repair Cafe](#) in Camden.

Several attendees at the Imaginarium have recommended the [Rethink Climate](#) series which was broadcast on BBC Radio 4 in January and still available to listen to online.

A French company claims their [Acoustic Heat Pump](#) technology will be superior to ground or air source heat pumps, heating water to 80 degrees C, and produce 80% less CO2 than a conventional gas boiler. They plan to be in production by end of 2023. There's an article about it [here](#).

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## Last Word

As you know, I am handing over the reins of the newsletter to Peter, who will be an excellent editor. Many thanks to him, and to all our readers and contributors. In its new format the newsletter will be much easier to access – I hope you like it! I'm not leaving altogether, and will still write some of the content. In this issue I am using retiring editor's privilege, and contributing the Last Word.

## Ten Principles for the Twenty-first Century

It seems to be increasingly difficult to navigate our rapidly changing, dangerous world. Values and norms of behaviour shift; principles we once thought axiomatic now seem open to question and nuance. People of faith have their own guidance, such as the Ten Commandments. Others have offered advice, such as green-thinker Ernest Callenbach and his [Ten Commandments of Mother Earth](#); the Avaaz group on [principles for 2020](#); and of course philosophers – for example (randomly) Socrates on [how to deal with gossip](#). All worth a look. But I thought I'd have a go at writing my own, green-tinged, maxims. I tried to distil them into 'ten commandments' but it was very difficult (both to write and to live up to!) – can you do better?

### People

1 Cherish family and friends. But also care for other people: 'we are more alike, my friends, than we are unlike' (Maya Angelou)

2 Challenge yourself; cooperate with others to build strong communities

3 Do your best to lead by example; do not rush to judge yourself or other people

### Planet

4 Work with nature, not against it; respect the rights of other living creatures and future generations

5 Tread lightly on the earth: share, conserve, reuse, repair, recycle

6 Get out there! Enjoy and love nature

### General

7 Celebrate diversity: biodiversity; ethnic diversity; religious and cultural diversity

8 Better not more

9 Real more than virtual: we are human beings, not robots. Maximise physical contact with others and with the natural world to keep grounded and be reminded of what's important. Get a hobby and be creative.

10 Lighten up! – 'laughter the best medicine'. Laugh at yourself; with others. Be playful; smile and be happy.

*Linda Whitebread*

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The editor welcomes ideas and copy by email, for inclusion in future newsletters. The next edition will be due in May - please send contributions to the editor before the end of April.

We encourage you to let us know what you think about our new format - contact the editor via [2g3newsletter@gmail.com](mailto:2g3newsletter@gmail.com).





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