

GREAT FIRE AT STONEHOUSE COURT. HISTORIC MANSION DESTROYED.

ORIGIN OF THE OUTBREAK.

DAMAGE ESTIMATED AT £10,000.

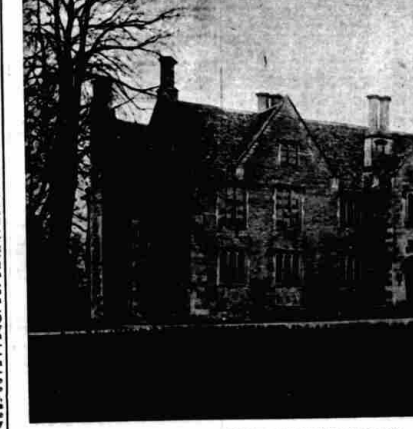
INTERVIEW WITH MR. ARTHUR WINTERBOTHAM.

EXCITING SCENES AT THE FIRE—HELPER SERIOUSLY INJURED.

The Stroud district seems destined to become notorious for the number of disastrous fires which occur within its area. For four years the town has been from time to time roused to great excitement by fires, which have either broken out in neighbouring mills or private residences. Fortunately those in the mills have been extinguished before any very extensive damage has been done, but the outbreaks in the private residences have unhappily been attended by most serious results. Notably, at Oldlands, in 1904, when the occupation of Mr. M. B. Marshall, J.P., was one night completely gutted and most of the furniture destroyed. A few months later as the total destruction of Cooper's Hill House, the residence of Mr. J. L. Lloyd, when the enormous contents of three fire brigades were sent to the rescue. The last year a fire broke out at Redborough Manor, and there again everything was ruined, a quantity of valuable jewellery, the property of Judge and Mrs. A. B. Elliott, being lost. The list is further added to on Saturday morning when Stonehouse Court was practically burnt out in spite of the heroic endeavours of three fire brigades to save the historic pile. It was at 6.40 a.m. that the two Stroud brigades were called, and never has a summons been answered more promptly than on this occasion. The fire was extinguished in a few minutes, the horses were harnessed to the engine and dashed through the town at breakneck speed, creating a great deal of excitement among the many pedestrians who were just on their way to work. The disease of the alacrity with which the men responded to the call may be gathered from the fact that at seven o'clock the engine had been laid and water was being poured into the burning building. Despite their brave attempts, however, and notwithstanding the aid of a Gloucester Brigade the fire did not stop until about 10.30, when the fire was extinguished, and in a couple of hours the great walls with their many windows and other details were all that remained of one of the most interesting and picturesque 16th century residences in Gloucestershire.

It was only two years ago that the mansion was purchased by Mr. Arthur B. Winterbotham, son of the late Mr. A. B. Winterbotham, formerly M.P. for the Gloucester Division of Gloucestershire. Since he has become the owner of the property Mr. Winterbotham has spent a small fortune on the building, the interior of which had almost entirely been reconstructed. The old oak panelling had been left and then, dry with age, quickly caught fire and rendered the interior almost untenable. The house had been furnished in a most costly manner, but practically all before the supply could be cut off from the house. The staff of servants kindly felt the responsibility that lay on their shoulders consequent on the absence of Mr. and Mrs. Winterbotham. They were all in the house, and were engaged in their usual occupations. Mr. and Mrs. Winterbotham had gone to the office, and Mr. Winterbotham had just got to the entrance door and were preparing to make the attempt when some heavy stones fell on the party. Birkings was the first to be struck, and he fell. The other two men being only slightly injured, they were able to get away from the burning building. One servant possessed a cut, but his own house had been burned in the same. About seven o'clock the house was cleared and only privileged persons were allowed an entrance. The fire was extinguished by the arrival of the fire brigade, and the fire was extinguished by the arrival of the fire brigade, and the fire was extinguished by the arrival of the fire brigade.

reduced assistance in saving the property and furniture. The fire was extinguished by the arrival of the fire brigade, and the fire was extinguished by the arrival of the fire brigade, and the fire was extinguished by the arrival of the fire brigade.



STONEHOUSE COURT AS IT WAS.

number of special constables to the scene, who rendered admirable assistance. An accident occurred during the fire, and a man named Birkings was injured. The fire was extinguished by the arrival of the fire brigade, and the fire was extinguished by the arrival of the fire brigade, and the fire was extinguished by the arrival of the fire brigade.

Exciting incidents were witnessed by those who were present. The fire was extinguished by the arrival of the fire brigade, and the fire was extinguished by the arrival of the fire brigade, and the fire was extinguished by the arrival of the fire brigade.

Up to this time the fire had had no opportunity, in fact, all in its favour—a gentle breeze, much wind, and a hot sun. The fire was extinguished by the arrival of the fire brigade, and the fire was extinguished by the arrival of the fire brigade, and the fire was extinguished by the arrival of the fire brigade.

How the fire was discovered. The fire was discovered by the arrival of the fire brigade, and the fire was extinguished by the arrival of the fire brigade, and the fire was extinguished by the arrival of the fire brigade.



Photo, H. J. Comley, Stroud.

Home Historical Association of Gloucestershire. The association was formed to preserve the history of the county, and it has been successful in its efforts to do so.

After the fire—the ruins. The ruins of Stonehouse Court are a sight to be seen. The walls are still standing, but the interior has been completely destroyed.

Further details of the fire and its aftermath. The fire was a great disaster, and it has caused the loss of many valuable items. The ruins of the house are a testament to the power of fire.

Advertisement for Wicliffe Cycle Co.'s Great Whitsuntide Offer. The ad features the slogan "QUALITY IS OUR MOTTO" and offers a "MONTH'S TRIAL" on their Standard Bicycle. It includes contact information for the company and a telephone number (140y).