



# Flooded people hardly have time to take a breath before impacted by Covid19

Many of you will have suffered flooding in your homes during February from storm Ciara & Dennis, I join you in these devastating circumstances. Now we find ourselves in this surreal situation of having to deal with a pandemic the like of which no one has experienced before. I am sure like me you will be finding that this has led to added complications and additional stress to what was already a huge ordeal. As I am sure for all of us, everything of course has come to a standstill, I was one of the lucky ones that had insurance and did at least get to see a loss adjuster and the drying company did deliver dehumidifiers and fans. They were also able to fit in collecting damp readings. However, there have been so many people flooded with no insurance. Covid19 has brought along added challenges for me; living without a

fridge, getting shopping without the ability to freeze anything so I am not out shopping every day, being unable to do any washing, these are really basic things that none of us would want to do without, well at least not for very long! But with no delivery of these replacements even after imparting of the knowledge that I have flooded and that these items are pretty essential, leaves another predicament to have to work around. With the added worry of an elderly vulnerable and disabled husband who easily falls and is negotiating floors and thresholds that have had to be removed, plus keeping a job down, small things like needing my fridge etc. back seem to become big issues. I am hearing that others did not even get to the stage of receiving driers and are in alternative accommodation with a house that remains untouched from the flood. Others I am hearing are in the over 70's age group and find themselves in a position of increased vulnerability to the virus through either living in their flooded homes, in hotels, B&B's or with relatives that are still going out to go to work or to get essential shopping. I am also aware that families flooded are having to split themselves to stay at parents/grandparents' homes, children at one grandparent, their parents with other parents. Households cannot mix so the strain on the grandparent with children in their care full time must be very trying and exhausting.

Hardest of all is Becca in Wales who lost everything after flooding, caught the Covid virus and died at the age of just 28, our heartfelt sorrow and sympathy to her family and all she knew.

Am I feeling yet again that there is huge misconception of the issues that people face after flooding? *I ask the question to ministers; has anyone thought about the*

***issues flooded people might possibly be facing exacerbated by Covid19 after their homes/possessions/livelihoods have been destroyed and their lives totally changed?***  
After all flooding qualified for COBRA meetings too, a disaster in its own right.

Flooding is not only the flooding itself, it's the position you then find yourself in dealing with the rest of life that adds to the trauma and puts flooded people in incredibly vulnerable circumstances.

Through all this we want you, the flooded people, to know that the National Flood Forum is there for you. It is true that we cannot get out to see you, you can't show us just what has happened to your home and how your world has changed, we can't give you that big hug, a shoulder to sob on or see you face to face, but we are on the end of a helpline (01299403055), we do truly understand all that is thrown at flooded people by way of insurance issues, no insurance cover, issues before flooding, who manages what in flood risk management, other dilemmas and much, much more. Importantly, we are also just an understanding listening ear, someone to talk it all over with, so please do not hesitate to call us no matter how trivial it may seem, it probably is not. Please take care of yourselves, stay strong, and when it gets too much, call us.

Heather NFF & Flooded

*What are you having to deal with at the moment? Please send us your stories to so we can better understand how flooded people are managing their flooded life and Covid19.*

*Heather Shepherd*  
Flood Recovery Specialist  
info@floodforum.org.uk

**GIVE US YOUR VIEWS – WE WANT YOUR COMMENTS.**

email us on

<mailto:info@floodforum.org.uk>



**Together We Can Make a Difference – Please Donate to the National Flood Forum**



# National Flood Forum Conference

The National Flood Forum conference in York on 5<sup>th</sup> March was hugely successful. We responded to feedback from the last conference in 2017 and designed it around a series of workshops, each with a speaker to introduce the topic.

The feedback has been that people enjoyed this format.

Following the conference we met with the Minister Rebecca Pow MP, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State at the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs to press the issues raised at the event, asking for better support for communities, the forthcoming Flood and Coast Risk Management Strategy, etc. Covid-19 hit shortly afterwards. In the meantime, there has been a raft of policy initiatives:

- Efra Select Committee enquiry on flooding
- Insurance enquiry following the flooding in Doncaster
- A Planning White Paper is due out shortly
- Part 1 of a report on reservoir safety has been published
- Partnership Funding consultation
- A review of flood funding has also been announced for the autumn.
- The Surface Water Flooding Review

The National Flood Forum has provided comments on the Surface Water Review and Partnership Funding consultation.

It will be putting in submissions to the Efra Select Committee and Insurance enquiries.

We do not yet know the format for the other enquiries, but your views and evidence are always welcome.

*Paul Cobbing*

*CEO National Flood Forum*



# Introducing Our New Trustee David Goff

David lives in the Weald of Kent in a small parish community. He is married and has three children and six grandchildren.

He is a son of a farmer and before retiring in 2010 spent his working life in agriculture. He worked on a farm for seven years before spending twenty-four years teaching at an agricultural college ending up as Head of Agriculture.

He then spent five years as General Manager at the Kent County Showground.

Since retiring he has spent much time and energy on flood related matters and attending many meetings with a range of people and agencies helping communities and people not only to understanding flooding but to find solutions.

David was flooded in 2000 and spent six months living upstairs whilst drying out and having repairs done. The area has also flooded in 2013/2014 and then in December 2019 and twice in early 2020.

David is Chair of the Parish Council and also part of the local flood group in the village. He coordinates the Flood Wardens in the parish.

He set up the Joint Parishes flood Group in 2016 with six other parishes and one flood group. This group was supported by the NFF and the local MP Helen Grant. It had a number of successes and still shares communication by email.

David is a member of the Medway Flood Partnership Group established in January 2017 to bring together local partners, national agencies, non-government organisations and community representatives to reduce flood risk in the Medway catchment and

create better places for people, properties and businesses.

This group has had a major influence on getting things changed and improved in the catchment.

He is a Board Member of the local Internal Drainage Board and an Independent member of the Southern Regional Flood and Coastal Committee.

When approached to become a Trustee of the NFF he was both surprised and excited by the fact he would be able to try and make a difference at both a local and national level in protecting communities and having the opportunity to work with other groups around the country and help set the agenda to ensure people are protected.

David is interested and keen to work together with all parties at local and national level to find solutions to ensure more people feel safer in their communities. He recognises the emotional and physical issues related to flooding and how long it takes to recover after a flood and the importance of working together has never been more important.

There is a lot of work that has been done but each flood brings new challenges and he is keen to play a hands-on approach to the challenges that are ahead as the climate and landscape changes.



**The National Flood Forum's, people's flood recovery services is available to be brought into a flooded area immediately after a flood event through Local Authorities and the Environment Agency. This professional service recognises and acts on the many issues people face in the immediate aftermath of a flood event and can remain in place for the long-term support that flooded people will need**



# Thank You!

## FOR YOUR DONATIONS

Like most charities in these difficult times, fundraising has been curtailed and budgets increasingly tight.

Throughout the COVID19 situation our staff have been working and available, and our helpline has remained open for the flooded people many of whom are still out of their homes, many trying to deal with complex insurance claims, concerns about future flooding or just needing someone to talk to.

We have been overwhelmed by the recent donations we have received from so many people whether individual, an organisations or groups so thank you to everyone who sent in a donation and all those who are doing fun stuff during the lockdown to raise money for The National Flood Forum. Your donations enable us to carry on working in flooded communities.



# How You Can Help the National Flood Forum

## We need your support and your donations....

Flooding rips families apart, it forces you out of your home, destroys your treasured mementos & possessions; constrains living normality and becomes all consuming.

Getting back into your home often takes a year or more; flooding is more than cleaning out with a mop & bucket! If the flood isn't enough to contend with, restoring your home can be full of issues causing unimaginable distress.



The physical toll on mind and body is profound and recovering from the ordeal is aligned to a similar process as that of bereavement. Children suffer quietly, noticing the stress parents are under and the fear that this frightening event may happen again when it rains is all too real. Pets and

their owners suffer from separation as many rented properties will not accept animals so they must be taken to animal homes.

That's why we need to ensure the **National Flood Forum** is here for people to talk to; to guide and support, to help navigate around the stumbling blocks, and most importantly, as a charity that really does understand exactly what it is like to have been flooded.



**"Being affiliated to the National Flood Forum really helped us to be taken seriously as a group from the start. It was also very useful to have the updates about the other groups and initiatives that were happening in other parts of the country. Keep up the good work."** CREATE, Cherry Burton, East Yorkshire



## WE CANNOT DO THIS ON OUR OWN!

Every penny you raise will help our work to reach out to more flood-affected people. Every 'Like' or 'Share' you give us will help us. Perhaps you know someone who has been flooded, or you were flooded yourself. Maybe you've seen more flooding stories than ever before on the news and recognise it's a problem that's not going away.

Whatever your motivation to support us.

**WE THANK YOU**

**RECYCLE YOUR USED CARTRIDGES AND RAISE MONEY FOR THE NATIONAL FLOOD FORUM - ITS FREE AND EASY TO DO**



The **National Flood Forum** is here to help flooded communities work productively in partnership with flood risk management to help reduce their risk of flooding, to act on insurance issues, to help them see that there is a life after flooding; to support them by bringing their voices together with others in England and Wales to work towards change.

*Disclaimer: The views expressed in the bulletin are those of the writers and not necessarily of the National Flood Forum*