

# Leisure & Sport

Long before the age of motorised transport, television and the internet, the people of Quorn made their own entertainment with great enthusiasm. Many of the dozens of clubs, societies and groups ran a wide variety of events and activities open to the whole village.

## Stafford Orchard

The park takes its name from the Stafford family who owned land in Quorn in the 14th and 15th centuries. Stafford Orchard was used for recreation even in Victorian times and in 1914 Edward Warner, John Cradock, Christopher Parker and Sydney Wright bought it from the Farnham family. In 1920 ownership was transferred to Quorndon Urban District Council on condition "That the ground be kept an open space in perpetuity, and used as a playground where games such as cricket, football etc can be played". In 2010 the park was refurbished and continues to provide pleasure for people today.

## Village Hall

In 1889 William Farnham donated the site of an old tannery for the building of Quorn Village Hall. It was built and opened later that year and has been in constant use for groups and events ever since.

## Quorn Wakes

Quorn Wakes is an annual celebration and fair dating back many centuries to commemorate the feast day of St Bartholomew. Originally on 24th August, it moved to September when the



British calendar was adjusted by 11 days in 1752.

As well as a fair, wake cakes were baked, schools closed, there was an open air church service and cricket matches took place on all three days. In 1923 villagers could see an untamed lion called Brutus and a pelican named Jim!

The Wakes were held for many years on Quorn Village Green, where the carpark is today, and would spill out along the streets.

## Scouts and Guides

Scouting in Quorn began in 1912 and in 1913 the 1st Quorndon Scouts were formed. Scouting in Quorn almost died out in the 1920s until 2nd Quorn Scouts were established in 1927. The Scout and Guide groups met in many different places but in 1963 a bequest from Chalinder Allen of Buddon Lane enabled them to purchase the Men's Institute Hall on Meeting Street, now Allen House.

## Fêtes and Parades

Quorn has never needed an excuse to hold a fête or a parade! Many villagers enjoyed happy days with the Friends of Markfield Hospital carnival, fêtes organised by Quorn British Legion, schools and churches, and many parades including for jubilees and coronations.



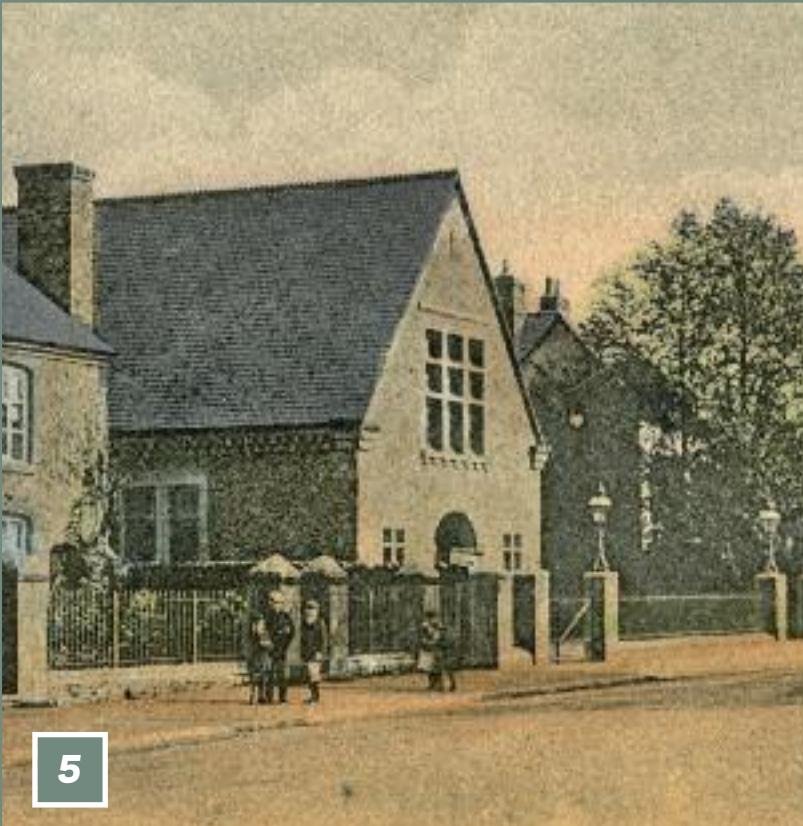
## Quorn Football Club

The first football club in Quorn was established in the early 1880s, the most notable being Quorn Havelock FC. Today's Quorn Football Club dates from 1924 when the Methodist Boys Life Brigade formed a team, which led to Quorn Methodist FC. Players had to attend bible class twice a month!

By the 1950s Quorn Football Club was still playing on various fields in Quorn, using different pubs as their changing rooms, but in 1960 new permanent facilities were opened on land behind the Cricket Field. During the 1990s the Club moved to a larger and more modern home on Farley Way and the old ground was developed as Sutton Close, named after the footballing Sutton family.

## Quorn Cricket Club

A Quorn village cricket team played in the 1820s and 1840s, with Quorn Cricket Club first appearing in the early 1870s. In 1886 William Farnham provided a top quality ground and pavilion at his home, but Quorn House Cricket Club was short-lived. It was followed in 1891 by Quorn Wesleyan United Cricket Club, which soon became Quorn United Cricket Club. They used various fields, including Stafford Orchard,



until in 1897 they started playing at Caves Field, which George Francis Farnham bought in 1928 with the proviso that the Cricket Club was to have the use of it as long as they desired. They still play there today.

## Quorn Mills Park Bowls Club

Quorn Mills Park on High Street was founded by M. Wright and Sons in 1919 for their employees. In 1920 Quorn Mills Park Bowls Club was formed; initially only for men, ladies were admitted in 1938.

## Other Sports

Boxing tournaments took place in the Village Hall in the 1930s and around the same time darts became very popular with most pubs having one or more teams. Quorn Tennis Club was established in the 1890s and its home for most of the 20th century was at the Manor House Hotel after courts were built in the early 1900s.



1 1st Quorndon and 1st Rothley Scout Band on the Farnham estate in 1919 or 1920. This disproves a commonly-held belief that 1st Quorndon Scouts did not exist after WW1.

2 Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee celebrations on Stafford Orchard in 1897.

3 Mrs Scott playing for the junior school dancers at the British Legion Fête on Stafford Orchard in about 1961.

4 A boy helps his sister on to a merry-go-round at Quorn Wakes in 1925.

5 The Village Hall in the early 1900s.

6 Quorn Old People's Fellowship flourished in the second half of the last century. Here we have (left to right) Edna Wastnage, Phyllis Field and Frances Waterfield enjoying one of their many trips out in the 1970s.

7 Quorn Football Club 1950/51, winners of the Leicestershire Senior League Division 1 Championship. Back row: F. Tomblin, R. Mitchell, R. Geary, K. Sutton, T. Barker, R. Pearson, L. Sharpe, R. Hudson, C. Long, A. Riley, F. Baylis, T. Lakin. Front Row: J. Pestell, A. Rewberry, A. Trasler, G. Smith, J. Roach, W. F. Bent Beardsley, L. Sutton, W. Sutton, J. Field.

8 A parade on Leicester Road, about 1910.

9 The Royal Oak darts team in 1962, winners of the Quorn Charities League Shield. Left to right: Norman Pepper, Tim Williamson, Brian Pepper, Alf Sharpe.

10 Quorn United Cricket Club about 1900. Back row: Far left Herbert Percival, fourth left Sam Hallam, fifth left John William Davies who was killed in the Boer War, far right William Machin.

11 Quorn Mills Bowls Club, Hartopp Cup winners, 1928. Front row: Far left is Jack Winterton, holding the cup is Sam Hallam and second from the right is Charles Percy Mee.

