

# AVONWICK FLOOD GROUP

Avonwick Flood Group was set up as a response to the severe flooding of the lower village in July 2012. Following excessive and sudden rainfall, the main road through the village was inundated for several hours and the water entered the properties along the road. Residents affected came together to discuss what needed to be done to reduce the chance of future flooding, and as a result of this combined effort the village drains, and the pumping station, have received much needed attention from South West Water (still more to be done!), and ditches and culverts have been cleared and are monitored. South Hams District Council, Devon County Council and the Environment Agency have attended our meetings and have given valuable advice. With their help, we have written a Flood Emergency Plan, and this has given access to DCC funding for some resilience equipment (sand store, high-vis vests, cones and road signs) now available to those in the flood zone. We have been well supported by the Parish Council, and Richard Cooper, from the Shop, is our Emergency Coordinator. Two members of the group have attended Flood Warden training provided by DCC and the Environment Agency. Many homeowners have made changes to their properties to improve resilience, and we are all grateful to those who have responsibility for field drains, river banks and drains on private land, for their efforts in keeping them clear. We now feel much more prepared for any future extreme weather events in the Avon valley.

Most members of the group live in the flood zone, and in the event of a flood, their priorities would be to protect their properties and to support and monitor each other. As part of the emergency plan, it would be beneficial to know of anybody living outside the flood zone, who would be prepared to help in a dire emergency. If there is anybody who would be willing to have their contact details added to the emergency plan for this purpose, please let us know. We must emphasise that any helpers would be called only in the most extreme circumstances.

Lyn Dent, secretary AFG

Brian Dent, chair AFG

01364 73274