



1



2

Floods

Quorn is situated in the valley of the River Soar, Leicestershire's principal river and a major tributary of the River Trent. It is at the confluence with Buddon Brook, the source of which is in Ulverscroft, from where it flows as the River Lin through Bradgate Park and on to Quorn.

Throughout history the village has suffered extensive flooding due to the shallow natural gradient of the River Soar. This was exacerbated in the late 18th century when locks and weirs were constructed as part of the Leicester Navigation (later the Grand Union) and the canalisation of the river. There were floods most years, but some were significantly worse than others.

Tragedy in 1875

Diary entry of a local man: "Wednesday July 21st, 1875. Today there is the largest flood that has been seen here for over 20 years. A man was killed and the water tore up two walls alongside the Brook. The kennel hounds at Quorn Hall swam about in the fields until rescued, a reward of 2/6d per hound being offered".



Scan here to play the audio for this board.



6



3

1 Early 1920s - A horse and rider splash past the Mill House Inn (now demolished) on Leicester Road, abutting what are now Wright's factory offices.

2 1918 - Severe flooding on the Quorn to Loughborough road causes problems for traffic.

3 1932 - Floods at Quorn Cross, the White Horse is on the left.

4 1932 - Two young men riding on the back of a Morgan through extensive floods on Leicester Road going towards the Cross. The couple sitting in the doorway of their home (left) are Cyril and Rose Clarke of 5 Leicester Road (now demolished).

5 Quorn showing the Grand Union Canal, River Soar and its tributaries from a map of 1883.

6 Early 1970s - Extensive flooding across Stafford Orchard and the car park. The old primary school can be seen in the background (centre right). On the left is the old lock-up and behind and to the right are the modern 1970s houses in Dower House Gardens.



4



5

The man killed was saddler William Brown. Water built up behind a wall next to the Memorial Gardens and suddenly gave way, forcing a torrent of water through the door of the White Horse Inn. Forty year old William was helping his neighbour take the furniture upstairs and was swept into the yard and drowned, leaving a wife and eight children.

Effects on Village Life

1900, 1918, 1921/22, 1932, 1947, 1960 and 1961 were particularly bad years for floods. Quorn National School on School Lane was frequently closed, many homes and roads were

damaged, businesses closed, crops ruined and there was hardship as villagers struggled to get food.

Flood Protection

The Soar Valley Improvement Scheme, from Leicester to where the Soar meets the River Trent, commenced in 1984 and was completed in 1995. The channel was dredged and widened and extensive works took place at Pillings Lock, Quorn Cross (Memorial Gardens) and from Barrow Bridge to Stafford Orchard including Soar Road. Major flooding in the village has since been greatly reduced.