

Manor News

BLIZZARD CAUSES CHAOS!

JANUARY 19th 2019

Why you should be prepared!

Blizzard causes...Chaos?

A vast, thick, white blanket has coated the majority of the West of Britain last night. Many people have awoken to complete chaos as blizzard conditions hit the UK overnight. Even though the Met office had forecast these conditions, nothing could have prepared us for the sight which met us this morning.

All over the West Country Police have been dealing with a flurry of accidents caused by the snow. Surprisingly, there were many people who decided to take the risk of driving in those perilous conditions. As a result one family in Stroud, found two vehicles had veered off the road and into their garden." We heard this almighty crash and my husband was outside at that point checking for damage. He had to help the driver out of the back passenger door." explained Mrs Smith. Therefore the Highways Agency have warned drivers to avoid unnecessary travel, check forecasts and allow extra time for journeys. Steve Crosthwaite, head of the agency's national traffic operations centre, suggested: "During periods of severe weather, we suggest people consider whether their journey is essential. They may want to delay travel until conditions have improved."

In addition, many people were forced to abandon their vehicles and on the A595 this morning the rooftops of the cars were just about visible under a mountain of snow. Abandoned in the late hours last night, 74 people were rescued by helicopter and some had been stuck for up to 8 hours. Paul Calland from the Cumbrian Bay Search and Rescue team said that he his team had to dig down to some of the cars to get people out.



He stated that the snow was so deep in places that the snow mobiles at certain points were actually higher than the cars which they were digging out!

Vehicles aren't the only sufferers of this fluffy, white, picture postcard delight; many houses are now without power, schools have been forced to close due to lack of fuel (and staff), major retail chains have run out of supplies and animals have become encased in the drifts.

However, apparently some people have welcomed the ensuing chaos and are making the most of it. We interviewed Blanche Neige - a student at Bristol Primary School -, who told us, "We don't have to go to school for a while. It's fantastic, look at this huge wintry playground. I get to play with all of me mates which mean that we are receiving lots of exercise." She was greatly excited and added, "It's well fun!" So it seems that every cloud has a silver lining. At least for some!

Continuing winds and further snow being expected throughout the next few days means that the chaos isn't going to end soon. Consequently, make sure that you are prepared and only venture out if it is really necessary!

Report by B. Lizzard