

## Newsletter - March 2017

England and Wales Wildfire Forum (EWWF) newsletters aim to keep the wildfire community in England and Wales informed of key wildfire activities, events, debates

### EWWF Meetings in 2017

The EWWF is scheduled to hold at least two meetings during 2017:

- 8<sup>th</sup> June 2017 – London Fire Brigade HQ
- November 2017 – date and location to be confirmed

### UK Wildfire Conference 2017 Background

It is now England's turn to host the two-yearly national wildfire conference for the UK. The event will be held on 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> November 2017 at the Royal Bath Hotel in Bournemouth (<https://www.britanniahotels.com/hotels/the-royal-bath-hotel-bournemouth/>). Please do not contact the hotel yet to make room reservations, as the organisers are reserving a large number of rooms for conference delegates which will be made available shortly.

Further information about the event content and how to book a place will be circulated soon. In the meantime, please save the date in your diaries. If you have any urgent queries about the event please contact the EWWF Secretary who will put you in contact with the organising committee.





## Key EWWF activities during early 2017

As you can see below, the first few months of 2017 have already been very busy with four important wildfire events and meetings. A brief summary about the events is included below, but if you would like find out more then please visit the EWWF website to read the more detailed [“Report on EWWF Activities – January to March 2017”](#).

### **14<sup>th</sup> International Wildland Fire Safety Summit, 31<sup>st</sup> January 2017, Barcelona, Spain**

The 14<sup>th</sup> Safety Summit was organised by the [International Association of Wildland Fire](#) in conjunction with the [Pau Costa Foundation](#) and the Catalan Fire Department. The specific theme was “Decision Making in High Risk and High Consequence Environments”, exploring how key decisions made in pressurised environments (i.e. wildfire incidents) often have far reaching consequences for people and communities. The event was attended by wildfire practitioners, researchers and equipment suppliers from around the World, including a delegation of wildfire practitioners from the UK and representatives of the EWWF.

Further information can be found on the event website at: <http://www.paucostafoundation.org/ICoPFires/wildland-fire-safety-summit-topics/>

### **International Congress on Prescribed Burning (ICOP Fires), 1<sup>st</sup> to 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2017, Barcelona, Spain**

The ICOP Fires was the first international congress on prescribed fires in Europe and was held at the University of Barcelona. The aim of the conference was to connect diverse stakeholders in forest management (i.e. local authorities, firefighters, foresters and land managers) with researchers from a number of different specialist fields (including: biology, geography, ecology, sociology, meteorology, climatology and soil science). The event was attended by practitioners, researchers and equipment suppliers from around the World, including a delegation of wildfire/prescribed burning practitioners from the UK and representatives of the EWWF.

Further information about the event can be found in [“Report on EWWF Activities – January to March 2017”](#) and on the [conference website](#).

### **Meeting with the Minister for Agriculture for Catalonia, February 2017**

The EWWF Secretary and other members of the EWWF were part of a small international delegation that met with Meritxell Serret Aleu, the Minister for Agriculture, Livestock, Fisheries and Food for Catalonia on 1<sup>st</sup> February 2017. The meeting was organised to take coincide with the ICOP Fires Conference and discussed past, present and future initiatives on wildfire issues.

Further information about the meeting event can be found in the [“Report on EWWF Activities – January to March 2017”](#)

### **Meeting at the Argentine Embassy in London, February 2017**

The EWWF Secretary and two other members of the EWWF were part of a small UK delegation that attended a wildfire meeting at the Argentine Embassy in London on 16<sup>th</sup> February 2017. The delegation met Minister Bergman, the Argentine Minister for Environment and Sustainable Development, and Mr Carlos Sersale di Cerisano, the



Argentine Ambassador to the UK. Minister Bergman is currently gathering information of best practice from several countries to help inform the development of plans to reform civil protection, emergency response and land management infrastructure, systems and training in Argentina.

Further information about the meeting event can be found in the [“Report on EWWF Activities – January to March 2017”](#)

## Projects and Events

### Projects and events in the UK:

#### **“Operation Kingwater” at RAF Spadeadam, Cumbria on 28<sup>th</sup> February 2017**

Operation Kingwater was a multiagency command and control exercise of a wildfire at RAF Spadeadam in Cumbria. The exercise included deployment of firefighting resources from Defence Fire Risk Management Organisation (DFRMO), Cumbria Fire and Rescue Service (CFRS), Northumberland Fire and Rescue Service (NFRS), the RAF and DNV GL. The exercise also included deployment of High Volume Pumps from CFRS and NFRS. A debrief report of the exercise, including lessons learned, will be produced and shared with EWWF members at a later date.

#### **“Planning for Wildfire” Event in Northumberland in October 2017**

Following a very successful “Planning for Wildfire” in Northumberland on 19<sup>th</sup> October 2016, the Northumberland Fire Group (NFG) is organising another similar event which will be held in October 2017. The event will be co-organised for the NFG by Northumberland Fire and Rescue Service and Northumberland National Park Authority. The 2017 event will again aim to provide advice and guidance to farmers, land managers, gamekeepers and local agencies on how to prepare and plan for wildfires. Although primarily focused on local participants, a limited number of places can be provided to participants from outside Northumberland. Please contact Rob Stacey, Secretary of the NFG for further information - [robert.stacey@northumberland.gov.uk](mailto:robert.stacey@northumberland.gov.uk).

#### **Muirburn Code Review in Scotland**

The review of the Muirburn Code (Scotland’s equivalent to the Heather and Grass Burning Code in England and Wales) is nearing completion. Practitioner workshops are being held and a draft of the text of the Code, which is still under development, is available on the website at [www.muirburncode.org.uk](http://www.muirburncode.org.uk). The Code will be web-based and the website will be refined, once the text has been finalised.

#### **International projects and events:**

TREX Exchange Programme (USA) - The Nature Conservancy Council in the United States of America organises 8-15 training exchange events each year from February to May and September to November. Each event lasts for two weeks and provides training to enable individuals to plan and complete prescribed burns in different vegetation. Participants in the TREX exchange programme are welcomed from

meals, lodging and transport during the two week assignment. If you wish to attend a TREX event, you must already meet the US Wildfire Safety Standards. The TREX organisers can provide participants with a self-study online course they can take before the event to ensure they meet these standards. The organisers can also provide protective clothing.

Further information about TREX events can be found via [here](#).

## What is the EWWF and how can it help?

The EWWF is a voluntary strategic body, independent of government, which has been created to expand and share knowledge and understanding of wildfires. The overall aim of the EWWF is to reduce the harmful impact of wildfires by promoting joint working and collaboration. You can find out more about the work of the EWWF on its [website](#).

Most importantly, the EWWF is here to help support organisations and individuals in England and Wales with wildfire-related issues and problems. Are you organising a wildfire event? The EWWF can share information about an event to a large audience of people with an interest in wildfire.

Are you trying to resolve a wildfire-related issue? The EWWF may be able to find an organisation or individual who can provide you with some advice. Please contact us using the details below.

We also welcome feedback and suggestions on our newsletter! Let us know what you think-

### Management



**Chair**  
**Simon Thorp**

Director of the Heather Trust.



**Vice Chair**  
**Andy Thomas**

Assistant Chief Fire Officer at South Wales Fire and Rescue Service.



**Secretary**  
**Robert Stacey**

Project Officer at Northumberland Fire and Rescue Service.

Write to the EWWF c/o Northumberland Fire and Rescue Service, West Hartford Business Park, Cramlington, NORTHUMBERLAND, NE23 3JP

Contact: Robert Stacey, EWWF Secretary

Tel: 01670 621167

e:mail: [robert.stacey@northumberland.gov.uk](mailto:robert.stacey@northumberland.gov.uk)