

Children Caused Cottage Fire

The fire which took place at Broad Hinton on Wednesday June 2 (briefly noted in our last paper) was occasioned by some cottagers children who had been left at home alone, and who had been playing with lucifer matches in or near an outhouse. The fire from the matches first communicated to some loose straw, which alarmed the children and they ran away, and the out house was quickly in a blaze, as was the adjoining cottage. The sparks were blown by the wind some distance to the village school-house, a portion of which, from the dry state of the thatch, was soon consumed; but the part lately erected, and which is covered in slate, was preserved. The inhabitants were indefatigable in their exertions, and, with the assistance of the parish engine, at length subdued the fire:- or the whole village might have fallen a prey to the flames.

Devizes and Wiltshire Gazette, 10 June 1847