We have lots of new communities to welcome to the Pathfinder II Project! Ashton, Kilsby, Moulton, Sywell, Weedon Bec and Whilton have signed up to start in September 2017.

The Flood Warden Training Event has been scheduled for Saturday 23rd September- we would love to see you there, please let us know if you can attend.

The new emergency plan templates are now online!

Schools sessions are available to all Pathfinder I and II primary schools for Year 5 classes.

WHAT’S NEW?

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT EVENTS

We have had a lot of fun visiting your communities over the last few months! We’ve seen dog shows, Morris dancers, rubber duck races and even a Regatta run in cardboard boats! It was great to see how many people were interested in improving their flood and emergency preparedness.

Thank you for inviting us along!
**SCHOOL SESSIONS AVAILABLE**

The Pathfinder Team is offering to run a one hour session on weather, flooding and emergency planning for Year 5 classes at schools in Pathfinder I and II communities. We use the Flood Aware schools pack which was created as part of Pathfinder I and is designed to fit in with the national curriculum. If you would like a session to be held in your school please contact us and we can arrange a date.

One teacher whose Year 5’s participated in the session in the Summer Term said ‘I thought the opportunities for discussion were great. Thank you for your time and clear explanations.’

If you would like to use the Flood Aware Schools Pack as your own resource it is available at [www.floodtoolkit.com/education](http://www.floodtoolkit.com/education). The pack is designed for Key Stage 2 pupils, with a particular focus on Year 5 and can be used as a one-off session or throughout a term. The resources include a Scheme of Work, pupil activity sheets, PowerPoint presentations and an interactive component.

**EMERGENCY PLANS—HAVE YOU WRITTEN YOURS?**

If you had to leave your house in the middle of the night, would you know where to go? What should you take? What if you couldn't contact your family?

The new look **Household Emergency and Flood Plan** template will help you prepare for any emergency whether you need to evacuate or have to remain in your home until help arrives. It will guide you through everything from identifying your risks, planning escape routes and preparing Grab Bags to what to do during an emergency. Emergencies are very rare but you may not have much time when they do occur, being prepared helps you know how to protect yourself and your family.

During widespread emergencies it may take time for the emergency services to reach you and your community. In times like these affected communities will benefit from having their own **Community Emergency and Flood Plan**. As a community you may need to set up reception centres, support members of the community and communicate with the emergency services. A template is available to help you form a Community Resilience Group, identify key skills within the community and know what actions to take. Send a completed copy of your community plan to the Emergency Planning Team so we know who to contact in an emergency.

Both these templates are available to download at [www.floodtoolkit.com/pathfinder2](http://www.floodtoolkit.com/pathfinder2)
**ARE YOU RESPONSIBLE FOR THAT PROBLEMATIC PIPE? FIND OUT IF YOU’RE A RIPARIAN OWNER**

If you have a watercourse within or adjacent to any boundary of your land then you may be a riparian owner. That includes those often forgotten about roadside ditches!

**WHAT IS A WATERCOURSE?**

A watercourse is any natural or artificial channel above or below ground through which water flows, such as a river, brook, ditch, mill stream or culvert (but not canals). It can be above or below ground and does not have to contain water all year round.

**WHAT DOES THIS MEAN?**

As a riparian owner you have the responsibility of maintaining any watercourse and letting water flow through your land without obstruction. To keep your ditch in top condition you’ll need to be regularly removing debris, maintaining the bed and banks and keeping structures clear. This will reduce the need to carry out significant and costly activities later! Why not create a programme of how often and what time of year you will carry out works?

You also have the right to protect your property from flooding and land from erosion but you will need to get your plans agreed with the relevant authority. If you wish to alter your ditch or build within nine metres of it you must get consent. For ordinary watercourses you will need to contact the Bedford Group of Internal Drainage Boards (BIDB) and for main rivers contact the Environment Agency. You may also need planning permission; your local borough or district planning authority can advise on this.

If you are a tenant then the responsibility of maintenance needs to be discussed with your landlord.

Look out for the Autumn 2017 issue of *The Pathfinder Update* where there will be an article with advice on clearing ditches effectively.

There is a lot of information and advice out there for riparian owners:

- **Guidance Library:** [www.floodtoolkit.com/pdf-library/](http://www.floodtoolkit.com/pdf-library/) > Community and Landowner Guidance
JOIN THE PREPAREDNESS GAME! JOIN @30DAYS30WAYSUK

The 1st September marked the start of 30 Days, 30 Ways UK!

This month long social media campaign is intended to boost personal resilience and preparedness for individuals of all ages through easy, fun games and activities.

It was originally developed by the Clark Regional Emergency Services Agency in Vancouver, Washington and has been running since 2010. In the UK, the Northamptonshire County Council Emergency Planning Team piloted the concept in 2015 and it is gaining momentum every year. Following a highly successful run in 2016 this campaign has now gone national with other local authorities and national organisations getting involved.

Each day there is a different preparedness topic and games or activities to play with points to score. It's fun, easy and FREE to join and there are prizes to be won!

LIKE @30days30waysUK on Facebook
FOLLOW @30days30waysUK on twitter
Go to our new website to find out more: www.30days30waysuk.org.uk

JOIN in the preparedness games.
#30Days30WaysUK

IDEAS FOR NEXT TIME?

If you have any articles you would like to be included in the next issue, or topics that you would like us to cover please send them to nbaines@northamptonshire.gov.uk

Don’t forget to join our Facebook group: www.facebook.com/groups/northantspathfinder/

Visit our website: www.floodtoolkit.com/pathfinder2/