

Transcription

BEING READY TO KEEP THE WATER OUT

A story told by Sam, a business owner from Tewkesbury, Gloucestershire, UK

Nobody ever really thought the water could ever get that high, I don't think anyone in the Tewkesbury area certainly did. So, following that every flood had a new meaning.

So, on flood alert now while there are people about perhaps to help us lift things, the first thing we do is sort out all the out buildings, function rooms, make sure that benches are secured, beer barrels are secured, garage area is secured and lifted. It can take up to a day to get everything all ready but you know you can't really hang around. You've just got to get all that in place, make sure people are evacuated that need to be evacuated. And then it's a case of moving on to protecting the main building because people can pass with four-wheel drives as the water is coming up, and you can get water seepage into the property so any flood boards and now we have the proper UK barrier flood boards. That's going to make it even easier, we can get all the flood boards put into place.

When we have a flood alert, it is our priority to make sure we protect the building and the business. It's always been a little bit of a problem that if we have been away for a couple of days that we have to leave people to cope with the stress that we normally have to deal with, and basically look to protecting our property for us. So we have to leave a risk assessment star plan of action so that anybody we leave here, whether it be in friends, family, staff know what to do and what to put in place. It's very, very, very important, and the staff will realise how important it is, to protect all of our equipment, our furniture.

Although we have improved our defences through trial and error, some of the furniture is quite difficult to move out of the ground floor so we've got hooks in ceilings so we can hang furniture from the ceiling. We move some larger appliances up to the first floor, particularly freezers so that we can have a dependent way of keeping an electric supply to them in case there was a severe flood.

The Environment Agency flood warnings are normally very precise and very good, and we monitor them regularly and we know if it's saying 4.24 on the Mythe gauge that we are actually likely to have a level flood situation. So, when they start predicting levels of say 4.6 then we know we going to need our defences to try and keep it out.

The river is rising far more quickly than what it used to. It's cutting us off more quickly. It used to take 3-4 days to cut us off; it can now cut us off within a day. So it means that we have to take action quicker and rely on friends and family to actually come and help us, and get things moved safely. Then hopefully when the water goes away again, get back home and as quickly as possible and get back into doing what we do best - entertaining our clientele.