

Gazette Extracts

Houses that are no more. . .

27 December 1768: Friday evening, between five and six, a fire broke out at Mr Henry Simmons, Weaver, at Bridge, which intirely consumed his workshop, with an adjacent building, in which were stowed 150 pieces of hop-bagging, but by the timely assistance of the neighbouring inhabitants, the hop bagging was saved from the flames. This unhappy accident was occasioned by the candle setting fire to some loose pieces of tow in the loom.

This was as nothing compared with the sums claimed elsewhere. . .

26 August 1791] To be let. A Mansion house called Bridge Place, now in the occupation of William Hougham Esq. Jun. Consisting of an eating parlour 22 by 18½, a drawing room 22 by 17, and a small room,; on the second floor, good bedrooms; and four garrets etc. [again in 1793]

Advice to the Ladies

Never sit between two windows open, or a door and window, to play at cards. This short hint may save the life of many a good Card-Player. I have sneezed above a thousand times from so sitting, and would not do it again to get two sole voles in a night. An ingenious author says, if a man gets a fever by drinking and dies, he dies of drinking, and should be put down so in the bills of mortality; so if a Lady dies of a cold caught at quadrille, she dies of quadrille. [1768]

On Friday next will be played in Bourn Paddock, a MATCH OF CRICKET between the Gentlemen of Surrey and the Bourn Club, for a large sum The last match was thought to be as good a match as was ever played. [August 1768]

15 August 1772] On Wednesday next the 19th instant, will be played in Bourn Paddock the long and great depending match of cricket, the Gentlemen of Hampshire against all England; the wickets to be pitched at ten o'clock, and the match to be played out. There is a large commodious stand for gentlemen, and a fine ordinary as usual, there will be a large Ring made, and it is hoped that no one will, out of the great company expected, encroach upon the noble players.. . [18 August] At the cricket match to be played in Bourne Paddock tomorrow, is expected the greatest company ever met on such an occasion; amongst whom will be the Duke of Dorset, the Duke of Richmond, the gentlemen of the county and much company of rank and distinction. Sir Horace Man has made great preparations at Bourne house, and a long range of booth are erected in the paddock for the reception of the spectators. [21 August 1772]. . . The concourse of spectators is incredible, and a computation can scarcely be formed, but there were supposed to be in the field on the first day's sport between 15 and 20,000 people, among whom were several noblemen, the principal gentlemen of the county, and other persons of rank and distinction. [scores given – England won by 2 wickets]

24 July 1769: Monday next July 24 will be run At Bridge-Hill, A match of running by Maids. To strip at five o'clock. They are desired to meet at Bridge-Hill on Saturday evening, at six o'clock to give in their names, and to run that night that the Goals may be made equal on Monday. [later] On Monday evening the match of running by young women was played upon barham Downs, to the great satisfaction of a vast concourse of people.

28 June 1770: This present evening will be run at Bridge Hill a match at running between twenty-four gentlemen of the Chilham Club, and twenty-four gentlemen of East Kent, to meet at four o'clock, and strip exactly at five o'clock. It is expected to be a fine match, as both parties are determined to set every stroke aside, that does not appear remarkably clear. . . . (won 7-3 by chilham) There was a very numerous appearance of genteel company, who were well entertained with the sport of the day, and what added to the general satisfaction was, that the whole match was won without a single dispute. . .

We hear that on Monday the 18th inst. [July] there will be a match of running on Barham Downs, between young women, twelve or fifteen on a side. The meeting to be at Bridge-Hill, at 4 o'clock in the afternoon on that day, or on the first day afterwards that the weather will permit; --- great diversion, and much Company are expected. We hear likewise, as a reward to those who shall have the best of the match, that twelve shifts will be given them by the gentry &c. [again on August 1st – unless this was the first clear day!]

A local spat in 1769:

[August] William Nash Clock and watch maker at Bridge

Begs leave to inform the publick, that the servitude of his brother, John Nash, is now dissolved. Therefore what watches he should be instructed with for the future, I will not be accountable for, nor for the performance. I continue working in the country as usual, and shall be ever studious in meeting the approbation of those who will continue their favours to their obedient humble servant William Nash.

Wanted immediately, a journeyman or a young person, to be instructed in the Clock and Watch Making business.

[September] John Nash takes this opportunity to acquaint the public, that there is no occasion for his brother Mr William Nash, to be answerable for any watches intrusted in his care, for he has not wronged him of any thing, as was imagined by his advertisement. New Clocks and Watches to be had at reasonable terms, by sending to John Nash at Beakesbourne, near Canterbury, who will go round the country as usual. All persons, that please to favour him with their custom, may depend on their work being done well, and reasonable, by their humble servant John Nash.

[11 December 1769] John Nash, Clock-Maker at Beakesbourne. Whereas some malicious Reports have been propagated by my brother, Wm Nash, clock-maker at Bridge, representing me as imposing on my kind employers, - in particular, that I had overcharged Mr Drayson of Upstreet, for repairing his clock; and as such Reports have a manifest tendency to prejudice me in my business, I have taken the opportunity to lay the said charge before some reputable clock-makers of Canterbury; who have confirmed the equity of the same, and will readily attest, if called upon, the injustice done to John Nash.

[16 December 1769] William Nash, Watch-maker At Bridge. Thinks the advertisement in last Tuesday's paper too abrupt to pass unnoticed. - The clock of Mr Drayson, that could not perform, was charged 8s 6d. It was examined by Mr Warren, the reputable watch-maker, who said, what was done to the clock was worth 4s. and the other 4s for fetching and carrying it back. This is my brother's method of working in the clock way. I have said, and can attest, he never cleaned and put together more than one watch, to my knowledge, all the time he was with me, and that was in April last. Therefore what injustice is done to John Nash by me, I leave the reader to determine.

If the kind friends of John Nash would prevent his ill designs, and put him on a better plan, it may answer his end better, as well as the reputable watchmaker and his former friend, William Nash.

[march 1769] Cock fighting. At Bridge-Hill on Thursday the 23rd instant - Canterbury against Bridge - to shew eleven cocks on each side, and fight for four guineas a battle and ten the main. Dinner will be ready at one o'clock. NB a pair of five pound cocks to fight before dinner for five guineas.

6 June 1772] Cock-Fighting. At John palmer's, the White Horse at Bridge; to show twenty-one cocks on each side; to weigh on Tuesday the 9th of June and to fight on Wednesday and Thursday for four guineas a battle, and ten the odd battle. A close pit and a good ordinary at one o'clock each day. A pair of large cocks to fight before dinner.

In addition to the regular easter and Autumn meetings

[22 April 1769] Horse racing. On Tuesday next will be run for, over barham Downs, a match of fifty guineas between a bay gelding, late the property of William Lynch esq; who won the Easter Plate last year, and a grey gelding, who won the Easter plate this year, the bay gelding to carry eight stone, two pounds, and the grey gelding nine stone. Dinner will be ready, at Bridge-Hill, at one o'clock.

Origins of the Horticultural Society?

[1769] This is to acquaint all lovers of Auriculas. That on Thursday the 6th of April, will be an Auricula feast, at Sarah Gilbert's the White Horse, in Bridge. The best flower produced, will be entitled to a guinea, the second best to fifteen shillings, the third best to half a guinea and the fourth best to five shillings. Each flower that is entitled to a prize, must have six pips. And every person that shews a flower must have had it in his own possession fourteen days before before the day of shewing, which must be attested on oath if required. No person will be entitled to a prize, but who has subscribed half a crown three months before the day of shewing, unless he makes it up five shillings on the feast day, before one o'clock. No flower to be entitled to a prize, unless it is in the house before one o'clock. And no person to win two prizes. Every person that shews a flower to appoint an umpire. NB There will be a good twelpenny ordinary at one o'clock.