

A £100,000 refit kept us high and dry in the floods

THEY call it a 'bunga-high' – rather than a bungalow – and a couple's £100,000 plan to raise their home 3.6m (12ft) off the ground has already paid off.

Sam and Dawn Ray cashed in their pension to put their £140,000 home on stilts, after being marooned by floods three times.

As last week's floods left much of their village under water, the couple were high and dry – flood water lapped 60cm (2ft) up the walls but did no damage.

'We couldn't face being flooded again, but can sleep at night now,' said retired greyhound trainer Mr



A bunga-high: The Rays put their home on stilts after it was flooded three times

PICTURES: SWNS

Ray, 75. The home on stilts plan has seen their house insurance drop from a four-figure sum to less than a few hundred pounds, said the couple of Sandhurst, in Gloucestershire.

Greenhouse gas at peak but 'nobody is listening'

A KEY greenhouse gas is set to hit an all-time high – but nobody is paying attention, climate change experts have warned.

Levels of CO₂ are estimated to rise by almost three per cent to 35.6 billion tonnes this year.

The increase means the planet will struggle to stop temperatures rising by more than 2C (4F) unless there is a 'radical plan' to cut emissions soon.

We are now on track for a warming of up to 6C (11F) by the end of the century – and nobody can predict the potential effect, said Prof Corinne Le Quere, of the University of East Anglia. 'The climate is not a toy you play with,' she added.

Her warning comes as 200 countries meet in Doha, Qatar, for UN talks to reach a new deal to curb global emissions in 2015. 'But with emissions continuing to grow, it's as if no one is listen-

ing to the entire scientific community,' she said. 'I am worried that the risks of dangerous climate change are too high on our current emissions trajectory. We need a radical plan.'

Data gathered for the Global Carbon Project showed CO₂ levels had risen 60 per cent since 1990.

China is now responsible for a third of global emissions – an almost ten per cent rise in a year.

Levels of the greenhouse gas in the US and the EU fell by as much as three per cent but Prof Le Quere said it would take 'true leadership' to make a 'convincing' reduction.

'Until that happens, China and India are in a comfortable position to say, "until you do something, we won't do anything";' she said.

by **HAYDEN SMITH**



Popular: Poppins

Poppins tops movie poll

JULIE ANDREWS has been crowned the queen of Christmas television in a poll to find our festive favourites.

Playing nanny Mary Poppins, she has been watched an average of eight times by Britons at Christmas.

The 1964 Disney musical was closely followed by another of her films, *The Sound Of Music*, and *Home Alone* and *The Wizard Of Oz*, the Freeview survey showed.

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