

KESWICK FLOOD GROUP MEMBER AWARDED MBE

Lynne Jones' passionate dedication to working for flood protection for Keswick was recognised in the latest Queen's Birthday Honours list by her being awarded an MBE. She was a founder member of the Keswick Flood Action Group (KFAG) after the 2005 flood, becoming Chair in 2012, and throughout these years she has worked to help all members of the community who have suffered from the effects of flooding. She is moved by the plight of each and every flood victim. To quote a local couple, Mr and Mrs Walker: "Lynne has been a tireless worker on behalf of all of us at Brundholme Gardens who still live with the fear of being flooded again. She just never gives up, constantly reminding those in authority of our predicament, and fighting for a satisfactory solution. I don't know what we would have done without her courage and determination and when a solution is finally found to our problems here, as it has to be eventually, it will be Lynne that we have to thank."



As well as working on the bigger picture of flood protection, Lynne also picks up on small details. A practical example was in the aftermath of Storm Desmond when the County Council set up a flood advice centre in Keswick in a coffee shop attached to a housing complex. Lynne obtained a grant to provide floodees with a free hot drink or bowl of soup when they attended, so that coming to the centre became almost a social outing during a very stressful time, as people stayed to chat and offer mutual support.

Although Lynne is the lynch pin of KFAG, she has an inclusive leadership style, keeps everyone fully informed, seeks opinions and comment at all times, and ensures all issues are properly discussed. But she is indeed the "driving force" – words repeated time and again. Her extensive knowledge, built up from her own and other people's flooding experiences as well as discussion with a range of people (both professional and non-professional) with relevant practical knowledge, means that she can promote soundly based arguments in discussions with a wide range of individuals, including MPs and senior officers in local or central government.

It is Lynne's sensitivity towards the plight of each and every flood victim and the determination, endurance and persistence she puts into her fight to reduce their problems that made her a deserving candidate for recognition through the honours system. She has sacrificed an enormous amount of her personal life working for flood protection, and as another KFAG member puts it: "It is not just an unpaid full-time job but an unpaid full-time job with excessive amounts of overtime."



GOOD NEWS FOR THE NORTH WEST

£40m extra funding to better protect thousands of homes against flooding

Extra funding will better protect more than 7,000 properties, including over 5,000 homes. Press Release 20th July 2018

Thousands of properties across England will be better protected against the threat of flooding thanks to a multi-million-pound investment by the government, Environment Minister Thérèse Coffey confirmed today (Friday 20 July).

Across the country 13 flood schemes will benefit from £40 million of additional funding which will unlock flood defence schemes and help support economic growth and regeneration in areas that have suffered from flooding in recent years.

The additional funding, first announced in the budget, adds to millions of pounds of government grant-in-aid already allocated to these projects and partnership funding already secured. It will help leverage an additional £24 million from other sources, enabling the flood schemes to go ahead. In total, more than 7,000 properties will be better protected against flooding, including over 5,000 homes. This additional money is part of our £2.6 billion investment from 2015 to 2021 to fund 1,500 flood defence schemes which will better protect 300,000 homes across the country.

Environment Minister Thérèse Coffey said:

This extra funding for flood defences will unlock schemes that will better protect thousands of homes and businesses against flooding, supporting regeneration in important towns and villages in the north and coastal communities.

It will boost our resilience as a nation and help our communities to grow and prosper.

In the historic English Channel tourist town of Weymouth, £1.2 million will improve the harbour wall, reducing flood risk to 450 properties and helping to kick start the regeneration of Weymouth town centre.

More than £10 million is also being awarded to a scheme to protect deprived communities in the St. Austell Bay area of Cornwall. The funding will unlock an additional £4.8 million of partnership funding contributions and is additional to £13.4 million of grant-in-aid which has already been allocated to the scheme. The funds will support an integrated regeneration partnership project, which will help to reduce flood risk and develop plans for new housing and community green space.

Five flood schemes in the north of England will receive almost half of the total funding - £17.4 million- in a boost to the Northern Powerhouse. Rochdale in Greater Manchester will receive a total of £5 million to develop one of the largest inland flood schemes in the region. The defences in Rochdale will increase the level of flood protection to 1,000 residential properties as well as critical infrastructure such as the tram network, a bus station, a grid sub-station and a waste water treatment works.

Eight miles to the west, £7 million has been awarded for new flood defence work around the River Irwell in Bury and Radcliffe as a first step towards the development of a new £46 million flood defence scheme, better protecting 870 properties. In addition to raising flood defences at key locations along the river's edge another key aspect of the scheme will be the creation of a wildlife habitat and amenity areas for the public by setting defences further back from the river.

The new funding for flood defences in the north of England adds to the £3.4 billion already invested into the Northern Powerhouse to build a more prosperous and inclusive economy where everybody has the opportunity to reach their full potential.

[See the full press release here](#)

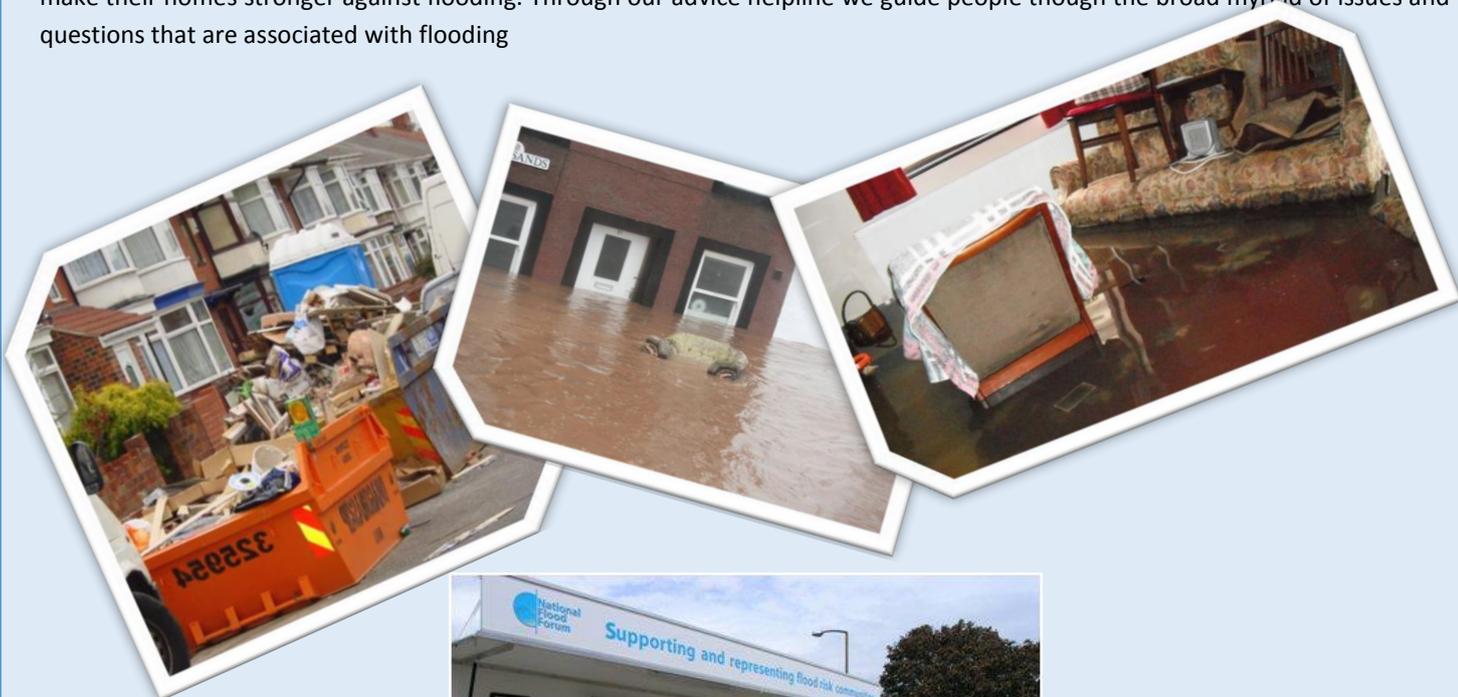
**ROCHDALE TO
RECEIVE
£5 MILLION**

National Flood Forum Walk-A-Thon

Some of our National Flood Forum staff are doing a sponsored walk along the River Severn, 30 kilometres in length to raise funds for us.

Please sponsor them to keep the NFF working with flooded communities helping them with much needed advice, guidance and support.

The National Flood Forum's work does not always feature dramatic scenes of recovery; the ongoing support of people who have flooded is just as important – flooding takes on average six to eighteen months for people to rebuild their wrecked lives. Our staff work in the background supporting people who have been flooded, whether it's on our helpline or through our project officers who are working tirelessly with those communities who have been flooded out of their homes and are desperate to ensure that they don't flood again. We also help support people through the distress and trauma of the aftermath of flooding; Dealing with the reinstatement issues that people face while their homes are being restored. We try and steer people along a path to help them make their homes stronger against flooding. Through our advice helpline we guide people through the broad myriad of issues and questions that are associated with flooding



[PLEASE CLICK HERE TO SPONSOR US](#)

DIDDLEBURY FLOOD ACTION GROUP

What we do and how we can help

Flooding of your house, business premises or farm yard can be devastating. Whilst it is not possible to completely eliminate the risk of flooding, there are things which can be done to lessen its dire effects.

1) Slowing the Flow to reduce flood peaks



Small works carried out at a small cost are being constructed by the Shropshire Wildlife Trust on our behalf in the upper catchments of the River Corve and its tributaries and these will, by temporarily storing flood water, reduce the peak flood flows downstream.

Such works can include leaky dams, off course storage, hedge and tree planting, reduction of cattle poaching, aeration of soils so that they can absorb more water and so on. Apart from their prime purpose in flow reduction, such works can also result in improved farmlands with higher productivity.

These installations may sound so small as to be ineffective but when they are inserted in large numbers – 130 leaky dams below Wilderhope for example – they have a cumulative effect. Although such techniques – collectively known as Natural Flood Management – are quite new, such data as has been collected to date indicate that flood peaks can be reduced by around 10%. This can translate to a local flood peak level being reduced by say 3 or 4 inches and that could make the difference between your property being flooded or not.

None of this work could be carried out without the permission of the land owners.

2) Clearing the watercourses



Before clearance

After clearance

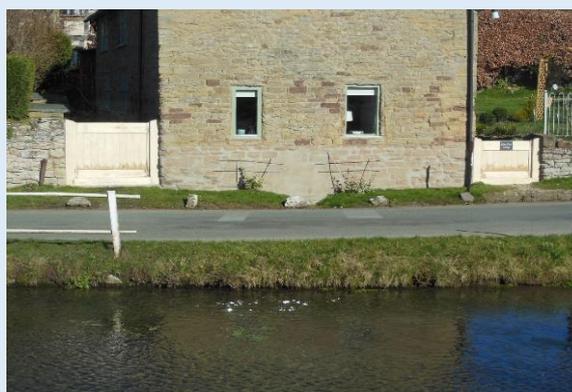
Below a certain point in the catchment of each tributary, it becomes futile to build items such as leaky dams as by then, flood flows would wash them away. As streams enter built up areas therefore, a different approach is adopted whereby the existing watercourses are kept in such a condition that they can cope with as large a flood flow as possible. This means firstly keeping them clear of rubbish – both the stream beds and any associated culverts, drains and bridges. The stream beds and banks should be maintained by removing any build-up of silt in the beds and also taking back any banks encroaching into the stream bed – both by silt build up and excessive weed growth – so as to maintain the full stream width. Streams work best when they are straight so small kinks should if possible be straightened out. Such work will maximise the flow capacity of the watercourses. The FAG arranges regular working parties of volunteers to carry out all this maintenance work.



Better this...

than this

3) Self help



Air brick covers

Flood gates and waterproof rendering

If, despite all the above, water overflows stream banks and flooding results, the onus is on the property owners to protect their properties. The Shropshire Council will on request send out a survey team to assess your property and make recommendations on how best to protect it. Grants are available for some items such as flood gates and waterproof rendering and sand bags are generally available locally on request to the Shropshire Council. There are depth gauges installed on the Diddlebury and Culmington Bridges and when flow levels reach a pre-set alarm level, a message is sent out to the local FAG. If the flow continues to rise and triggers a second higher alarm level (which has been set at a level known by experience to cause flooding), a further message is sent and the FAG can alert those vulnerable properties identified on their Flood Resilience Plan to give them time to erect their defences.

4) Insurance

If you live in a house that has previously flooded or that is shown to be within flood risk areas on the EA mapping, your Insurance Company may decline Cover or set a very high Premium. The Government has set up a flood insurance scheme called Flood Re which will offer reasonably priced cover to such properties. Details are available from the FAG.

5) Permissions

All the smaller tributaries of the River Corve – the Diddle Brook, Seifton Brook, Pye Brook etc are what is known as Ordinary Watercourses and come within the jurisdiction of the Shropshire Council. The Corve itself and some of the lower parts of the tributaries are known as Main Rivers and come within the jurisdiction of the EA. The work of the FAG's falls mostly within Ordinary Watercourses and hence permissions are needed from the Shropshire Council before any works in the stream beds are carried out. Each such permission is called an Ordinary Watercourse Consent (OWC) and lasts for 3 years. The FAG can give advice on this aspect and information is also available on Shropshire Council's website; <http://shropshire.gov.uk/drainage-and-flooding/development-responsibility-and-maintenance/new-development-and-watercourse-consenting/ordinary-watercourses-applying-for-consent-for-works>

6) Assistance

The FAG receives much help, encouragement and support from several different organisations including:

- Diddlebury Parish Council
- Shropshire Wildlife Trust
- National Flood Forum
- Shropshire Council
- Environment Agency
- Severn Trent Water
- The local farming community
- Local land owners

Without this support, we could not function.

There exists an embryo Corvedale Forum which will eventually link up all the existing and future FAG's in the Corvedale to enable them to share common problems and solutions.

7) Contact us

We have a dedicated page in the Diddlebury Parish Web Site at: <http://www.diddleburyparish.co.uk/flood-action-group>

This is kept up to date with news on events, progress reports, requests for volunteers and so on.

There are also frequent articles in the Corvedale News.

I can be contacted at: gmeden@googlemail.com.

Geoff Neden

2018

Austrey and HS2 meeting

Austrey is a village in North Warwickshire which suffers from surface water flooding which is enhanced by a poor and aging drainage system. The Flood Action Group has created partnerships through hosting Multi-Agency Meetings and together with these agencies have been working hard to rectify flooding issues in the village. The village faces pressures of increased development, M42 runoff, and the proposed route of HS2.

In July, Austrey Flood Action Group hosted a meeting with HS2 to highlight their flooding concerns and to start discussions around the proposed designs. The meeting opened with a presentation from the group on the history of flooding in Austrey and their concerns on how HS2 may exacerbate the surface water flooding. A secondary presentation by AECOM/HS2 highlighted the draft proposals for the stretch of railway close to Austrey. In the following discussions, the group portrayed how useful regularly community engagement and communication are when undertaking schemes that could have an effect on a village, town or city. This would involve engineers and consultants learning the flooding history, flow patterns, and previous/present works undertaken. They were pleased to learn that HS2/AECOM completely understand this and will be keen to be involved with the Multi-Agency approach the group works on.

This meeting is a powerful reminder of how important community engagement on a multi-agency scale is and how Flood Action Groups taking initiative can turn what was once seen as another issue into possible remediation or betterment.

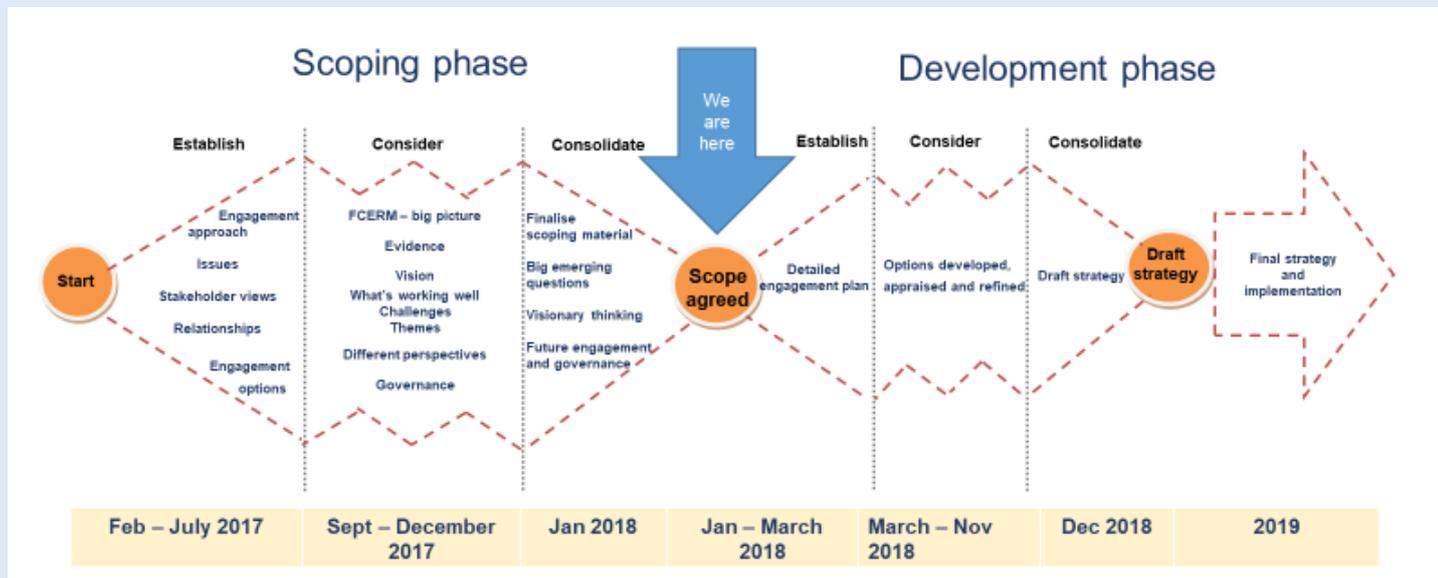


BULLETIN POLICY UPDATE

Several flood related policy documents have recently been published:

The **England Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management Strategy Review** is underway, led by the Environment Agency. This is the main strategic document for how flood risk will be managed in the coming years in England, so it needs to be really ambitious and wide ranging, with clear goals to aim for. Several Flood Action Groups helped to scope the work before Christmas and we are hoping that there will be opportunities to shape the strategy before the consultation towards the end of 2018. More information to follow but please let us know if you would like to be involved. The National Flood Forum has Trustees and staff on several of the working groups and a number of people from Flood Action Groups are also involved.

The Strategy will then be finalised in 2019 as part of the 25 Year Environment Plan.



The updated [Flood Re Transition Plan](#) sets out how Flood Re (the insurance mechanism to help residents access affordable flood risk cover for property insurance) will contribute to:

- Limiting the risks of flooding;
- Reducing the damage caused by and costs associated with flooding; and
- Ensuring that an effective market for household insurance exists.

An action plan details how this might be achieved.

The National Infrastructure Commission has produced a [National Infrastructure Assessment](#) with some significant recommendations for managing water, including:

The Commission recommends that government should set out a strategy to deliver a nationwide standard of resilience to flooding with an annual likelihood of 0.5 per cent by 2050 where this is feasible. A higher standard of 0.1 per cent should be provided for densely populated areas where the costs per household are lower.

We would welcome your views.

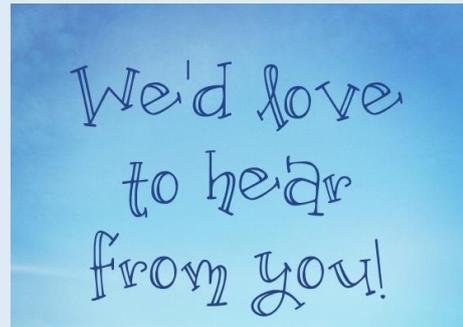
[The National Adaptation Programme and the Third Strategy for Climate Adaptation Reporting](#) has just been published by Government. It includes a series of Government led flood risk related commitments that will be reported against to Parliament by the Committee for Climate Change.

GIVE US AN UPDATE

If you are one of our affiliated Flood Action Groups, have there been any changes in contact details? We would love to get an update from you with any news or activities from your Group.

Drop Jean a line here at the Bewdley office

jean.timmins@floodforum.org.uk



FORTHCOMING EVENTS IN 2018



12th & 13th September

NEC, Birmingham



19th & 20th September

Hall 5, NEC, Birmingham,