

Quorn Parish Council welcomes you to Stafford Orchard

Why Stafford Orchard?

In 1350 Sir Richard de Stafford owned an estate in Quorn and by the 16th century Queen Elizabeth 1st leased 140 acres of her own land in the village to Francis Griffin and John Staples, some of which was put aside for common land called Stafford Orchard.

The Farnham family (landowners in the village until the 20th century) acquired Stafford Orchard in 1561 when Matthew Farnham settled the Dower House (the imposing half-timbered building on the western side of the Avenue of Limes) and 'that one close commonlie cauled Stafford Orchard' on his widow for 'dower'. It remained in Farnham ownership as rough grazing land until 1920 when it was saved from development by local dignitaries, Messrs Warner, Cradock and Wright. They in turn gifted it to the village subject to it remaining for all time as an open space for 'football, cricket, playground etc'.

The Minutes of the Council at that time record that 'They hoped in time to beautify it; to have some trees and to make a miniature park.'

The Redesign

In 2010, Quorn was able to make good that aspiration, probably beyond the wildest dreams of the original committee, with a substantial grant from the National Lottery Fund, under its Parks for People scheme.

This is a park designed by the people of Quorn. Many consultation exercises were carried with all sectors of the community as the plan developed, and the result is a park with something for everyone.

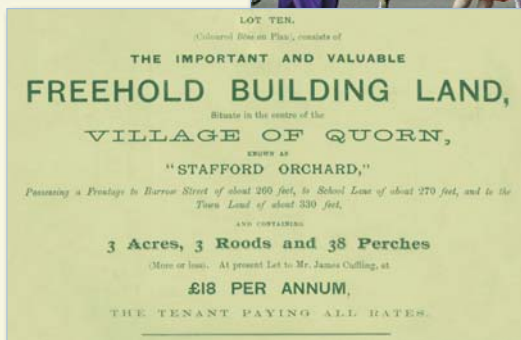
Quorn Parish Council and the Park Redevelopment Team gratefully acknowledge the assistance of their consultants, contractors and village volunteers, the financial contributions to the project from the National Lottery and Charnwood Borough Council, and materials donated by Lafarge Aggregates.

Park Management

The community is involved with the running of this park on several levels. The Park Management Committee is made up of parish councillors and village volunteers. Together the group manages the park and promotes its use by the local community for casual enjoyment and for organised events such as fetes, festivals, performances and shows.



May Day Celebrations in Stafford Orchard, May 2005.



Advertisement from 1920 for the sale of Stafford Orchard. Messrs Warner, Cradock and Wright paid £600 and the local council £200 for the land.

An event in the park in the 1970s. The old primary school is in the background.



Opening of the playground in 1948.



Volunteer Park Wardens keep a watchful eye on the park by sparing an hour or two a week. These people are vital to the success of Stafford Orchard and are given full support and training by the Parish Council. The Management Committee welcomes new members to this group, no matter what your skills or interests are - please contact the Parish Clerk

There is also a full-time groundsman based in the building by this main entrance.