

St. Mary Bourne Parish Council

www.stmarybourne-pc.gov.uk



SANDBAGS

As many of us will be aware, groundwater levels are high and continue to rise and there is an Environment Agency Flood Alert down the Bourne Valley. Property owners should take steps themselves wherever possible to protect their own homes from flooding. The Parish Council will help where and when it can.

We have a limited supply of pre-filled sandbags in the parish, in both St Mary Bourne and Stoke, which will be prioritised for emergency use in the first instance for the vulnerable in our community. By vulnerable we mean someone in need of special care, support, or protection because of age or disability. The distribution of these pre-filled sandbags will be managed by the PC's Flood and Emergency Group.

For those residents who can manage without assistance, we do have a limited supply of empty hessian sandbags (about 200), which the PC are able to provide, but residents will need to source their own sand to fill them. Might we suggest that groups of neighbours get together to buy sand at volume? We are informed that a one tonne bag of sand will fill approximately 50 sandbags.

With respect, please do not raid the grit bins at the roadside as this contains a mix of grit and salt which will rot the hessian very quickly rendering them useless, along with causing issues when there is no grit left for icy conditions.

Please also be aware that sandbags are of little use in holding back rising groundwater. If the Bourne Rivulet overflows they are useful in steering the water where you would prefer it to go. They are NOT water proof, instead they will absorb the water to saturation point and are better used as a weight to hold down plastic sheeting to better protect your home.

The Parish Council bought the empty sandbags from a company called MAD Supplies Ltd on eBay, but they are available from stores such as Wickes and B&Q. We found they were much cheaper online, and our order arrived the following day.

Please be assured that the Flood and Emergency Group are working closely with agencies such as Southern Water, the Environment Agency, Hampshire County Council, Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council, and our local Member of Parliament to help us manage through what is likely to be a tricky winter.

There is information available on the Parish Council website under the Bourne Rivulet section, and members of the Flood and Emergency Group are available through flood@stmarybourne.org or via clerk@stmarybourne-pc.gov.uk. Summary Notes from each FEG meeting are published on the PC website as soon as possible after each meeting.

Members include:

Ed Makgill (FEG Lead), Patrick Foote (PC Chair), Dave Peart, Dave Burlison, Sarah Cooney, Clem Jones, Maxine Owen (Clerk)