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With best wishes, *The National Flood Forum team*
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PAUL COBBING – CHRISTMAS THOUGHTS

Wishing you a Happy Xmas.....

It's that time of year again. Christmas is upon us and we are gearing up for the festivities.

It has been a relatively dry year, and long may it continue, but people are still being flooded, most recently in Lancashire, with all that brings. We know that the risk of flooding is with us all.

National FRCM strategy – community input

As mentioned in the previous bulletin, a National Flood and Coastal Risk Management Strategy review is now being planned. It is an opportunity to try to put people at the centre of Government policy, so we have been pushing hard to develop a long-term approach that will significantly reduce people's risk of flooding.

To ensure that we get people's views involved at the very beginning, we held a telephone conference with a number flood group representatives. These were fed directly in to a planning workshop looking at the ambition and scope needed. Some key points:

1. We should be looking to, and planning for, the long-term future and putting in place now the things to keep people safe
2. This should be an absolute priority
3. Communities are just not being listened to. They feel ignored and frustrated, with their knowledge and skills unrecognised.
4. The scale of the issue is not recognised, nor the scale of the response needed
5. There are serious structural problems with policies, organisations, roles and responsibilities, cultures and attitude
6. The need for accountability, protection not resilience, an explicit social contract between authorities and citizens, including having the right measures in place to support communities e.g. enforcement of regulations

We will be looking to involve the views of a wider cross section of communities after Christmas as this work develops, so if you would like to contribute, please let us know.

STAFF CHANGES



Tabitha Whitcombe is leaving us to move to Devon. She will be sorely missed both by the flood groups she has been working with, predominantly in Surrey, but also by us.

A warm welcome to Katia Sanhueza-Pino, who will be working predominantly in Kent and the South East.



We have recently started a short project in Wales with National Resources Wales and Collingwood Environmental Planning where we are aiming to test and evaluate the process of setting up flood action groups

In Great Yarmouth, we are about to start a project on retrofitting households with measures that will reduce flood risk elsewhere

Not everyone suffers being flooded in the same way. Whilst everyone's needs change once water has entered in to their home and their vulnerability increases, some are especially disadvantaged. We have just completed a project for Joseph Rowntree Foundation that piloted an approach to identify communities where flooding will have a particular impact, for whatever reason. We hope that this work will help to target funds and projects more equitably.

Opportunities

Flood and Coastal Engineering Degree Programme – are you a future flood engineer?

The Flood and Coastal Engineering degree programme at Brunel University London is sponsored by the Environment Agency, and includes: an exciting, industry-led academic programme; degree fees paid for the first two years; two paid 2 six-month placements; a professional development programme to support your rise to Chartered Engineer, and summer schools at the degree partner, HR Wallingford. This ground-breaking and innovative degree programme aims to create the future engineers we need to deal with flooding. Could that be you? For more information and how to apply for the 2018 intake, go to: [Flood and Coastal Engineering](#)

Chester University

Chester University are looking to recruit a x 0.6 lecturer in flood management (Modelling, engineering, asset management), who has some industry experience and a PhD. Anyone interested?

Contact Serval Miller at s.miller@chester.ac.uk

LEATHERHEAD AND FETCHAM FLOOD ACTION GROUP

Hi All,

On Saturday 2nd December, the Leatherhead and Fetcham Flood Action Group had a stall at the Fetcham Village Christmas event with the aim of raising a bit of a slush fund for expenses for the Group and to raise awareness locally of our existence and what we get up to.

One game was 'Reindeer Hoopla' with prizes for the winners, and a condolence prize of a sweet for less successful hoop throwers, and the other game was 'Santas Socks' where the children had to feel the three hanging socks to decide which they thought would have the best/most sweets inside and they got what was in their sock of choice. Both games went down well and the children seemed to enjoy themselves, rather than just handing over their money to simply buy something. Rudolph looked particularly spectacular once it got dark and his hoopla nose lit up!



The cakes sold quickly and we accosted every dog owner that walked past with a pooch and sold them the doggy treats. Everyone got leaflets too and a chat about what we were there for, as did the parents of the children enjoying the games.

We raised the princely sum of £56.00 after taking out any expenses, which i think is magnificent! It has been decided to use this for our expenses, but if we are luckily enough to get any funding for the group, we will pass it onto the National Flood Forum.

Big, in fact, huge thank-yous to the following:

Tony Sinclair who made the props for the Reindeer Hoopla and Santa's Socks games, absolutely fantastic what that man gets up to in his shed! Plus helping out on the day.

Lin Sinclair who spent an afternoon and evening with me collaging Rudolph and sorting out and wrapping prizes and sweeties (much fun was had, coffee and sherry drunk!). And, who made Christmas themed cupcakes to sell. Also doing a great job manning both games and using her powers of persuasion to sell the all the cakes and doggy treats too to passing punters.

Sally Webster who made some of her world-famous brownies that went down a storm, and manned Rudolph too to help the little ones with their hoopla technique.

Linda and Ed for supplying and erecting the gazebo and trestle tables and making sure we got the word out to passers-by about the group.

Tabitha from the Nation Flood Forum for supplying and dropping off the Flood Forum leaflets. We will miss Tabitha when she moves on in the New Year and wish her well for all her help in setting up our group.

A real team effort! Well done us! We got the word out and raised some funds too.

Indra Starnes, member of the Leatherhead and Fetcham Flood Action Group

(London 28th November 2017)



Let's put you right straight away.....I don't wear my pants over my trousers, cling to walls or have super powers, but I am passionate about protecting our local community from the risk of flood.

I was recently nominated and short listed as a local hero and was fortunate enough to be one of six, nationally, to be invited to the Palace of Westminster in London for the Awards Ceremony, organised by Flood Re.

My name is Bob Haddon and I am the Chairman of a community led Flood Group based in Shifnal, Shropshire.

I like many members of flood groups across the country work tirelessly, campaigning and working with our partners to find solutions to the ever-increasing risk of flooding which affects so many of us.

Earlier in the year at one of our monthly group meetings, we discussed Flood Re's application for a local hero and our group nominated me.

The prize was £10,000 for a community project, so we thought like the Lottery you've got to be in it to win it.

Special thanks go to Colin Dalziel (our Vice Chairman) who penned the application that got us recognised.

You can imagine the excitement when we found out that I had been shortlisted. My Grand-daughter had already written a shopping list, unaware that the winnings were for the community and not for the family!!

On the day of the Awards Ceremony, Colin and his wife Linda, myself and my wife Lou (our Secretary) headed for the Palace of Westminster, battled the endless security queues and stood in awe at the history that surrounded us within the walls of Westminster.

Communities collectively working with multi-agencies and their stakeholders is beneficial in raising flood group's profiles and their on-going projects. Ceremonies like this, promote recognition, networking and a morale booster for us all.

We met so many interesting people, all heroes in their own right, all dedicated to finding solutions to the risk of flood in their communities, each with a tale to tell.

I wasn't the winner but I felt a winner. As I said to our Group, it's a team game, I'm not a one-man band and it takes a team to fight battles to find long term solutions to flooding not just "quick fixes"

So, let the battle commence and if all else fails you never know I might just need those super powers and be wearing my pants externally!! All in the name of flooding.....of course!

Wolverley:

In November, a few members of the Wolverley Flood Forum met with the National Flood Forum and 10:10 Climate Action to talk through the possibility of Natural Flood Management features along the Horseley Brook Catchment. There is some scope for tree planting, woody debris dam, attenuation ponds and utilising the natural flood plain.

Southam:

Southam Residents Against Flood Threat (RAFT) met with the Environment Agency to walk through a section of the River Stowe. On this site walk, the group could talk through each issue they highlighted and get a better understanding of riparian responsibilities.

Isbourne Catchment Group

In November, the ICG held an event to remember 10 years on since the devastating floods of 2007. This event was an informative evening where attendees were able to hear more about the group's progress on delivering Natural Flood Management on a catchment based approach. Christ Utleby from the Stroud Rural SuDS Scheme and Brain Smith from the Environment Agency presented information on different NFM techniques and how government money can encourage these processes. The evening ended with a Q+A session giving the attendees and residents a chance to learn more about what is planned. Overall, the evening was a success with a large turn out and brilliant response from the local community.

Welford:

Welford Flood Action Group have been working with Warwickshire County Council Drainage team to learn more about the drainage system in the village. Several walk throughs have been conducted between the group and council to establish a way forward to get the system fully functionally and whether any improvements can be made. The county council, with the groups local knowledge, have put together phases of work to be undertaken on the system.

Thank you once again to everyone who signed up to Giveasyoulive recently. This generates lots of small contributions and if we get enough of them it can really help us to continue with our work.

The Giveasyoulive facility allows you to make a donation to the National Flood Forum every time you shop online, at no cost to you. What is more, we can use the funds to match against some of the other projects we are working on and double up the value.

To sign up, please click on the link in the graphic below ...



2018

We are looking forward to the National Flood Form Conference that will take place in early 2018, further information to come.

The Flood and Coast Conference will take place on the 20th and 22nd March 2018 at the Telford International Centre, UK. More information can be found at <http://www.floodandcoast.com/>