



Image © Lewis Clarke



Great flood of 1968 remembered throughout Bath & North East Somerset

Thanks to everyone that helped to either organise or get involved in some of the amazing events that took place over the summer to mark 50 years since the Great Flood of 1968.

The well attended events that took place in villages throughout the Chew Valley served as a great way to raise awareness amongst many people that may not have been around in 1968 of the flood risk that in many places is still present.

The commemoration events inspired lots of schools and young people to think about the local historic impact of the 1968 floods and also encouraged them to think about what their families might need to do should a similar weather event arrive in the future.

We would encourage all Local Flood Reps to raise awareness of the Environment Agency's information about preparing for flooding.

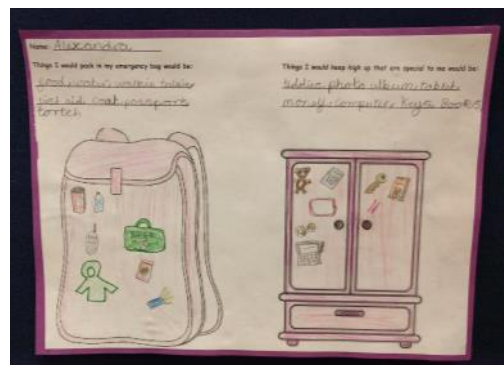
The Environment Agency website makes it really easy to sign up to flood warnings and provides templates for making a personal flood plan.

<https://www.gov.uk/prepare-for-flooding/future-flooding>

The last two pages of this newsletter include lots of useful links to flood risk related resources.

All of the stories, photographs, films and audio recordings gathered as part of the 1968 remembrance events will be compiled as a legacy document.

Particular thanks to Ruth Coleman from the West of England Rural Network who assisted communities in pulling these events together.



Photos clockwise from top left:
Main bridge in Pensford damaged in 1968.
High water line marked in Pensford.
1968 event in Keynsham.
Children from Chew Stoke Primary illustrate what items they would save in a flood.

Catchment walkover in Priston leads to improvements

Aylet Anderson, the Local Flood Rep for Priston, recently organised a tour of the local area for Jim McEwen from the Council's Drainage and Flooding Team and Louise Callan from Priston Parish Council. Together they looked at three locations where surface water flooding on the road is, at times, making it difficult to get in or out of the village. Two of the locations concerned watercourse culverts beneath roads and the build-up of wooded debris around the inlets to these culverts.

A third location identified some inadequate highway drainage, which may be improved.

"The walkover was so helpful. The old saying of "a picture speaks a 1000 words" was very true in this instance, as Jim was able to see exactly what the problems were, to investigate and then to offer suggestions as to remedies. Having Louise there also meant that all thoughts and comments could be relayed directly to the Parish Council. I know the Drainage and Flooding team's time is precious, but I think in terms of efficiency and clarity of thought this was an excellent exercise, and much appreciated by us".



Flooding in Priston in November 2012



Wooded debris obstructing culvert

Aylet and the Parish Council are now engaging with landowners to see if they would be happy to maintain new debris screens positioned immediately upstream of the culverts in order to better protect them.

If landowners are happy to take on the ongoing maintenance, the Council's Drainage and Flooding Team will design the screens and manage their installation.

In the meantime, the Drainage and Flooding team undertook a CCTV survey of around 100m of culvert along the Priston Brook. This survey was able to identify some future repairs and remove some blockages including wooded debris, an oil drum lid and a children's toy!



Aylet showing the Drainage and Flooding team local drainage issues

Are there surface water flood risks in your area? Could you give the Drainage and Flooding team a tour of these locations?

Local Flood Reps are an important part of helping the Council identify what's important to local people.

If you have any long-standing surface water flooding issues that are affecting homes, businesses or roads in your area, the Drainage and Flooding team would be happy to come out and take a look. This could lead to formal drainage improvement works, or could simply help you to identify what can be done locally to improve things.

If you would like the Drainage and Flooding team to visit your area please email: drainage&flooding@bathnes.gov.uk

Drainage improvements at Wellow ford

Surface water from a reported spring was starting to degrade the surface of Mill Hill in Wellow, making it unsafe particularly during freezing temperatures.

Extensive investigations discovered multiple failures to surface water pipelines, which needed to be fixed.

In July a new surface water system was installed. Due to the damaged road surface from water and excavations the road was resurfaced from the ford to half way up Mill Hill.

Many thanks to the residents and school for their patience during the six week road closure.



Reducing flood risk in Combe Hay

Combe Hay has been subject to annual flooding from groundwater and springs for a number of years. A culvert which allowed the water to flow into the local watercourse failed and caused the water to flow along the carriageway, this in turn was causing significant damage to the road.

The Parish Council brought this to the attention of the Drainage & Flooding team and was keen to see the issue resolved as it is the key route through the village.

Following investigation of the existing assets, a scheme was designed to replace the failed culvert and to collect the groundwater before arriving at the surface.

To carry out the work the road required a temporary closure; this was a concern for local residents and the local pub as it would split the village in two and could have been detrimental to the business.

Following consultation with those affected, the work was managed so that the closure could be lifted in the evenings and at weekends to minimise the effect on the pub.

Further efforts were made to allow deliveries through. Pedestrians/ cyclists/ horse-riders were always able to pass through the works.

The work was completed within the estimated three weeks. We will be monitoring the situation over the winter to evaluate how well the scheme is working and will remain in close contact with the Parish to ensure that it is functioning correctly. This work will allow all highway users unimpeded passage and will also significantly reduce the maintenance liability associated with the carriageway surface.



Before



After

How to report blocked highway gullies

← Back to all reports

O/s no. 23 gully completely blocked

Reported in the Blocked drain category anonymously at 13:30 today.

I'm writing to inform you about the drainage problem on the Chalmouth Road in Bath (BA1 3LJ). This is an access road to the Newbridge Primary School hence it's important that everything is in order. The Virgin Media has been recently doing some work on our road. When they finished working in front of our house (no. 23), I noticed that the drainage has been completely blocked. I don't know what caused the blockage but I asked one of the workman to hold the metal cover of the drainage so I could take some pictures to show the scale of the problem. The first photo (below) shows that the drainage is completely blocked with a black soil, and the second photo (below) shows that the drainage has been simply covered with the metal cover through which you can still see the scale of the problem. It is obvious that the drainage doesn't let for any flow of rain water which is not helpful because in mind that

Generally speaking highway gullies in urban areas are cleaned once every two years and gullies in rural locations once a year.

If you believe a road gully is blocked and that this is creating a risk to road safety or property flooding this can now be reported via the Council's Fix My Street portal so that it can be reviewed by the Highway Maintenance team. Fix My Street makes it easy to report the precise location of a gully and include a photo to demonstrate the issue. It's probably the simplest way to report any highway issues.

<https://fix.bathnes.gov.uk>

Alternatively you can still report highway and drainage issues via Council Connect:

Email: councilconnect@bathnes.gov.uk

Twitter: @ccbathnes

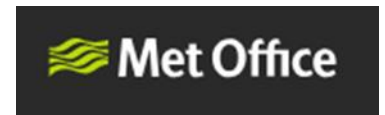
Telephone: 01225 39 40 41

Want up-to-the minute rainfall forecasts? Get the Met Office weather app

As well as providing a really easy to use general weather forecast, the Met Office weather app provides fifteen minute rainfall forecasts that can be incredibly useful if you want short term rain information.

The app also alerts you to any severe weather warnings that might be in your area. Many Local Flood Reps use these weather warnings to go out and inspect flood prone areas prior to rainfall.

To get the app visit <https://www.metoffice.gov.uk/services/mobile-digital-services/weather-app>



New poster: Watercourse ownership and responsibilities



their land. Roadside ditches are not generally maintained by the Highway Authority (Council) and should be looked after by the adjacent landowner.

The Council is keen for Parishes and local communities to get an understanding of watercourse maintenance as it often causes confusion.

We have emailed a copy of this poster to all Local Flood Reps but we have lots of large printed copies available. If you would like a printed poster to put up in your community hall, local school, or notice board please email drainage&flooding@bathnes.gov.uk

For more information about watercourses and maintenance visit <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/owning-a-watercourse>

We have recently published a new poster for communities to help promote awareness of watercourse ownership and responsibilities. The poster is designed to explain who maintenance responsibility falls to for watercourses, including small streams, ditches and culverts. The poster is a means to encourage landowners to carry out their 'riparian' duties and ensure that water

can flow freely through watercourses.

It's often not understood that that neither the Council nor the Environment Agency has any duty to maintain watercourses that are not on land they own. Maintenance for any watercourse falls to landowners that have watercourses passing through their land or even running adjacent to

Getting in touch with the Council's Drainage and Flooding team



Local Flood Reps are an important part of helping us identify what's important to local people. We are grateful for the time that Local Flood Reps have taken to flag up surface water flooding locations in your communities,

Like all Council departments, the Drainage and Flooding team has a limited budget so it's extremely useful for the team be informed of issues so that they can be prioritised as, unfortunately, we are unable to fix everything!

We would be delighted to get your feedback on this newsletter and our communications with you. Equally, if you would like to talk through a local drainage or flooding issue please get in touch initially by email: drainage&flooding@bathnes.gov.uk

This newsletter has been put together by the Drainage and Flooding Team at Bath & North East Somerset Council.

Resources for Local Flood Reps and communities

The Drainage and Flooding team can email or send to you any of the following items.

A map of your area highlighting flood risk

A map showing the highway drainage network in your area (in order to aid reporting of blocked gullies)

A poster explaining how to report flooding

A poster explaining watercourse responsibilities

If there is something you would like please email drainage&flooding@bathnes.gov.uk



How to report flooding

Report watercourse flooding

Watercourses are split into two categories: Ordinary Watercourses and Main Rivers.

Main Rivers tend to be the larger rivers or systems and in Bath and North East Somerset these include the Avon, the Chew, the Cam Brook and Wellow Brook.

To report Main River flooding contact the Environment Agency on 0800 80 70 60.

Any watercourse that is not a Main River is known as an Ordinary Watercourse and includes drainage ditches, small streams and pipes.

To report Ordinary Watercourse flooding contact the Council via Council Connect.

Report surface water flooding

To report surface water flooding including highway flooding and blocked road gullies contact the Council via Council Connect. Please note the Council does not provide sandbags.

Report sewer flooding and burst water mains

To report sewer flooding contact Wessex Water on 0345 600 4 600.

To report a burst water main in the Bath area contact Wessex Water on 0345 600 4 600.

To report a burst water main outside of the Bath area contact Bristol Water on 0800 801 011.

Information and resources available from
the Environment Agency...

Where to find further information

- For local weather information including weather warnings visit the Met Office at www.metoffice.gov.uk
- For river levels and to sign up for flood warnings, visit <https://flood-warning-information.service.gov.uk/river-and-sea-levels>
- Wessex Area Monthly Water Situation Reports are produced on Gov.uk at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/water-situation-local-area-reports>
- Flood Re has been set up to help those households who live in a flood risk area find affordable home insurance. For more information contact your insurer or visit www.floodre.co.uk
- The National Flood Forum provide further advice and support at www.nationalfloodforum.org.uk

Helpful resources and guidance that you can access on-line and download (click on the picture)



What to do before, during and after a flood

Practical advice on what to do to protect you and your property from flooding



Prepare your property for flooding

A guide for householders and small businesses to prepare for floods.



Sandbags - How to use them properly for flood protection



Flooding from Groundwater

Practical advice to help you reduce the impact of flooding from groundwater.

Flood Plan Templates (click on the picture)



Personal flood plan



Would your business stay afloat?

A guide to preparing your business for flooding



Community Flood Plan

Riverside Ownership

Your responsibilities and rules to follow for watercourses on or near your property, and permissions you need to do work around them.

Useful contacts

Contact **Floodline** on **0345 988 11 88** for up to date flood warning information or advice.
Contact the Environment Agency **incident hotline** on **0800 80 70 60** to report flooding, blockages in rivers or any other environmental incident.

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



**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

floodsdestroy.campaign.gov.uk

**FLOODS
DESTROY
BE PREPARED**

Floodline on 0345 988 1188

#PrepareActSurvive

Help us to Help Your Community

If your community is affected by flooding please remember to share this information with us. Photos, times and description of flooding are vital in helping us understand how your community has been affected and what we can do going forwards, whether it be changes to flood warning thresholds or assessing your community for a scheme or property flood resilience measures.

If you have received training on SWIM (Severe Weather Information Management) system you can record information directly at <https://swim.geowessex.com>
Alternatively you can email us at floodwessex@environment-agency.gov.uk

Reporting Flood Risk and Riparian Responsibilities

If you are concerned about blockages, obstructions to flow in the river or know of cut vegetation being deposited in the watercourse, which can cause pollution, please remember to ring our Incident Hotline **0800 80 70 60** which is open and manned 24hrs a day. You will be given advice and guidance and the information you share will be recorded and passed to the relevant duty team who will be able to take any necessary actions.

Keeping in Touch

If you are a new flood warden or have received this newsletter from your Town or Parish Clerk, please contact the Wessex Flood Resilience Team at floodwessex@environment-agency.gov.uk and we will update our records and sign you up to receive the newsletter and invitations to future training opportunities.