

Storm Eunice makes an impact on Ansty!



We had been warned about the ‘Storm Eunice’ 5 days before by meteorologists – and how accurate the ‘red alert’ forecast was! A turbulent spell of weather had set in over the country on the 13th as the high-level looping jet streams had swung south bringing in fast travelling low pressure vortexes off the Atlantic over the whole of the UK (instead of just Scotland).

Friday 18th of February saw a depression develop quickly to the west of Wales, dropping pressure from 1011mb to 990mb in less than 12 hours. It was not an enormous drop in pressure: it was the short time it took. The steep pressure gradient this created, especially on the southern flank of the depression was the cause of the fierce and gusty wind shear

(starting around 10am) that blew strong winds across southern England from west to east bringing in its wake a trail of destruction and fallen power lines. Remarkably there was little rain to accompany the swift movement of associated fronts – especially in our locality.

Several trees were blown down locally including one on Ansty’s High Street (pictured) – with others in Tisbury, and Fovant. Although most media outlets described it as the worse storm in decades, our own meteorologist doesn’t think the storm was quite as ferocious as the one that blew over Ansty in December 2013 accompanied by heavy rain and certainly nowhere near as destructive as the ‘hurricane’ of October 1987 or the tremendous storm of January 1990 when over 40 people were killed.

Nevertheless, Storm Eunice did cause a lengthy power cut in parts of Ansty, Swallowcliffe and other local areas. A sigh of relief was heard throughout the affected part of the village when power was restored on Saturday afternoon thanks to the maintenance gangs.

These days we are used to warnings and ‘robust plans’ to help alleviate such emergencies and ensure ‘community resilience’ when it happens but when push comes to shove if you allow trees to encroach along the sides of railway tracks; roads and where there are power lines and then don’t manage the fringing woodlands then they will continue to keel over, causing issues – rendering any forward planning and ‘community resilience’ as rather ineffective.