

# Headline: The Beast of the East strikes!

Name: Alisha

Date: Thursday 15 March 2018

March 1<sup>st</sup> 2018, just over two weeks ago, many parts of the UK, including Hereford was brutally affected by all of the snow. Ms Dawn Clayton of Canon Pyon measured 10 inches (25.4cm) of snow in her back garden. This proved enough to block main roads trap people in their houses and made school inaccessible. A local post office owner in Canon Pyon said "It was truly a nightmare! I couldn't get into work". Another young worker at the post office stated, "It didn't affect me that much but it astounds me to see how it has affected the surrounding area and people!"



Figure 1 Image credit Alisha

Furthermore, a deputy head teacher at Whitecross Hereford High School, Dr Patterson, said, "It was difficult and not so difficult to close the school. You have to communicate to parents, children and the Hereford Radio Stations so they can broadcast to other parents telling them that school is closed. However, to make the decision that schools needs to be closed, you need to think of safety for staff and children. So the volume of the snow, the forecasting for that week and that staff would struggle to get home. We also have a responsibility to keep the school open for 190 days a year so that the children can get the best education they can."

The disruption wreaked havoc on the local community. In Herefordshire alone, the *Herefordshire Times* reported that 71 primary schools and high schools were closed within the first 7 days of the snow falling.

Hereford was not the only place to be badly affected. In Northern Ireland, temperatures dropped to below -3 degrees. This proved too much after the snow had fallen. As a staggering **400** schools were forced to be shut down across the country which then left hundreds, maybe even thousands of children uneducated for over 2 weeks!

Scotland was given a weather warning due to snow. But soon after the snow hit, motorways were already closing. Herefordshire and Ireland's motorways were completely suffocated by snow and ice. Over 100 women, men and children were stranded on the cold motorway with nothing but themselves and a car roof above their heads.

But it was not all doom and gloom. Many people saw this as an opportunity. Amazingly, a Greggs worker had a van they were transporting to a factory that just so happened to be full of food and drink. He then gave out all of the goods to stranded people. Also the sensational volunteers from the Huddersfield Salvation Army gave out blankets and sleeping bags to people who were also stranded on the motorways.