

# NEWTON NEWS

## Newton mops up after storms

By Gemma Rose, News Editor

Newton was hammered by hail and heavy rain in a freak storm yesterday afternoon. A month's worth of rain fell in just an hour when temperatures of 28 degrees Celsius turned into heavy rain and hail. It was the most severe hailstorm to hit the UK since the Dinbury storm of 2016.

### Chaos

Traffic into the town came to a standstill as water and hailstones surged across the tarmac. The flash flood caused one car to be lodged under the footbridge. Fire crews were called to set it free. Emergency services said they had received almost 200 calls for help due to flooding, fallen trees and damage to buildings.

Newton father of two Deepak Sharma said, 'One minute the kids were playing in the sandpit and the next thing massive raindrops started to fall. They just made it back to the house before the rain turned to hail. It was just as well, as the hailstones smashed, literally smashed, my greenhouse. The kids were terrified.'

### The big clean-up

Businesses across town have been engaged in the clean-up operation. Hotel manager Dennis Blackmore said, 'We're so grateful to staff for staying all night to clean the place up. The carpets are ruined, and so is most of the ground floor furniture. It's complete and utter devastation and not just to our own property; most of the guests' cars were damaged too. I never, ever want to go through this again.' Car body shop owner, Graham McGrady said, 'I've been called out to survey damage and it's pretty bad. Most cars I've seen have smashed windscreens as well as dented roof and door panels. We've got some booked in for paintless dent repair already.'



The hailstones

### The aftermath

Residents and businesses are now counting the cost of the storm damage. It's expected that insurance claims will reach over £1 million from damage to cars alone. That is good news for car body shops, though, especially those specialising in paintless dent repairs.



Out and about

### Lessons learned

After the devastating hailstorm that hit Falton back in 2000, the government published some basic guidance for the public. If your home is badly hit by storm damage:

1. Get to a place of safety as quickly as possible.
2. Report any sewage hazards to the council.
3. Contact the local electricity distributor for any electrical issues.
4. Call the National Grid if there is any danger of a gas leak.

## Document 2



< 1 of 1 > |  

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**From:** NaomiR@enmail.biz

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**To:** FinConnor@ymail.biz

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**Subject:** Catching up

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Hi Fin

Sorry I couldn't reply sooner but I've been rushed off my feet. The big news here is that a MASSIVE storm hit Newton last week. There was this incredible hail, and then the whole town was gridlocked with extreme flooding. Luckily, my house didn't suffer any flood damage. The garden was completely ruined, though - the hailstones trashed the garden shed and all my flowers too!

Because of the storm, work at the car body repair shop has been busy. I'm so glad I spent time doing the additional course on paintless dent repair (PDR). You asked what exactly paintless dent repair is and why I like it. It is a way to remove dents by pushing them out. It suits my fine attention to detail and it's one of my favourite tasks. It's honestly the best way to repair a dent in a vehicle. It's also cost-effective for a couple of reasons:

- the value of the vehicle remains because you're not putting filler or paint on it, so it gets to keep its factory finish
- you're not potentially voiding the warranty by overheating the electronics.

How's work in your garage going? Are things different in Australia? One thing I've realised is how fortunate I am to have such an easy-going boss! We've got excellent teamwork and always help each other out. She's also been great at letting me have time off when I've needed it.

I know you specialised in electronics, but you really should think about getting some PDR skills too. I promise, it will be the best thing you'll ever learn. You know how patient I am and how much I love fixing dings! It's just the perfect job for me. With the huge number of cars damaged here due to the storm, it looks like I'll be kept busy with PDR for a while.

Write soon and let me know how everything is going.

Best wishes

Naomi