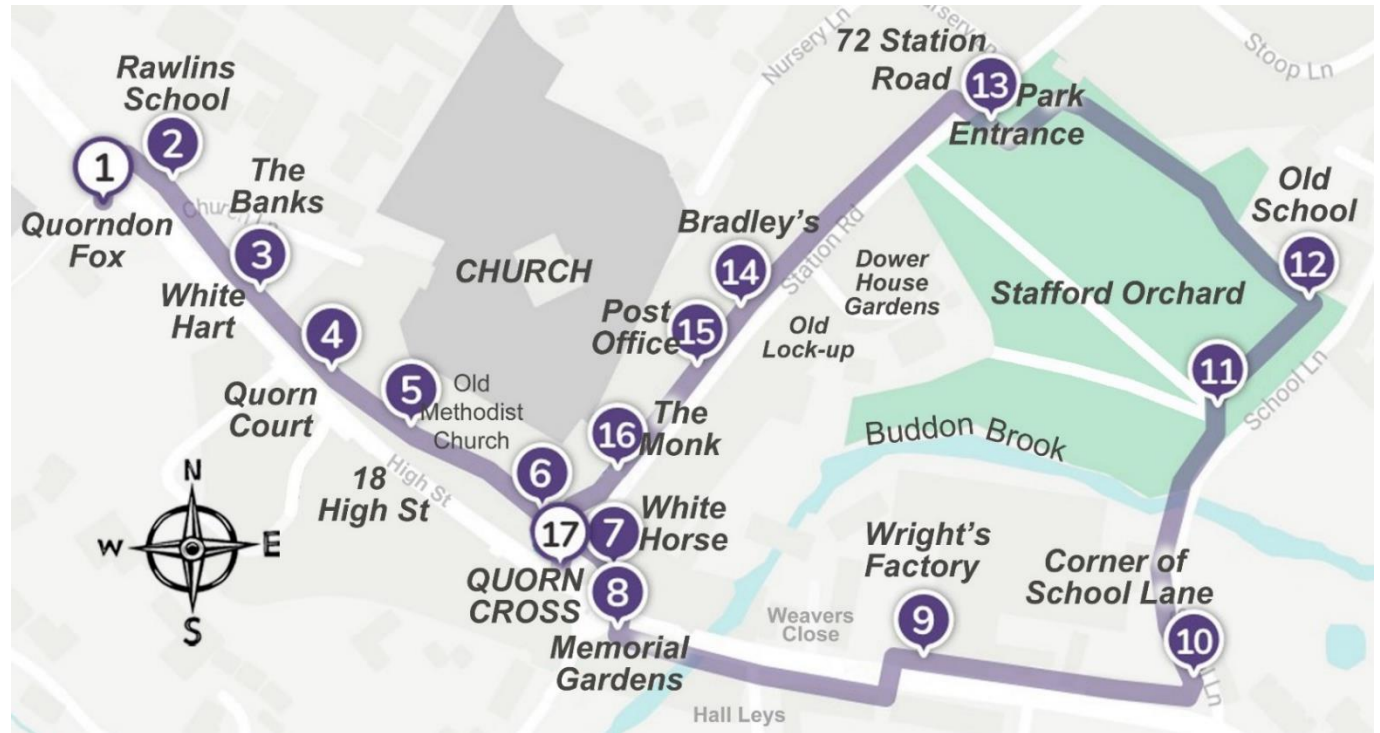


Quorn History Trail, No. 1

Quorn Local History Trail No. 1 is a ¾ mile walk around the village, taking in many fascinating features of Quorn's past that you can share with family and friends. It starts outside the Quorndon Fox and finishes at Quorn Cross.

Quorn doesn't appear in the Domesday Book, but references can be found to the village as early as 1152. Occasional stone age, bronze age and Roman finds indicate that there were also earlier settlements.

Excellent road transport links have been of great benefit to Quorn, and the infrastructure was further improved with canalisation of the River Soar, and the opening of the Great Central Railway. Historically Quorn has supported a mix of industrial and rural occupations, which have existed side by side, and the village even became a tourist destination as a result of the Quorn Hunt, which brought wealth and employment, and attracted royalty and the aristocracy.



Office. During the 1800s Quorn Place, as it became known, was used by the aristocracy as a residence and as a hunting box, ie a place where they could stay during the hunting season. In the 1920s and 1930s it was even a nursing home, before reverting to a public house again in 1939, when it was called the Bulls Head. During the 1990s it was renamed the 'Quorndon Fox'.

1 Quorndon Fox

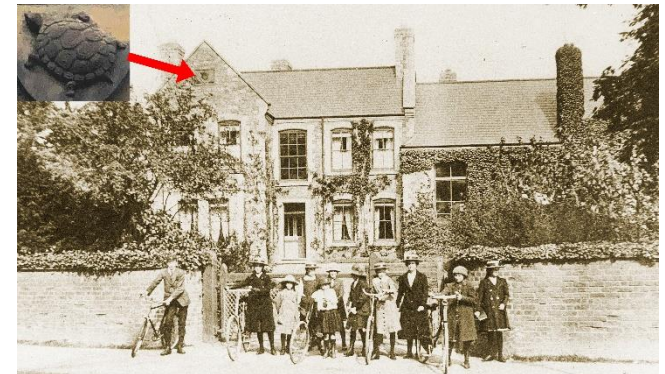
Built in the early 1700s as a coaching inn called

The Swan with Two Necks, this building has had a very varied history. The mail coaches used to stop here, meaning it acted as an early Post



2 Rawlins Academy

Rawlins Academy is a modern school with about 1,500 students, but the first Rawlins School was founded in 1691 in Woodhouse by Thomas Rawlins. After it closed in 1864, the Thomas Rawlins Trust continued to hold funds and in 1890 a group of Quorn gentry resurrected the trust,



enabling Rawlins School to start its new life in Quorn in 1892. If you look up at the gable end (to the left) you can just see a tortoise emblem in the stonework. A tortoise was the personal seal that Thomas Rawlins used to seal all his documents.

3 The Banks, opposite the White Hart

On this landscaped area called The Banks, once stood a row of small cottages that used to house some of Quorn's poorest residents. The cottages were owned by the ancient Quorn Townlands Charity and were let out at low rents to people in need. They were demolished in the early 1970s.



Opposite the Banks is the White Hart. This is another old coaching inn and dates from the 1500s.

4 Quorn Court

Quorn Court was originally built as a hunting box for the Duke of Devonshire in the mid 1700s. Later residents included the Cradock family who were solicitors in Loughborough. It was their land that was used to build the Cradock Drive estate in the 1920s and 1930s. This large house has since been converted into flats.



5 St Bartholomew's Church

Stand by Church View Gardens, opposite James Alvey hairdressers.

The church, which is sometimes hard to see through the trees, is built from local Mountsorrel



granite and dates to before 1153. For the first 700 years it was only a chapelry of its mother church at Barrow upon Soar, and only became independent in 1868. Inside the church is the private Farnham Chapel which was built in 1392, and is one of the few remaining family chapels within a Parish Church that's kept locked. It contains many very fine memorials and can only be opened with permission of the Farnham family trustees.

18 High Street

Across the road is 18 High Street, which used to be a coaching inn called the Bulls Head. If you look up you can still see the large stone carving of a bull's head on the very top of the gable end. When it ceased to be a pub, the license and name were transferred to what is now the Quorndon Fox.



The old Methodist Church

As you walk towards Quorn Cross, on the left is the old Methodist Church, which has now been converted into flats. It was built in 1907 and it replaced the very first Methodist chapel in Quorn, which was built on the back of this site in 1822.



6 Quorn Cross

The main road that forms part of Quorn Cross used to be the main A6 until the bypass was opened in 1991. This was an old coaching route between London and Scotland, with more than 24 coaches per day passing through, all paying a toll as it was a turnpike road. Crossing this is Station Road and Meeting Street, which formed part



of the old Salt Way, and used to carry salt from East Anglia to the Midlands. In Victorian times Quorn Cross looked very different, with no cars or traffic signs, but just people, horses and carts. It sounded very different too, with horses' hooves and the background hum and clatter of the mill machinery at nearby Wright's factory. Also different were the smells! Velvet Fox Interiors used to house a tallow chandler, where the remains of animal carcasses were rendered down to make tallow for candles, nearby tanneries used urine and dung to treat the animal skins to make leather, down the road at The Brinks was the gas works, and then there was smoke from all the coal fires and Wright's factory chimney. Add to this the primitive drainage and sanitary arrangements and you might not want to linger here long!

7 White Horse

The White Horse was another coaching inn and in the days before Quorn had any public buildings it was also used for auctions, meetings and even inquests.

Over the years Quorn has been subject to serious flooding, and in January 1875 a surge of water rushed across the road and went through the pub.

William Brown, who was helping his neighbour to move furniture upstairs, was



swept through the rooms and carried by the water into the back-yard where he drowned. Fortunately, Quorn now has very good flood protection measures!

8 Memorial Gardens

Before WW1 this area was known as the Little Green. The war memorial honours 76 men from Quorn who lost their lives in WW1 and a further 19 who died in WW2. Next to this is a memorial to the American paratroopers from the 82nd Airborne, 505 Parachute Infantry Regiment, who were based in Quorn in 1944.

Brook House/Hall Leys

As you walk down Leicester Road, you cross the entrance to Hall Leys. Where the 1960s town houses now stand, there used to be an impressive mansion called Brook House, originally owned by the Parnham-Stone family, it was demolished in 1963.



The photograph from 1920 shows the Memorial Gardens, with the temporary war memorial and the permanent one being built behind it. Brook House can be seen in the background.

9 Wright's Mill

Wrights Mill moved from Leicester to Quorn in 1870 and has had a major influence on the village. During WW1 they employed over 2,000 people, producing elastic webbing and webbing for the military. Where Weavers Close is now there used to be another large three storey mill building, fronting straight onto the Leicester Road pavement,



Although some of their land and buildings have been redeveloped as housing, Wright's is still a thriving business. They have moved with the times and now produce high tech materials for various industries including aerospace and leisure.

10 Corner of School Lane

The workshop that you can see in the picture on the next page was attached to 50 Leicester Road and reached over into School Lane. It belonged to Joe Bates who came from several generations of wheelwrights.



Looking down Leicester Road to the south, on the left, is the Village Hall. This was built in 1889 on the site of an old tannery,

As you start to walk down School Lane, look to your right and under an archway is a range and an old petrol pump. The pump used to stand on the pavement outside Allens bike shop at 1 School Lane.

Next door to the archway, is a white building with blue double doors, and above them is a slate plaque which says 'Wesley Chapel 1855'. This belonged to the Wesleyan reformers, who were a group that broke away from the main Methodists in 1850 and set up their chapels in ordinary buildings. This chapel closed around 1918.

11 Stafford Orchard park entrance, School Lane

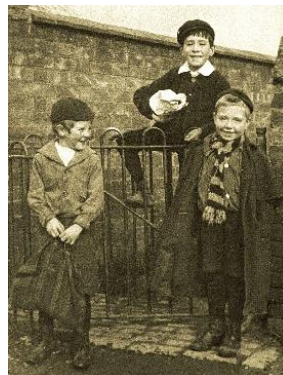
Stafford Orchard is a very popular park however, it wasn't always like this. The area to the left, between Buddon Brook and the path, used to be known as 'Swyne

Green', and pigs would wallow in the swampy mud between thick willow trees.

The rest of the park used to be owned by the Farnham family, and was part of the grounds of the old Dower House. In 1914 the land was bought by four wealthy local business men and then in 1920 it was taken over by Quorn Urban District Council, as 'pleasure grounds in perpetuity'.

12 Quorn National School

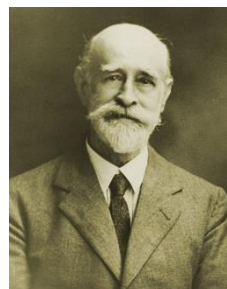
The first part of the old primary school was built in 1834, when many children would have been half-time and there was a charge for attendance. The school moved in 1973 and this is now a community building.



One claim to fame for the school, is Louie (or Louise) Burrows, who was headmistress of the Infant School from 1911 to 1924. She was once engaged to DH Lawrence, who would often stand near here, waiting for her to finish for the day. You can read more about the school and Louie Burrows on the nearby information board.

13 The Red House, 72 Station Road

Opposite the park gates is the Red House which used to be the home of 'Gaffer Adams' (right), who was headmaster of



Quorn Primary School for 32 years from 1889 to 1921, (see right). This was quite an achievement, as in the previous 10 years there had been 8 headmasters, all of whom had constant disagreements with the managers about pay, and not being allowed to run the school as they wanted.

As you walk along Station Road:

60 Station Road, formerly the Pig and Whistle pub. If you look up you can still see the gantry that used to hold the pub sign.

82nd Airborne entrance to Stafford Orchard. Across the road, this gate was named in memory of the American paratroopers based in Quorn during WW2. You might like to go over to read the information board and see the memorial stone from the ruined Church at Nijmegen.

46 Station Road, now Gifts at 46 This shop used to be Tommy Allen's sweet shop. Note the remains of the old Cadburys Chocolate sign in the door.

John Dory's Fish and Chip restaurant. This building, next to the jitty called Coffee House Entry, was once the Havelock Coffee House and it opened when there was a strong temperance movement in Quorn.

Dower House gardens Across the road at the end of Dower House Gardens, is a three-storey house and a gabled house, which once formed the Farnham Dower house.

14

Outside Bradley's Store

Back in the early 1800s the site of Bradley's was a pub called the Blue Ball, but then in 1862 it was replaced by Quorndon Co-op. The Co-op remained until Bradleys took over in 1976.



Opposite Bradley's is the old lock-up. In the days before there was a police force, the Church Vestry meeting would appoint a parish constable, and he would have the power to lock miscreants in this 'dark hole'. If you go over to look at the lock-up, there is an information board, and you can still see the bars on the windows.

15

By the Post Box, opposite the 'Village Green'

The carpark used to be Quorn's village green and for many years it was used for the annual Quorn Wakes (the fair).

The 1960s row of shops, which includes the Post Office, replaced a building known as The Hall on the Green.



It was a traditional cruck style construction and therefore historically very important. It was originally owned by the Farnham family, later became a convent, and its last use was as Facers furniture and hardware shop.

16

Old thatched cottages [The Monk]

This is one of Quorn's oldest surviving buildings.

It was originally three cottages and if you were here in 1911, you would find Walter Teagle, the chimney sweep, with his wife and nine children, living in one of them.



Across the road, the outdoor area of the White Horse used to be a row of little shops, including Dockray's fish and chip shop and Boyers shoes and general store.

17

Quorn Cross, the Millennium Map

There is no better place to end our local history walk than here! Quorn

Cross is the centre of Quorn and you should be standing by Quorn's fantastic Millennium Map. On it you can see many of the buildings included on this walk and a lot more besides.



Take this walk on your iPhone!

your tour



Download on the App Store

- 1 At home search 'yourtour' or scan the QR code
- 2 Download the free app and select 'Quorn - A Glimpse into the Past'
- 3 Head to the start at the Quorndon Fox



Note: Currently not available for android phones.

Sue Templeman 2021
Quorn Local History Group and Quorn Village Online Museum, www.quornmuseum.com