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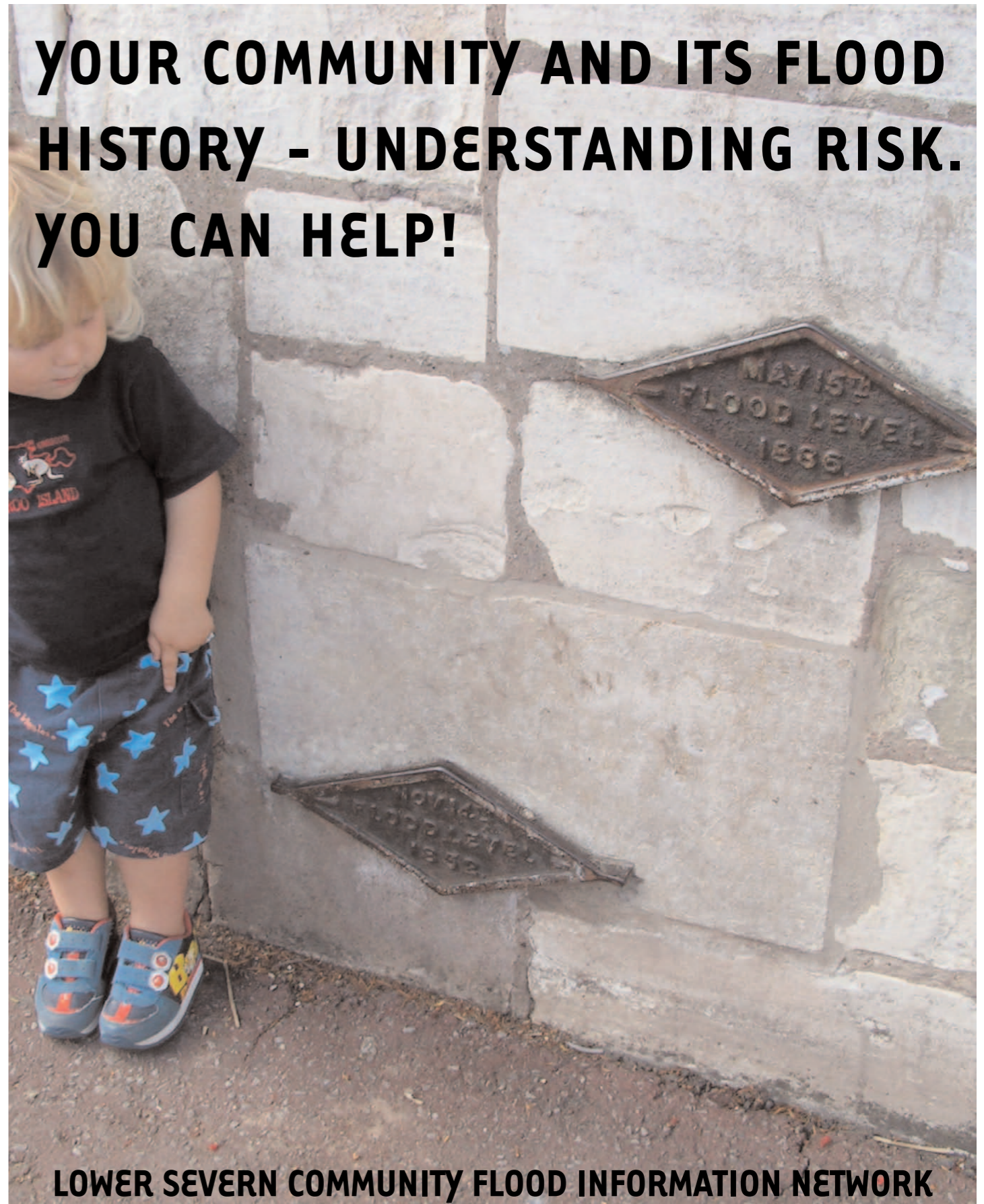
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(Cover photograph: Frank Law)



YOUR COMMUNITY AND ITS FLOOD HISTORY - UNDERSTANDING RISK. YOU CAN HELP!

LOWER SEVERN COMMUNITY FLOOD INFORMATION NETWORK

YOUR COMMUNITY AND ITS FLOOD HISTORY - UNDERSTANDING RISK. YOU CAN HELP!



Flooding - Tewkesbury - March 1947 (photo, kind permission Gloucestershire Echo)



Flood marks, Upton upon Severn (photo: Frank Law)



Flood Trade Fair - Nov 2001, Severn Area Rescue Association

- Have you or your family experienced one or more floods on the lower Severn?
- Has your community been affected by floods - past and/or present?
- Do you have memories of past floods and their impact on your community?
- Have you any photographs or other records of floods on the Severn or, if not, do you know somebody who has?

If your answer is YES to any of the above questions, we want to hear from you!

Project Background

The project, funded primarily through the Royal Society's 'Connecting People to Science' scheme, is focusing on promoting active community engagement with local flood histories and flood risk information.

A key part of the project is to draw together the evidence about past, present and future flooding for particular communities and places along the lower Severn (from Bewdley down to Frampton-on-Severn). Information is being collected from a wide variety of sources including:

- gauged or instrumental flow records (on the Severn at Bewdley these go back to 1923)

- flood marks (on locks, buildings and bridges)
- scientific journals
- newspapers
- historic archives/ old documents or reports
- chronicles
- diaries
- photographs
- peoples' personal accounts.

The project will access these and encourage communities to get involved in assembling and understanding the evidence. One key project outcome will be an interactive Lower Severn Community Flood Information Network

Website to act as a community information source. For more information about the aims of this project, see the general flier on the Lower Severn Community Flood Information Network or access

www.glos.ac.uk/severnflows



Alney Terrace, Dec 2000 Environment Agency

What you can do?

We now need your help with this important project. There are a number of ways in which you can contribute. Any information, no matter how small, will be of great value to the project:

- Personal Memories - if **you** or **your** family have experienced one or more floods on the lower Severn we want to hear from you. Was the flooding you experienced widespread? How did the flood affect your daily life? What did the area look like when the floodwater receded? Can you remember how high the water rose and how quickly this happened? Have you observed any changes in the character of local flooding over time?
- Community Information - is **your** community (rural or urban) affected by floods? Which floods are remembered locally and why? Are there any local landmarks that are good reference points for gauging the relative size of floods? Do you, for example, know of any pubs in your area with flood marks?
- Personal Records - do **you** have (or know of) any personal or group records of floods on the Severn? If the answer is 'yes', what form do these take - photographs, diaries, flood marks - and how easy is it for you (or others) to access the information?
- Volunteering - are **you** able to contribute as a volunteer in any way to the project? This could be as an individual or working in a group. Could you spare a couple of hours once a fortnight or once a month?



Newspaper photo, with kind permission from the Gloucestershire Citizen

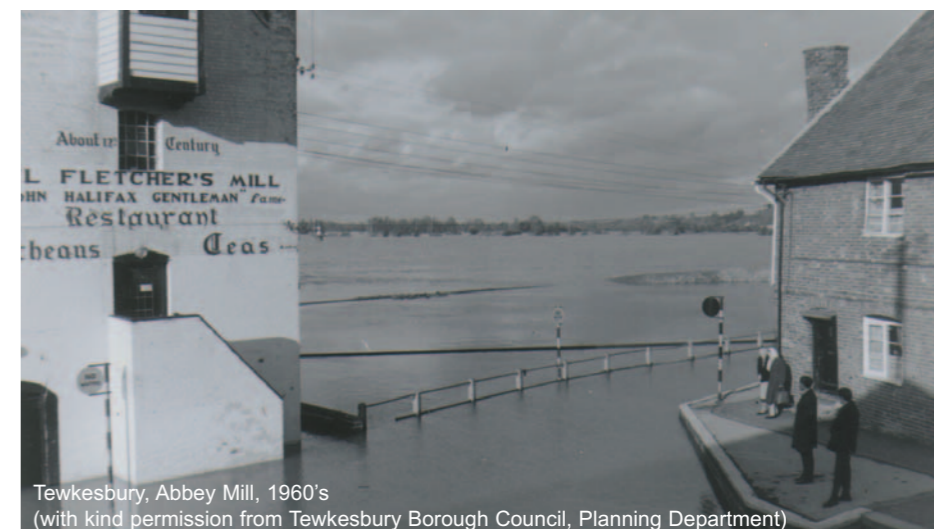
It might involve:

- looking through different information sources (e.g. newspapers, archival sources, photographic records etc.) in local libraries and record offices to locate material for the project
- helping to evaluate the evidence about flood histories and risk where you live as well as along other stretches of the lower Severn
- producing a written account of your memories and experiences of flooding along the Lower Severn or talking to one of our researchers about them

- assisting in Saturday flood workshops and working with other community members to record the flood evidence they bring.

The project will supply training in dealing with different types of archival or documentary sources, e.g. nineteenth century reports on floods or old newspapers accounts. These activities will generate material which will be put on the Lower Severn Community Flood Information Network website.

Further information: If you are interested in finding out more about the project or about being involved as a community group or as an individual, please see contact details overleaf.



Tewkesbury, Abbey Mill, 1960's (with kind permission from Tewkesbury Borough Council, Planning Department)