

**Evening Flood Protection Workshop
Monday 7th October 2011
At 7pm**

PROGRAMME

1. Welcome and introduction
 - Mary Dhonau OBE who will chair this evening's event.
2. Launch of the 'Know Your Flood Risk Campaign's National Flood Awareness week', and the 'New Homeowners Guide To Flood Resilience'
 - James Sherwood Rogers, Chairman of the KYFR campaign
3. The Role of Herefordshire Council
 - Clive Hall, Head of Highways and Community Services
4. Reducing Flood Risk: The role of the Environment Agency
 - Anthony Perry, Area Flood Risk Manager
5. Recorded Interview
 - with Matt Cullen, Flood Policy Advisor The Association of British Insurers
6. How to find insurance if you are at risk of flooding
 - Sharon Bailey – Managing Director of Primecover Insurance Services Ltd. Insurance Brokers
7. Floodbond - a viable alternative to Flood Insurance
 - Oliver Townend Managing Director Floodbond
8. A Community perspective
 - Babs Mitcheson secretary Bodenham Flood Protection Group
9. 'Any Questions'
 - Chaired by Andrew Easton from BBC Hereford and Worcester – a panel discussion with questions from the audience to tonight's speakers.

Biographies of speakers

Mary Dhonau has been flooded herself on many occasions and has extensive experience in supporting and advising the victims of flooding during their recovery. She has championed promotion of individual flood protection and resilience and is a passionate advocate of empowering communities to recognise and take responsibility for minimising their collective flood risk.

Mary has represented the 'voice of the flood victim' at government level, in the media, and at flood risk management conferences at a national level. She is a respected figure within the flood protection industry. Mary was awarded an OBE in 2009 for services to the environment.

Clive Hall has also lived in a property that had flooded on many occasions. As a Chartered Civil Engineer he has been involved in the delivery of many flood alleviation schemes across Herefordshire. These schemes have ranged in scale from multi-million pound sewerage and drainage works to small programmes of ditch and watercourse maintenance.

Clive has also been very active in the multi-agency response to flood events and the development of Herefordshire's Multi-Agency Flood Plan. He chairs the county's severe weather group, as a result of having a particular interest in the impact that ice, snow, wind and rain, and of course flood, has on the health, well-being and economic vitality of Herefordshire's communities.

As Head of Highways & Community Services, Clive leads the team who manage the Council's relationship with Amey Herefordshire, through whom the Council, as part of the community, deliver much of its contribution towards the management of the overall flood risk and are taking forward its role as Lead Local Flood Authority through the Herefordshire Flood Risk Management Partnership.

James Sherwood-Rogers - Chair, Know Your Flood Risk Campaign.

James Sherwood-Rogers founded Know Your Flood Risk in 2009 and has since been campaigning and lobbying to raise awareness of flood risk across the public and private sectors. James has presented at numerous conferences and is a key media spokesperson.

James was the driving force behind the successful National Flood Risk Awareness Week in November 2010 which generated a PR value of nearly £700,000 for the campaign, and bought together over 70 key stakeholders and MPs at a reception hosted by Anne McIntosh MP at the House of Commons.

Anthony Perry is Flood Risk Manager for the Environment Agency's Midlands West Area. The Area includes 2000km of main river including the largest river in England and Wales, the River Severn, not forgetting the smaller watercourses. It also covers a diverse landscape from the uplands of Shropshire and Herefordshire to the Severn Estuary. After growing up in a house that flooded on a number of occasions, Anthony is passionate about reducing flood risk and putting communities first.

Anthony has received praise from Government as a Flood Hero after he showed tireless commitment in the management of the 2007 floods and continues to be actively engaged in the recovery process for flood victims.

Sharon Bailey Managing Director of Primecover Insurance Services Ltd. Insurance Brokers based in Bolton, Lancashire. Primecover was started in 2006 by Sharon and has organically grown with previous clients she dealt with for over 25 years. The company has grown from strength to strength and specializes in the property sector. Primecover don't just provide an Insurance policy for a client – they listen to the clients needs and ensure that the cover/policy offered is correct not only for the client but the insurer too.

As a general broker, they can provide cover for;

Individuals – Rented Property, Unoccupied and Holiday Homes, Household, Motor, Breakdown, Legal Expenses and Travel Insurance.

Businesses – Commercial property, Shops, Offices, restaurants and Takeaways, Beauty Salons, Public & Employers Liability cover and many more.....

Oliver Townend is Managing Director of Floodbond and will be advising how the company's unique rapid-drying service offers hope to those living with the threat of flooding.

Babs Mitcheson and her husband Tony moved to Herefordshire in June 2007. Within the first 72 hours of their arrival there was water lapping at the front door as the local brook was unable to get water from the surrounding hills down to the River Lugg quickly enough. Matters became far worse on 20th July, just four weeks later, when, following a period of continuous heavy rain, the village suffered flash flooding, made worse by the overflow from ditches, drains and watercourses which were blocked as a result of a lack of maintenance over many years.

The Parish Council's response was to form the Bodenham Flood Protection Group in August 2008 and Babs was elected as its Secretary, a key appointment she has held ever since.

The Group meet on the last Tuesday of each month during the year to plan for emergencies. Also, between April and October every fortnight volunteer working parties tackle a planned maintenance schedule to ensure that all the watercourses within the village are cleared and monitored. In organising and coordinating all of this Babs plays a pivotal role and has the additional task of recording all of the Group's activities and minuteing its meetings, these records being kept by the Parish Clerk with the Parish Council Minutes and made available for all to see on the Group's section of the Parish Website. The Group's initiative and hard work have recently contributed to Bodenham receiving an Environment Agency Grant for £144,500 to enable property-level flood protection measures to be fitted to those houses which were worst affected in 2007, and in October the Group were awarded the title of Environmental Champions in the 2011 Pride of Herefordshire Awards

Andrew Easton - Andrew has probably travelled the furthest out of all the BBC Hereford and Worcester presenters' team to be with you as he hails from down under - Christchurch, New Zealand in fact!

He arrived in the UK in 1993 and has always had a passionate interest in radio. A foot was let through the door in the early 2000's when Andrew started doing 'all the other things that no-one else wanted to do' at BBC Hereford and Worcester. Those at the BBC in Gloucester and Birmingham also heard he was a jack of all trades and took advantage of this for a while before Andrew landed a permanent job with BBC Hereford and Worcester as early presenter and helping hand on the breakfast show. Join Andrew Easton each Weekday Evening from 4pm

Oh, and if you ever see Andrew in the pub (a common occurrence) chat to him about travelling or Billy Joel - two of his favourite things.