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Report back from the EPS
Communications and Media Team



Branch grants on their way

BRANCHES Director Mark Taylor reported to the EPS Board at its April meeting that the central grant to EPS branches was now finalised.

Approximately £5,000 will be made available to the branches in the UK to support the delivery of local events.

Mark will be getting in touch with all Branches to arrange the relevant and appropriate access to these funds.

Mark also reported that new Chairpersons are still needed for the East, Northern and International branches.

Conference feeds in to Cabinet Office consultation

OVER 50 emergency planning practitioners attended a national workshop at the Alexandra Palace in London to explore the challenges in dealing compassionately and effectively with people in the aftermath of disasters.

During the wide ranging discussions, the role of the voluntary sector was particularly highlighted. Voluntary organisations can provide wide-ranging support in major incidents under direc-

tion of local authorities – but if they are not closely involved in planning, through resilience forum meetings and local exercises, the partnership links and mutual understanding of roles and capabilities may be missing.

Speakers included Marilyn Robinson (Disaster Action), Rebecca Stockwell (Humanitarian Assistance, Cabinet Office), Sandra Howitt (Red Cross), Simon Williams (Director, Royal London Borough of Merton) and Sian Lewis-

Williams, the National Family Liaison Adviser for the National Crime Agency. Areas debated were on the experiences of survivors, the role of Family Liaison Officers, building the capacity of the voluntary sector, community

ABOVE: delegates debate the issues around Humanitarian Assistance at the national workshop in London

resilience, and the role of central government.

Dan Dumbarton, chair of the EPS's Human Aspects Group, said: "The EPS National Workshop provided a unique opportunity for key practitioners in this sector to have direct input into shaping future practice. One of the key debates was about co-ordination of the humanitarian response at a national level, and we were pleased that representatives of central government were present from the Cabinet Office to hear all the issues raised."

The Civil Contingencies Secretariat in the Cabinet Office is currently revising national guidance on humanitarian assistance, and the findings of the workshop will be fed into the consultation, with the revised guidance expected by the summer.

'National workshop provided direct input into shaping future practice'

Plan for new part time admin officer

IT HAS been agreed to appoint a part time office administrator to assist the work of the EPS at its headquarters at Easingwold. Currently the EPS has one administrator, Sue Bagge, who is increasingly taking over more tasks from the Society's external accountants, which will generate savings.

Chair Tony Thompson said: "At the moment, we only have one member of staff at

Head Office. That is not a good business continuity arrangement to cover holiday or sick leave, while continuous 'lone working' is inappropriate.

"Having looked at the figures, a new part time office administrator can be recruited at cost neutral, because of the savings made when Sue takes over more tasks from our accountants."

Education Committee

THE Education Committee is being reformed with Simon Creed as the lead Board director. Simon asks for any interested members to contact him if they would like to join the committee - we are particularly interested in members who would be prepared to validate training courses and work on an Education platform. A workshop is in the process of being organised and interested members will be invited - all members of the old committee and those who have previously shown interest will be contacted.

Resilience deadline – 5 June

THE next issue of *Resilience* is planned for the end of June. Copy deadline for the Summer 2015 issue is **Friday 5 June**.

As ever, do not worry if reportage is not your top skill – just get us the information in whatever form, and our subs will do the rest.

PS: many of you have asked who the 'German soldier' was in the Spring issue. That's my next door neighbour Mick who's in one of those historical re-enactment societies. Here he is taking a call from his agent on the next gig.



Get ready for EPS conference

PREPARATIONS are on-going for this year's national conference and AGM.

The event will be held at Easingwold on 29-30 September, and will also include the annual Resilience Awards and dinner.

The conference can take up to 130 delegates, and prices and arrangements will be published soon.

From the Archives....

DID you know that Easingwold used to have its own Flying Bomb?



A flying bomb photographed when at the Home Office Training Establishment, Easingwold, now at the Ministry of Technology Establishment at Westcott.

Media training plan advances

PLANS for media training sessions are being finalised. As well as members of the Board, 17 members of the EPS have put themselves forward as Subject Matter Experts.

The EPS has a wealth of experience and different specialisms, which could be offered to the media where relevant, or when approached by the media in response to a breaking story. In addition, we would identify communications teams within relevant Government departments – Cabinet Office, Home Office, Environment Agency etc – to offer the SMEs as third party endorsers for relevant campaigns or news stories.

The media training will help prepare those who have volunteered for interview, providing training in the necessary techniques needed to deliver a confident response.



Website views sought

THE current contract for the EPS website is approaching its end, so it is time to think about what we want our website to do in the fast changing world of social media. At its February meeting, the Board agreed to review and improve both the functionality and capability of the EPS website, and the Board is keen to hear members' views as part of that process. So with the current site, what works or doesn't work for you? What would you like to see improved? What bits would you like to keep? Send your views to : bobwademedialive@live.co.uk