



Great Fire 1833

Between three and four o'clock on Friday afternoon, a dreadful fire broke out at a cottage adjacent to the church at Chicklade, near Hindon, occasioned by heating an oven. The flames spread with alarming rapidity, and we are given to understand that they were not extinguished until they had wholly destroyed ten houses, including a farm house and outbuildings, barns, &c, and all the corn which was collected in the yard.

Salisbury and Winchester Journal Monday 26 August 1833

Much sympathy has been excited by the distress which a destructive fire had brought upon this little village. It had rarely happened that so large a proportion of the inhabitants of a parish have been involved in the ruinous consequences of such an event. The houses destroyed constituting nearly one half of the dwellings, and full two thirds of those inhabited by the poor.

This conflagration happened on the twenty third of the last month, between three and four o'clock in the afternoon. The dryness of the season, a strong wind prevailing at the time, the want of water, and the absence of both men and women in the harvest field, all combined to render it impossible to check the rapid spread of the flames, which, in a very short time, destroyed seven cottages, a stable, a blacksmith's shop and three barns, in one of which were, by estimation, sixty sacks of wheat, in sheaf; the whole uninsured, with the exception of two cottages.

These particulars the principal inhabitants feel it to be their duty to lay before the public; for although by charitable aid of friends and neighbours, a considerable sum had been subscribed, to mitigate distress, the contribution of the benevolent upon a more extensive scale, is still wanting to relieve the sufferers under so great a calamity.

Subscriptions will be received at Messrs Brodie and Co, Salisbury; By Messrs Phipps, Biggs and Banister, Warminster; and by J Rutter, Shaftesbury.

Salisbury and Winchester Journal Monday 9 September 1833

A correspondent had requested us to make public a benevolent vote of £130 by the Directors of the West of England Insurance Company to a woman who was a great sufferer by the fire a Chicklade, on the 23rd August last. Her property had been insured with their agent at Hindon for many years, but she had neglected to renew her policy at midsummer, whereby she had forfeited all claim on the Company; but her loss and poverty, which were fully and clearly stated to the Directors by her respectable neighbours, were their sole reasons for granting her so liberal a sum. - The same correspondent had requested us to acknowledge the receipt of £5 from the Salamander Insurance Office, to reward the men who exerted themselves at the above fire.

Salisbury and Winchester Journal Monday 4 November 1833