

West Worthing Baptist Church 45 South St, Tarring, Worthing BN14 7LU



Key features

Interactive flood mapping exhibition and story table

Historical maps of local water courses

Tarring Flood Action Group project

Local wetlands project - EPIC

Local community farm wetland project – Sustainable Sussex

Introduction and approach

There can be nothing more devastating for a property than flood or other natural disasters, yet with our climate becoming less predictable these can sometimes catch us out, as some of the residents in Worthing have discovered in recent years.

Operation Watershed were the major funder for this event and our exhibition follows in the footsteps of some of the projects that West Sussex County Council funded through this invaluable support for local communities. On display will be examples of how this fund was used to help resolve surface water flooding issues in West Sussex through initiatives taken by local people making a difference to their environment. This ties in with the rain garden workshop and exhibits at Maybridge Keystone Centre over this weekend.

Come and help us map the flooding hotspots in Worthing and Adur and share your stories through our story table. Maybe “adopt a drain” if you happen to live in an area where flooding occurs regularly, like Tarring, whose flood action group are in the process of coming up with some really creative solutions to a very local problem.

There are 2 amazing local wetland/land-based projects that are in planning/early stages that will involve the local community. We would love to share them with you, come along and find out what they are and how you can get involved.

Also find out how the community-minded church that is hosting this exhibition won an Eco Church award and continues to do their bit to help the planet. There will also be more information available about Community Resilience.



Flood Action Overview

West Worthing Baptist Church hosts meetings of Tarring Flood Action Group and it was at one of these meetings, in 2017, that we had the idea of holding an interactive flood mapping exhibition at the church, to include the work of other local flood action groups and projects that are trying to address surface water flooding in our area. Claire Hunt from Transition Town Worthing (TTW) and Breathing Spaces had created a Worthing Flood Zones Map, which was contributed to by local residents at our annual Seed Swap in March 2017. We wanted to continue this work and to give local people another opportunity to help us with this exercise.

Claire and her partner Ryan Haines created a rain garden at their home and it was featured in our 2016 Eco Open House event. There was a lot of interest in this and Lydia and David at 62 Sompting Road have now created their own rain garden (go and take a look – it’s part of this event), utilising their landscape architecture skills. To take this one step further, Claire and Ryan wanted to teach people how to make their own rain garden or rain chain and will be doing so this weekend at Maybridge Keystone Centre (MKC) with Lisa from Breathing Spaces. Also at MKC will be a display by Springfield First School of their rain garden proposals, Chesswood Allotments Flood Action scheme display and Southern Water. So, now you can see how it all links together!

Our exhibition at the Church will feature the Flood Zones Map and you will be invited to add to it, if you have any surface water flooding issues near your home or place of work or indeed are aware of any elsewhere. We will also have on display, old maps of the area from the 19th century showing the course of the Teville Stream, as it was then, as well as local ponds and springs, so we can compare the two. We will also have some interesting photos of old Worthing, including the lake at Homefield Park.

To the east of Worthing is a large area that historically has been prone to flooding so we have invited along leaders of EPIC and Sustainable Sussex (see below*), whose projects will involve these wetlands, so they can explain what is proposed for that land, and how they intend working with the community on their very exciting eco projects. We are sure they'd love you to be involved if you are interested, so come and talk to them!

Tarring Flood Action Group will be exhibiting their plans to help relieve flooding, particularly in Tarring High Street, where residents have had flood water invading their homes on more than one occasion. They have come up with a great idea – "Adopt a Drain" – so if people are experiencing flooding due to blocked drains, they can adopt a local drain and keep an eye on it and borrow equipment to help keep it clear – better to do this than have your home flooded. This aligns with TTW's ethos of instead of saying, "someone needs to do something about this" we say, "what can I do?". We will have on display information about Community Resilience for community groups and businesses.

Transition KHD (Keymer, Hassocks and Ditchling) created an excellent Green Infrastructure Project in order to help relieve quite severe flood issues in Hassocks and we will have that on display too. This has been an inspiration for other flood action groups, particularly Tarring and Littlehampton. <https://hkdtransition.files.wordpress.com/2013/05/hassocks-green-infrastructure-project-17-07-2017-final.pdf> if you'd like to download a copy.

West Worthing Baptist Church

This church has won an award for being an Eco Church, so we were delighted that they were happy to host our exhibition. Their Ecology Group meets from time to time and organises activities so if you are interested in finding out more, please contact the Minister - Rev Dr Hazel Sherman (hazelsh@wwbc.myzen.co.uk).

As you come in the church door there are recycling drawers just to your right, great to see this being encouraged. You might find some

eco information and Green Tips on the notice board in the corridor, kept up to date by Marie, who runs the Ecology Group. The café is in front of you and The Sanctuary is to your left – that's where our exhibition will be. The Church Minister, Hazel, is going to weave her sermon on Sunday around it!

Heating and Lighting

Low energy light bulbs are used throughout the building wherever possible. There are notices by the doors of each room reminding folk to turn off lights and close windows when they leave. LED lights are in use in the courtyard.

There is timed heater usage so as not to waste heat when rooms are not in use. Radiators have thermostatic radiator valves.

The church has 2 boilers, the newer one is a condensing boiler.

Water Saving

Toilets are fitted with 'save a flush' bags to reduce water usage. There is also a Cistermiser fitted to the water supply in the gents' urinals to reduce water consumption. Dripping taps are repaired promptly. There is a water butt fitted to pipes in the church courtyard to provide water for indoor plants and courtyard plants in dry periods. The church has a water meter.

Energy Saving

To save transport energy, the flour used to make the communion bread is ground by High Salvington Mill in Worthing. To save general energy on the production of goods, there are regular recycling points for community use for milk bottle tops, silver foil, used stamps, printer cartridges and rags. There is also a monthly rolling recycling programme for religious books, CDs, plastic bags, sewing and knitting items, Terracycle items, unwanted jewellery, spectacles, hearing aids, low energy light bulbs, small electrical devices, postcards, jigsaw puzzles, DIY and garden tools and Christmas cards.

Twice a year, they issue 'Green Tips' giving the congregation and community useful ecological ideas.

Because of the nature of the building, the loft is insulated but it's almost impossible to insulate the main roof of the sanctuary.

There is limited double glazing – possibly the roof lights.

Unfortunately, at the time they investigated installing solar panels on the very large south facing roof, they just missed the government's finance package and it couldn't then be afforded. Such a shame that a huge roof like this

couldn't be put to better use, but we hope we might be able to help with that at some point.

Wetland Projects*

Sustainable Sussex is a community project working with people who find access to the workplace difficult for a variety of reasons, in mixed needs groups, on sustainable projects. They are currently developing a vision for Sompting Community Farm, nature trail and board walk on an area of flushed fen - wetlands which are sensitive to environmental pollution and to severe weather events. The project will include improvements to existing surface water drainage routes, water conservation and collection and grey water recycling.

EPIC - the Enhancing Places, Inspiring Communities project aims to re-route the course of the Broadwater Brook away from its underground route into an open channel across Sompting Brooks, creating water storage areas and providing habitat for a wide range of species. Through working with the local community, the project aims to raise awareness of the local water environment and inspire greater connectivity between the urban coastal area and this valuable piece of greenspace.

The Ouse & Adur Rivers Trust and Sompting Estate Trust are developing this exciting project. Silt traps will be constructed to remove the polluted sediment, which is currently impacting on the ecological value of the stream through this location and further downstream at Brooklands Lake. Once complete the site will be opened to the public for the first time on footpaths which lead to a river trail, with wildlife hides and places to sit and take in the array of wildlife found on the site. Creating an open channel allows the stream to re-connect with its floodplain and additional water storage ponds will be created to hold water during periods of heavy rainfall.

In addition, the project is working with local organisations to host a whole host of activities and events to raise awareness of the local water environment and its associated natural heritage, the pressures it is under and what we can all do to help. There will be a range of activities which they hope will offer something for everyone - from archaeological investigations to traditional crafts, photography to guided walks, and wildlife surveying to tree planting. The aim is to get the community involved in this unique opportunity to improve the areas ecological value, learn more about its history and opening a new area of accessible greenspace.

