

# Heavy rain increases flood-risk across South East

The Environment Agency is warning communities that persistent heavy rain could lead to an increased risk of flooding across South East England over the next few days.

The forecast heavy rain could cause surface water flooding in local communities, and see a rise in river levels, and travel disruption as roads and rail lines may be affected.

At midday today, there were 82 flood alerts, which means flooding is possible, while it is expected in another 28 locations across the region. With further rainfall forecast, this figure is likely to go up.

Dave Bedlington, duty manager for the Environment Agency, said:

Heavy downpours across the South East have led to surface water flooding and significant travel disruption today, Friday 20 December, and may do so into the weekend. Due to the heavy rain, we have put up temporary flood barriers in Guildford, on Mary Road, through the bus depot and on to Leas Road, and Guildford Road Bridge in Leatherhead, protecting almost 70 properties in the two locations.

In response to recent rainfall and increasing river flows on the River Thames, the Environment Agency has operated the Maidenhead, Windsor and Eton Flood Alleviation Scheme, which includes the Jubilee River, which has been reducing the risk of flooding from the River Thames to approximately 3,000 properties in Maidenhead, Windsor and Eton since 2002.

We are assessing 3 rivers in the east of the region, the Mole, the Medway and the Stour, and will issue any local flood alerts or warnings locally as required.

Our teams have been out on the ground checking flood defences, clearing debris from rivers, and will continue to support our partners to reduce the impacts of the heavy rain. We will issue flood warnings and alerts where necessary.

We urge the public to prepare to take action when at risk of flooding, even if a temporary barrier is in place. There are a number of things you can do to prepare for flooding to keep yourself and your family safe. Find out if your home is at risk, sign-up for flood warnings and be ready to take action. For more information, visit [GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk) or call Floodline on 0345 988 1188.

People should remain vigilant, check their flood-risk and plan to

stay safe. We urge people to stay away from swollen rivers and not to walk or drive through flood water as just 30cm/12ins of flowing water is enough to move your car.

People on Twitter can follow updates on flood-risk on the Environment Agency's South East and national accounts, @EnvAgencySE and @EnvAgency.

## **Notes to editors**

Flood alerts indicate that people should be aware. Flood warnings mean that flooding is expected and people should take action to stay safe. A severe flood warning means that there is a risk to life – people should take immediate action and follow the advice of the emergency services.

### **What are temporary barriers and how do they work?**

- Temporary flood barriers are portable metal frames with a water proof barrier that can be quickly deployed to help reduce the impact of flooding.
- When deployed, our barriers create a temporary wall to help reduce the impact of flooding to people properties and businesses.
- When there is no longer a risk of flooding the temporary barriers are completely removed. The barrier is checked and put back into storage ready to be used again.
- Temporary flood barriers can reduce the impact of flooding in communities which do not currently benefit from a permanent flood protection scheme.
- Although temporary flood barriers can reduce the impact of flooding when in place, we cannot guarantee that they will always be deployed and effective in every situation. We strongly advise that people continue to prepare and take action to reduce the impact of flooding to homes and businesses.

### **Jubilee River**

- The Jubilee River, part of the Maidenhead, Windsor and Eton Flood Alleviation Scheme, was designed to alleviate flooding to those areas flooded in the Great Floods of 1947, when 2,000 homes were flooded.
- The river was designed to appear natural with the channel varying in shape, containing wetlands and islands. This wildlife corridor, known as Dorney Wetlands, is part of the 193 hectares of native woodland, 38 hectares of reed bed and 326 hectares of wildflower grassland.

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**[Ministry of Justice statement in fee-](#)**

## [paid judicial litigation: December 2019](#)

MOJ's update to the Employment Tribunal confirms that interim payments in lieu of pension have now commenced for eligible retired claimants in respect of their pre 7 April 2000 service. The plan is to launch a consultation in the spring of 2020 on a long-term remedy.

The update also sets out MOJ's initial response to the 16 December 2019 Supreme Court judgment in the case of Miller.

### **Related link**

[Ministry of Justice statement in fee-paid judicial litigation: February 2019](#)

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## [GC conference: Safe food for tomorrow's world](#)

A 2-day conference, 'Safe food for tomorrow's world) will take place on 24-25 June 2020.

The conference will be opened by [Gideon Henderson](#), Chief Scientific Adviser, Defra after a brief introduction by Dr [Julian Braybrook](#), Government Chemist.

PDF, 843KB, 1 page

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Scientists, regulators, enforcement agencies, industry and policy makers are invited to join the Government Chemist at the Royal Society of Chemistry in central London to discuss future challenges in the manufacturing, packaging, retailing and testing of food that is safe and consumers can trust.

The conference programme will include talks on national and international perspectives on food fraud and food integrity assurance, advances and challenges in allergen testing, and health implications for consumers.

Registrations for the conference will open in January. Sign up for alerts to

keep up to date!

For more information about the work of the Government Chemist contact:

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## £57,000 raised for Tŷ Olwen by DVLA staff



Tŷ Olwen offer quality of life for patients, along with appropriate and compassionate end of life care when the time comes. Patients are cared for either in Tŷ Olwen itself, in their own homes or on the wards of local hospitals. The care is extended to family and friends, and the support is given for as long as it's needed.

Staff chose Tŷ Olwen as the agency's charity of choice for 2019 and have raised the money through a number of activities including cake sales, cycling challenges, running marathons, assault course challenges and the 'Tunes for Tŷ Olwen' charity concert.

Helen Murray MBE, Chairman of Tŷ Olwen accepted the cheque from Julie Lennard, DVLA Chief Executive during the agency's annual Christmas event held on 4 December 2019.

Julie Lennard, DVLA Chief Executive, said:

I am so proud our staff have given so much of their own time to raise money for Tŷ Olwen this year. Once again we've seen a massive variety of fundraising activities throughout the year and I'm grateful to everyone who supported this incredibly good cause.

Helen Murray MBE, Chairman of Tŷ Olwen, said:

Working with everyone at the DVLA as their Charity of Choice for the past 12 months has been a fantastic experience. Not only have they all worked hard to raise this incredible amount of money, but

they have overwhelmed us with their generosity by donating Easter eggs, welcome bags, shawls and blankets.

As well as all this we cannot put a value on how much Tŷ Olwen will benefit for many years to come as they have helped to raise our profile in the community.

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## [Community Collaboration honour for LLW Repository Ltd and Graham](#)

LLWR and partner Graham earned a major honour at the Institute of Collaborative Working (ICW) Awards at the House of Lords in London.

They picked up the Community Collaboration Award for their work on the Engineering, Design and Construction Framework (EDCF) spanning almost 5 years on LLWR's Repository Site.

"Our relationship with Graham has been one of achievement – on Site and off," said Cath Giel, LLWR's Head of Public Affairs.

"We've dovetailed really well, building a single integrated team with a single vision and setting an example with our collaborative behaviours. This 'one team' mindset has certainly helped lead to successful delivery of a programme of works across a host of security and infrastructure projects on Site that have provided cost and time efficiencies, and most importantly, without suffering any accidents.

"But the community impact has also been strong, as recognised by this award, with EDCF personnel involved in a string of community projects designed to make a lasting impact.

"They took part in production of the Drigg and Carleton Community Led Plan, designed to point the way to improvements in the locality, spruced up an emergency homeless shelter in Egremont, worked with students to help signpost career opportunities, litter picked on Drigg beach and so much more."

The EDCF was also a finalist in the ICW Awards in 2018, the year it won a Green Apple environmental award. In 2018 and 2019 it also picked up Considerate Constructors Scheme Gold Awards which recognised the highest level of consideration in respect of the community, environment and

workforce.