

# The Big Floods October and November 2000

## Foreword

The Pages that follow are copied from the special **LEADER** supplement that was issued in November 2000 to commemorate the actions of the Emergency Services and demonstrate the damage created by the storms and flooding that occurred in the towns and villages like Rossett, Bangor-on-Dee, Llangollen, Mold and Ruthin. Areas of Flintshire and Wrexham also experienced severe flooding. This document was assembled in 2022 and as a result some of the locations in the supplement have not been identified from the Police Helicopter Flyby which apparently took place on or about the 7th Nov 2000 although they may now be recognised by members of the public who were actually living in the area at the time.

During 2000 there was extensive rainfall in NE Wales during the 2 week period of October and November ending on the 7th November. Many roads were flooded and a number of villages and Hamlets such as Trevalyn in Rossett were cut off and isolated by the flooded roads for over a week. The peak flooding occurred on the 6th November 2000 after flood gates were opened on Bala Lake and apparently at the Nant-y-Ffrith reservoir above Mold. The resultant surge of water from the reservoir created the massive floods depicted in the centre of Mold and destroyed bridges along the River Alyn in Pontblyddyn and Burton Rossett along with other damage to properties.

The cement works at Padeswood was flooded along with numerous other businesses and workshops The flooding extended across most of north East Wales and it occurred at a time when the impact of Climate change was barely recognised. This was the largest flooding experienced in recent times and eclipsed the earlier 1976 flood event on the 25th/26th September of that year following the record hot summer. In the 1976 event the flood areas were similar to those pictured in the supplement but the reservoir releases of 2000 were not a feature of that flooding event.

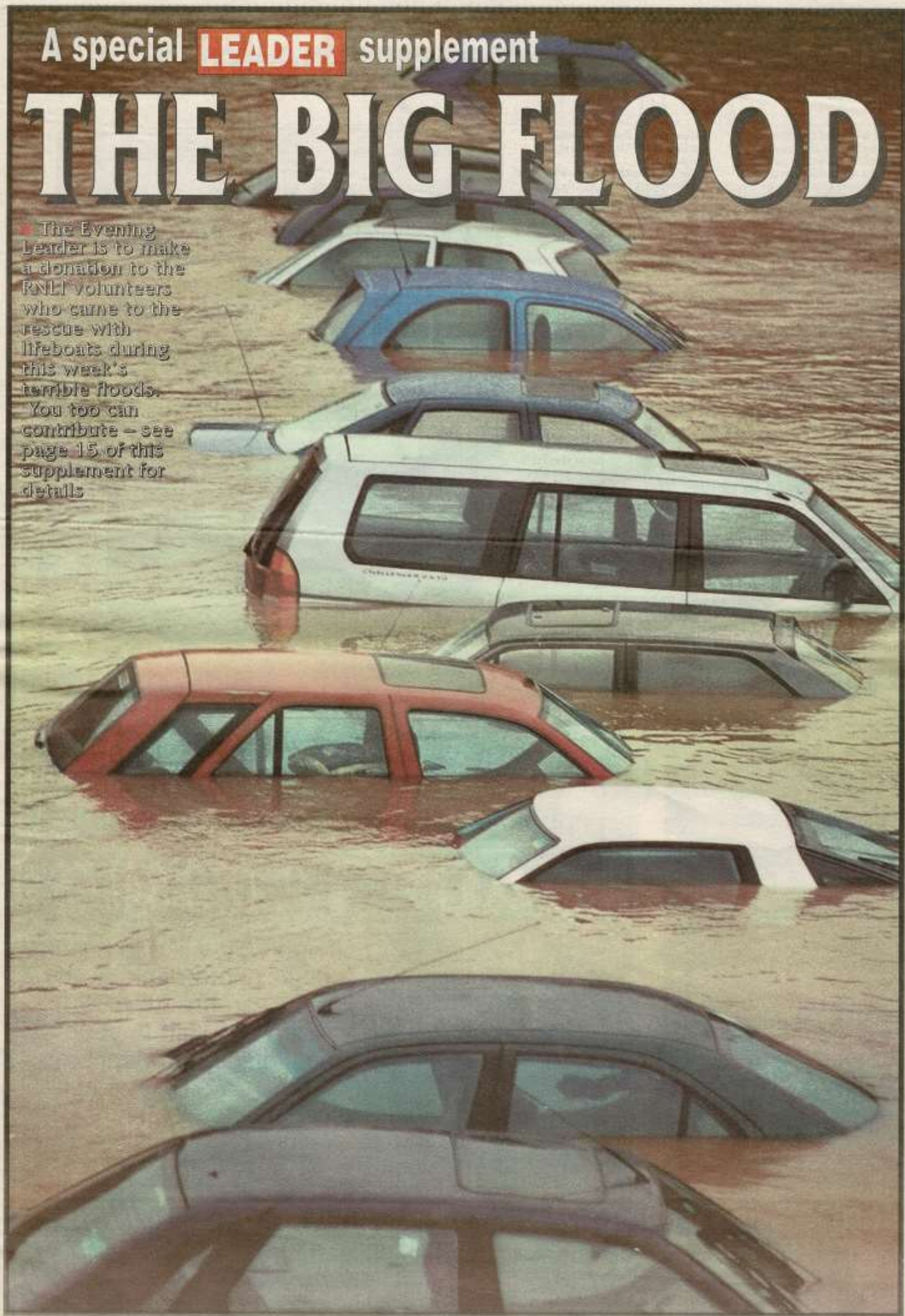
Many thanks are expressed to the **LEADER** and their staff for photographically recording the 2000 Big Flood and leaving for future generations a warning of the damage and disruption major flooding can create.

A special **LEADER** supplement

# THE BIG FLOOD

The Evening Leader is to make a donation to the RNLI volunteers who came to the rescue with lifeboats during this week's terrible floods.

You too can contribute - see page 15 of this supplement for details





# Water, water everywhere! **LEADER**

The worst of the floods brought out the best in people this week as neighbours worked together to overcome the damage caused by the torrents that swept through communities in North East Wales.

Towns and villages like Rossett, Bangor-on-Dee, Llangollen, Mold and Ruthin have been hard hit over the last two weeks.

But the stories that readers have been phoning through to the Leader's offices have told of the community spirit that has been created from the damage and misery.

There have been simple acts like the driver of a 4x4 vehicle stopping to help people in Rossett as they waded through the streets.

And in Rhydymwyn, near Mold, kind neighbour Nesta Foley, of Llys Alyn, has taken in John and Tracey Daly and their two children, Melissa, two, and Ryan, five, when they were forced to flee their home in nearby Leete Avenue, which was deluged early on Monday morning.

In Rossett farmer George Goodwin and his wife Pam have stayed on at Almere Farm to look after cattle by

speedboat despite being two miles from the nearest dry land.

And in Ruthin the owners of a flood-hit family pub refused to call time at the bar – even when the cellar was under several feet of water and there is no beer in the pumps.

While neighbouring houses were evacuated by emergency services when the River Clwyd burst its banks, staff at the Farmers' Arms served customers cans of beer and cut-price meals.

Emergency services and volunteers from the RNLI have received heaped praise from the public for

their actions.

The RNLI rescued 95 people in the area on Monday alone.

They were given breakfast by Joan McClelland, licensee of Bridge Inn, Mold, while the pub was still underwater.

And firefighters in Wrexham were treated to a curry from staff at the town's Asda store as a thanks for their actions.

The work is underway now to clear-up after the mess while the region collectively holds its breath that there isn't more rain to come.

**'The work is underway now to clear-up after the mess while the region collectively holds its breath that there isn't more rain to come'**



ABOVE: Fields between Bangor-on-Dee and Holt are submerged



LEFT: The lights say go but there was no traffic on this road in Mold.

BOTTOM: Footpaths in Sandycroft - passable only in waders.



E-Mail the LEADER photographic team at [photographers@eveningleader.co.uk](mailto:photographers@eveningleader.co.uk)

## LEADER PHOTO-SALES



If you would like to buy a colour photograph of any picture in the **LEADER** please call in to your local office, or telephone 01352 707707 and ask for Yvonne or Mandy for credit card sales.

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# Stuck in the wet stuff!

**LEADER**



■ Above - The submerged beer garden at The Alyn, Rossett. FAR RIGHT: The RNLI rescue the Dawson family from their home in Rossett. BOTTOM: The flooded streets of Bangor-on-Dee.



■ ABOVE: Cars lie abandoned on the B5426 'straight mile' towards Bangor-on-Dee  
LEFT: Graham Warburton wades down Almere Ferry Lane, Rossett, after the floods.



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LEFT: Firefighters survey the flooding in Ruthin's Clwyd Street

BELOW: Roger Percival, of Percival Antiques in Ruthin, outside his shop in Mill Lane, Ruthin

LEFT: Mwrog Street, Ruthin  
BOTTOM LEFT: Ruthin residents battle against the floods in Clwyd Street.  
BOTTOM RIGHT: A photographer wades out for his snap of a lifetime in a Ruthin street.



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■ Houses in Mold are sandbagged against the flood waters near the Bridge Inn while a motorist rues the day he parked his car at the Aldi store in Mold



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■ Bangor-on-Dee looks as pretty as a postcard while Almere Farm near Rossett has been surrounded by more than two miles of water for almost a fortnight.

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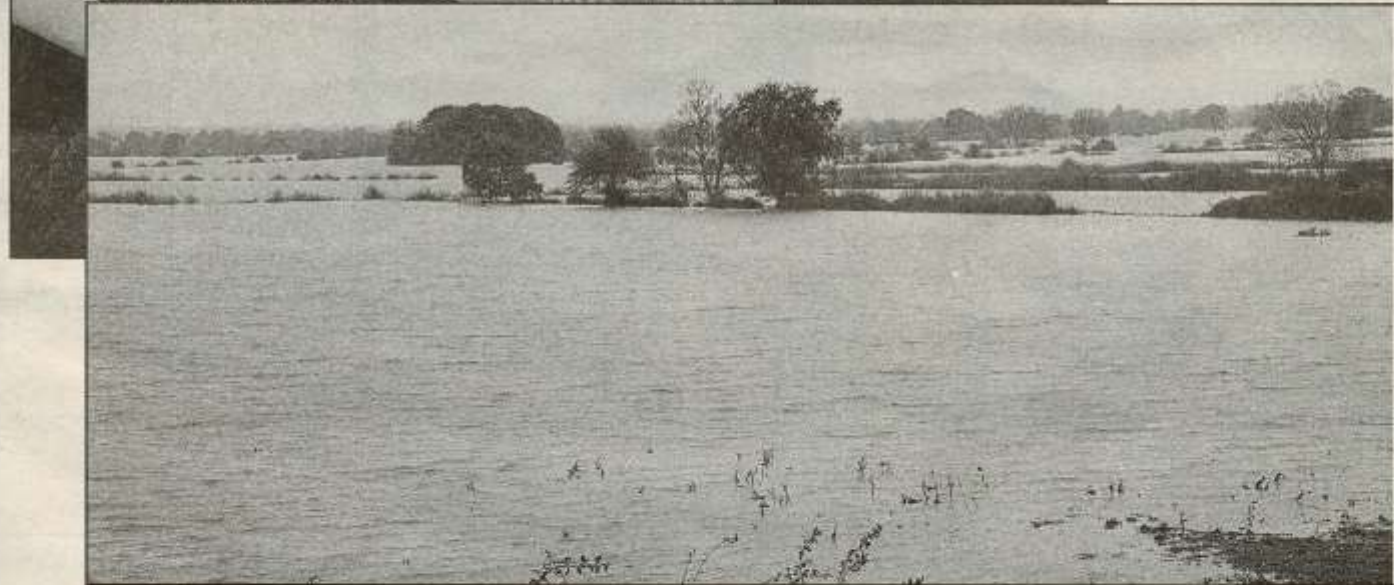


# So what happened to the land?



■ ABOVE: Local people come out to see the newly formed landscape around Bangor on Dee.

LEFT: Bangor-on-Dee Racecourse  
BELOW: Fields around Holt and Farnon



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# misery as torrential rain and ed again for the weekend



■ FAR LEFT: A brave soul decides to have a paddle.  
LEFT: The extent of the floods around houses in Holt is apparent from the North Wales Police helicopter.

TOP LEFT: Richard Hathway and Jeremy Colver canoed from Rhydymwyn to Chester road in Mold on the worst day of flooding in the Mold area of Flintshire.

TOP RIGHT: A motorcyclist decides to risk it in Wrexham Road, Mold.

BELOW: The RNLI team pose for a photograph as they take a break from their hard work in the area around the Bridge Inn in Mold (top picture)



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■ ABOVE: The view from the North Wales Police helicopter showing the A525 between Overton and Holybush.

RIGHT: Properties in the centre of Ruthin were some of the hardest hit.

BELOW: The park at the junction of Chester Road and Smithy Lane, Wrexham was turned into a lake after the downpour.



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# Community spirit shines through the gales and floods



TOP: The RNLI wait for the next emergency.  
LEFT: Making new friends through adversity are the Daly family of Rhydymwyn with John, Tracey and Melissa who have been welcomed in Nesta Folye's home after their home got flooded this week.

BELOW: Computers are victims in many offices

BOTTOM LEFT:

Jon James in his lounge - one of the homes devastated by the flooding in Rhydymwyn.

BOTTOM RIGHT: Joan McClelland, licensee of The Bridge, pub in Mold which was flooded in the cellar. Now the water has gone there is a terrible mess to clear up.



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■ **TOP:** Residents in Ruthin wade back to their homes while youngsters make their way down the flooded Station Road in Rossett (left). **RIGHT:** An enterprising canoeist checks the Aldi store in Mold. **BOTTOM:** Geoff Smith surveys the damage to his joinery business on Hawarden industrial estate.



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■ Volunteers from the Royal National Lifeboat Institute at work in Mold to ferry youngsters to school and residents from their houses.



The Evening Leader photographic team who took pictures of the devastation brought by the extreme weather this week.

Left to right: Valerie Hackpil, Mark Hibbin, Les Evans, Eileen Jackson, Rick Matthews and Lynze Price

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# Village street or river?



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■ The village of Rossett was one of the worst affected by the torrents this week. Above - Station Road is turned into a water world by the normally placid River Alyn. Left - The Alyn pub was flooded out and so was the Spar store (below). Left below - Owner of The Alyn Andrew Smeaton and manager Andy Benyon outside the flooded pub.



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Pictures, top Paul Henshaw of Flintshire County Council examines the collapsed wall by the Llys Nercwys estate, Mold.

BELOW Local people come out to see the newly formed landscape around Bangor on Dee

RIGHT The car park in Mold where workers found their cars under water.

BOTTOM: The Holt to Fardon bridge



ABOVE: Under water – the A525 between Overton and Hollybush.

BOTTOM LEFT: Queens Park in Mold under water.



## YOUR CHANCE TO HELP THOSE WHO HELPED US

- The RNLI depends entirely on voluntary contributions and legacies for its income.
- Volunteer lifeboat crews from Flint, Rhyl and Llandudno have been evacuating people stranded by the floods in Mold, Ruthin and other areas.
- For every £1 the RNLI spends, 80 pence is used on maintaining and replacing the existing fleet, 17 pence is used for fundraising and 3 pence for administration.



Show your gratitude

Send donations, no matter how small, made payable to 'The RNLI' to:

The RNLI Fund, Editorial Department, North Wales Newspapers Ltd  
Mold Business Park, Wrexham Road, Mold, Flintshire. CH7 1XY

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# WHEN FIELDS BECAME LAKES



■ Above: The park in Smithy Lane, Wrexham is turned into a lake after the downpours  
BELOW LEFT: Mold town from the County Hall.  
BELOW RIGHT: Soft going at Bangor-on-Dee Racecourse  
BOTTOM: Frank Williams rowing his boat down Aimore Ferry Lane, Rossett, after the floods.



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Images from the centrefold of the **LEADER** BIG FLOOD Supplement on pages 8 and 9 under the headline:-

## Braced for more misery as torrential rain and gales are predicted again for the weekend

Below Richard Hathway and Jeremy Colver canoed from Rhydymwyn to Chester Road in Mold on the worst day of flooding in the Mold area of Flintshire.



The Location of this  
Photograph is unknown