



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

2G3S Newsletter - Autumn 2023

Editor's Comments

We bid farewell to our former Convenor, Claire Lord, who has recently moved away from the local area. Claire has done a huge amount for 2G3S and local green initiatives in the time she has been with us, culminating in co-organising the successful Reimagining Community Energy Event held in Whittlesford on 22nd October. We will miss her energy and enthusiasm, and we wish her the very best in her new home.

We are changing our email contact - the [email address for general enquiries to 2G3S](#) is now "mail2G3S@gmail.com". You can also [contact the newsletter editor](#) with newsletter specific enquiries using "2G3Snewsletter@gmail.com". (I've used capitals for 2G3S but email addresses don't distinguish between upper and lower case).

Peter Woods

Upcoming 2G3S events

Here is a brief summary of 2G3S and related events in the next 3 months:

November

Monday 13th November - **Conversation evening** at Little Shelford Memorial Hall

Saturday 18th November - **Repair Cafe** at the Sawston Free Church

Tuesday 21st November - **Book Club** at the Three Horseshoes in Stapleford

December

Monday 11th December - **South Cambs Organic Gardeners** at Cox's Close in Stapleford (*organised by South Cambs Organic Gardeners*)

January

Monday 29th January - **Conversation evening** at Great Shelford Free Church

Further details on each of our events appears below.

Retrofitting for Energy Savings and Financial Relief



Little Shelford Memorial Hall

Monday November 13th 8:00 pm

Are you feeling the pinch of rising energy bills and the ever-increasing cost of living?

Discover practical solutions to help you control your expenses and reduce your environmental footprint at our upcoming conversation evening, entitled 'Retrofitting for Energy Savings and Financial Relief'. This will include:

- government grants and incentives
- state-of-the-art infrared imaging
- cost-effective retrofitting strategies
- sustainable living solutions
- interactive discussion session

Join us for an enlightening session featuring our speaker from [Cambridge Carbon Footprint](#), a renowned expert in sustainable living and energy efficiency. Whether you're a homeowner looking to improve your property's value, a landlord or a tenant searching for cost-effective ways to save energy, this event is for you.

Repair Cafe at the Sawston Free Church - 18th November



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

Saturday 18th November 2pm - 5pm

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, electronics and other items. (Please note that we will not be able to replace cracked screens on phones or tablets). The repairers are brilliant and can fix a lot of things but there are no guarantees.

Booking is highly recommended to avoid a long wait on the day, and to make things fair we politely request only one item per person. We ask all repairees to read and sign our repair agreement as we are all volunteers.

Please book your item using the following link:

bit.ly/3R6TUiD

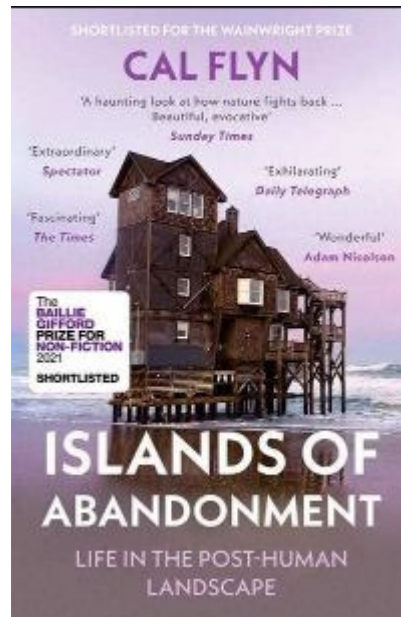
Bookings are open until Monday 13th November,

It's a free event but donations are very welcome. Tea and cake will be available of course!

We are grateful to the Sawston Free Church for providing the venue for this event.

If you have any questions, please email 2G3Srepaircafes@gmail.com

Book Club - Tuesday 21st November



We will be meeting on 21st November to discuss “Islands of Abandonment” by Cal Flynn.

The author gives first-hand accounts of her sometimes perilous visits to places around the world that for different reasons have become depopulated and abandoned by human society, to witness how they become unintended habitats for wild plants and animals and develop their own ecosystems.

These abandonments are in some cases the unintended results of actions by our species (including acts of war, social inequality, pollution) and in others caused by natural disaster, but the speed at which nature regenerates in all these spaces is astonishing.

The conclusions are mixed - on the one hand it is heartening that nature can occupy and thrive even in seemingly inhospitable and "unnatural" landscapes, without any help from us - but there is also a feeling of foreboding that our populated spaces are increasingly at risk of becoming future examples of abandonment as climate breakdown continues.

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). We meet roughly every 3 months. The next book club meeting after November will be on 20th February. Book for discussion then will be decided at our November get together.

Venue: The Three Horseshoes, Stapleford, 8pm.

Going Green at Home - a Series of Conversation Evenings

Following on from our September event in Sawston, and the November evening in Little Shelford detailed above, we are planning two further sessions on the general topic of saving money and at the same time reducing carbon emissions, at home:

Monday 29th January - Great Shelford Free Church: Sustainable Food

Our first conversation evening of the new year will be on Monday 29th January at Great Shelford Free Church, and will be led by Cambridge Sustainable Food. Find out how to lighten your carbon footprint through the food you eat.

March - Stapleford: What should you consider if thinking of buying your next vehicle? It's a weighty decision, and there are some options you might not have considered....

Check on our [website](#) for further details of these events nearer the event date.

Dr Bike Stapleford - Tuesdays 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 – 5:30 pm every Tuesday.

We offer a free 23-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.

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

2G3S Nature walks and Social Cycle Rides

Our nature walks and cycle rides will resume in the spring.

Other Local Events

This is a compendium of other up-coming events in our area.

About the The Fenland Regeneration Programme - an online event



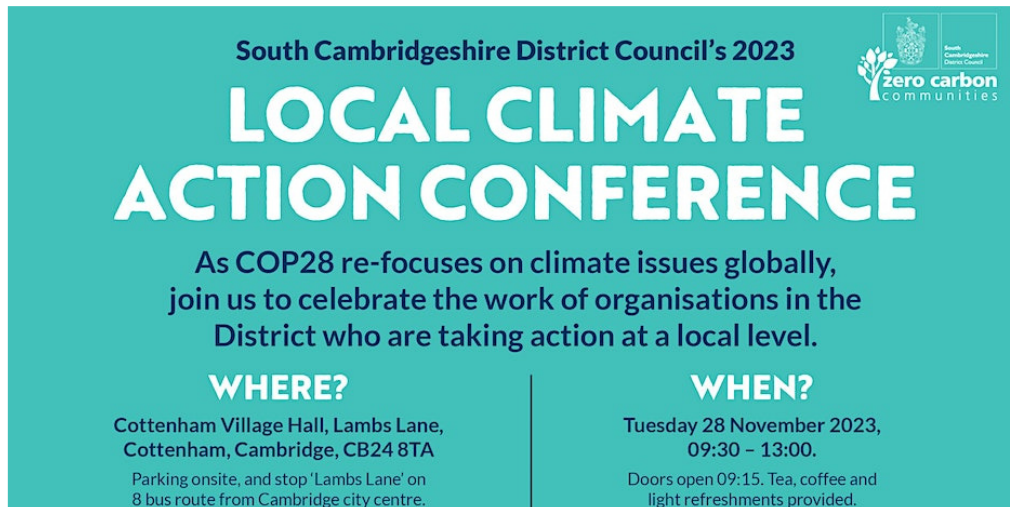
Online event - Thursday 2nd November 7:30 pm

Registration via [Eventbrite](#)

The Fens are in trouble. The area is key for UK food production but draining the soil has exposed peat to the air so it is now a UK hot spot for carbon emissions. Plus the loss of carbon from the soil reduces fertility, and increases the likelihood of flooding. Fixing the emissions and improving biodiversity while still producing food is hard. Shailaja Fennell will explain how the [Fenland Regeneration Programme](#) (Not the Great Fen Project) is working with communities to develop solutions.

Organised by [Transition Cambridge](#).

South Cambs Climate Action Conference



The poster is teal with white and dark teal text. At the top left, it says 'South Cambridgeshire District Council's 2023'. In the top right corner is the council's crest and the 'zero carbon communities' logo. The main title 'LOCAL CLIMATE ACTION CONFERENCE' is in large, bold, white capital letters. Below it, a dark teal box contains white text: 'As COP28 re-focuses on climate issues globally, join us to celebrate the work of organisations in the District who are taking action at a local level.' The bottom is split into two columns. The left column, under the heading 'WHERE?', lists the venue 'Cottenham Village Hall, Lambs Lane, Cottenham, Cambridge, CB24 8TA' and parking information. The right column, under the heading 'WHEN?', lists the date 'Tuesday 28 November 2023, 09:30 – 13:00' and refreshment details.

South Cambridgeshire District Council's 2023

LOCAL CLIMATE ACTION CONFERENCE

As COP28 re-focuses on climate issues globally, join us to celebrate the work of organisations in the District who are taking action at a local level.

WHERE?

Cottenham Village Hall, Lambs Lane,
Cottenham, Cambridge, CB24 8TA

Parking onsite, and stop 'Lambs Lane' on
8 bus route from Cambridge city centre.

WHEN?

Tuesday 28 November 2023,
09:30 – 13:00.

Doors open 09:15. Tea, coffee and
light refreshments provided.

South Cambridgeshire District Council is holding its first Climate Action Conference in Cottenham on 28th November, to tie in with COP-28.

As COP28 re-focuses on climate issues globally, this conference will celebrate the work of organisations in South Cambridgeshire who are taking action at a local level. Free and open to the public – seats are limited, so sign up now!

Doors open 09:15 for a 09:30 start.

Light refreshments provided.

Some parking onsite, and stop 'Lambs Lane' on the Citi 8 bus route from Cambridge city centre.

Speakers:

- Helen Dye, Natural Cambridgeshire: 'Creating a Local Nature Recovery Strategy for Cambridge and Peterborough'.
- Malcolm Bird, Steeple Morden Parish Council: 'Community EV Charging'.
- Chris Parkin, Cambridgeshire County Council: 'Making Sure Communities Benefit from the Energy Transition'.
- Ashley Arbon, Ecologist: 'Tree Planting for Nature Recovery'.
- Keith Honnor, Girton Parish Council: 'Girton Local Nature Recovery'.

Attendance is free, but you must register with Eventbrite in advance, using the [Eventbrite booking page](#) for this event.

Open Letter on Sustainable Travel

As a group 2G3S supported the CDP's Sustainable Travel Zone proposals, which as you know have now been abandoned. A group called Cambridge Parents for Sustainable Travel are still pressing for some positive action; some of us signed the open letter they recently sent to the political decision-makers (you can still sign this, and/or write to your County Councillor. The CPST say "Our open letter expresses our disappointment at the failure of our politicians to support the Sustainable Travel Zone or any alternative plan to decongest our City. There has so far been no answer from councillors. We need to pile on the pressure and let them know that doing nothing is not an option. Please [share the letter](#) with family and friends encouraging them to sign".

Trumpington Eco Christmas Market



On the subject of Christmas gifts, Greenmatch (a company who match up homeowners wanting retrofits with installers) offer have an [item on their blog](#) encouraging all of us to consider environmentally friendly presents.

Reports on Recent 2G3S Events

Planet Local: A Quiet Revolution

On 15 October we arranged a film evening in Whittlesford as a joint venture with Whittlesford Eco. We started with a short: 'The Story of Solutions', which in the entertaining way we have come to expect from 'The Story of Stuff' stable, put the idea that our economic goal should not be 'More', but 'Better', and that we should work together to establish an alternative way of doing things more conducive the health of both ourselves and the planet.

Our main film, the 'Local Futures' documentary 'Planet Local', started with a similar premise and criticised the way the world economy is currently set up to prioritise big over small, standard over diverse, exploitative over sustainable. But then it went on to show how communities all over the world are getting together to make their lives better – in the words of the trailer: 'an inspiring glimpse of the future we long for'. The mantra was 'localisation, not globalisation'.

After some refreshment we discussed how we could help empower our own communities; we thought of many examples of group activities already happening (eg Repair Cafes, Farmers Markets, feast days and fetes etc) and had ideas for other things we could do (at random: Library of Things; revive old customs such as beating the bounds, Sawston Pea Picking).

We shall discuss these ideas in our respective groups. There is also a suggestion that a more fundamental discussion of the basic tenets of the film (eg: is globalisation all bad? Hasn't it led to prosperity for many? How many people in the West actually want to grow their own food?) would be interesting and we may set this up. If you are interested, get in touch.

You can watch Planet Local (and the trailer) [here](#) – it is freely available; lasts 52 minutes.

Many thanks to Sue Ginsberg and all at Whittlesford Eco; the Whittlesford Memorial Hall; Chris for showing the film and technical support; and all who provided the delicious refreshments.

Linda Whitebread

Re-imagining Community Energy - 22 October



This deservedly well-attended event was the result of months of preparation by Claire Lord of 2G3S, Michelle Golder of Haslingfield and Harlton Eco Group, Alice Vodden of Cambridge Carbon Footprint, and Elena Moses of XR.

The aim of the event was to share knowledge about community energy projects and how to go about setting one up. There are a surprising number of such projects in our area, in play or being proposed, with considerable overlap with other community oriented initiatives.

The organisers have produced a document pack as a resource for anyone interested in setting up a community energy scheme, and given the success of this event it is likely that follow up events will be organised in future. We will post a fuller report on this event on our website in due course.

Other News

Trees for Cities



You may have heard of this charity from an article in a recent Waitrose magazine. In the 30 years it has been running, it has planted 1,765,366 trees, over 200,000 in 2022-23 alone. They have now planted trees in 10 different countries, including Ethiopia, Peru, Kenya and Nepal. The charity aims to make urban communities more resilient to environmental threats by planting a range of tree species. Trees reduce temperatures in hot summers, absorb air pollution by roads, create shade, create wildlife habitats, and there is evidence that being in green spaces improves mental health.

If you would like to help, it costs just £6 to plant a tree in one of the charity's urban forests. See treesforcities.org. Or plant a tree in your garden (of appropriate size, obviously). It's a good time of year to plant a tree, and the local nurseries and garden centres should have a good choice and can give advice. A good idea for a present?

Helen Hale

Community Energy - Who Benefits?

If you need inspiration about what a renewables future could look like, with benefits for communities instead of corporations, and what the challenges to this future currently are, watch this webinar from ethical investment organisation Ethex!

<https://youtu.be/wHmK1uyepTg?si=H-nAdeDwKhY8TO1f>

The editor welcomes ideas and copy by email, for inclusion in future newsletters. The next edition will be due in February 2024 - please send contributions to the editor before the end of January.

We encourage you to let us know what you think about this newsletter- send your comments to the editor via 2g3snewsletter@gmail.com.



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