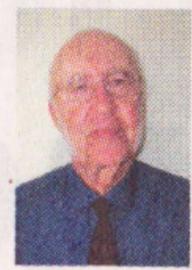


What would Noah have said about Horsham's rain?

WE ALL recall the story of Noah and his ark, when he, his family and some animals survived continuous rain, which fell for 40 days and 40 nights. It's not surprising that the end result was a catastrophe for everyone else and something that we're never likely to experience.

We too are used to rain and, at the beginning of the month, we had some in Horsham, which is not too surprising at this time of year. Unfortunately, the consequences of this predictable event were all too predictable.

On the day in question, I set off to walk through the



by
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park into the town centre. It had been raining overnight but it had stopped by the time I left home. I walked along the path at the bottom of the park, parallel to North Parade, and encountered the usual enormous flood, which blocked my progress completely.

After a quick detour through the car park off

North Parade, I walked on along the path and past Park Surgery with a view to crossing Albion Way via the subway. The subway had flooded and was impassable without a good pair of boots so I was forced to use the Albion Way chicken-run and not only compete with the racing traffic but also dodge the water spray that was being thrown off the road.

I now wanted to get from West Street, across Blackhorse Way and into the Forum. Once again, large quantities of water were accumulating in various places near to Cargo and the problem seemed to be due to

an incorrect fall on some of the gutters, which seem to direct water away from the drainage points rather than towards them.

By now my shoes were getting rather wet but at least I was on the Forum. Once I had skirted round the current working area, I aimed for Beales. I walked straight into yet another puddle just in front of the main entrance, which once again appeared to be the result of water draining in the wrong direction.

The current remedial work in the Forum may well solve the problem of leakage into the car park below but are

we, the poor pedestrians, doomed to always paddle through large puddles whenever it rains?

The final straw was to get showered with water on the way home by the traffic hurtling through the flooded area at the pedestrian crossing across North Parade near the bottom of London Road.

This brings me to the obvious question. I can understand why Noah experienced the problems he did in the olden days before we became so technologically advanced. But, should we really expect relatively small amounts of rain to cause

the flooding that it regularly does in parts of Horsham?

I suggest the answer is no and we have a right to expect those responsible to put it right. Drainage doesn't need to be difficult, it just needs to work.

The Horsham Society is concerned about the past, present and future of the town. It seeks to promote good planning and design for the built environment and open spaces. Membership of the Horsham Society is open to anyone, who shares these concerns. For more information, visit our website www.horshamsociety.org or telephone 01403 261640.