



## PRESS RELEASE [Embargoed until Wed 7<sup>th</sup> Nov 2007](#)

### **DUCHESS HELPS WI RAISE MONEY FOR FLOOD FUND**

The Duchess of Cornwall has delighted WI members in Gloucestershire by adding a contribution to their unique book about the floods which devastated the county in July. The book is being published to raise funds for the Gloucestershire Flood Relief Fund.

The Duchess, herself a member of Tetbury Evening WI, has written a foreword for ***“The Gloucestershire Floods 2007”***, which contains exclusive personal photos and accounts by WI members and their families and friends of their experiences during one of the worst natural disasters to hit modern Britain. Her Royal Highness speaks of the true British spirit she and the Prince of Wales encountered when visiting flood victims on an official visit to some of the worst hit areas in the county.

Gloucestershire’s Chief Constable Timothy Brain has also written a foreword, praising the work done by organisations and communities in getting life back to normal in the county as quickly as possible.

The contributions from WI members include accounts of being stranded during flash flooding on Friday 20<sup>th</sup> July, rescue dramas, the trauma of homes being flooded, how animals were affected, coping without running water for two weeks, and what happened after the floodwater receded, as well as the experiences of those involved in support roles during the disaster. Some of the stories are heart wrenching, but there are also wonderful tales of community spirit and some humorous moments as well, punctuated by 100 photos which have not been seen before.

The book was the idea of Gill Thomas, the County Chairman of the WI. She says: “Royalties from the book will help flood victims, many of them WI members themselves, some still living in temporary accommodation. At the same time it will become a historical record of what happened during those difficult weeks in the summer. When we approached the publishers they only gave us five weeks to put the book together. We knew it would be a challenge – but we decided to give it our best shot. “

Gill’s colleague on the WI County Executive, Sue Wilson, took on the role of compiling and editing the book. She says:” WIs responded so quickly with such well-written accounts and amazing photos that we managed not only to meet the deadline, but to beat it by several days! The stories are compelling and will strike a chord with everyone who was in the county at the time. They also give an insight to those not involved of just how a community copes under the sort of pressure we all had to deal with this summer.”

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**“The Gloucestershire Floods 2007”** compiled by Gill Thomas and Sue Wilson is published by Sutton Publishing at £9.99 and is available in bookshops, online and from WI House in Brunswick Square in Gloucester.

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**Notes for Editors:**

You are invited to send a reporter and/or photographer to the **Press Launch at Abbey House, Tewkesbury, 6.30pm, Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> November.** Gill Thomas and Sue Wilson and some of the WI members who contributed to the book will be available to interview.

A jpeg of the book cover is attached, which you may use in any features.

For review copies of the book please contact Kerry Green at Sutton Publishing.  
Tel: 01453 732508, e-mail: [kgreen@npi-mediagroup.com](mailto:kgreen@npi-mediagroup.com) .

For information about the WI in Gloucestershire visit [www.gfwi.org.uk](http://www.gfwi.org.uk) and the WI nationally visit [www.thewi.org.uk](http://www.thewi.org.uk) .

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ENDS 31/10/07