



### Mission Statement

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 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/> & <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1707232106228495/>

## 2G3S NEWSLETTER SUMMER 2018

*Many thanks to all our erstwhile subscribers who have asked to continue receiving this newsletter. As expected, numbers are down to about a third of what they were – however, we hope to build up again. We always have sign-up sheets at our events; and you can help by encouraging your friends to email [greengroupssss@gmail.com](mailto:greengroupssss@gmail.com) and asking to subscribe. You can of course opt out at any time.*

### 2G3S NEWS

#### **Website**

We are pleased to announce that we now have a 2G3S website! Many thanks to Miranda Fyfe and Nick Robinson for their work in setting this up. It is still a work in progress, but to see where we are so far, go to <http://2g3s.staplefordvillage.org.uk>

#### Photographs for the new website!

We need some more photos for our website. If you would like to send in a photo (jpg please) which illustrates either our general Mission Statement, (see header of this newsletter) or a particular type of 2G3S event, we would be delighted to hear from you. We particularly welcome submissions from young people. So please send your photo, plus your age if you think it relevant, to [greengroupssss@gmail.com](mailto:greengroupssss@gmail.com). Photos are welcome at any time, but we shall be making our initial selections by the end of September, and awarding a small prize to the best (ioho!) of those we publish.

#### **Event funding**

2G3S is willing to help fund local events that aim to raise awareness in line with the 2G3S Mission Statement (see header of this newsletter). We are happy to consider applications of up to £75 from organisations or individuals who wish to put on such an event but need initial financial support. If, after the event, sufficient funds have been raised to reimburse some or all of the amount, that would be welcome but this is not a precondition. Further information from [greengroupssss@gmail.com](mailto:greengroupssss@gmail.com)

#### **2G3S Planning Group**

We meet every six weeks or so to plan future events and discuss green issues. We are keen to welcome new members to this group. You don't need to come every time! We should particularly like to hear from residents of Sawston and of Little Shelford, who are not currently represented. If you are interested, come along to our next meeting on 30 August (see overleaf) – we'd love to see you!

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## FUTURE 2G3S EVENTS

At our last meeting we discussed various ideas for future events, but nothing has yet been finalised. If there is anything you'd like us to organise, do get in touch – or come along to the meeting (below). And see under Campaigns, below, for information about a plastics-free day in Cambridge on 22 September.

### **2G3S next social/planning evening Thursday 30 August**

Do join us at our informal meeting at **8 pm on Thursday 30 August** at The Rose, Stapleford. The meeting includes an 'open forum' to discuss green issues – so if there is something you'd like to get off your chest over a drink, or if you'd just like to come and meet us, come along! We use the small bar to the left of the main entrance, but are sometimes in a quiet area in the main bar – ask the bar staff if you can't find us!

## PAST 2G3S EVENTS

### **Great Shelford Repair Café 2 June**



2G3S held another successful Repair Café in Great Shelford on 2 June. 9 repairers looked at 43 items, ranging from lamps and other electrical items to books, bikes, jewellery and fabric repairs. Most of these were either fully or in a few cases partly repaired; nine people went away with their item still broken, but with advice as to whether it could be repaired professionally or should be discarded. As usual there was plenty of tea and cake on offer, and we all had a happily busy afternoon!

#### **Other RCs (not organised by 2G3S) coming up soon:**

27 October Abington

10 November Fulbourn

8 December Barrington (their first! – do support them!)

A description of what Repair Cafes involve, and details of upcoming RCs, are on the Circular Cambridge website: <http://circularcambridge.org/repaircafe/>

Meanwhile, here again is the link to a recent Guardian article about Repair Cafes:

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2018/mar/15/can-we-fix-it-the-repair-cafes-waging-war-on-throwaway-culture>

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## **Stall at Shelford Feast, 15 July**

2G3S members assisted the Amey waste recycling stall during the recent Shelford Feast. Our help enabled the Amey Education Officer to run two interesting activities rather than offering a more static information display. The activities consisted of **making bird feeders** from recycled plastic drink bottles and a **bean bag recycling game**. The latter involved choosing a bean bag with a picture of a used household item such as a tin can or plastic bag, then throwing it through one of four holes representing recycling bins (green blue, black) or the municipal recycling centre. The prize was a pencil made from recycled plastic. The activities were popular with children and helped educate them in correct recycling procedures. There were 126 visitors to the stall during the day and 40 bird feeders were constructed. By working with another organisation we were able to enhance the recycling message to our local community. See details (below) of Amey Family Activity days in August.

## **CAMPAIGNS**

### **Plastic**

We are pleased to report that 2G3S member Peter Fane is now a member of South Cambridgeshire District Council. Fellow Liberal Democrats put a motion to the Council in July calling for reductions in the use of single-use plastic. Council agreed to task the Climate Change and Environment Advisory Committee with:

*(a) investigating ways in which the Council can significantly reduce the sale, provision and use of avoidable single-use plastic and influence its neighbours and partners to do likewise; and*

*(b) bringing forward its final evidence-based recommendations to Cabinet before the end of this year.*

Meanwhile, 2G3S is going to support:

### **Cambridge Eco Living Festival at The Museum of Zoology and #GoPlasticFreeDay Campaign**

Saturday, 22 September 2018 - 09:00 to 17:00

<https://www.museum.zoo.cam.ac.uk/events/cambridge-eco-living-festival-goplasticfree-day>

“Join in Cambridge Eco-living festival's programme of events as we explore creative and interactive ways to live with less plastic, and we invite you and your family to take the Cambridge #GoPlasticFreeDay Pledge.”

The Eco Living website will be launched soon at: <https://cambridgeecolivingfestival.uk>

As well as these local initiatives, the campaign on plastics continues at a national and global level:

Good news: <https://www.theoceancleanup.com/>

The Ocean Cleanup company develops advanced technologies to rid the world's oceans of plastic. They estimate that a full-scale deployment of their systems will clean up 50% of the Great Pacific Garbage Patch in 5 years. Follow the links to a helpful video. Let's hope it works!

Bad news: <https://www.greeneuropeanjournal.eu/plastic-promises-industry-seeking-to-avoid-binding-regulations/>

Green European Journal article about industry's response to proposals to reduce plastic use – pretty much as you would expect....

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## OTHER ORGANISATIONS' UPCOMING EVENTS

Amey Waterbeach Waste Management Park is holding **family activity mornings** from 10am to 12pm on August 10, 16, 17, 21, 29 and 31. Find out what you can do to reduce the amount of plastic going to landfill – making bird feeders, as at Shelford Feast, will be one of the activities. Free, but you need to book: ring 01223 815490 or email [wasteeducation@amey.co.uk](mailto:wasteeducation@amey.co.uk). See the flyer sent out with this newsletter.

**STOP PRESS – Rise for Climate** Few details as yet, but from 11 am – 2 pm on Saturday 8 September family-friendly activities will be held in the Market Square, Cambridge, as part of the national 'Rise for Climate' event (<https://riseforclimate.org/>) to raise awareness and create a sense of unified purpose and energy toward the climate revolution which is becoming so desperately needed. Do spread the word – we'll try to keep our website updated.

If you don't fancy the Cambridge Plastic-free day on 22 September, how about Chris Packham's **People's Walk for Wildlife** in London: <https://www.chrispackham.co.uk/the-peoples-walk-for-wildlife>

**Apple Pressing Day** – Fulbourn – October 14. Details from [fulbournforum@gmail.com](mailto:fulbournforum@gmail.com)

## GREEN NEWS FROM THE WIDER WORLD

### Earth Overshoot Day

Earth Overshoot Day is the date when humanity's demand for ecological resources and services in a given year exceeds what Earth can regenerate in that year. The concept was conceived in 2006, when Earth Overshoot Day was in October. Since then it has steadily been occurring earlier each year and in 2018, alarmingly, it fell on 1 August. See these links for more information (the second two are video explanations): <https://www.overshootday.org/about-earth-overshoot-day/>  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jgbY790pn34>  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=laQBYLQQs2Q>

You can also calculate (albeit crudely) your own 'Overshoot Day' at <http://www.footprintcalculator.org> Living in the consumerist west, I expected to be appalled when I did this – and I was. How will you do?

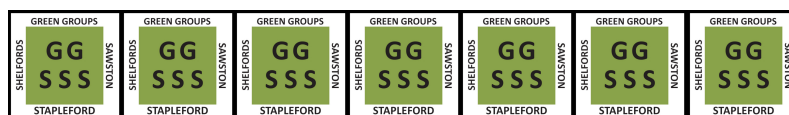
But to end on a more positive note: **River of Flowers** is a non profit eco social enterprise working to create trails or 'rivers' of wildflowers and wild flowering trees through cities for bees, butterflies and other pollinators: <http://www.riverofflowers.org/>

And for useful tips on how to reduce your carbon footprint, why not subscribe to **My Green Pod** <https://www.mygreenpod.com/> - a fun quarterly online magazine which promotes green products, shares green news and helps you make changes to a more sustainable way of living. Now what does that remind me of...?

Enjoy the rest of the summer!

*Linda Whitebread*

For Green Groups in the Shelfords, Stapleford and Sawston



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