

# Storm Doris hits the roof!

*Hollie – Thursday 16 March 2017*

Storm Doris' winds caused traffic chaos for Hereford's commuters on 23 February. The newly installed roof of Asda's petrol station almost fell off, causing Greyfriars Bridge to be closed for the rest of that day. This disaster has made people notice that Hereford needs another way to get over the river, in case something like this ever happens again.

We tried to get an interview with the manager of Asda from over the phone but he was unwilling to answer any of our questions. So instead, we decided to interview Mr Knapp, Head of Whitecross School and he explained about the terrible conditions on the day. When the bridge closed he said "we got a number of calls from the police and from concerned parents who were worried about how their children would get home. The advice from the police was that we should notify parents, so I contacted the staff to tell the students what happened and by the time it was the end of the day the bridge was re-opened so it was no longer a worry for the students." This meant that the students could get home safely and that the problem with the roof was resolved.

We finally asked him if he thought that there should be another way to get over the river in case something like this ever happens again and he said "Hereford have been talking about adding two or three bridges to make sure that situations like this don't happen again." He added "but I'm not sure if it's going to work, I am worried about them digging up parts of the countryside and losing what makes Hereford special."

After storm Doris had passed firefighters were on the scene and began fixing the roof to the petrol station at around 4:17pm. There was some bad traffic on Holme Lacey Causeway, many trees fell down and we know of one that fell down in Hampton Dene. To the north of the bridge there was lots of chaos as police had to stop people from driving over the bridge.