

WASH-OUT!



Wellie woes at Willoughby.

Willoughby Jim and Barbara Walton fought losing battle keep floodwater out of their cottage, home in Lower Street. They watched wheelie bins sailing down the street when the village brook burst its banks after hours of heavy rain widespread problems in the region today.

Gordon White Evening Telegraph

Sue BOWEN

Evening Telegraph Staff

Flash flood triggered problems throughout Warwickshire today and left Rugby under water.

Homes and roads were awash and rail services disrupted.

Weather reports predicted a risk of further flooding. More heavy rain is expected.

Flood warnings for the Leam and Avon between Rugby and Warwick were issued by the National Rivers Authority when the levels of both rivers rose rapidly during the night.

In some areas as much as two inches of rain fell last

Scores roads in Warwickshire were under water after the deluge, including a rum of the M1 near Rugby.

There was severe flooding in the Rugby Area Fire crews answered calls to Hillmorton, Clifton on-Dunsmore, and Willoughby. Families in Willoughby were today

Wheelie Bins and Goldfish Sail Away in Village

bailing out homes swamped when tributary of the River Leam running through the village burst its banks.

Worst affected were Jim and Barbara Walton, who woke at 5am and saw wheelie bins floating past their Lower Street home.

"We started to move all the furniture upstairs. The neighbours and the Fire Brigade, have been brilliant said Mrs Walton, who has lived there for 17 years.

Firemen and rescue workers delivered scores of sandbags to villagers fighting to keep the Water out.

Pensioner Marie Skinner's garden in Main Street was completely submerged.

"They can't even pump it out, we are going to have to let nature take its course" she said. Neighbour Lesley Jones, lost hundreds of pounds worth of Koi carp washed from her garden pond into Main Street as the floodwater crept into gardens and homes in the early hours.

Workers on their way to midland Meatpackers in Crick were forced to climb out of car windows after getting stuck in floodwater.

Fire stations were still taking calls

from Lutterworth householders this morning asking for more sandbags.

Hero of the hour was fireman Dom Foreman who stripped off to rescue six chinchillas trapped in an outhouse by the rising water.

Walcote 15 miles from Hinkley was also badly hit Emergency teams were working to restore essential services.

Trains to Marton from Rugby were halted by severe flooding on the line at Milton Keynes.