

Memories of the Flood in Wheatley in June 1910

MR COX

Wheatley High Street was like a river: Miss Lizzie Sheldon, who lived in Cromwell House, had so much water in it that her piano was touching the ceiling. Mr Cox and others broke a pane of glass so that the water could pour out of the window. Miss Sheldon was in her bedroom. The men got out a ladder (from Mr Munt's faggot shop) and with its help she got out of her bedroom window, going across the road carrying her shoes and stockings to Mrs Fred Sheldon's house.

Dr Barnes' car was stranded because water had got in the engine.

The flood washed the potatoes out of the ground in the Howe allotments, on to the railway: the water was almost at platform level at the station. Sleepers were washed out of the railway track and trains stopped at Wheatley and Thame for Bell's Crossing to be repaired.

MR ARTHUR SMITH

At 12.45 there was a cloudburst: 2 feet of water in Kiln Lane at 1 pm. Miss Christian was then living at 2 Kiln Lane. She went across the road to Mr Rose's butcher's shop (now 2 Church Road) and sat on a wooden block there until the water subsided. Dr Barnes' car was waterlogged and had to be pulled to safety by horses.

The Rev. Sturges arranged with Mr Edward Sheldon (coal merchant) to supply 1 cwt of coal to all the houses affected by the flood. Mr John Rose had just bought rock House. Mr Arthur Smith was dealing with a water tank there: his mate left temporarily and the water was well above Mr Smith's waist before he was rescued by Mr Jim Ring (White).

Miss Pape (???) tried to save her chickens but was washed away herself and had to be rescued.

A few miles away from Wheatley there was no rain at all.