

Produced by:



NEWSLETTER

MARCH 2023

Welcome to the March edition of the Devon Community Resilience Forum newsletter!

Newsletters are sent out exclusively to Resilience Forum Members. In this issue, we have updated information about two Resilience Forum events that are running in March and May - there is still time to register, more information on the first page!

You will also see important updates from a few of our partners, as well as some of our communities that have benefitted from grant funding in recent months.



A special thank you to Holly Causley, aged 8, from East Devon, who took this photo



Events

Tuesday 28th March 2023

North Devon Community Emergency Planning and Flood Warden Training.
Weare Giffard Village Hall, from 5.30pm-7.30pm.

Event details:

- Property flood resilience.
- Natural flood management.
- North Devon and Torridge's flood history – understanding why parts of the area are particularly vulnerable to flash flooding hazards.
- An introduction to flood warden training.
- Grants available for Community Resilience and Property Flood Resilience measures.
- Support with Community Emergency Planning.
- Find out about the Devon Community Resilience Forum as well as support available from Devon County Council and the Environment Agency.

Free light refreshments will be available.

[Register here to attend for FREE!](#)

Wednesday 17th May 2023

Devon Community Resilience Forum Annual Event
Bridestowe Village Hall, from 9.30am-4.30pm

Event details:

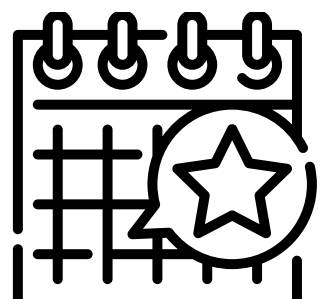
- Find out how you can help prevent emergencies, such as flooding.
- Take part in an emergency exercise to find out how prepared you are in case of the unexpected.
- Hear from, and chat to, communities and groups that already have their Community Emergency Plan (CEP) in place.
- Join experts from local organisation such as the Environment Agency and Devon County Council, who will be on hand to offer support and advice.
- Enjoy refreshments and a complementary local buffet lunch.
- Discover how to apply for grants to help you create or update/enhance your plan.

The event will finish at 4.30pm but there will also be the opportunity for people to continue networking or drop in after work for advice over a cuppa.

[Register here to attend for FREE!](#)

Autumn 2023

We hope to run a further forum event in the Autumn.
Watch this space!



As of Monday 27th February 2023, the Met Office has become a **Category 2 Responder**, as defined within the Civil Contingencies Act (2004), further details can be found in this [Met Office news release](#).

Just a reminder about our 'Weather Ready' campaign which can be found on our website here: [Weather Ready](#). These pages will be updated in due course for the Summer months.

Finally – there have been a few changes to the Met Office Advisor Team for SW England. Penny Tranter is heading off on this year's partial retirement break on Friday 3rd March and will return on late October to work full-time during next winter. They now have three advisors working together – year round – to cover SW England. Jess Moorwood and Jess Pryer, work alongside Penny, and they can all be contacted through swengland&westmids.cca@metoffice.gov.uk. Please could you ensure this email address is now on all your LRF organisation distribution lists for all appropriate groups and sub-groups, all appropriate plans, Op Links, notification processes and any other appropriate list for civil contingencies work involving Met Office input.

Devon Resilience Innovation Project

The project focusses on rapidly responding catchments in a predominantly rural area. It seeks to identify a range of replicable low-cost resilience actions that can be delivered and funded by local authorities or/and local communities of different sizes/ settings where traditional flood defences are shown not to be appropriate or cost beneficial. The project seeks to identify what level of protection can be afforded to a community using nature-based interventions, tailored flood warning systems and Property Flood Resilience measures.

The project will encourage local communities at risk to develop and deliver their own flood resilience interventions in collaboration with the project partners and identify wider benefits and alternative funding models which can then be used by other communities elsewhere. The project will also encourage local communities to participate in local monitoring to build trust and confidence in the resilience measures.

More information can be found [here](#).



STRIKES UPDATE

Please be aware that many organisations will be striking throughout the coming months

You can find out details here:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/business-62134314>



News from the Community



East Devon District Council

April and May will see the launch of the East Devon District Council campaign called – **Biodiversity Starts on your Doorstep.**

This campaign has 3 aims:

1. To get us to all to garden in a nature friendly way, whether that's a window box or half an acre.
2. To promote the nature recovery work that Streetscene are undertaking, whether that is selective mowing or tree planting or habitat restoration.
3. To start a conversation about the climatic and ecological emergency and the big issues surrounding this topic, pollinator decline and tree loss.

There will be a “Friday action” post to give you an idea of an action to do on a weekend such as build a container pond, create a log pile or sow a pot full of wildflower seeds. We will have a web page where you can download resources and find out more.



Clyst St Mary

On Saturday 4th March, volunteers from the village joined Environment Agency (EA) staff in an exercise to erect the aluminium 'stop logs' at the end of the historic Old Bridge in Clyst St Mary and another at the northern end of Frog Lane. When erected, these barriers complete the vital flood prevention scheme recently completed by the EA.



Each barrier consists of a number of substantial and highly engineered aluminium parts which are stored in a waterproof cabinet nearby which will be erected by village volunteers and EA staff when warned of potential flooding.

The grant that the Resilience Forum kindly awarded the Parish Council was used to purchase the 4 sets of waders and 4 LED work lamps as seen in the attached photos.

The Parish Council is extremely grateful to the EA for the excellent scheme they have completed and their continued aftercare and support.

How Can We Help You?



COST OF LIVING & WINTER PRESSURES SUPPORT

- Worried about your energy bills?
- In need of a wellbeing boost?
- Looking for support with sharing or obtaining food?
- Trying to start a business, enterprise or community project?
- Planning on developing your Community Building to support local people e.g. setting up a Warm Hub?
- Seeking funding for a community initiative?
- Concerned about the impact of adverse weather and other emergencies this winter?



Devon Communities Together is here to help with all of this - and more. Contact us via the details below:

01392 248919 info@devoncommunities.org.uk
www.devoncommunities.org.uk/cost-living-crisis-support



Hi 🙋

Chat with me to learn about your neighbourhood's flood risk and share your thoughts

SCAN:


OR TEXT:
HELLO FLOODING
TO:
07723 364661



Standard text messaging rates apply. All messages are monitored. For more info: 0800 077 077. Due to data protection regulations, this service is aimed at adults. If you are a young person and would like to be involved, please speak to a parent or guardian to share your thoughts on the information in the chat.

Brief Updates

Thank you for being a part of Devon Community Resilience Forum. If you have any organisations that you feel would benefit from being a member, please pass on our information. As a reminder, Forum members benefit from:

- A quarterly newsletter with information and advice.
 - The opportunity to apply for grants of up to £1500 for creating and implementing their emergency plan.
 - Liaising with other members about recommended equipment for community resilience, advice on plans and sharing resources.
 - Access to free resilience training.
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Grants

If you act quickly, you can still apply for a grant of up to £1500 to help your community become more resilient.

[More information can be found here.](#)

Be prepared and be resilient!

Devon Communities Together can help you with all the issues below when planning for an emergency:

- Key services are overstretched, be prepared to help yourselves with a local emergency plan and response team.
 - Know what to do, before outside help can arrive.
 - How to work with emergency services and other agencies effectively.
 - Things change – find out how to update your emergency plan.
 - Managing a refuge – essential information for village halls and community buildings.
 - Want to prepare a plan? Find out about funding to involve your community.
 - Be prepared, grants to equip your response team.
 - Practice, practice, practice – find out about help for your response team.
 - My parish/town council has decided not to write a plan, what can we do as a smaller group?
 - How to recover more quickly and effectively after an emergency.
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Do let us know if you have anything that you would like to include in the JUNE newsletter.

Copy deadline is the end of May.