



**eNewsletter**

**Winter 2019**

**Welcome to the first edition of the CCFF electronic newsletter**

In 2018 we secured a three year funding package from South West Regional Flood and Coastal Committee, to provide support to us in serving communities at risk of flooding across Cornwall. As part of this we will be able to circulate a quarterly eNewsletter to members with news and information. This is our first edition. We welcome your feedback and contributions to future editions. The newsletter will be produced in electronic form which we hope you will help you forward it on to friends, family and contacts. We also hope you will encourage them to join the Flood Forum as members and receive it direct. Full details of membership are on the back page.



**CCFF Annual Conference 2018**

As in previous years, CCFF ran a one day conference last November. This time the theme was *Natural Capital* – how can we make the most of our natural assets in Cornwall to prepare for and alleviate flooding and the anticipated impact of climate change in Cornwall.



George Eustice

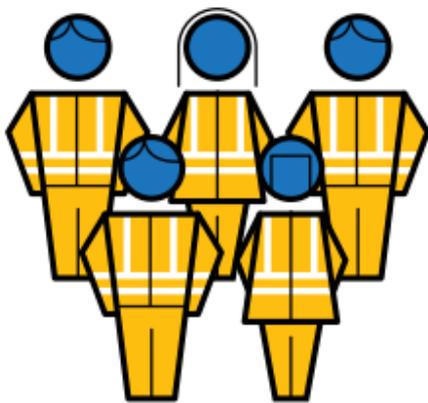
Left to Right:

Rachel Bice - Cornwall Council,  
Henri Dieudonne-Demaria -  
Defra, Luci Isaacson - Climate  
Vision/former Chair CCFF,  
Miranda Richardson - Forestry  
Commission

George Eustice, MP for Camborne and Redruth and Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Food shared his thoughts on Natural Capital and what could replace the EU Common Agricultural Policy if the UK leaves the EU. He also answered a series of questions in a vibrant question and answer session with other speakers including representatives of the Environment Agency,

Defra Natural Capital Committee, Forestry Commission and Cornwall Council among others. A full set of presentations made to the Conference is available on our website [www.cornwallcommunityfloodforum.org.uk](http://www.cornwallcommunityfloodforum.org.uk), where you can also see presentations from all our previous conferences.

Nearly 90 delegates attended the event – our biggest so far – and work has already begun on organising the 2019 Conference. This time we are planning to hold the conference outside Truro and are already scoping out village halls and other suitable venues in Mid Cornwall. If you know of a hall that will hold up to 100 delegates and might work well for the event, please get in touch. We hope that holding the Conference outside Truro will bring it to a wider audience and make access and parking easier while reducing congestion in the City. If you are a member you will be notified directly of the date and speakers and we'll bring you a full update in the next eNewsletter too



### Support for Communities

A major part of the South West Regional Flood and Coastal Committee funding that CCFF has secured for the next three years is aimed at supporting communities with flood emergency plans and the training of volunteer flood wardens. Using the EA's flood action plan template and working closely with Cornwall Council Emergency Management and Localism colleagues who oversee the broader Community Emergency Plans, we are aiming to work with five communities each year. We have been invited to give presentations at Perranporth, Perranarworthal and Lanteglos by Fowey Parish Council Meetings this month and hope to start working with them on Plans in the coming months.

CCFF's community resilience training has been continuously developed in the last three years through a project called Communities Prepared which is now being rolled out nationally. We are proud of what has been achieved and want to make sure that these great made-in-Cornwall resources benefit as many communities as possible. Flood groups trained using the resources include Portreath whose wardens (pictured) proved to be invaluable when the harbour wall gave way in January 2018.



*If you would like to find out more about the support on offer to your community in preparing for flooding, please get in touch. **We'll be running flood warden training taster workshops with Cornwall Council and the Environment Agency in Mid Cornwall on Tuesday 19 and Thursday 21 March.** Free to attend, the workshops will be filled on a first-come, first served basis. Let us know as soon as possible if you or members of your parish or town council would like to come along.*



Cllr Joyce Duffin,  
Portreath Flood  
Group  
Co-ordinator

## Organisation and Management at CCFF

At the December 2018 Board of Trustees meeting Luci Isaacson stood down as Chair after four years' dynamic service. We are immensely grateful to Luci who has provided so much energy and expertise to CCFF whilst juggling her roles as CEO of Climate Vision, Diocesan Environment Officer and Mum. Councillor Martyn Alvey has taken her place and will serve at least until the next AGM. There are places for up to 15 Trustees on the CCFF Board and if you are interested in being involved in the running of the organisation, we'd be delighted to hear from you.

Last August our Community Flood Resilience Manager Nora Guerten left to take up a new post with the United Nations in Panama. Cathryn Marcus, who has worked with the Forum for some time as Project Manager of the Communities Prepared project, has taken on the role on an interim basis to look at how to maximise CCFF's impact and undertake some key administrative tasks such as creating a new website for us, thanks to South West Regional Flood and Coastal Committee's funding. A permanent appointment to the role is being advertised this month – see inset box – and we expect the handover to take place in the coming months.

## Quarterly Meetings and Field Trips

You don't need to wait until the annual Conference to meet other members and get more involved in the work of the Forum. Each quarter the Board of Trustees invites members to join them at their meeting where a wide variety of topics is discussed. At the December meeting we were joined for the first time by members representing Perranzabuloe Parish and Falmouth Town Councils who made a great contribution. Meetings take place usually on the first Friday of March, June, September and December. As a member you will receive an invitation about a month in advance with the draft agenda and you are welcome to add items for consideration.

### COMMUNITY FLOOD RESILIENCE CO-ORDINATOR

80 hours per calendar month (flexible)  
Salary: £23,000 per annum (pro rata)  
Permanent contract subject to funding (currently funded to 31 March 2021)  
Working from home/hot desk at 2 Prince's Street Truro

Cornwall Community Flood Forum (CCFF) is a charitable incorporated organisation that aims to support communities across Cornwall to develop their resilience to flood risk.

#### Job Purpose

To oversee the day-to-day running and work of the Forum on behalf of the Trustees, and to deliver a service to CCFF members and the wider community in all matters relating to community flood resilience.

Employed by Cornwall Rural Community Charity, the post holder is on permanent secondment to CCFF and day-to-day management is through the CCFF Trustees. As the sole employee of the charity the successful applicant must be prepared to undertake a wide range of duties to maintain the sustainability and effectiveness of the charity.

Please see the Recruitment page of CRCC's website [www.cornwallrcc.org.uk](http://www.cornwallrcc.org.uk) for further details including a full job description and person specification.

If you would like to apply, your CV and covering letter should be forwarded to:

[cornwallcommunityfloodforum@gmail.com](mailto:cornwallcommunityfloodforum@gmail.com)

Closing date: Friday 1 March at midnight

Interviews: Wednesday 20 March

This year we are also planning to hold field trips where members can find out more about a topic being discussed. The first of these will be in June when we will visit the Cornwall Beaver Project at Woodland Valley Farm near Ladock where CCFF Trustee and farmer Chris Jones will explain how he is working with Cornwall Wildlife Trust to demonstrate how beavers can be effective in natural flood management.



*If you would like to attend the forthcoming Board of Trustees Quarterly Meeting on Friday 8 March at Perranarworthal Village Hall or take part in the field trip to the Cornwall Beaver Project in Ladock in June, just give Cathryn a call or drop her an email. You can find full contact details on the back page.*

### A Dedicated CCFF Website

CCFF has had an internet presence on the Cornwall Council website for some years at [www.cornwallcommunityfloodforum.org.uk](http://www.cornwallcommunityfloodforum.org.uk). Most of the content from the web pages will be migrating shortly to our own dedicated website on which we would like to ask for your first impressions:

- ◆ Is the site easy to navigate? Could you find useful information easily?
- ◆ What links to other sites should we include?
- ◆ What are your impressions of the site generally?

You can visit our 'work in progress' site by following this link: <http://cff.developersdownsouth.com/> and compare to our existing web pages at [www.cornwallcommunityfloodforum.org.uk](http://www.cornwallcommunityfloodforum.org.uk). Please bear in mind that the work in progress site will change frequently as we continue to work on it. We'd really welcome your comments.

CCFF also has a Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/CornwallCommunityFloodForum/> and you can follow us on Twitter at [@CwllCFloodForum](https://twitter.com/CwllCFloodForum):

[!\[\]\(05be7c7a8995decd503647c99211f7c2\_img.jpg\) Click to visit our Facebook Page](#)

[!\[\]\(aa53ad6fea213b8b2226d3077e30533a\_img.jpg\) Click to visit our Twitter Feed](#)

## Can you help with research into flooding?

Mary Dhonau is a well known expert on flooding and, in particular, property level protection. You can read all about her work and find some very useful information on her website <http://www.knowyourfloodrisk.co.uk/>. Mary has posted on our facebook page a request for assistance in some research she is doing:



**If you can help, please contact  
Mary direct:**  
Mary.dhonau@gmail.com

*“I wonder if any of you can help me? In my book, Flood Risk Management is like a jigsaw of many pieces, all working together to reduce flood risk. Whilst there are many interventions used to reduce flood risk, with the threat climate change brings, there may well be the ‘next big flood’ that overwhelms all that has been done. Furthermore, surface water floods can prove difficult to mitigate against. Having been flooded myself and having also seen the absolute devastation being flooded can cause, when I’ve visited people who have been newly flooded over the last 18+ years, I have always focussed on the ‘residual risk’ (our homes). And ways to adapt to the increasing threat that being flooded brings. I am putting together an EMag of case studies which will show what adaptations people have made to their homes. I am keen to talk to anyone who has taken steps to adapt their home to reduce the impact being flooded can bring, allowing it to recover more quickly. This can of course be coupled with trying to keep the flood water out. Are you are willing to talk to me about your experiences and allow me to take photos for the EMag? You can of course remain anonymous if you want to. I am working closely with the insurance industry to find ways to encourage them to think about recoverable repair when restoring a home after a flood. The NFU has already put 10k towards repair costs to do this and I’m keen others should follow.*

*Ultimately, having made adaptations to reduce the impact of a flood, it may result in reductions in our premiums.*

*We can but hope!”*

**Another research study is being done by PhD student Karin Snel.** She has sent us a request via our colleagues at the Environment Agency:

*“I am planning to conduct interviews with UK residents about their perceived flood responsibilities as well as about awareness of flood risk. For these interviews I am looking to come in contact with residents of common urban neighbourhood locations, not city centre-urban, but more suburban locations that are prone to flooding, preferably fluvial and surface water flooding (not coastal flooding for instance). The residents do not have to be experts on flood related topics and they do not have to have any prior knowledge or experience with floods. The only criteria I have is that they live in a ground-floor house in a neighbourhood that is at risk of fluvial or surface water flooding and are willing to have a conversation with me. The interviews are conducted individually. They will take approximately an hour and will take place at a location of the resident’s choosing.”*

If you would be interested in taking part, you can reach Karin via email at [k.snel@mdx.ac.uk](mailto:k.snel@mdx.ac.uk) or by phone on 020 8411 5529.

**Call for ‘evidence of need’ – would a short video about flooding and the impact of climate change on Cornish communities be helpful to your parish council or school?**

A few months back we applied to the Big Lottery for funding to produce a short documentary video on the impact of flooding in Cornwall and how climate change will increase this. We believe that this would be useful to parish and town councillors, and to schools, in explaining how we might better work together to mitigate against, and prepare for, future flooding in our communities. Unfortunately we were turned down for funding on the basis that we did not demonstrate sufficient evidence of demand from the communities we were seeking to support with the video.



*Can you support us? We’ve been invited to reapply if we can provide evidence of demand (emails, letters etc)*

- ◆ Could you use a short video to advocate for your community?
- ◆ Are you a teacher would could use such a video in your work?
- ◆ Do you have specific needs in terms of content?

We are continuing to discuss the content of the video with Cornwall Council and hope to reapply to the Big Lottery and some local Trusts and Foundations in the next few months with a view to having the video available for free distribution before next winter. If you can help, please just drop us an email telling us how you might use a copy of the video. Many thanks.

## Flooding Incidents

If you come across a flooding incident on the public highway which needs attention, you can contact Cornwall Council using either their website link <https://www.cornwall.gov.uk/environment-and-planning/countryside/estuaries-rivers-and-wetlands/flood-risk/report-a-flood/> or by phone on 0300 1234 222. The website allows you to post a photo but you also need to have a good description of the location.

### Other useful numbers are:

Environment Agency Incident Hotline: 0800 807060

Electricity associated with flooding: 0800 404090

Gas associated with flooding: 0800 111999

Water and sewerage emergencies: 0844 3462020

South West Water 24 hour leak emergency line: 0800 230056



Flooding is dangerous and can happen very quickly. The effects can be devastating. Find out if you are at risk and sign up for early flood warnings from the Environment Agency. Go to [www.gov.uk/sign-up-for-flood-warnings](http://www.gov.uk/sign-up-for-flood-warnings) or call Floodline on 0345 988 1188. Flood warning messages can be sent to you by phone, text or email. You can register your preferred contact details and tell the Environment Agency how you'd like to receive warnings.

## Flood warnings - know what to do?



**FLOOD  
ALERT**

**PREPARE**

- Prepare a bag that includes medicines and insurance documents
- Visit [flood-warning-information.service.gov.uk](http://flood-warning-information.service.gov.uk)



**FLOOD  
WARNING**

**ACT**

- Turn off gas, water and electricity
- Move things upstairs or to safety
- Move family, pets and car to safety



**SEVERE  
FLOOD  
WARNING**

**SURVIVE**

- Call 999 if in immediate danger
- Follow advice from emergency services
- Keep yourself and your family safe

## Membership – Please Encourage Others to Join CCFF

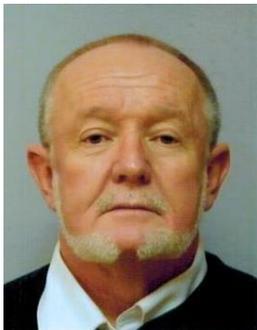
Membership of Cornwall Community Flood Forum is open to everyone who has an interest in flood preparation and alleviation in Cornwall and is free of charge. Membership benefits include:

- ◆ attendance at quarterly meetings and field trips
- ◆ attendance at the annual Conference
- ◆ attendance at training workshops
- ◆ access to flood warden training resources and hands-on support to create and exercise a community flood plan
- ◆ this quarterly eNewsletter

If you know someone would like to become a member please ask them to contact us (see below) or download the application form from the CCFF website [www.cornwallcommunityfloodforum.org.uk](http://www.cornwallcommunityfloodforum.org.uk).

### About the Editor

We are grateful to CCFF Trustee James Biscoe who has 'volunteered' to be our eNewsletter editor. James is a Stithians person with a Masters' Degree in Agricultural Extension and a Bachelors' Degree in Agricultural Economics. He has a wealth of experience in agricultural development in a range of roles. In the 1980's he worked in the Zimbabwe Government service as Principal Extension Specialist (Mass Media) supporting staff training and field extension across Zimbabwe. He went on to work for the Southern Africa Development Community on Food Security across the then nine Member States then on to Tanzania as Coffee Agronomist and from there to Cameroon as Senior Rural Development Adviser to the Korup National Park and then to Malawi as Senior Research Officer working on coffee. Subsequent experience includes working at the International Institute of Tropical Agriculture in Nigeria as well as with the Farmer Service Centre in Abu Dhabi, East Timor and Vanuatu. Most recently he has worked in Angola and Sri Lanka.



In addition to his professional activities he has served as a Parish Councillor and on the Village Hall Committee in Stithians; elsewhere he was in the Lions and Rotary and served the Zimbabwe Adult Literacy Organisation.

### And finally ...

Please get in touch with any comments, contributions or queries:

[cathryn.marcus@cornwallrcc.org.uk](mailto:cathryn.marcus@cornwallrcc.org.uk) / 01579 383218 / 07775 194030

We would really like to know what you think of this first edition so that we can improve the next one.

Thank you.

This eNewsletter is funded by the Environment Agency via the South West Regional Flood & Coastal Committee



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Cornwall Community Flood Forum is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation registered with the Charity Commission, registration number 1166604. Its objects are for the benefit of the community, the preservation of human life and prosperity and for the benefit of the environment to provide, preserve, maintain, restore and/or improve flood defences and flood protection measures and flood damage remediation in particular in Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly.