



# NATIONAL CENTRE FOR RESILIENCE

## Summer 2019

### Improving Recovery Resilience Practitioner and Responder Workshops

#### Booking is now open for our workshops – Improving Recovery!

Places are limited, to secure your ticket please visit the relevant Eventbrite page (links below) and register for the workshop of your choice.



*Come along to share & discuss the challenges you face after natural hazard emergencies*

⇒ Monday 16 September  
Atlantic Quay, Glasgow  
<https://bit.ly/2OrLkMt>

⇒ Tuesday 24 September  
Gordon Barracks, Aberdeen  
<https://bit.ly/3104ryG>

⇒ Tuesday 1 October  
Brunton Theatre, Musselburgh  
<https://bit.ly/2OuLp2c>

#### What are the workshops?

The National Centre for Resilience (NCR) is hosting three **free** events, across Scotland, where you can tell us what challenges come up during recovery from events like flooding, severe winds and landslides.

We want to support you in finding solutions to the challenges you face and your experiences will help to shape our work for the next two years.

At these workshops you will get the opportunity to:

- Identify challenges
- Share your experiences
- Directly influence the NCR's work plan so that it meets your needs
- Network with your peers
- Discover more about the work of the NCR

We believe that by comparing the challenges faced by resilience professionals with current research, we can help find solutions and better support Scotland's resilience communities when preparing for, dealing with or recovering from extreme events. By sharing your knowledge you will help us see the bigger picture so that we can recognise patterns in emerging issues and take a proactive approach.

A full programme will be released nearer the time.



## The Conservation Volunteers



The Conservation Volunteers (TCV) is leading a Flooding Resilience Project funded by NCR in the aim to build & increase resilience in at risk communities across Scotland.

TCV, the Community Volunteering Charity, is a national charitable organisation, which aims at empowering communities and individuals to reconnect with and improve their local environment for a mutual benefit.

Prior to the Flooding Resilience Project, the Community Flooding Volunteer Project, TCV developed and worked on mutual resilience themes in collaboration various partners and organisations including the Scottish Flood Forum, Clackmannanshire and Stirling Council and Strathard Initiative Steering Group. The project supported and trained individuals within flood effected communities to help better inform the Council's Flood Risk Management team on what is occurring at ground level prior to a potential flood event.

The project initially identified flood 'hotspots' and problem areas with the assistance of Clacks and Stirling Council, which were then monitored by the local communities. TCV and lead partners recruited and provided training and equipment for volunteers to monitor pre-selected flooding 'hotspots'. Volunteers successfully recording observations and taking photographs on identified local flooding areas. Early action at these 'hotspots' has helped clear watercourses of debris and litter and has contributed to reducing flood risk locally. So far, the project has been successfully working with three communities in Scotland: Menstrie, Tillicoultry and Aberfoyle/Strathard. As a result, two primary schools and volunteers are regularly on the ground carrying basic flood risk management surveys.

Good partnership working, in particular with the Scottish Flood Forum and Clacks and Stirling Council, is at the heart of TCV's success in engaging communities in flood risk management activities at a level that is relevant to volunteers through partnership engagement and education. TCV's approach with lead partners has helped to shift the perception within local authorities to what volunteers can achieve while bringing a sense of community cohesion and purpose in the newly established resilience groups.

Presently, TCV is working on developing and expanding the project in new local authority areas of Scotland that are at high risk of the impact of flooding. After a successful meeting with Stirling Council TCV will start engaging with Fintry alongside the Scottish Flood Forum.

*Claire Bailly, Senior Project Officer (Flood Resilience Project), TCV*



Menstrie Primary School 2 classes of P5. Two sessions delivered where we introduced the concept of the Community Flooding Volunteer Project. The pupils and class teacher have been trained to monitor and inspect 3 flood hotspots near the school.



Volunteer Training for Watercourse Inspection and Clearance for Clacks MCRG (Menstrie Community Resilience Group) & TIDECO (Tillicoultry, Devonside and Coalsnaughton Resilience Group) local communities & volunteers. Training delivered in partnership with the Scottish Flood Forum, Clacks Council and Tillicoultry, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service



## NCR Research projects

A quick update from the research projects we are funding this year:

### **Project title:** Community Resilience to Extreme Events

*Dr Sandra Engstrom, Social Work Lecturer, University of Stirling*

'We have held our second workshop, which was another excellent event. We moved on from the 'what' of workshop one to the 'how', focusing on how we link communities, policy-makers and researchers. We started the day with a presentation from Kerry Jardine and Ralph Throp from the Resilience Division at Scottish Government, setting out the policy landscape around community resilience. Our keynote presentation was provided by Hugh Deeming, exploring how research links communities and policy within the context of community resilience. For the last part of the day we heard from five community groups presenting case studies of community resilience, followed by World Cafe style discussions around these experiences. The case studies came from: Sustaining Dunbar, Garioch Partnership, Braemar Care Initiative, Isle of Bute Resilience Team and Eden Project Communities. You can find out more about both workshops on the project website: <https://bit.ly/2M9gxC8>

There were some really interesting themes emerging about what works (and doesn't) when building communities and their resilience.

Since the workshops we have completed our qualitative interviews, that are currently being transcribed and analysed, and have held a public photography exhibition at the Macrobert centre on the University of Stirling campus.'

### **Project title:** The Role of Local Business in Community Resilience to Natural Hazards

*David Clelland, Research Associate, University of Glasgow*

David Clelland at the University of Glasgow has undertaken a research project looking at the extent to which businesses are involved with community-level activities to plan for and respond to the impacts of extreme weather and other emergencies. Businesses are a significant potential source of support or resources to be mobilised in response to emergencies, but tend to be overlooked in formal community resilience planning. The research shows that while there is evidence of businesses providing equipment, manpower and other resources to help communities respond to natural hazards, only a minority of community groups have considered the contribution that businesses to their emergency planning and response. It suggests a number of steps that could promote greater engagement of local businesses with community resilience activity. A briefing paper, outlining the project's results is available via the NCR website:

[www.gla.ac.uk/research/az/ncr/publications/](http://www.gla.ac.uk/research/az/ncr/publications/)



## NCR Research projects continued...

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**Project title:** Developing a Digital Flood Evacuation Model for Climate Change and Wellbeing

*Dr Leslie Mabon and Dr Yang Jiang (Robert Gordon University)*

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'In this project, we are piloting the use of digital tools to support decision-making for flood preparedness and evacuation. This project involves two main strands of work. One is a qualitative investigation into who people turn to before, during and after a flooding event for information. This is an important component of the project, as it helps us to understand who the key people are that require information to help prepare for flooding in communities, and what kind of information they may want. The second part of the project then aims to use virtual reality tools to visualise how a flood may physically affect a community, with the intention of helping community leaders and first responders to understand how and when vulnerable populations may be at risk.

These issues are explored through the case of Ballater. The interview-based elements of the research have been completed, and formed the basis of two final-year student projects on the BA Applied Social Science degree at RGU. The outcomes from this phase of the project are now being used by the School of Computer Science and Digital Media to aid visualisation of existing flood risk data for Ballater.'

**Project title:** 'Hot' spots & 'not' spots of emergency and everyday resilience

*Dr Elliot Meador & Dr Mike Spencer (SRUC) and Dr Ruth Wilson & Dr Mags Currie (James Hutton Institute)*

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The "The Hot Spots & Not Spots" project looks at identifying infrastructure in Scotland that can be used in everyday and emergency resilience. The study seeks to create a database of resilience indicators in Scotland that can be used by community development practitioners—including local resilience groups—that is useful in supporting community development resilience plans and helping to determine how resilient an area is based on the types of infrastructure it has.

A report on the project's early findings has been produced and submitted to the NCR. This will be followed by an expanded version providing a more detailed explanation of the methodology used and the implications of the results.



## Skimming the Cream

**Developing potential to: learn from each other, co-design research, build networks and, develop dairy farmers' resilience. Meetings and exchanges between Malawi and Scotland.**

### **My reflections on Malawi—Dr Helen Baxter, Research Associate National Centre for Resilience**

At the end of 2018 I, with Professor David Roberts of SRUC (Scotland's Rural College) and Dr Liveness Banda, Department of Animal Science Bunda, Lilongwe University of Agriculture & Natural Resources (LUANAR), Malawi, were awarded funding to visit each other's countries to explore the possibilities for research and collaboration between the National Centre of Resilience, the Department of Animal Sciences, LUANAR and SRUC. The project went ahead in May of this year.

I packed my bags and at the end of May, and set off with Prof Roberts, for my first ever visit to Malawi. Stepping down from the plane at Lilongwe airport I was met by a wave of heat, was this real, was I really in Malawi?

As our host greeted as we emerged from arrivals enquiring about our journey, I immediately felt welcome. This was the start of an intense but exciting week.

On the first day we met with the head of the Department of Animal Science at Bunda and got a tour of their research farm. This introduced me to what the typical dairy farm in Malawi consists of; a smallholding will have 1, 2 or maybe 3 dairy cows, which will be fed using a cutting carry system.

In the afternoon of that first day we were taken to meet with a group of dairy farmers and had the opportunity to listen to their farming experiences. Throughout my time in Malawi I heard again and again from dairy farmers how dairying had improved their lives, enabling them to educate their children and improve crop yields, farmers were even producing their own biogas to cook with. Using the translation skills of Dr Betty Kawonga, we were able to ask about their experiences of climate change and how they coped with these challenges. We learnt how the weather patterns were changing, becoming more unpredictable with shorter rainy seasons and more intense periods of rainfall.

At the end of the week there was a full day workshop with stakeholders from government, academia, milk processors and buyers and development agencies to explore the issues relating to dairy farming in Malawi and areas where more research is needed.

This trip taught me that as in Scotland, dairy farmers in Malawi are facing many challenges and that although Scotland and Malawi are very different, they do share many common concerns and challenges, such as how to add value to their milk, animal health, and how to improve milk yield.

Dr Banda and Dr Kawonga visited Scotland in June, where they met with Scottish dairy farmers, were involved with a panel discussion at the Royal Highland Show, and attended an academic symposium to discuss the challenges and opportunities for dairy farmers in Malawi and Scotland to learn from each to build resilience.

Looking to the future we hope to put together a joint research project which will be of benefit to dairy farmers in both countries.

*Dr Helen Baxter, Research Associate  
National Centre for Resilience*





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## FY 2018/19 Annual Report



Our 2018/19 Annual Report has now been published online. It is available to download here:

[www.gla.ac.uk/research/az/ncr/aboutus/#!/annualreport](http://www.gla.ac.uk/research/az/ncr/aboutus/#!/annualreport)

You can keep up to date with our activities via our Twitter page @ResilienceScot and the NCR website: [www.gla.ac.uk/ncr](http://www.gla.ac.uk/ncr)

Or contact us at [nationalcentreforresilience@glasgow.ac.uk](mailto:nationalcentreforresilience@glasgow.ac.uk)

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