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TO

QUORN

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*With Map and Illustrations
from photographs by
G. F. Cocks, Barrow-on-Soar*

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QUORN

(QUORNDON)

The Parish and village of Quorn, or as it is known in certain parts of the locality, Quorndon, is situated most pleasantly in the County of Leicestershire, being bordered by the Charnwood Forest and the River Soar.

The name of Quorn immediately brings to mind the Quorn Hunt which is famous wherever true Englishmen meet. Records have it that Thomas Boothby, of Tooley Park, Leicestershire, hunted what is believed "the first pack of foxhounds" then in England over the Quorn country in the 17th century. In 1753 Hugo Meynell, known as the Hunting Jupiter, inherited the hounds, and some years later brought them to Quorndon Hall where they remained until 1905, when they moved to Barrow-on-Soar.

Quorn Hall which was erected in 1680 by Capt. Henry Farnham is pleasantly situated on the banks of the River Soar, and is now used as a Hostel for housing students of Loughborough College. In 1820 Quorn House was built to serve as a seat for the Farnham family. It is an extensive mansion situated in its own park of approximately 100 acres, on a site very close to that of the ancient "Over" or "Upper" Hall. Quorn House is still occupied by the Farnham family, whose influence has spread over many centuries, and memorials (dating back to the early sixteenth century) to various members of the family can be seen in the Parish Church.

Today Quorn is a semi-industrial and residential parish being surrounded by good agricultural land. It is admirably situated on the main London to Carlisle road lying between the City of Leicester and the Borough of Loughborough.

Public services of every description are more than adequate, over 150 service buses per day passing through the village.

Shopping facilities are adequate also, Quorn's shops being able to supply the majority of the needs of the community.

There is a good selection of Hotels and Inns and the casual visitor need not fear lack of suitable accommodation.

Amongst its pleasant surroundings in the Soar Valley, the Quorn of today, therefore, blends very happily the charm and romance of its history, with up-to-date facilities necessary for life under modern conditions.

It is regretted that lack of space makes a wider survey of the Parish impossible in this introduction, but it is hoped that the local information which follows will supplement these opening remarks, and prove a useful source of reference to residents and visitors alike.

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Local Information

Accessibility. The parish lies on the west side of the River Soar, which is navigable, $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles south-east from Loughborough, 18 miles from Nottingham, $8\frac{1}{2}$ miles from Leicester, and 110 miles from London. It is served by its own Station "Quorn and Woodhouse" on the west side, and Barrow-on-Soar on the east side. The main A6. road passes through the centre of the parish and a motor-bus service running approximately every 15 minutes links it with the City of Leicester and the Borough of Loughborough, and the surrounding villages.

Area. The parish covers a total area of 2,220 acres which include 27 acres of water within its boundaries.

THE PARISH CHURCH OF ST. BARTHOLOMEW



Charities. The parish has a number of Charities still operating, the monies being the proceeds of bequests made in past years. The principal Charity is that of Thomas Rawlins which amounts to approximately £450 annually, whilst an amount of £180 is received from the Town Lands which is known as the Unknown Donor's Charity. Hyde's Charity has an annual income of £25 and other Charities have roughly the same income.

Churches. The Parish Church is dedicated to St. Bartholomew, and is of ancient foundation, being of the 12th century. The Church is constructed of granite, the architecture being in the Early English style with Norman door and Norman Priest's doorway, the present building possessing chancel, nave, aisles, a south porch of the 13th century and being surmounted by an embattled western tower of the 14th century which houses eight bells. The Church bells have a long history, five of them dating back to 1773; four years later a sixth bell was added and the octave was completed in the year 1886. The Church has a seating accommodation for 450 worshippers.

The South aisle of the Church is the Farnham Chapel of the 13th century which includes many memorials of the Farnham family including one dating back to 1501. The Church was restored in the two years 1864-66 and in 1877 an organ was installed in commemoration of the Jubilee of Queen Victoria. Ten years later an organ chamber was erected by the generosity of E. H. Warner, Esq., and the oak choir stalls were presented by Mrs. Warner in 1902.

The Church of St. Bartholomew contains some interesting stained windows, all of which will repay close study. In addition to the Parish Church there are the following places of worship: the Baptist Chapel (foundation year 1770), and the Methodist Chapel.

Education. The Thomas Rawlins School was founded and endowed in the year 1691 by Thomas Rawlins. Originally the school was at Woodhouse but it was transferred to Quorn and reconstructed in 1892.

Under the present Education Act the school caters for girls only and is styled " Rawlins' Grammar School ".

The Church of England School which was under the Authority of the Church and managed by a Board of Managers has now become a controlled school and is known as St. Bartholomew's School, being under the authority of the Leicestershire Education Committee, the board of Managers consisting of two from the Leicestershire County Council, two from the Parish Council and two from the Church of England.

Local Government. Local Government in Quorn is represented by the Quorndon Parish Council, whose ten members are elected for a term of office of three years. The postal address is the Council Offices, Quorn, Loughborough, Leicestershire. The Clerk of the Council is Mr. Hillier Northage, who can be contacted at the above address. The Parish Council

THE WAR MEMORIAL



came into operation under the provisions of the County of Leicestershire Review Order (1935).

From 1864 until 1894 Quorn was controlled by a Local Board; in the latter year the Local Government Act came into force and Quorn was accorded the status of an Urban District, and was then governed by an Urban District Council consisting of nine members which functioned until 1935.

Population. The present population of the Parish is about 3,000 which is a considerable increase on the last available census figure of 2,604 returned in 1931.

War Memorial. The village War Memorial which is situated on a most beautiful site in the centre of the village, commemorates the men of the village who sacrificed their lives in the two World Wars. It was erected by Public subscription and is maintained by the Parish Council. A Children's Playground on the Stafford Orchard (an open field used as a playground and owned by the Parish Council) has been donated as part of the present Memorial to those who fell in the 1939-45 War. The War Memorial set in beautiful grounds is claimed as one of the most beautiful and respected in the whole of the County.

Public Services. Electricity is supplied by the East Midlands Electricity Board; Gas, which at one time was made in Quorn by the Quorn Gas Company, is now supplied by the East Midlands Gas Board from Loughborough. An abundant supply of water is supplied by the City of Leicester, payment for this being made to the Barrow-upon-Soar Rural District Council in conjunction with payment for General

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Rates. Owing to the foresight of the now defunct Urban District Council the charge for water is the cheapest in Leicestershire.

Soil. The soil in the Parish is principally of a light and sandy nature overlying a subsoil of gravel, and as stated previously is eminently suitable for intensive agriculture.

Industries. Quorn is widely known by the firm of Messrs. M. Wright and Sons, Ltd., for the manufacture of elastic web. A good proportion of the residents in addition to many from surrounding villages are employed there, and although the Quorn factory is the foundation building of the firm, other large factories are in operation at Loughborough and Long Eaton. "Quorna" Elastic Web is known throughout the world.

Gravel has been extensively quarried in two parts of Quorn, Woodhouse Road and Loughborough Road, and is now being quarried on the east side of the River Soar.

Sport. The parish is well provided for in all kinds of sport. Bowls and Tennis are chiefly played on the Quorn Mills Park, and Tennis on the Manor House Hotel grounds. Badminton is played at the Village Hall under the jurisdiction of the Buddon Badminton Club. The grand old game of cricket is played on the Spinney Field, where stands a very beautiful pavilion. The local team were the winners of the North Leicestershire Cricket League in the 1949 season. The well-known Quorn Methodists founded in the 1925-26 season has enjoyed much success and is respected throughout the County. The Village Hall caters for all sections of the dancing community. Many modern dances are held, and the Quorn Old Time Dance Club is a thriving body holding dances at least once each week. Whist Drives are held several times a week at the Church Room. A flourishing Darts League is in operation, hundreds of pounds having been raised for the benefit of Loughborough Hospital and local sick and needy cases.

Whilst every care has been taken in the preparation of this guide, and the statements contained herein are believed to be correct, the Publishers and the Promoters of this publication cannot accept responsibility for any inaccuracies.

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