

## Disastrous Fires at Chute 1868



On Tuesday, a fire broke out in the yard of Foscott Farm, in the occupation of Mr Thomas Taplin, and destroyed a barn, stable, rick house and shed, which were burnt to the ground. About eight sacks of oats, a winnowing machine, and a waggon were also consumed.

The flames, we regret to say, extended to the farm buildings of Mr Richard Batchelor, and these, consisting of a barn, stable, and outhouses, were quickly burnt down. The fire then caught a row of three cottages belonging to Mr Batchelor and they soon fell a prey to the flames.

The wind, which was blowing high at the time, conveyed some flakes of fire on to the roof of a barn at the Cross Keys Inn, occupied by Mrs M A Smith, and in a short time, the barn, some stabling, and an outhouse were consumed. The dwelling house being of brick with a tiled roof was saved.

It is very fortunate that the wind did not blow in the direction of the other houses in the place or it is probable the whole village might have been destroyed. The origin of the fire is at present unknown.

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