Tory council charges £7.50 a sandbag and MP refuses to meet flood-hit residents

tompride.wordpress.com/2014/02/13/tory-council-charges-7-50-a-sandbag-and-mp-refuses-to-meet-flood-hit-residents/

Tom Pride 2/13/2014

Flood-hit residents in Christchurch Dorset have been told by their Tory-run Council that they have to buy sandbags at £30 for a pack of four.

They have twice written to their MP – Conservative Christopher Chope – to request a meeting to explain their frustrations, but he has ignored them.

Here's the story reproduced in full from the Bournemouth Echo:

Angry residents blast council

ANGRY residents in a flood-hit flat block have blasted a "total lack of support" from Christchurch council and their MP. writes Melanie Vass.

Residents in Conifer Close – some of whom were evacuated on Christmas Day – say they are the "forgotten corner" of Christchurch and living in fear of further flooding.

While PM David Cameron promises that "money is no object" when it comes to helping flood victims, Conifer Close residents have had to buy their own sandbags and plastic sheeting.

They have also asked for help from their MP Chris Chope, but say he has not accepted their invitations to visit them.

Steve Richards, whose dad Ken has been living with him since Christmas, said they requested sandbags from Christchurch council last week but were told they would have to purchase them at £30 for a pack of four.

"My brother bought 50 at an incredibly high cost but 50 sandbags goes nowhere," he said. "We feel so helpless, pleading for help and no-one's giving it, yet you switch on the television and the Prime Minister is pledging that no-one will be left vulnerable and money's no object."

Paul Richards, a resident at the Stourbanks flats, was told it was not Christchurch council policy to issue sandbags or plastic sheeting. He said: "We've tried repeatedly over the past seven weeks to get some help, we're in a desperate position now and we need the most basic help. It's like living in the Lost World."

The Stourbanks Residents' Association has spent £750 on sandbags but residents are now just waiting to see whether this will be enough.

Judy Betteridge, secretary of the association, has written to the Prime Minister to tell him of their frustrations. She has also twice invited their MP Mr Chope to visit them.

"I know we're probably very small fry compared to what's going on in the country but nevertheless these are our homes," she said. "We feel very much we are on our own down here."

And Colin West, treasurer of the association, said: "We've been pushed from pillar to post. Everybody here is over 75 – I'm nearly 90 – and yet we've had very little support. People are very frustrated."

Attempts were made to contact Mr Chope but he was unavailable for comment.

Not very surprising really when you recall that Mr Chope is the Tory MP who recently referred to staff in the House of Commons as 'servants'.

Cameron 'forgets' to apply for EU money to help flood victims

Building supplier cashes in on misery and raises prices of sandbags in flood hit area

Cameron's response to the flooding in a nutshell

Coalition cut flood defence by 27% – Labour increased flood defence by 33%

Cameron announces plan to reduce flooding by forcing it to work in Poundland

Cameron responds to floods crisis by holding a meeting. Named after a snake.

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Flood-hit residents blast Christchurch council and MP Chris Chope over "total lack of support"



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ANGRY residents in a flood-hit flat block have blasted a "total lack of support" from Christchurch council and their MP, saying they have been forced to buy their own sandbags.

<u>Residents in Conifer Close – some of whom were evacuated on Christmas Day</u> – say they are the "forgotten corner" of Christchurch and living in fear of further flooding.

Residents say they requested sandbags from the council but were told they would have to purchase Floodsacks at £30 for a pack of four.

Today, as the Government insisted councils shouldn't charge for sandbags and the cost would be met centrally, Christchurch council clarified their position saying they don't charge for them in an emergency and if the <u>Environment Agency</u> put out a red warning, they will provide them free of charge.

A spokesperson said at the moment people are concerned and are requesting them just in case, and in instance they charge £30 for a flood pack.

Residents at Conifer Close have suffered flooding issues since Christmas Day.

And yesterday, while PM David Cameron promised that "money is no object" when it comes to helping flood victims, Conifer Close residents told the Daily Echo they have had to buy their own sandbags and plastic sheeting.

They have also asked for help from their MP Chris Chope, but say he has not accepted their invitations to visit them.

Steve Richards, whose dad Ken has been living with him since Christmas, said they requested sandbags from Christchurch council last week but were told they would have to purchase them at £30 for a pack of four.

"My brother bought 50 at an incredibly high cost but 50 sandbags goes nowhere," he said.

"We feel so helpless, pleading for help and no-one's giving it, yet you switch on the television and the Prime Minister is pleading that no-one will be left vulnerable and money's no object."

Paul Richards, a resident at the Stourbanks flats, was told it was not Christchurch council policy to issue sandbags or plastic sheeting.

He said: "We've tried repeatedly over the past seven weeks to get some help, we're in a desperate position now and we need the most basic help. It's like living in the Lost World."

The Stourbanks Residents' Association has spent £750 on sandbags but residents are now just waiting to see whether this will be enough.

Judy Betteridge, secretary of the association, has written to the Prime Minister to tell him of their frustrations. She has also twice invited their MP Mr Chope to visit them.

"I know we're probably very small fry compared to what's going on in the country but nevertheless these

are our homes," she said.

"We feel very much we are on our own down here."

And Colin West, treasurer of the association, said: "We've been pushed from pillar to post. Everybody here is over 75 – I'm nearly 90 – and yet we've had very little support. People are very frustrated."

Attempts were made to contact Mr Chope but he was unavailable for comment.

Council response

Neil Farmer, Strategic Director at <u>Christchurch Borough Council</u>: "Local Christchurch councillors and council officers have been working with residents in Conifer Close to keep them informed of possible flooding incidents.

"Thankfully the levels in the River Stour have reduced significantly in recent days.

"The council is in regular contact with the Environment Agency to monitor river levels so adequate warning can be given to residents if river levels are predicted to rise towards the levels experienced on Christmas Day.

"If necessary, temporary accommodation will be provided for residents by the council if the conditions worsen and further flooding of the properties is predicted.

"The council will liaise with the management company for the flats and with the Environment Agency to explore a flood alleviation scheme that would protect the properties from further flooding."

□ 56 comments

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twynham 9:52am Thu 13 Feb 14

If I were to be flooded the last thing I would want is a visit from Chope.

Score: 43

Report

10:14am Thu 13 Feb 14

Jetwasher

MP have no time for people in trouble, but come voting time they will be knocking on your door...

Score: 49 Report

richardcompton3

10:21am Thu 13 Feb 14

You know what to do next election. Kick the lot out!

Score: 52

Report

Telscombe Cliffy

10:26am Thu 13 Feb 14

I'm sure Chope was not the MP when some developer was allowed to build the flats too low on the floodplain. The developer should have built the flats a metre or so higher in the first place. The best thing in a situation like this is to stop whinging and blaming, and get the residents together and pay for a local firm with a digger to create a flood bank around the grounds of the property, cover it in grass making sure the top is at least a metre above the highest flood level. Install flap valves to drain surface water from inside the defence. I'm not a Tory supporter or a planner designer, just a realist.

Score: 15

Report

sea poole

10:29am Thu 13 Feb 14

and the response from MP Choke is...?

Score: 18

Report

muscliffman

10:35am Thu 13 Feb 14

As an important aside, are the Authorities keeping an extra close eye on the sandy beaches around here at the moment?

Because all our seaside sand has suddenly become a very saleable commodity and I rather suspect a few dodgy trucks may have already opportunistically visited the seafront during the middle of the night.

Score: 20

Report

rayc

10:44am Thu 13 Feb 14

The residents of Christchurch should have realised by now that the response to floods is driven by

the media. without the media attention on the Somerset Levels or Thames Valley the Council's would not have been forced into calling an Emergency so that troops and multi agency assistance would be provided.

The question that you need to ask is would you want Neil Farmer, Strategic Director at Christchurch Borough Council or Mr Chope in the trenches with you when the going got tough.

Score: 20 Report

Buddles	11:17am Thu 13 Feb 14	
Jetwasher wrote		
MP have no time for people in trouble, but condoor	me voting time they will be knocking on your	
Indeed but over the years they don't even bother with door-to-door canvassing any more. Some can't even be bothered to knock up a leaflet to push through the letterbox.		
Score: 18	Report	
onetimeapathetic	11:18am Thu 13 Feb 14	
rayc wrote		

The residents of Christchurch should have realised by now that the response to floods is driven by the media. without the media attention on the Somerset Levels or Thames Valley the Council's would not have been forced into calling an Emergency so that troops and multi

agency assistance would be provided.

The question that you need to ask is would you want Neil Farmer, Strategic Director at Christchurch Borough Council or Mr Chope in the trenches with you when the going got tough.

No the response is not driven by the media. Somerset levels coverage was fairly minimal compared with the Tory heartlands of the Thames Valley - this is when all of a sudden Cameron intervenes and says that he will spare no expense to help them!!!!

Score: 16

Report

live-and-let-live 11:54am Thu 13 Feb 14

could everyone please stop moaning. just buy the sandbags and get on with your lives.

Score: -44

Report

johnny neptune

11:56am Thu 13 Feb 14

there's an old chinese proverb

tories voters who vote for cuts in public and local services really shouldn't squeal like stuck pigs when those cut public and local services means there isn't help available for them when they need it.

boo hoo. get your insurance to sort it out.

and expecting anything, ever, from chris chope is a bit daft. he'll be too busy getting his wife, that you're paying £49000 a year, to tidy his paperclips.

Score: 29

Report

RM 12:01pm Thu 13 Feb 14

Personally, I'd buy one lot of sandbags & ask for a receipt, then contact Sky News & tell them how CCC is charging for them & that you've contacted your MP but got no response. Send a video as well. Five minutes on Sky & you'll be stampeded by both CCC & your MP, all tongues hanging out to see how they can help (actually, to avoid getting nationwide bad publicity - but do you care what the reason is?).

Score: 22

Report

saynomore

12:04pm Thu 13 Feb 14

Chope is just interested what perks he can get out of his job not what he can put into it, wise u	р
Christchurch voters.	

Score: 25 Report

Far Corfe 12:14pm Thu 13 Feb 14

live-and-let-live wrote...

could everyone please stop moaning. just buy the sandbags and get on with your lives.

Well said, i dont pay my council tax to buy your sand bags. Are you insured? Contact your insurer they should pay, it may be a lot cheaper in the long run.

Score: 13 Report

Bob49 12:18pm Thu 13 Feb 14

RM wrote...

Personally, I'd buy one lot of sandbags & ask for a receipt, then contact Sky News & tell them how CCC is charging for them & that you've contacted your MP but got no response. Send a video as well. Five minutes on Sky & you'll be stampeded by both CCC & your MP, all tongues hanging out to see how they can help (actually, to avoid getting nationwide bad publicity - but do you care what the reason is?).

if it's sky news they will probably have you down as Christchurch in NZ suffering from burst water mains due to the drought - mind you they will have some bloke with unrealistically dyed hair to tell you about it

as to Chope I would suggest you request him to send a few van loads of his expense cliam forms to mop up the water - as curiously he always asks for a receipt for whatever he pays for in a local pub or restaurant

Score: 13

Report

uberbloke

12:18pm Thu 13 Feb 14

don't whinge here...

www.writetothem.com

Score: -4

Report

joncon

12:34pm Thu 13 Feb 14

At least I can be secure in the knowledge that if we ever have severe flooding in Poole, Robert Syms MP will bend over backwards to help his constituents

Not.

Score: 0

Report

muscliffman

12:53pm Thu 13 Feb 14

A Government source has just confirmed on Sky News that NO Council in a flooding area should be charging for sandbags and that they would take a very dim view of any Council attempting to extort money from the public in this manner.

If Christchurch Council have been charging residents for sandbags I suggest people formally advise the Council Leader, their MP and the Police - they may care to also mention those protected Christchurch trees while they are doing it!

Score: 17

Report

chrisii1991

12:57pm Thu 13 Feb 14

even now still squeezing people dry

Score: 5

Report

Bob49 1:00pm Thu 13 Feb 14

appears you can get 10 hessian sandbags for £6.99 (post free) on ebay

I have to wonder sometimes where the local council sources it's stuff from, as they all seem to charge exhorbitant prices for virtually everything they do

.....

...... as does dear old 'stuffin his' Chopes

Score: 14

Report

Niki1 1:18pm Thu 13 Feb 14

I have just seen on BBC news that David Cameron is telling councils that they are NOT to charge for sandbags. Lets see if Christchurch Council will give the people who have already paid for them a refund!!!!!!!!!

Score: 14

Report

live-and-let-live

1:19pm Thu 13 Feb 14

B&Q sell sand.

Score: 3

Report

speedy231278

1:23pm Thu 13 Feb 14

I don't see why the council wouldn't have a very large stock of sandbags for such an issue? A lot of the area is low lying, by rivers and the sea. Flooding is an occupational hazard, and as the council doesn't seem to spend much/any money on drainage, it is hardly unexpected that flooding should occur from time to time, 'unprecedented' rain levels or not. at £7.50 a sandbag (presumably sand is extra and people would be fined for taking it from the beach) they are blatantly trying to profit from a problem that they have helped make worse. That's Tories for you!

Score: 8

Report

the_voice_of_reason

1:46pm Thu 13 Feb 14

30 bloody quid for 4 sand bags? I'd like to give the person who came up with that a slap! Even extortionate b&q charge £1.30 each for 10 plastic bags of sand!

Score: 13

Report

Bob49 1:47pm Thu 13 Feb 14 "I don't see why the council wouldn't have a very large stock of sandbags for such an issue?" issue? stop trying to sanitise the situation it is a problem, as it ever was Score: 3 Report Hessenford 1:58pm Thu 13 Feb 14 The blue rinse wrinkleys keep voting idiots like Chope into power now they are reaping the rewards for electing a useless Councillor who runs a useless council, the only thing Chope and his cronies are good at is extracting and spending your money. Score: 21 Report live-and-let-live 2:11pm Thu 13 Feb 14 Niki1 wrote... I have just seen on BBC news that David Cameron is telling councils that they are NOT to charge for sandbags. Lets see if Christchurch Council will give the people who have already paid for them a refund!!!!!!!! christchurch council have already said they will supply free sandbags if the EA issue a red warning. Score: 0 Report 2:12pm Thu 13 Feb 14 kalebmoledirt E bay silverline pack of 10 sandbags £5.50, show it to the crooks

http://www.bournemouthecho.co.uk/...hurch_residents_forced_to_buy_own_sandbags_to_protect_homes____30_for_pack_of_four/?ref=var_6[24/10/2016 18:28:36]

Score: 9 Report

Afterhours 2:32pm Thu 13 Feb 14

Oh come on let's be grown up about this.....things happen deal with it rather than looking for "someone to blame"this is what you have insurance for......open a dialog with your insurance company who will say buy the sandbags as you clearly need them to protect your property / and there interest in it. Then claim the cost within the "overall" settlement you expect. Not sure how many flats in the block but it is hardly the responsibility of just the ground floor residents as would be made clear in the "block insurance" policy...rather like the roof is not solely the upstair flats responsibility. As for councillors/MPs that what the ballot box is for folks !!!!

Score: 3 Report

brianbadondayburr

2:36pm Thu 13 Feb 14

Report

I'm selling 4 sandbags for the price of 1, only 1.99
I'd say that's a bargain!
Call me asap
0800 BBADONDAY

Score: 0

TWERLY 2:54pm Thu 13 Feb 14

Is sand included in the charge of £30 or not, if not there's plenty down on the beach isn't there!

Score: -2 Report

FrogKiss 3:09pm Thu 13 Feb 14

2riversmeet have just posted on Facebook that they are selling the door pack, which is one long sack for the bottom and four pillow flood sacks. For £30. Don't know if they are the sand ones, or the ones with the magic absorbable stuff like in babies nappies. Now that's a thought. Nappy barrier!

Score: 2 Report

Lesleycherry 4:08pm Thu 13 Feb 14

Telscombe Cliffy wrote...

I'm sure Chope was not the MP when some developer was allowed to build the flats too low on the floodplain. The developer should have built the flats a metre or so higher in the first place. The best thing in a situation like this is to stop whinging and blaming, and get the residents together and pay for a local firm with a digger to create a flood bank around the grounds of the property, cover it in grass making sure the top is at least a metre above the highest flood level. Install flap valves to drain surface water from inside the defence. I'm not a Tory supporter or a planner designer, just a realist.

I'm sure your advice on the way to deal with this is correct and would be very effective but I also thought that the PM was saying that people and/or businesses would qualify for a £5000 grant towards the cost of future flood-proofing their properties, whether residential or business? The residents of this block have already suffered from flooding so why would they not qualify for such a grant?

Score: 4 Report

politicaltrainspotter

5:09pm Thu 13 Feb 14

History.Christopher Chope.The MP who felt it was more important to discuss MP's expenses than Hillsborough.Tells you all about the ethic of this individual.And described by a senior MP as a mayerick.

'Chope For The Chop.' Whoa Lovely!.

Score: 16 Report

sea poole 5:38pm Thu 13 Feb 14

joncon- love your comment. The MP (Missing Person) would have to find out where Poole is before he'd bend over backwards to help the residents! Anyway, helping would get in the way of filling in expenses forms!

Score: 6 Report

justme20092009 6:16pm Thu 13 Feb 14

people will moan they have to pay then they will moan council tax goes up cos council payed for
sand bags and after that im surve they moan about somthing else,id rather pay 30 quid and save
damage to my home

Score: 5 Report

justme20092009 6:17pm Thu 13 Feb 14

lets blame the government for all the rain a maybe they can make the summer sunny to

Score: 2 Report

Alantrom 6:46pm Thu 13 Feb 14

I'm sorry and I don't wish to appear heartless as it must be soul destroying to be flooded but, if you buy a property along side a river bank I thinnk you might reasonably expect the water to get too close sometimes and it would seem prudent to me to have a plan in place. i.e. get some suitable bags, barriers etc to be kept on-site with an arrangement with the grounds maintenance contractor to erect these in times of need.

Sme suggestion for the caravan park at Iford!

Score: 8 Report

Telscombe Cliffy 7:02pm Thu 13 Feb 14

Lesleycherry wrote...

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Yes you are right, Cameron did say 'money is no object' with regard to the flooding. His department should somehow let flooded homeowners know how to claim. As others have said I wouldn't bother with Chope. Write direct to Downing Street and ask David for his guidance about how to claim. A grant, even £5000 would be most welcome to the people affected like those at Conifer Close. Doing it yourself will get it done in a week. Let various councils, agencies do it etc. 10-20 years?

Score: 5 Report

Bob49 7:18pm Thu 13 Feb 14

Alantrom wrote...

I'm sorry and I don't wish to appear heartless as it must be soul destroying to be flooded but, if you buy a property along side a river bank I thinnk you might reasonably expect the water to get too close sometimes and it would seem prudent to me to have a plan in place. i.e. get some suitable bags, barriers etc to be kept on-site with an arrangement with the grounds maintenance contractor to erect these in times of need.

Sme suggestion for the caravan park at Iford!

I have to wonder if it were ten pound notes drifting onto these prp[erties would the residents be so eager to share that fortune with the rest of the community - jowever as it is water, others are now expected to cough up.

There must be some sense of personal responsibility if you chose to live this close to the river.

Score: 2 Report

audicherry 7:43pm Thu 13 Feb 14

I just wonder how many more time to Christchurch Councillors and their officer have to be found out being dishonest. Yet again another rip off this Council is known for being excellent at conning the Christchurch public. .Christchurch a Pleasant place to live?it would improve vastly if we could dump the Council and sadly I think we would be much better of joining Bournemouth because so far the deals with East Dorset have been disaster, and as Christchurch Council over the years have proved they are not fit for purpose.

Score: 0 Report

rusty james 8:04pm Thu 13 Feb 14

Don't worry, uncooked pasty faced Dave's on the case. Well, he is now the water's getting into the green wellies of his Surrey chums. Plank.

Score: 4 Report

live-and-let-live 8:37pm Thu 13 Feb 14

and another thing, if these residents were flooded, or had a threat of flooding at christmas, dont you all think they might have got sandbags in case it happened again?

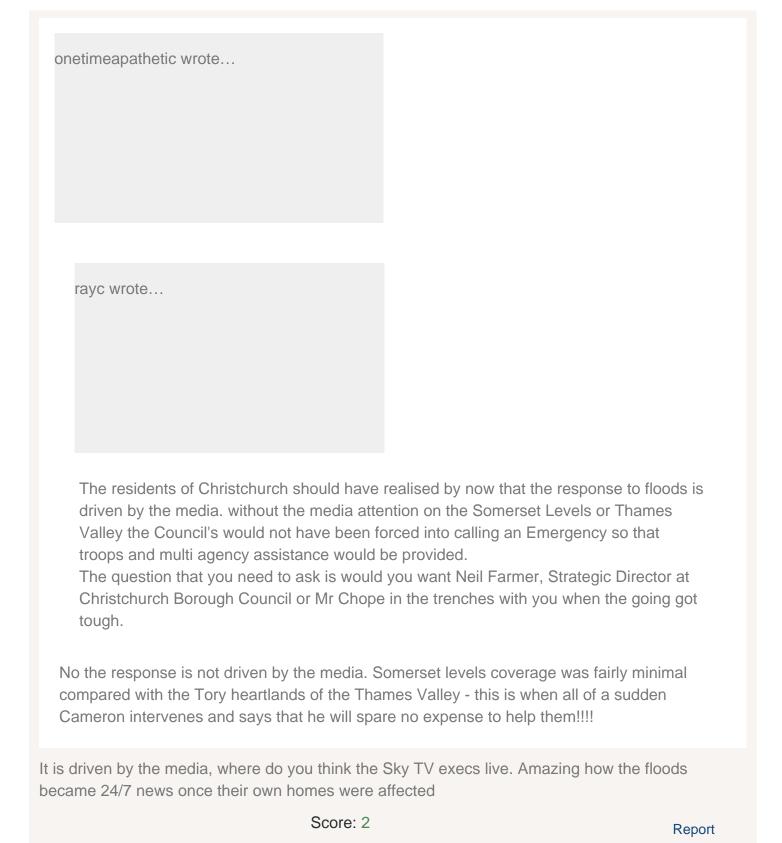
Score: 3 Report

UKIP4U 9:07pm Thu 13 Feb 14

Another episode about the Elite Christchurch council doing what they want in "their" town,is what we expect from the Tories,!! unfortunately x'church council own most of the land to do whatever what they want, Druitt Gdns TPO's ignored,what next,the whole council and the absent gravy train career politician Chope who does nothing for his constituents have to go.Compare UKIP's Christchurch PPC for the general election out today helping and talking to the beseiged residents.Robin's comments" Christophe

r Chope, the local MP should pull his finger out and demand that the Council do the decent thing and provide the sand bags for residents. To not even meet them when they are asking for his support is sadly typical, of the 'I'm all right jack' attitude of so many of our elected representatives

Sco	re: 8	Report
Western Sunset		9:51pm Thu 13 Feb 14
One could buy a lot of sandbags for the ar office	nount Mr Chope allegedly pays	s his wife to run his
Sco	re: 3	Report
Bob49		11:21pm Thu 13 Feb 14
Western Sunset wrote		
One could buy a lot of sandbags for the office	amount Mr Chope allegedly page	ays his wife to run his
surely		
pays he wife to allegedly run his of	fice	
personally I would think it would require at forms that get submitted	least two workers given the an	nount of expense claim
not so much 'fill your sandbags' Chope as	'fill your boots' Chope	
Sco	re: 3	Report
sam.sprinks		11:30pm Thu 13 Feb 14
Ok for the councillors they can just probab		
Sco	re: 3	Report
s-pb2		11:35pm Thu 13 Feb 14



HRH of Boscombe

11:38pm Thu 13 Feb 14

£1.31 a bag from Wickes!

21101 a bag 110111 11101100.

Why are the council extorting their residents in a crisis?

. Get it from a builders merchant or get the bags dirt cheap and head to the beach. Score: -3			
			Report
Yankee1			12:02am Fri 14 Feb 14
Chopper Chope is busy. At the House		ons bar. Leave him alone.	
	Score: 2		Report
Yankee1			12:04am Fri 14 Feb 14
TWERLY wrote			
Is sand included in the charge of £	C30 or not, if	not there's plenty down on the	e beach isn't there
You will be arrested if you take that.			
	Score: 2		Report
HRH of Boscombe			11:47am Fri 14 Feb 14
Yankee1 wrote			

B&Q sell sand.

You are a stones throw from a beach - come on people wheres the british spirit. get on with it. Your council cannot help because they don't know how to. You get what you voted for.

	Score: 0	Report
PhiilH		6:12pm Fri 14 Feb 14
audicherry wrote		
I just wonder how many more time to Christchurch Councillors and their officer have to be found out being dishonest. Yet again another rip off this Council is known for being excellent at conning the Christchurch public Christchurch a Pleasant place to live? it would improve vastly if we could dump the Council and sadly I think we would be much better of joining Bournemouth because so far the deals with East Dorset have been disaster, and as Christchurch Council over the years have proved they are not fit for purpose.		
Bournemouth is a sthole and I would rater have Boris Johnson run Christchurch than Bournemouth Council our council don't put buildings up and charge the residents then pull them down and charge the residents again most people in Christchurch know that our council are mostly dishonest hint hint just like Bournemouth, £1,000,000 in to a fund to benefit Christchurch residents so a developer can build another supermarket on the Bailey Bridge site and the chairman of this fund is a director of the developers adds up to BACKHANDER PAYOFF BRIBE and I would think very dishonest and finally if you live near water take out insurance for your sandbags I don't want to pay for them and no one else does either had my say Thank You. Christchurch Resident as were nearly all my ancestors on my dads family so if you are not from Christchurch please look after your own area .		
	Score: 0	Report
brian74		4:55pm Sat 15 Feb 14
UKIP4U wrote		

Another episode about the Elite Christchurch council doing what they want in "their" town,is what we expect from the Tories,!! unfortunately x'church council own most of the land to do whatever what they want, Druitt Gdns TPO's ignored,what next,the whole council and the absent gravy train career politician Chope who does nothing for his constituents have to go.Compare UKIP's Christchurch PPC for the general election out today helping and talking to the beseiged residents.Robin's comments" Christophe

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Come on then UKIP show us what you are made of and fight for Christchurch.

Fight to ensure Druitt gardens are not forgotten, I reported CBC to the HSE for the safety concerns at Druitt gardens.

I asked UKIP to investigate for Christchurch residents.

Lets see what your made of.

Charge for sandbanks - who's idea was that!!!, the same person who said the tree felling was down to storms??

Score: 0 Report

pete woodley

8:14pm Sun 16 Feb 14

Alantrom wrote...

I'm sorry and I don't wish to appear heartless as it must be soul destroying to be flooded but, if you buy a property along side a river bank I thinnk you might reasonably expect the water to

Flood-hit residents blast Christchurch council and MP Chris Chope over "total lack of support" (From Bournemouth Echo)

get too close sometimes and it would seem prudent to me to have a plan in place. i.e. get some suitable bags, barriers etc to be kept on-site with an arrangement with the grounds maintenance contractor to erect these in times of need.

Sme suggestion for the caravan park at Iford!

Smack on, so obvious that it would flood, but they would not think or listen, now they want help.

Score: 0

Report

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House of Commons Opinion

An MP calls Commons staff 'servants' what a pantomime our parliament is **Ally Fogg**

Christopher Chope's slip-up in the Commons is entirely in keeping with our embarrassingly archaic parliamentary system



The state opening of parliament. 'The Palace of Westminster still presents itself as one part Downton Abbey to three parts Hogwarts.' Photograph: Pool/REUTERS

Friday 18 January 2013 12.05 GMT

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t took only minutes for Labour MPs to gloat about the latest howler from the Tory benches. Veteran rightwinger Christopher Chope had been speaking about the price of meals in the House of Commons restaurant when he described his most recent visit: "The service was absolutely fantastic" he said, "because there was three-to-one service — three servants for each person sitting down."

Servants? Even when opposition members began hooting with derision he did not back down or correct himself, apparently oblivious to his faux pas. He had "let the cat out of the bag" tweeted Angela Eagle, in one of many instant responses broadcast by Labour members just minutes later. Coming so soon after the did-he-didn't-he saga of Andrew Mitchell's "pleb" incident, and with memories still fresh of Douglas Hogg's expenses claim for moat-cleaning, the latest gaffe certainly doesn't help to dispel an image of a Conservative party comprising a horde of braying Hooray Henrys led by a clique of Etonian bully boys. Cameron and his party managers will be wincing and fuming.

I'm never shy about kicking a Tory when he's down, but on this occasion I almost have sympathy. What could possess an experienced MP to refer to waiters and waitresses as servants? I'm given to understand that even those members of the upper classes who do employ butlers or maids no longer describe them thus — etiquette demands references to "staff" or "help" instead. Chope told reporters later that he does not have any domestic employees at home. While his slip of the tongue may tell us something about the attitudes and personality of the man, I find it entirely in keeping with the whole anachronistic pantomime of the Houses of Parliament.

The governance of our nation is conducted through a time tunnel from a rarefied ancient era. The Palace of Westminster still presents itself as one part Downton Abbey to three parts Hogwarts. We should probably be grateful that Chope didn't refer to the house elves before deciding his place in the division lobby by donning the Sorting Hat. The physical environment was constructed in the 19th century, according to the designs of the late middle ages. Our democracy has 650 members of parliament and enough seats on the benches for 427. The oppositional arrangement cannot naturally accommodate more than two parties. In purely practical terms, the building is entirely unfit for purpose, but actually this is the least of our problems.

The actual business of parliament is conducted according to arcane rituals and bizarre traditions. From the dragging of the speaker to the chair, to Black Rod banging on a closed wooden door to the ceremonial procession of the mace, all of it is laughable. MPs earn the right to speak by catching the speaker's eye, and then vote by traipsing needlessly through the division lobby to be counted when any half-savvy 12-year-old could rig up a more effective voting system with an electronics kit from a pound store. It is only a few years since they finally scrapped the rules that if you wanted to raise a point of order you first had to put on a comedy top hat, and that you could interrupt a debate by shouting "I spy strangers!", like kids in a playground game. Is it any surprise that MPs become detached from reality, aloof and arrogant when they spend their lives in a theme park simulation of history?

Traditionalists insist that many of these rules, while appearing ridiculous to outsiders, serve valuable functions in the separation of power — they assert the primacy of the elected commons from the unelected Lords and the independence of elected members from monarchic control. This is actually the heart of the problem. When the whole of our democracy is presented and conducted as an archaic farce, who will raise an eyebrow at the Queen and other senior royals directly influencing and even blocking legislation through the royal prerogative? There was surprisingly little fuss this week when it emerged that at least 39 bills have been influenced or vetoed by royals, including a private members bill on the democratic oversight of the decision to go to war and legislation on civil partnerships. Who could be surprised by anything that

happens in a so-called democracy where elected members gather in one room, while next door to a larger unelected assembly called the House of Lords, presided over by a man in a wig sitting on a big bag of wool, can then be used to appoint unelected party minions to even the highest cabinet positions?

Christopher Chope's remarks yesterday were an embarrassment to his party, his country and himself. But they pale to insignificance besides the grand guignol horrors of our farce of a democracy.

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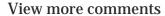
House of Commons Conservatives

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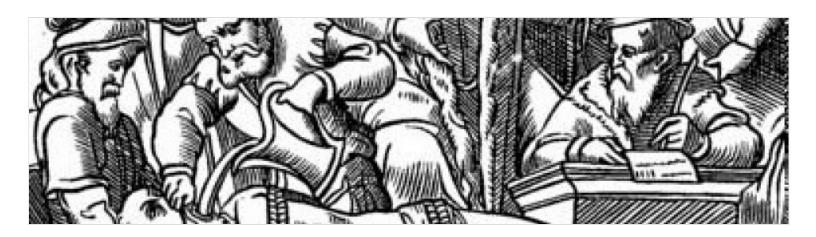
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14 Friday Feb 2014

Cameron 'forgets' to apply for EU money to help flood victims

POSTED BY TOM PRIDE IN CYNICISM

≈ 36 Comments

(not satire - it's the Tories!)

TagsCameron, environment,
EU, Tories

Out of all the many blunders committed by the government so far in its response to the devastating flooding, surely <u>forgetting to apply for cash for the flood victims from the EU's Solidarity Fund has got to be the biggest</u>.

In 2007, the UK received £127m from the EU to help flood victims after the devastating flooding during the summer. But this time the government hasn't even applied for the money.

EU governments have 10 weeks to apply for the cash – which means it's already too late to claim for money to help the first victims of the flooding, some of whom were affected as far back as last November.

Of course, some very, very cynical people might say the government hasn't forgotten to claim the money at all – Cameron just decided it wouldn't Follow politically comfortable to be seen to be getting help from the EU at a time ne's

trying to demonise the organisation in order to placate his rabidly anti-EU rightwing.

But we're not that cynical. Are we?

Related articles by Tom Pride:

Tory council charges £7.50 a sandbag and MP refuses to meet flood-hit residents

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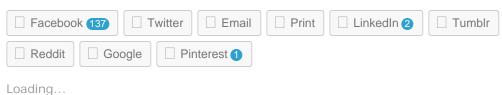
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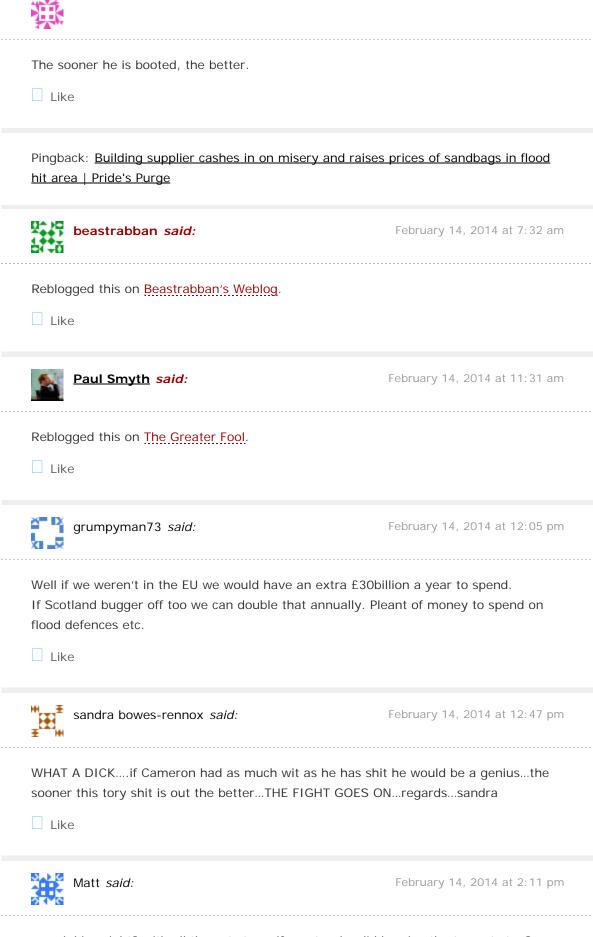
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THOUGHTS ON "CAMERON 'FORGETS' TO APPLY FOR EU MONEY TO HELP FLOOD VICTIMS"

pippakin said:	February 14, 2014 at 12:12 am
Reblogged this on Political Pip Spit or Swallow its up to Cameron can't help it he is just living down to our exped Like	
Pingback: <u>Tory council charges £7.50 a sandbag and MF residents Pride's Purge</u>	Prefuses to meet flood-hit
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Chris Blackmore (The Walrus) said:	February 14, 2014 at 1:03 am
It's far from being the only thing they don't bother to apply Like	oply for.
Pingback: Cameron 'forgets' to apply for EU money to h	elp
Editor said:	February 14, 2014 at 3:29 am
Reblogged this on <u>kickingthecat</u> . Like	

MrChekaMan said:

February 14, 2014 at 3:36 am



your joking right? with all the cuts to welfare etc who did he give the tax cuts too? wasnt us.. it was everyone with more money than sense already!! if scotland left the uk

and we had more money or if we left the EU we wouldnt see a penny!!

they would just find newer ways to pour it into their donors pockets.

Liked by 1 person

paulsands said:

February 14, 2014 at 2:20 pm

weren't the earlier floods a bot more northern? these latest ones will get the money

Like

grumpyman73 said:

February 14, 2014 at 2:27 pm

Matt you are very bitter and angry.

If you used that energy to strive forwards yourselves rather than moan about what other people have, you would do better.

A little story about tax for you. No doubt you wont iunderstand and definitely wont agree!!

Suppose that every day, ten men go out for beer and the bill for all ten comes to \$100. If they paid their bill the way we pay our taxes, it would go something like this: The first four men (the poorest) would pay nothing. The fifth would pay \$1. The sixth would pay \$3. The seventh would pay \$7. The eighth would pay \$12. The ninth would pay \$18. The tenth man (the richest) would pay \$59. So, that's what they decided to do.

The ten men drank in the bar every day and seemed quite happy with the arrangement, until one day, the owner threw them a curve. 'Since you are all such good customers, he said, 'I'm going to reduce the cost of your daily beer by \$20. Drinks for the ten now cost just\$80. The group still wanted to pay their bill the way we pay our taxes so the first four men were unaffected. They would still drink for free. But, what about the other six men; the paying customers? How could they divide the \$20 windfall so that everyone would get his 'fair share?' They realized that \$20 divided by six is \$3.33. But if they subtracted that from everybody's share, then the fifth man and the sixth man would each end up being paid to drink his beer. So, the bar owner suggested that it would be fair to reduce each man's bill by roughly the same amount, and he proceeded to work out the amounts each should pay.

And so: The fifth man, like the first four, now paid nothing (100% savings). The sixth now paid \$2 instead of \$3 (33%savings). The seventh now paid \$5 instead of \$7 (28%savings). The eighth now paid \$9 instead of \$12 (25% savings). The ninth now paid \$14 instead of \$18 (22% savings). The tenth now paid \$49 instead of \$59 (16% savings). Each of the six was better off than before. And the first four continued to drink for free.

But once outside the restaurant, the men began to compare their savings. 'I only got a dollar out of the \$20,'declared the sixth man. He pointed to the tenth man,' but he got \$10!' 'Yeah, that's right,' exclaimed the fifth man. 'I only saved a dollar, too. It's unfair

that he got ten times more than I!' 'That's true!' shouted the seventh man. 'Why should he get \$10 back when I got only two? The wealthy get all the breaks!' 'Wait a minute,' yelled the first four men in unison. 'We didn't get anything at all. The system exploits the poor!' The nine men surrounded the tenth and beat him up.

The next night the tenth man didn't show up for drinks, so the nine sat down and had beers without him. But when it came time to pay the bill, they discovered something important. They didn't have enough money between all of them for even half of the bill! And that, boys and girls, journalists and college professors, is how our tax system works. The people who pay the highest taxes get the most benefit from a tax reduction. Tax them too much, attack them for being wealthy, and they just may not show up anymore. In fact, they might start drinking overseas where the atmosphere is somewhat friendlier.

David R. Kamerschen, Ph.D. Professor of Economics, University of Georgia.

For those who understand, no explanation is needed. For those who do not understand, no explanation is possible

Like



Ian Morisson said:

February 14, 2014 at 2:27 pm

all part of the (EU) plan . . . run down UK

DC=the HMV dog

Like



neiley101 said:

February 14, 2014 at 6:08 pm

Reblogged this on The World of Neil.

Like



Mike Sivier said:

February 14, 2014 at 6:36 pm

Reblogged this on **Vox Political** and commented:

Oh, he FORGOT to apply for the EU cash, did he?

Well! That makes it all right, then. He'd better get on with it now.

Or is it too late?

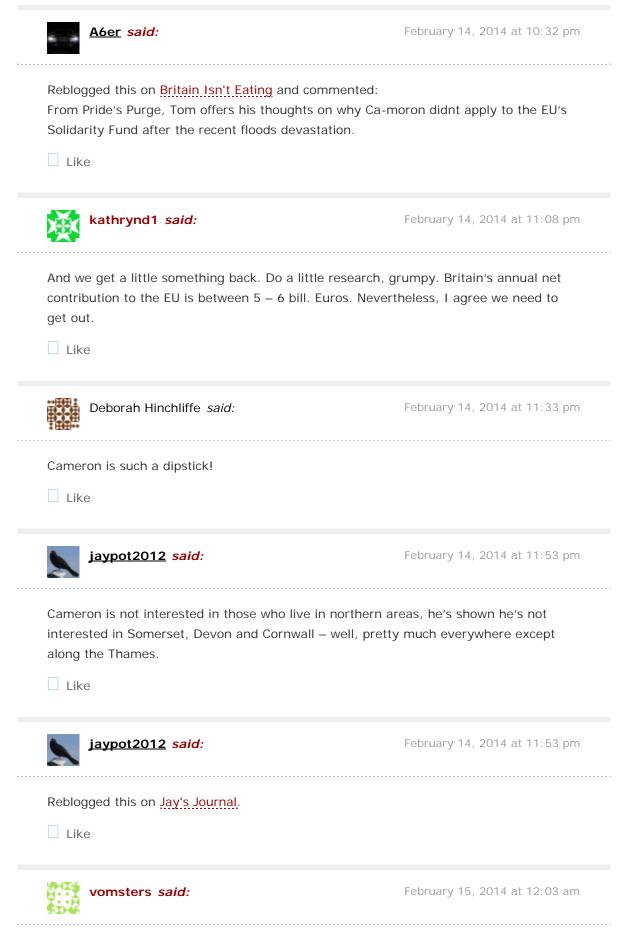
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diane said:

February 14, 2014 at 6:46 pm

are on the house everytime for them?	
sean <i>said:</i>	February 14, 2014 at 6:50 pr
I understand that you don't understand taxation gru Like	mpy.
thelovelywibblywobblyoldlady said:	February 14, 2014 at 8:49 pr
@Diane I think the tax avoider is the owner of the behim but he doesn't put it in the till; it goes straight in Like	
Verite said:	February 14, 2014 at 9:31 pr
According to Le Figaro today, Cameron HAS asked for	or aid from the fund on Thursday.
Doesn't appear to be reported anywhere else. The copriceless – the French mostly not amused – many sate Europe yet now want their help, asking if we want it Referendum and suggesting we institute the Robin Homoney or ask the Queen. Seems the French don't like fair, some did say of course they should help, as we allies in the war.	aying we criticise/want out of in euros, before or after the dood tax on the bankers to raise the se Cameron much, although to be
Any way of verifying this?	
http://www.lefigaro.fr/international/2014/02/14/010 inondations-en-angleterre-cameron-demande-l-aide	
Like	
kathrynd1 <i>said:</i>	February 14, 2014 at 10:23 pr
Oh grumpy? Being such a genius, you know Dr. Kam	nerschen denies writing this little
anectdote, of course.	



And the anecdote has changed every time I see it - sometimes it's a beer, sometimes

it's a meal, sometimes it's lunch, sometimes it's students having a drink/food... one of the signals that something is either a hoax or a scam/lie is that the details keep changing. Like February 15, 2014 at 3:39 am nedhamson said: Reblogged this on Ned Hamson Second Line View of the News. Like grumpyman73 said: February 15, 2014 at 7:34 am Kathrynd1 It is an analogy and as such whovever written by is somewhat irrelevant as it is the principles therein that are of importance. I think ou figures are wrong but even if only £6billion (only!!) it is better in our pockets that theirs. A lot can be done with that much - more tax breaks for the rich! Vomsters You really should have worked harder at school - it is an analogy not an anecdote and whether it is beer, hot dogs, they are men, women, wearing hats, all called George etc., is completely irrelevant. It is the principles involved that are important - principles that clearly are too advanced for you. Like grumpyman73 said: February 15, 2014 at 7:40 am Diane Confusing analogy? Really? Nothing wrong with tax avoidance – why would anyone from the poorest to the richest pay more tax than they have to? Tony Blairs company earned £13 million last year - he paid £200k tax. Or 1.5% tax and he is meant to be everyone's socialist hero. Tax evasion is the problem and that goes on amongst all levels of society. Like February 15, 2014 at 9:20 am sidthemanager said:

Bang on Diane – apart from the bit about Blair being a "socialist hero". He is and was neither, albeit some of us more naive voters thought he might make a difference after years of the "I'm alright Jack" culture in government. Whether it's Vodafone's £5 billion or the plumbers dodgy "how much for cash" response, the tax dodgers have assisted in closing down fire stations and A&E departments. Flood defences that have been cut can also be attributed to lack of money too which could have come from people and organisations being more honest and not sticking what they had in Swiss bank accounts. Add to that the point that Governments of every political colour except the greens have frittered our taxes and wasted billions whilst talking of accountability, transparency, responsibility blah blah.

Like

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argotina1 said:

February 16, 2014 at 1:22 am

Reblogged this on Benefit tales.

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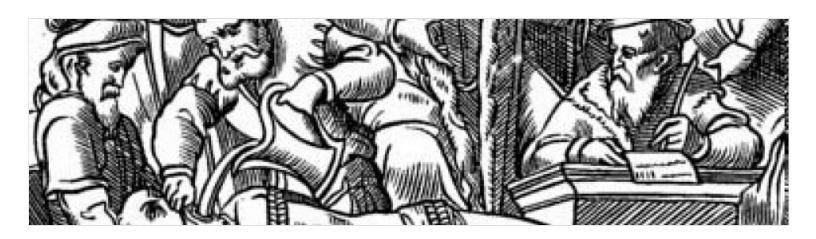
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14 Friday Feb 2014

Building supplier cashes in on misery and raises prices of sandbags in flood hit area

POSTED BY TOM PRIDE IN CYNICISM

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(not satire - it's the UK today!)

Tags environment

One of the UK's biggest suppliers of building materials – <u>Jewson</u> – has been accused of raising the price of its sandbags to profit from the recent flooding.

A Jewson customer – <u>Christopher John</u> – tweeted yesterday that staff at a branch in Egham were blaming their head office for the price rise:



Several of my own requests to Jewson to either confirm or deny the accusations have been studiously ignored.

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Instead, the company released this meaningless press release in response:

In a statement from Jewson, a company spokesperson said: "During the current demand for sand, our primary concern has been sourcing and delivering sand to the branches where it is needed most.

As with most merchants, prices of traded commodity products vary significantly between regions, customers and suppliers and the case at Egham represents our normal day to day of trading.

"Our priority will remain the well-being of everyone that has been affected by flooding and we will continue to be available to support our customers – including local authorities – to meet their needs."

For further press information please contact:

Grace Duggal: Tel: 01785 255 146

Mobile: 07930 276 041

Email: grace@edsonevers.com

If they don't get their heads out of the sand soon and tackle these accusations – Jewson could be facing a storm of their own. One that could end in a damaging boycott by angry customers of their shops once the flooding crisis is over.

What have we become in this country – where so many people are so ready to profit from other people's misery?

Related articles by Tom Pride:

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THOUGHTS ON "BUILDING SUPPLIER CASHES IN ON MISERY AND RAISES PRICES OF SANDBAGS IN FLOOD HIT AREA"

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beastrabban said:

February 14, 2014 at 7:31 am

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Jewson Rep said:	February 14, 2014 at 9:03 am
Hi Tom Jewson has been working hard to help communities the latest post, which refers to just some of the wo http://blog.jewson.co.uk/ Like	
Gordon Davidson said:	February 14, 2014 at 9:31 am
People, people surely your forgetting the Market wi	ill solve all problems!!!
stevencharlesrae said:	February 14, 2014 at 9:43 am
Reblogged this on stevencharlesrae's Blog. Like	
FinkFurst said:	February 14, 2014 at 9:58 am
Dear Jewson Rep When you've done something very naughty then you to make amends. If you don't then you will end up less pocket money. Telling Mummy and Daddy that tidied your bedroom isn't going to work. Like	on the naughty stair, and you'll get
Paul Smyth said:	February 14, 2014 at 11:31 am

Noone should be able to profit from things like floods.

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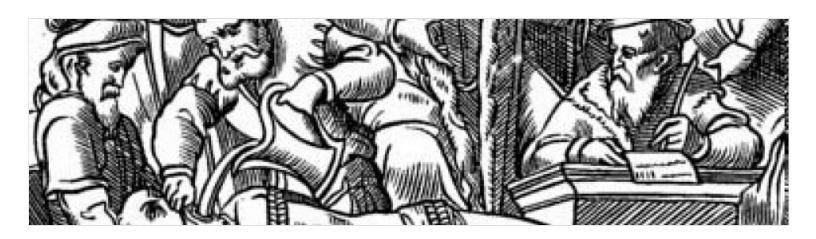
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10 Monday Feb 2014

Here's Cameron's response to the flooding in a nutshell:

POSTED BY TOM PRIDE IN CYNICISM

≈ 33 Comments

(not satire - it's David Cameron!)

Tags

Cameron, environment

This is David Cameron's response to the flooding in a handy timeline:

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CAMERON'S RESPONSE TO FLOODING

Early December: 2,600 properties flooded

No response from Cameron

Late December: 4,000 properties flooded

No response from Cameron

Early January: 4,718 properties flooded

No response from Cameron

Late January: 5,047 properties flooded

No response from Cameron

5 February: flooding spreads across large parts of England

Cameron holds a meeting named after a snake

6 February: thousands of residents evacuated

Cameron holds a meeting named after a snake

8 February: at least 250 more properties flooded over one weekend

Cameron blames Labour

9 February: at least 600 homes flooded in one week

Cameron holds a meeting named after a snake

10 February: number of homes flooded estimated at over 6,000

Cameron cabinet blame each other

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Erm ... that's it. So far.

I'll let you know if he holds another meeting. Named after a snake.

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THOUGHTS ON "HERE'S CAMERON'S RESPONSE TO THE FLOODING IN A NUTSHELL:"

Gio Ciampa said:

February 10, 2014 at 6:55 pm

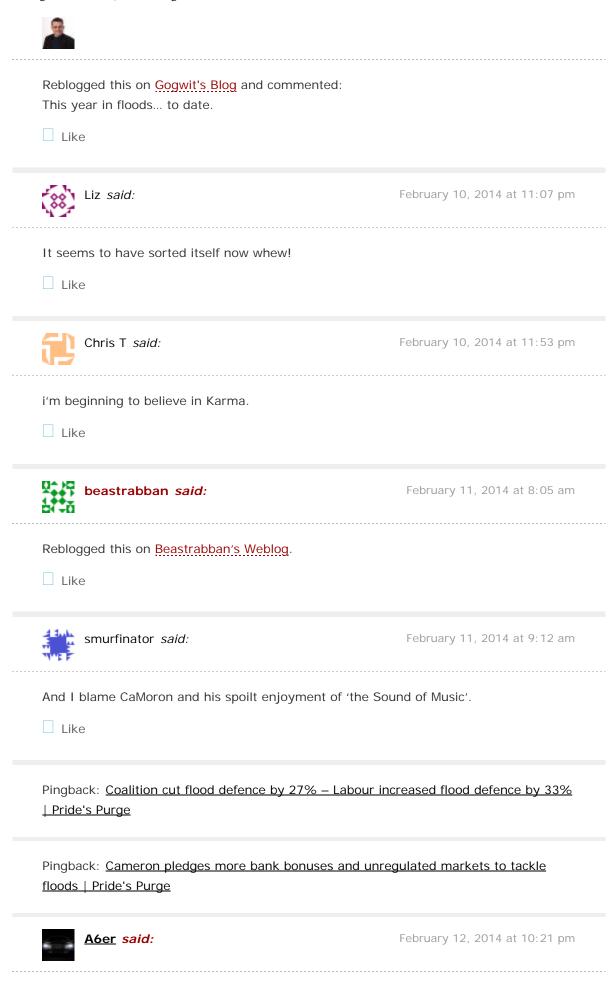
Wasn't the Environment Minister one of those far too busy on Boxing Day riding horses around the countryside (not) chasing foxes, instead of, as you'd expect, trying to do something about the flooded areas...?

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Holebender said:	February 10, 2014 at 6:58 pn
The Thames has broken its banks now so we can exwithdrawn from the rest of the UK to save the precipities.	
thelovelywibblywobblyoldlady said:	February 10, 2014 at 7:06 pn
Wouldn't it be nice if the Houses of Parliament got f into the North Sea Like	flooded and all the MP's floated off
Editor said:	February 10, 2014 at 7:34 pn
The we'd get sued for polluting the North Sea!	
nedhamson said:	February 10, 2014 at 7:51 pn
He said it is biblical today – so he is blaming God no Like	ow!
nedhamson said:	February 10, 2014 at 7:51 pn
Reblogged this on Ned Hamson Second Line View o Like	f the News.
jupiterbeings said:	February 10, 2014 at 7:57 pn
When do we ever get an intelligent response from a in times of crises. The answer is NEVEREVER! We governmentall we need is to come together as o	would never be lost without a

thelovelywibblywobblyoldlady said:	February 10, 2014 at 8:02 pm
Yeah, but hopefully Scotland will have voted yes in be arrested for trespassing and left to rot in jail. Like	the referendum by then so they'll
Liz said:	February 10, 2014 at 8:02 pm
Is anyone else having problems logging in to this start are greyed out?	ite? All of the FB and Twitter links
thelovelywibblywobblyoldlady said:	February 10, 2014 at 8:03 pm
@nedhamson Makes a change from blaming Labou that!	r oh no forgot, he's already done
thelovelywibblywobblyoldlady said:	February 10, 2014 at 8:06 pm
Liz, I think wordpress have been making some charmaybe it's because of that http://en.blog.wordpress.com/2014/02/10/new-sharmaybe	
Liz said:	February 10, 2014 at 8:35 pm
Nope! Still no luck but thanks for trying not sure who be appreciated?	hat to do next so a heads up would
Pingback: Here's Cameron's response to the flooding	ng in a
gogwit said:	February 10, 2014 at 10:23 pm

 $https://tompride.wordpress.com/2014/02/10/heres-camerons-response-to-the-flooding-in-a-nutshell/[24/10/2016\ 18:29:45]$



Thank you for playing 'democracy',

Like

Maria Muller *said:*

February 15, 2014 at 9:50 am

Re . Christopher #Chope the #Tory MP that refused to meet flooded residents who

	were charged £7.50 for sandbags by the loo http://www.1in12.com/publications/archive	
	Like	
	Bob Digby said:	February 15, 2014 at 2:38 pm
	Cameron seems to think 'Devon and Cornw http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-26 Like	-
	Pingback: <u>Cameron warns floods of governi</u> <u>Pride's Purge</u>	ment ineptitude "likely to get worse"
	Pingback: <u>More Water Thoughts ukgovern</u>	<u>imentwatch</u>
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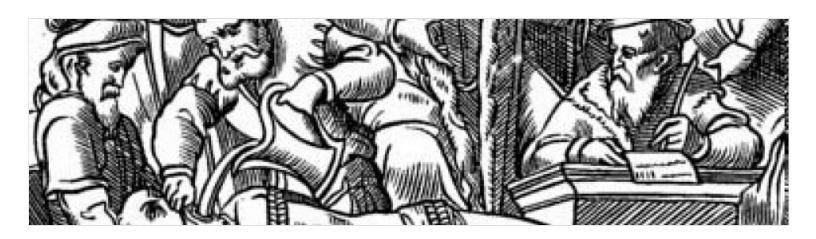
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Pride's Purge - an irreverent look at UK politics



11 Tuesday Feb 2014

Coalition cut flood defence by 27% – Labour increased flood defence by 33%

POSTED BY TOM PRIDE IN HOPELESS NAIVETY

≈ 25 Comments

(not satire - it's ConDemNation today!)

Tags

Cameron, Coalition,
environment, Labour

I certainly don't want to be seen as a cheer leader for New Labour – but downright government lies and spin are something I can't ignore.

Cameron has tried to blame the recent floods on the last Labour administration.

However the figures are very clear – so clear in fact I'm surprised few people in the mainstream press have put them together.

In the 4 years until 2010, government spending on flood defences <u>under Labour</u> rose by 33%.

In the 4 years until now, government spending on flood defences <u>under the</u> <u>coalition has been cut by 27%</u>.

The comparisons can be found in greater detail here:

Follow

Flood defence budget cuts: who's spinning what?

Of course the government could a	always argue the	ey couldn't predict	the present
flooding.			

Only one problem with that line of argument.

A rather senior member of the government did predict them way back in 2008 – a certain Mr D. Cameron in fact:

"Most people accept that, with climate change, floods are likely to be more frequent."

Get out of that one Mr Cameron.

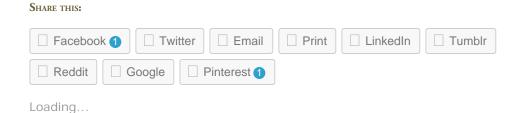
Related article by Tom Pride:

Here's Cameron's response to the flooding in a nutshell

Cameron announces plan to reduce flooding by forcing it to work in Poundland

Cameron responds to floods crisis by holding a meeting. Named after a snake.

Please feel free to comment .



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Cameron warns floods of government ineptitude "likely to get worse" In "vindictiveness" Cameron 'forgets' to apply for EU money to help flood victims In "cynicism" Cameron pledges more bank bonuses and unregulated markets to tackle floods In "cynicism"

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February 11, 2014 at 10:35 am

25

THOUGHTS ON "COALITION CUT FLOOD DEFENCE BY 27% – LABOUR INCREASED FLOOD DEFENCE BY 33%"

nearlydead said:	February 11, 2014 at 9:24 am
Reblogged this on <u>nearlydead</u> . Like	
Pingback: Coalition cut flood defence by 27% - Labo	our inc
Barry Davies said:	February 11, 2014 at 10:28 am
http://www.centralsomersetgazette.co.uk/Somersedetail/story.html Sums it up really Like	t-flooding-EU-plan/story-20556464-

Tom

FinkFurst said:

- 1) Your link to support "flood defences under Labour rose by 33%" is from a 4 year old page on the outdated DEFRA web site, and even back then it was only a projection, not actual spending.
- 2) The Coalition 27% spending cut you quoted is also an unattributed and disputed projection from Lord Smith in a 3+ year old newspaper article.

This link - http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-politics-25766564 suggests that spending

has been roughly flat since 2007, but that's a bit too boring, isn't it?

I tried to find the actual EA year by year spending data since inception in 1996 and I failed. Can anyone else find them? I think lack of transparency and open information from government agencies such as the EA is the real problem. Poorly researched articles and false headlines (and I don't mean only this one) serve only to make that problem worse.

Like



Tom Pride said:

February 11, 2014 at 10:47 am

It's a 4 year old page because the coalition has deleted the information. This is what you get now: http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/flooding/funding/allocation.htm
Don't blame me if the government is trying to hide the facts.

Like



nivekd said:

February 11, 2014 at 10:53 am

He's King Cnut

Like



FinkFurst said:

February 11, 2014 at 10:54 am

It therefore seems that you agree with me about the real problem. I don't blame you for successive governments hiding the facts. Uncovering the facts is better than repeating the deceptions, but it's far more difficult!

Like



pippakin said:

February 11, 2014 at 1:40 pm

Reblogged this on Political Pip Spit or Swallow its up to You and commented: The figures are arguable but what is not is the state of Englands flood defence system. It needs less talk and since however much was spent there was as usual a complete lack of action that is what needs to happen now: a lot of urgent and continuous action.

Like



nedhamson said:

February 11, 2014 at 2:30 pm

Reblogged this on Ned Hamson Second Line Vi	ew of the News.
kathrynd1 said:	February 11, 2014 at 2:55 pm
Is the EA fit for purpose? http://www.insidethe Like	environmentagency.co.uk/
seachranaidhe1 said:	February 11, 2014 at 3:37 pm
Reblogged this on seachranaidhe1. Like	
Paul Smyth said:	February 11, 2014 at 4:57 pm
Reblogged this on The Greater Fool. Like	
beastrabban said:	February 11, 2014 at 6:58 pm
Reblogged this on <u>Beastrabban's Weblog</u> and conversely the strength of the lies Cameron told with which he claimed that the Coalition had spent to Party. Tom Pride here provides the figures to so Well, it's only one more lie from a government anyone the truth.	when visiting the Somerset Levels, in more on flood protection than the Labour how that Cameron was indeed lying.
Like	
FinkFurst <i>said:</i>	February 11, 2014 at 7:28 pm

Cameron wasn't telling the truth, but apparently the spending difference is pretty marginal – £2.341 billion (2011-15 planned) compared with £2.371 billion (2007-11). If Cameron adds some more spending this year then in the future he can probably claim he was right.

Pingback: Climate change sceptic Andrew Neil also once thought heterosexual AIDS

Pingback: Lies, damned lies and more lies. | Social Action

was a myth | Pride's Purge

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■ Tory minister Sajid Javid grants fracking rights after receiving funds from pro-fracking interests

Politicians never lie - they just euphemise. 14 of the best ...

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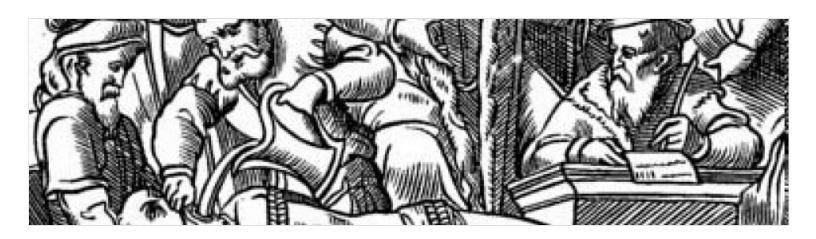
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05 Wednesday Feb 2014

Cameron announces plan to reduce flooding by forcing it to work in Poundland

POSTED BY TOM PRIDE IN SARCASM

≈ 19 Comments

(satire?)

Tags

Cameron, environment, Tories, unemployment The Prime Minister David Cameron has announced a wide-ranging plan to reduce what he called the 'scourge' of flooding across the country by cutting its victims' financial help and forcing them to work in Poundland for free.

People who have been made homeless or have had their property damaged by the flooding and severe weather conditions could also be expected to attend classes to encourage them to feel more worthless and deferential to their betters under Conservative plans to change the way payments are made to flooding victims.

Mr Cameron said the system of help for flood victims without homes, heating or electricity had gone "truly awry" and a "culture of entitlement" by flood had to be addressed if there was to be any improvement in the econom

Mr Cameron's speech is being seen as an attempt to reconnect with disgruntled Tory backbenchers who have accused him of allowing the Liberal Democrats to make them look like they give a shit.

Related article by Tom Pride:

Cameron responds to floods crisis by holding a meeting. Named after a snake.

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THOUGHTS ON "CAMERON ANNOUNCES PLAN TO REDUCE FLOODING BY FORCING IT TO WORK IN POUNDLAND"

Pingback: Cameron responds to floods crisis. By holding a meeting. Named after a

snake. | Pride's Purge

chibipaul said:	February 5, 2014 at 10:39 pm
Haha It's getting harder to know when it is satire and when it isr Well played! Like	n't Tom
john keen <i>said:</i>	February 5, 2014 at 10:43 pm
very good tom butis it a wise to encourage them with th	ese ideas?
Like	
lightfarer said:	February 6, 2014 at 12:22 am
Reblogged this on <u>lightfarer</u> and commented: i HaVe bin unEmplOyed four 14 yeaRs adn i WID LUv a jOb Like	iN £laNd
Pingback: Cameron announces plan to reduce flooding by f	
FinkFurst <i>said:</i>	February 6, 2014 at 9:53 am
So you thought this might be true? I can't say I'm surprise	d!
Like	
FinkFurst <i>said:</i>	February 6, 2014 at 9:58 am
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Like	
beastrabban said:	February 6, 2014 at 10:39 am

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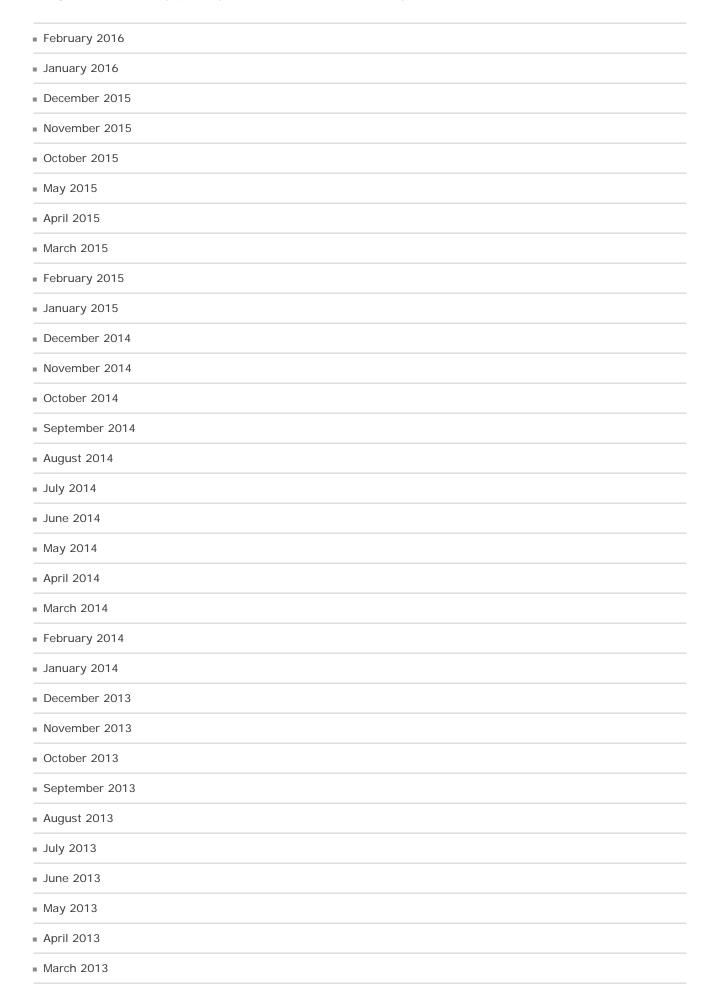
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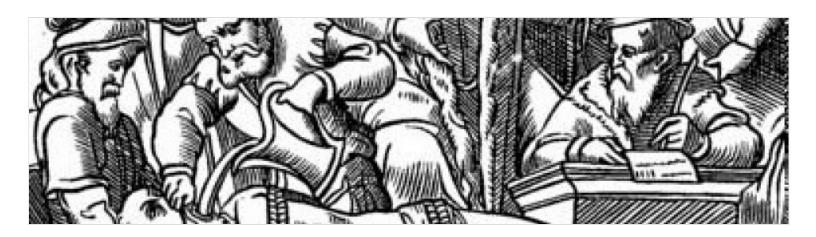
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05 Wednesday Feb 2014

Cameron responds to floods crisis by holding a meeting. Named after a snake.

POSTED BY TOM PRIDE IN CYNICISM

≈ 25 Comments

(Satire? I don't know any more)

 \underline{Tags} Cameron, environment,
Tories

There was relief in severely flood-hit parts of Britain after the Prime Minister David Cameron announced he was taking charge of the crisis <u>by having a meeting</u>.

Mr Cameron led a meeting today of the national emergency committee known as COBRA – after criticism that the official meetings in response to the floods have not been sounding dramatic enough.

After the emergency meeting, the prime minister said he would do "everything that can be done" to have another get-to-together some time in the near future with an even more dramatic-sounding name.

The army has been drafted in and stands ready to provide help with ideas for other eye-catching titles for further committee meetings – options are include 'Anaconda', 'Rattlesnake' and 'Black Mamba'

Mr Cameron also pledged he would take personal control of emergency efforts to help households stricken by the floods by making an extra £100m available for further dramatic sounding meetings of top government officials in London.										
Related article by Tom Pri	Related article by Tom Pride:									
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THOUGHTS ON "CAMERON RESPONDS TO FLOODS CRISIS BY HOLDING A MEETING. NAMED AFTER A SNAKE."

25

Lance Dyer (@Lance63) said:	February 5, 2014 at 8:50 pm
Maybe someone could take an Asp to the next Cabinet N	Meeting?
Lisa P said:	February 5, 2014 at 8:52 pm
Reblogged this on Shoot the messenger and commented I sure hope they had enough biscuits. Like	d:
Lisa P said:	February 5, 2014 at 8:53 pm
I feel safer.	
ianchisnall said:	February 5, 2014 at 8:56 pm
Let us hope he is more committed to helping the people a bit closer to home in Croydon after the 2011 riots!	in Somerset than he was those
Pingback: <u>Cameron announces plan to reduce flooding k</u> <u>Poundland Pride's Purge</u>	by forcing it to work in
Barry Davies said:	February 5, 2014 at 11:40 pm
Aparently he is having one on disability called boa const crush the life out of the disabled. Like	rictor because he wants to
Alan Dalph, said:	February 6, 2017 at 8:25 am

I've taken to replacing every mention of C seems to me that describes its real function	_
Like	
Chris Tandy said:	February 6, 2014 at 9:51 ar
Did you know that caMoron's 'secret' COBI	RA name is SLOWORM?
Like	
beastrabban said:	February 6, 2014 at 10:39 ar
Reblogged this on Beastrabban's Weblog.	
Like	
smurfinator said:	February 6, 2014 at 11:23 ar
snake within a snake. inception anyone?	
Like	
Pingback: Cameron responds to floods cris	sis. By holding a
guy fawkes said:	February 6, 2014 at 12:07 pr
Perhaps they could make a sequel to 'snak or perhaps 'snakes on a boat'.	ces on a plane' called 'snakes take the blame
Like	
guy fawkes <i>said:</i>	February 6, 2014 at 12:11 pr
in a boat.	

As I recall the organisation was not named after a snake. I believe the initials stand for Conservative Organisation (of) Barstewards, Ratbags and Assholes. Well if it doesn't it should !!

Typical of a council though to try and make a huge profit from a simple sandbag.

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VIDEO: "We're like the land that time forgot", say residents of flood-hit block of flats



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RESIDENTS of three blocks of flats which were surrounded by floodwater feel they are living in "the land that time forgot".

Four households fled their homes on Christmas Day after water poured into ground floor flats at Stourbanks in Conifer Gardens, Christchurch.

The remaining 18 flats were visited by police late on Sunday night and residents were warned to leave.

Upstairs resident Paul Richards said: "They were now advising the upstairs people to go because there was probably going to be five feet of floodwater in the downstairs block which would take out the mains electricity."

Mr Richards said the residents were not given somewhere else to go like the evacuated residents of nearby Iford Bridge. They had only received one visit from a council official.

"We're like the land that time forgot here," he said.

Ground floor resident Eric Matthews was among those whose home has been wrecked by foul-smelling water. He said he was woken by Mr Richards at 4.30am on Christmas Day as the floodwater rose.

"Twenty minutes or half an hour later we were wading in it. It was streaming through the front," he said.

"People got all the furniture out as best they could, wading through everything. They got all the carpets up.

"We just left then and I'm staying at the Premier Inn."

Mr Richards said the flats should be given better flood protection.

"I think about 25-30 years ago a feasibility study was carried out on getting a bund put in. I would have bitten their hand off but residents at the time said no because it would spoil their views of the river," he said.

"If the bund isn't put in, if people lose their contents insurance and if we lose our buildings insurance, eventually the people living here will lose their homes because they won't be able to live here."

Neil Farmer, strategic director for Christchurch and East Dorset councils, said in a statement: "In our role as a category one responder in support of the emergency services, we have responded to requests for help from residents of Conifer Close as promptly as we can once made aware."

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itsneverblackorwhite

7:18am Tue 7 Jan 14

Outrageous comment from the council, you know where the worst affected areas are and should be pro-active in supporting residents ad not waiting for residents to contact you, get out of your offices and help your residents!

Score: 20

Report

nickynoodah

7:42am Tue 7 Jan 14

like I said many many times bedsit and flat dwellers are forgotten they need help now to day a simple bund would have saved all this misery. my heart bleeds.

Score: -29

Report

Telscombe Cliffy

8:02am Tue 7 Jan 14

I would say bad building/planning. Those flats aren't that old and should have been built higher. Did they flood in 1979? If they were built 1metre higher would have been no problem.

Score: 17

Report

spooki

8:18am Tue 7 Jan 14

Funny because we called the council yesterday about some weather related repairs and was told they guy had today free for appointments...

Score: 8

Report

Lord Spring

8:22am Tue 7 Jan 14

Who was the developer and also the architect who applied for a grant of planning.

Score: 12

Report

KKen96 8:22am Tue 7 Jan 14

"I think about 25-30 years ago a feasibility study was carried out on getting a bund put in. I would have bitten their hand off but residents at the time said no because it would spoil their views of the river"

Score: 56

Report

justme20092009

9:02am Tue 7 Jan 14

stop moaning, its a bit of rain many countrys have much worse

Score: 43

Report

spooki

9:11am Tue 7 Jan 14

"residents at the time said no because it would spoil their views of the river," well you can see the river now can't you? How stupid to refuse flood barrier type help just because it will spoil the view. Perhaps the man staying in the Premier Inn should give those who refused his bill?

Score: 71

Report

BIGTONE

9:33am Tue 7 Jan 14

Neil Farmer, strategic director for Christchurch and East Dorset councils, said in a statement: "In our role as a category one responder in support of the emergency services, we have responded to requests for help from residents of Conifer Close as promptly as we can once made aware."

Other speak.....just keep paying your taxes like compliant citizens and we will fit you in when we can.

Score: 9

Report

FlamingCarbuncle

9:38am Tue 7 Jan 14

So when these residents bought/rented these properties did they not notice the close proximity to the river? did they not pay for a property survey? Did their solicitor not make them aware of the vicinity of the river?

When looking at a map during a recent visit to a geography classroom at BSG this summer my 10

year old daughter was asked what problems could arise from living too close to the Stour and she immediately answered the houses could flood, note 10 years old!

So if there are to be works carried out to protect these properties from future flooding why should the council, or to be more precise the taxpayer, be responsible for paying?

Score: 136 Report

paulfrichards 9:58am Tue 7 Jan 14

Ref Flaming Carbuncle

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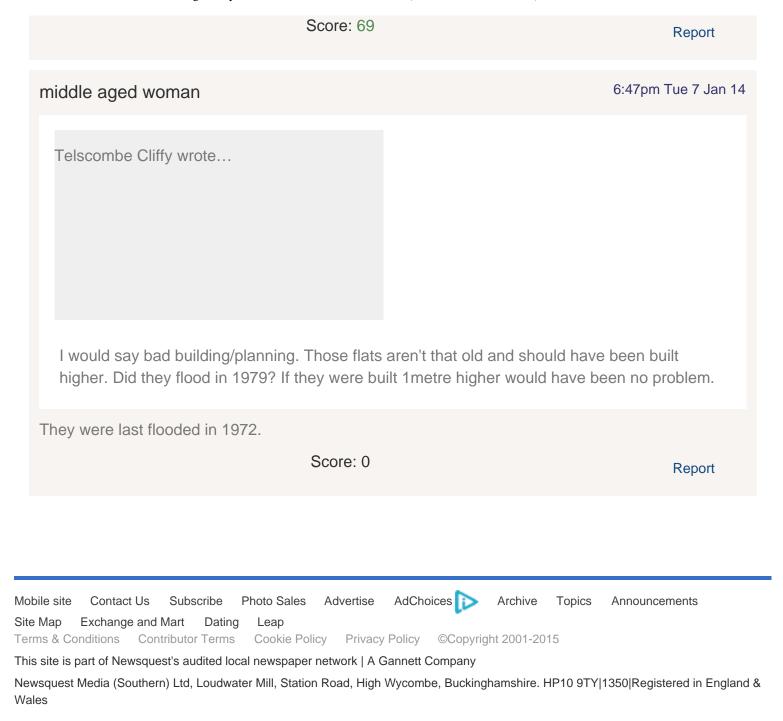
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VIDEO: "We're like the land that time forgot", say residents of flood-hit block of flats



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RESIDENTS of three blocks of flats which were surrounded by floodwater feel they are living in "the land that time forgot".

Four households fled their homes on Christmas Day after water poured into ground floor flats at Stourbanks in Conifer Gardens, Christchurch.

The remaining 18 flats were visited by police late on Sunday night and residents were warned to leave.

Upstairs resident Paul Richards said: "They were now advising the upstairs people to go because there was probably going to be five feet of floodwater in the downstairs block which would take out the mains electricity."

Mr Richards said the residents were not given somewhere else to go like the evacuated residents of nearby Iford Bridge. They had only received one visit from a council official.

"We're like the land that time forgot here," he said.

Ground floor resident Eric Matthews was among those whose home has been wrecked by foul-smelling water. He said he was woken by Mr Richards at 4.30am on Christmas Day as the floodwater rose.

"Twenty minutes or half an hour later we were wading in it. It was streaming through the front," he said.

"People got all the furniture out as best they could, wading through everything. They got all the carpets up.

"We just left then and I'm staying at the Premier Inn."

Mr Richards said the flats should be given better flood protection.

"I think about 25-30 years ago a feasibility study was carried out on getting a bund put in. I would have bitten their hand off but residents at the time said no because it would spoil their views of the river," he said.

"If the bund isn't put in, if people lose their contents insurance and if we lose our buildings insurance, eventually the people living here will lose their homes because they won't be able to live here."

Neil Farmer, strategic director for Christchurch and East Dorset councils, said in a statement: "In our role as a category one responder in support of the emergency services, we have responded to requests for help from residents of Conifer Close as promptly as we can once made aware."

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itsneverblackorwhite

7:18am Tue 7 Jan 14

Outrageous comment from the council, you know where the worst affected areas are and should be pro-active in supporting residents ad not waiting for residents to contact you, get out of your offices and help your residents!

Score: 20

Report

nickynoodah

7:42am Tue 7 Jan 14

like I said many many times bedsit and flat dwellers are forgotten they need help now to day a simple bund would have saved all this misery. my heart bleeds.

Score: -29

Report

Telscombe Cliffy

8:02am Tue 7 Jan 14

I would say bad building/planning. Those flats aren't that old and should have been built higher. Did they flood in 1979? If they were built 1metre higher would have been no problem.

Score: 17

Report

spooki

8:18am Tue 7 Jan 14

Funny because we called the council yesterday about some weather related repairs and was told they guy had today free for appointments...

Score: 8

Report

Lord Spring

8:22am Tue 7 Jan 14

Who was the developer and also the architect who applied for a grant of planning.

Score: 12

Report

KKen96 8:22am Tue 7 Jan 14

"I think about 25-30 years ago a feasibility study was carried out on getting a bund put in. I would have bitten their hand off but residents at the time said no because it would spoil their views of the river"

Score: 56

Report

justme20092009

9:02am Tue 7 Jan 14

stop moaning, its a bit of rain many countrys have much worse

Score: 43

Report

spooki

9:11am Tue 7 Jan 14

"residents at the time said no because it would spoil their views of the river," well you can see the river now can't you? How stupid to refuse flood barrier type help just because it will spoil the view. Perhaps the man staying in the Premier Inn should give those who refused his bill?

Score: 71

Report

BIGTONE

9:33am Tue 7 Jan 14

Neil Farmer, strategic director for Christchurch and East Dorset councils, said in a statement: "In our role as a category one responder in support of the emergency services, we have responded to requests for help from residents of Conifer Close as promptly as we can once made aware."

Other speak.....just keep paying your taxes like compliant citizens and we will fit you in when we can.

Score: 9

Report

FlamingCarbuncle

9:38am Tue 7 Jan 14

So when these residents bought/rented these properties did they not notice the close proximity to the river? did they not pay for a property survey? Did their solicitor not make them aware of the vicinity of the river?

When looking at a map during a recent visit to a geography classroom at BSG this summer my 10

year old daughter was asked what problems could arise from living too close to the Stour and she immediately answered the houses could flood, note 10 years old!

So if there are to be works carried out to protect these properties from future flooding why should the council, or to be more precise the taxpayer, be responsible for paying?

Score: 136 Report

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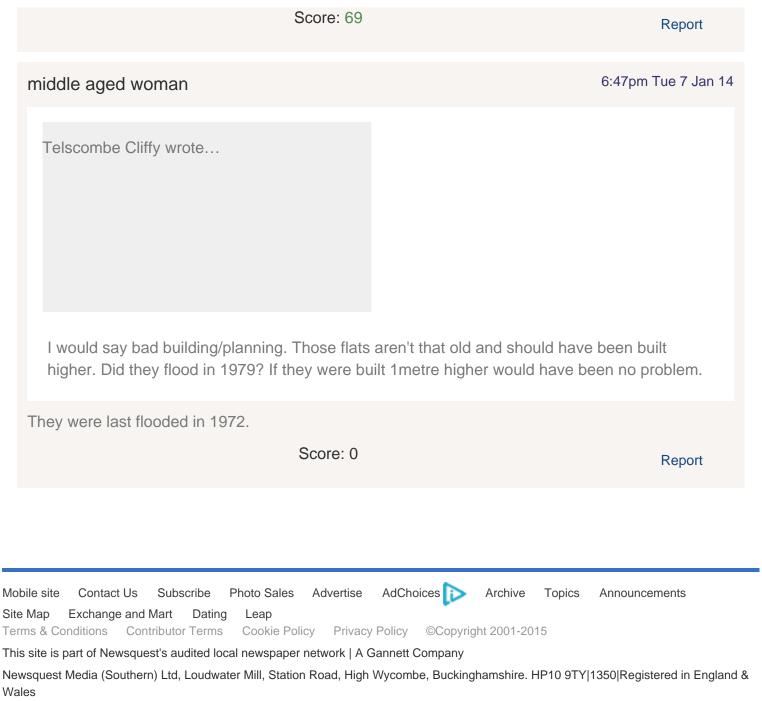
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Flooding

David Cameron takes personal control as flooding crisis worsens

Prime minister leads meeting of Cobra emergency committee after criticism of official response to floods



Flooded land near Burrowbridge on the Somerset Levels. Photograph: Toby Melville/Reuters

Rowena Mason, political correspondent

Wednesday 5 February 2014 18.12 GMT

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This article is 2 years old

<u>David Cameron</u> has taken personal control of emergency efforts to help households stricken by floods and promised "no restrictions" on help, as Labour accused the government of leaving people isolated and unable to cope with homes under water.

The prime minister led a meeting of Cobra, the government crisis response committee, moving aside Owen Paterson, the environment secretary, amid criticism of the official response to weeks of flooding, power outages and transport chaos.

The Environment Agency now has nine severe flood warnings in place, covering much of the south coast from Cornwall to Dorset, as well as the Somerset Levels. A further 65 flood warnings are in place across southern England, the Midlands and Wales.

With more than 300 properties under water and 8,000 homes without power, the army

has been drafted in to offer planning advice and stands ready to provide troops. Police have used megaphone warnings from a helicopter to urge residents in the flood-stricken Somerset Levels to leave their homes.

In Devon, a 30 metre stretch of the seawall in Dawlish has been swept away leaving the main south-west rail line dangling over the sea. Rail services west of Exeter are likely to face weeks of disruption and Exeter MP and former Labour environment minister Ben Bradshaw has called for the line to be rerouted.



The railway line is engulfed by waves in Dawlish, Devon. Photograph: Clive Postlethwaite/Rex

The Met Office and Environment Agency warned that the stormy weather is forecast to continue into the weekend bringing the risk of more flooding and winds bringing down trees and causing more disruption to travel and power networks.

After pledging an extra £100m for flood maintenance and repair, Cameron warned of more bad weather to come and said he would do "everything that can be done" to help those affected.

"My sympathy is with everyone affected by the ongoing storms which are causing misery to communities and businesses across the country," he said. "With power outages, more flooding and more bad weather forecast, I have chaired a Cobra this afternoon to ensure that everything that can be done to get stricken communities moving is being done: there are no restrictions on help."

He also promised a "proper alternative service" for rail travellers in the south-west after seeing "shocking" pictures of a train line that fell into the sea in Dawlish in Devon

during the latest storms.

There have already been 21 emergency Cobra meetings of government departments, including representatives from the Environment Agency, Ministry of Defence and Met Office, to respond to the threat of floods since before Christmas.



Prince Charles in the flood-hit village of Muchelney in Somerset. Photograph: Getty

Cameron's greater involvement in the relief effort comes after the Prince of Wales called it a "tragedy" that some people had experienced delays in getting help.

"The tragedy is that nothing happened for so long. There is nothing like a jolly good disaster to get people to start doing something," Prince Charles said, as he visited some of the worst affected areas this week.

Despite the "serious situation", Cameron denied that the response so far had been inadequate or slow. He said "no amount of pumping will solve the current problem" completely because the land in the worst-hit Somerset Levels area is so saturated.

However, he admitted not enough had been done by the Environment Agency in recent years to dredge rivers in the south-west, where some parts have been flooded since Christmas.

Cameron also contradicted the claims of Lord Smith, the chairman of the Environment Agency, who has warned the body does not have enough resources to protect both the town and country.



Waves breaking over a jetty in Swanage, Dorset. Photograph: Paul Angel/Demotix/Corbis

The idea that only urban or rural areas could be defended from flooding was a "false choice", the prime minister said.

"From the late 1990s – far too long – the Environment Agency believed that it was wrong to dredge," he said. "I believe it is time for Natural England, the Environment Agency and the departments to sit round the table and work out a new approach that will make sure that something that did work, frankly, for decades and centuries is reintroduced again."

No 10 sources said the extra £100m for flooding repairs would be available over the next year and come from the contingency fund of the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra), even though it is potentially earmarked for European Union repayments. The source said the EU would "have to wait" if the money was required.

There will also be changes to the emergency Bellwin fund, which is available to councils to claim back money spent on "emergency measures undertaken to safeguard life or property" during times of bad weather.

At the moment, local authorities can get 85% refunds on their costs, but now they will get 100% and have until March to make a request for flood aid.

Of the £100m, around £75m will be spent on repairs, £15m on maintenance and £10m on specific flood measures for the Somerset Levels. However, Friends of the Earth, the environmental campaigners, said this was "like trying to plug the leaks when the dam's

about to burst", given the overall level of neglect in recent years.

Cameron defended the government against claims that spending on flood defences had fallen under the coalition, arguing more would be spent in the four years between 2011 and 2015 than in the previous four years under the Labour government.

However, a senior Labour sources said this was a "clear case of fiddling the figures", as Cameron included private sector spending in his calculations. In fact, government spending has fallen from $\pounds 2.37$ bn to $\pounds 2.34$ bn over those four-year periods. "They should stop playing with the statistics and get on with their job of helping those in need," the Labour source said.

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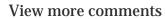
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