

To this the disgruntled HW replied on 15th June:

'No, I cannot be so false as to say I am glad you are pleased with your situation. You are so apt to take root, that it requires ten years to dig you out again when you once begin to settle.... Yes, I will come and see you; but tell me first, when do your Duke and Duchess travel to the north? I know he is a very amiable lad, and I do not know that she is not as amiable a laddess, but I had rather see their house [Adderbury House] comfortably when they are not there.'

GM was away until 8th August, when he again *'settled in my old mansion at Adderbury, where I shall be most happy to see you...'* though *'Lord Guilford is to be in Wroxtonsire ... and expects me much to be with him...'*

In fact HW did visit Adderbury in September 1768, but in GM's absence. He duly saw Adderbury House, leaving a description of the pictures there in his book *Country Seats*.

There is silence until 7th November, when GM writes again:

'You will very soon receive a cheese from me, the best I could get of the sort, and I hope it will prove good. [Was this a Banbury cheese? The town was still famous for it. Alas it hadn't arrived by 10th November.] As to myself... this place agrees so well with me I am not over ready to leave it for London, where I am never well.'

'Our Duke and pretty Duchess are very kind to me but they are going to Bath. We went one night to the play at Banbury, but they acted too well to make us laugh.'

A grumpy letter from gout-stricken HW on 10th November has a reply two days later (something of an achievement even in the 21st century):

'I am surprisingly better here than at Greatworth, as that house was damp, and this, notwithstanding all the deluge of waters, has been always dry. Don't be angry with me for settling myself here. I have [a] good though old house cheap, and can live better ... than at London or near it...'

'I am to go this evening to play cards with my ducal neighbours. They are most obliging to me and free and cheerful. The Duke has his Eton tutor with him, a sensible man and bookish. The Duke is Eton all over, no disrecommmendation to me, and has a taste for literature, and most generous in his way of thinking and acting.'

HW was telling GM of lodgings in London that might suit him, though it's not clear if he was persuaded to spend time there in the winter. By March 1769 he was certainly back at Adderbury and on 14th May he was writing (in reply to HW's description of a visit to Vauxhall Gardens):