



Crime Reports

Bishopstone

1850 - 1899

Surnames within this document:-

Adams, Baker, Baynes, Belcher, Bell, Bennett, Bowles, Cockhead, Cook, Doe [?], Durham, Fowler, Gibbings, Gosling, Greenaway, Grey, Haines, Handcock, Head, Hedges, Hewlett, Hibberd, Horres [?], Jefferies, Johnson, Kaisey, Lafford, Lawrence, Luker, Maisey, Mansell, Merchant, Newman, Osbourn, Packer, Parker, Pearce, People, Read, Redford, Richens, Smith, Telling, Treen, Turner, Wall, White, Wiggins, Woolford.

1854

County Court, Wednesday **Wm, Hewlett**, stealing 78 lbs. of coal , the property of Edward Lawrence at Bishopstone, one calendar month. **Devizes and Wiltshire Gazette, 19 October 1854**

1855

Faringdon Petty Sessions, Tuesday **Henry Luker**, of Bishopstone, Wilts. was charged with assaulting Mr. John Bowles, of Odstone Marsh, by pushing a gate against him. Case dismissed, by the Bench considering that no greater violence had been used by the defendant than was necessary to enable him to pass the gate, through which he considered there was a right of way. **Berkshire Chronicle, 9 June 1855**

1857

Incendiary Fire at Bishopstone On Friday last a thatched pig-stye at Bishopstone, under which there was at the time two fat pigs, the property of **Samuel Wiggins**, was wilfully set on fire. The pigs were with difficulty saved. The police, from information received, apprehended Henry Draper Pearce and a boy named Charles Cook. It appears that after having set the pig house on fire, Pearce was alarmed that the fire would extend to the buildings of a relative, and he then raised an alarm, and the fire was prevented from extending further. **Devizes and Wiltshire Gazette, 5 February 1857**

1858

Faringdon Petty Sessions, Tuesday. **Robert Turner, Joseph Wall**, and **Edward Hewlett**, all of Bishopstone, Wilts, were brought up in custody, charged with stealing a sheep, the property of Mr. Thomas Tucker, of Bourton, in October last. The only testimony offered tending to criminate the prisoners was that of George Fowler, who stated that on moonlight night, some time since last Michaelmas, he was on the road between Bishopstone and Bourton, and about two miles from the latter place, when he met the three prisoners, and Turner was carrying a sack bag. This evidence not being sufficiently conclusive to warrant a committal, the prisoners were discharged. **Berkshire Chronicle, 9 January 1858**

Swindon Police Court - Thursday, December 16th. **Thomas Woolford**, labourer, a boy about 15 or 16 years of age, was charged by police constable John Bell, with being drunk and disorderly. It appeared that Woolford was unusually noisy, and also very desirous of showing off his pugilistic abilities by having a round or two with the policeman. The Rev. Chairman in ordering Woolford to pay the usual drunkard's fine, severely reprimanded him and cautioned him against being brought up again, for in that case he would be called upon to find sureties, and thus have those foolish and disgraceful pranks of his put a forcible stop to for some considerable period. **Swindon Advertiser and North Wilts Chronicle, 20 December 1858**

1859

Wiltshire Winter Assizes, at Devizes **Thomas Head** pleaded guilty to two charges of embezzlement at Bishopstone, and was sentenced to four months imprisonment. **Devizes and Wiltshire Gazette, 23 December 1858**

Swindon Police Court, Thursday, July 7, 1859. **Tass Parker**, of Rushey Park, in the parish of Bishopstone, appeared to a summons for assaulting Nathaniel Treen, of Lambourne, on the 20th of June. Complainant applied for a postponement in consequence of the absence of a principle witness. Granted, complainant to pay expenses of the day, each bound in £5 to appear. **Swindon Advertiser and North Wilts Chronicle, 11 July 1859**

1860

Swindon Police Court - Thursday August 2 **John Lafford**, of Bishopstone, labourer, was fined 12s., including costs, for being drunk and incapable at Bishopstone, on Sunday morning last. The complaint was laid by P.C. Smith and the defendant pleaded guilty. **Swindon Advertiser and North Wilts Chronicle, 6 August 1860**

1865

Swindon Police Court - Thursday **Robert Richens**, was charged by Mrs. Mary Turtle, landlady of the True Heart Inn, Bishopstone, with being drunk in her house on the 24th of February, and refusing to leave when requested to do so. Richens said his wife having just been confined, he went to complainant's house to have a glass of beer in commemoration of the event, when a man who was in the tap room picked a quarrel with him. Fined 5s. and 6s. costs. **Swindon Advertiser and North Wilts Chronicle 13 March 1865**

Swindon Police Court - October 9th. **Edward Hewlett**, of Bishopstone, was charged with stealing a sack of barley, the property of his master, Mr. Hibberd, of Bishopstone. It appeared that Mr. Hibberd had seven sacks of barley in a store, and on Thursday last he missed one of them. He gave information to Police constable Johnson, and handed that office a sample of the barley. Johnson went to Hinton Mill, about a mile and a half from Bishopstone, and found a sack of barley which corresponded with the sample. Mr. T. Adams, the owner of the mill, stated that the barley had been sent there by the prisoner to be ground. Hewlett was then interrogated as to how he became possessed of the barley found at the mill, and he said "I shan't tell". He afterwards said "I will give in, I took it and I will pay for it, if you will say no more about it." Mr. Hibberd declined to accommodate him in this manner, and he was taken into custody. The prisoner pleaded guilty. Sentenced to three months' imprisonment, with hard labour. **Swindon Advertiser and North Wilts Chronicle, 16 October 1865**

1867

Swindon Police Court - Thursday March 14, **George Doe?** of Aldbourne, was charged with damaging with intent to steal watercresses, the property of Mr. Thomas Hewlett, of Bishopstone. Hewlett stated that he found the defendant at his watercress bed, pulling up watercress, roots and all and he had suffered a great loss at various times from the same thing, as much as two pounds worth

being destroyed, but he had never seen the defendant there before. The defendant said I certainly took a few, but did not think any harm of it, and when Hewlett came to me I offered to pay him for them. Fined 7s. 6d., including costs. **Swindon Advertiser and North Wilts Chronicle, 18 March 1867**

Swindon Police Court - Thursday 20 June, Judgement Summons. **Charles C. Packer v. Henry Redford**, no money had been paid on this order, which was made in January last. Committed for 16 days, warranted suspended for 28 days. **Swindon Advertiser and North Wilts Chronicle, 24 June 1867**

1871

Committed to the Prison, Devizes **Henry Smith**, six weeks, for stealing a slop, the property of Samuel Cockhead of Bishopstone. **Devizes and Wiltshire Gazette, 26 October 1871**

1872

Swindon Police Court **William Telling**, labourer, of Bishopston, was charged with assaulting Sarah Ann Turner, wife of Thomas Turner, of the same place, on the 16th of January last. Defendant and complainant's husband are both employed at a lone farm on the hills near Bishopston. On the day in question prisoner went into complainant's cottage and said he was very cold. She said she would light a fire for him, and whilst in the act of doing so he caught hold of her round the waist and threw her on the floor, at the same time attempting to take indecent liberties with her. The complainant stated that she struggled and shouted for assistance for more than an hour, although her husband swore that he was ploughing in a field not a furlong from the spot and heard nothing of it. Mr. Tombs, who appeared for prisoner, called several witnesses as to complainant's character, and the bench fined prisoner £2 2s including costs. **Western Daily Press, 10 August 1872**

Committed to the County Gaol, Devizes **Sam Osbourn**, six weeks, for stealing a coat, the property of Frank Baynes at Bishopstone. **Devizes and Wiltshire Gazette, 29 August 1872**

1874

Swindon Police Court **Isaac Jefferies** was charged with a similar offence [*being drunk*] on the highway at Bishopstone, on the night of the 14th inst. P. C. Handcock proved finding defendant lying asleep in the road, with the water running round him. Fined 10s and 5s. 6d. costs. **Swindon Advertiser and North Wilts Chronicle, 23 February 1874**

1880

Swindon Police Court, Thursday Assault **Samuel People**, of Bishopstone, was charged with assaulting Mary Nash, a single woman, of the same place. The complainant said she lived with her nephew. The defendant came to her house the worse for drink, and commenced making a disturbance. To get from him, as he often abused her when in that state, she went to her bedroom to avoid him. He followed her, and bursting open her door, swore at her, and slapped her face. Fined 5s. and 7s. costs. **Swindon Advertiser and North Wilts Chronicle, 9 October 1880**

1881

Daniel Haines, an aged labourer, of Bishopstone, was charged with allowing two asses and a colt to stray on the road, at Bishopstone, on the 18th inst., P.C. Read proved the case. He found them in the New Road. The gate of defendant's field was open so that they could go in or out at pleasure. Defendant said he fastened the gate up the previous night. Someone must have let them out. Fined 2s. 6d. each animal with 9s. 6d. costs. Defendant said it was very hard, and he had not the money to pay, as his only income was 8s. per week. Allowed a month to pay. **Swindon Advertiser and North Wilts Chronicle, 25 April 1881**

1881

Swindon Police Court, Thursday Keeping a dog without a license. **Henry Johnson**, agricultural engine driver, of Bishopstone, was charged with keeping a dog without a license at Bishopstone. P.C. Read proved the case. The defendant pleaded that he had been away from home nearly ever since he became possessed of the dog, and had been too busy to get a license. Fined 50s. and costs. **Swindon Advertiser and North Wilts Chronicle, 30 April 1881**

1882

Swindon Police Court, Thursday. A Violent Fellow **James White**, 39, from Newbury, was brought up from custody charged with being drunk and disorderly at Bishopstone, on the 16th inst. P.C. Read said at 7.30 pm he was on duty in East Street, Bishopstone, when he found prisoner with a crowd round him, using very bad language. He moved him off, and half an hour later found him in High Street repeating the same conduct. As he would not go, and challenged him to fight, he attempted to take hold of him, when he kicked at him several times, and assistance had to be obtained to take him to Wanborough. Mr. Supt. North said prisoner's conduct was very violent. His head was knocked about in a shocking manner, a doctor having to be obtained to attend him in the cells. Committed for ten days hard labour. **Swindon Advertiser and North Wilts Chronicle, 27 March 1882**

1884

Swindon Police Court, Thursday **Edward Belcher**, from Bishopstone, labourer, G.W.R. Works, was brought up charged with being drunk and disorderly on the previous night in Fleet Street. Sergt. Miall proved the case. The prisoner did not deny the offence. He fell about the road, and turned the money out of pocket. He was locked up because he would not give his name or address. On the way to the station he kicked the officer several times on his legs. Fined 10s. and 5s. 6d. costs. **Swindon Advertiser and North Wilts Chronicle, 22 March 1884**

Swindon Police Court, Thursday Highway Offence. **William Newman**, travelling showman, was summoned charged with permitting six horses to stray on the highway at Bishopstone on Sunday afternoon last. P.C. F. Read said he found the horses on the new road. There was no person in charge. The horses had been placed in a field, but the defendant's man turned them out. The defendant said he was in habit of sending for his horses twice a day to feed, and the man was fetching them up when the policeman saw them. The constable denied this, saying the man told him he had to turn the horses out because there was more grass outside than in the field. Fined 18s. and 9s. 6d. costs. **Swindon Advertiser and North Wilts Chronicle, 22 March 1884**

Swindon Police Court, Thursday. Drunk, and couldn't help it. **James Wm. Johnson**, engine driver, of Bishopstone, was charged with being drunk at Bishopstone on the 13th inst. P.C. F. Read said on the Sunday in question he met defendant on the Swindon road very drunk. He advised him to go home. Two hours later he found him lying 200 yards off, on the road, dead drunk. It was 40 minutes before he could get sufficient sense into him to get him to move. Asked what he had to say, defendant replied "Well, I was drunk, and can't help it". Mr. Supt. North said the defendant had been twice previously convicted of a similar offence. Fined 10s. 0d. and 3s. 6d. costs. **Swindon Advertiser and North Wilts Chronicle, 26 April 1884**

Swindon Police Court, Thursday **Albert Kaisey**, was also charged with being drunk and disorderly at Bishopstone on Saturday night, at 8 p.m. P.C. Read said defendant was very disorderly in the High Street, and he had to twice order him out of a meeting that was being held. Fined 5s. and 7s. costs. **Swindon Advertiser and North Wilts Chronicle, 24 May 1884**

Elizabeth Telling was charged with a like offence at a quarter to nine at the same time and place.

P.C. Read said defendant was in company with two others, and all were using disgusting language, although defendant was not so bad as the others. Fined 10s. and 7s. costs. **Swindon Advertiser and North Wilts Chronicle, 24 May 1884**

Swindon Police Court, Thursday. **James Johnson**, alias **Sweethson**, labourer of Bishopstone, was summoned, but did not appear, charged with being drunk and disorderly, at Little Hinton, on the 25th August. Sergt. Tydeman found defendant lying dead drunk on the side of the highway. When awakened, he used bad language. He had been twice convicted of drunkenness last year. Warrant issued for defendant's apprehension. **Swindon Advertiser and North Wilts Chronicle, 6 September 1884**

1885

Swindon Police Court, Thursday. Drunk - **Henry Horres** [?], labourer, of Bishopstone, was charged with being drunk and disorderly at Bishopstone, on the 25th Feb. P.C. F. Read said he saw the defendant at the True Heart Beerhouse, very drunk, and abusing the landlady. The landlord threw him into the road. Here he was very violent, and refused to go home. Defendant said he had some wine given him, which overcame him. Previous convictions were proved against defendant. Fined 10s. And costs, or in default 14 days. **Swindon Advertiser and North Wilts Chronicle, 7 March 1885**

1886

Robert Greenaway, drover, well known at this Court, was charged with being drunk at Bishopstone on Friday night last. P.C. Read said he found defendant lying on the highway after eleven at night. He used very bad language, and was helplessly drunk. Fined 5s. and 7s. costs. **Swindon Advertiser and North Wilts Chronicle, 13 March 1886**

1888

Swindon Police Court, Thursday Fairly Caught **James Gibbings**, labourer, of Bishopstone, was summoned charged with stealing turnips the property of Mr. Chas. James Hibberd, farmer, of Bishopstone, on Jan 14. Prosecutor spoke to having missed turnips from his field, and having told the constable of the fact. P.C. Read deposed that he watched the field, when about five o'clock in the evening he saw the defendant come into the field, pull the turnips produced, and walk off with them. Witness went after the defendant, and detained him. It was not quite dark at the time, but it was sufficiently light for him (the witness) to see defendant Witness was secreted round a hayrick. Fined 1s. 6d, and costs of 8s. 6d.; allowed a fortnight to pay the money. **Swindon Advertiser and North Wilts Chronicle, 21 January 1888**

1889

Swindon Police Court, Thursday A Trivial Matter **Mary Ann Durham**, wife of Edward Durham, labourer, of Bishopstone, appeared to answer a charge of assaulting **Jane Johnson**, a cripple, wife of Charles Johnson, labourer, of the same place, on the 19th June. The case was a most trivial one, a short altercation having arisen between the parties, who are neighbours. Defendant made a long rambling statement, in a very excited manner, and said she hoped she would always have peace after this. The Bench told plaintiff that they would dismiss the case, as it seemed to be one and half-a-dozen of the other, if defendant would pay the costs. Defendant said she would not pay a single half penny. The Bench then imposed a fine of 2s. 6d. and 9s. costs. Defendant repeated that she would sooner go to gaol than pay, and was removed below to be committed for 7 days to Devises. **Swindon Advertiser and North Wilts Chronicle, 29 June 1889**

Swindon Police Court, Thursday A Trivial Affair. **Daniel Haines**, an aged labourer, and a cripple, of Bishopstone, appeared to answer a charge of assaulting, Susan, wife of Stephen Fowler, of Bishopstone. The parties are neighbours, and prosecutrix alleged that defendant called her abusive

names, and struck her with his crutch. This defendant denied, and he called a witness who corroborated his statement. The Bench dismissed the case. **Swindon Advertiser and North Wilts Chronicle, 14 September 1889**

1893

Swindon Police Court, Thursday Drunk and Disorderly **Thomas Grey**, labourer, of Kingston Warren, was summoned for being drunk and disorderly at Bishopstone, on 12th November. P.C. Smith proved the case, and defendant was fined 2s. 6d. and 8s. 6d. costs. **Swindon Advertiser and North Wilts Chronicle, 2 December 1893**

1895

At the Lambourne Petty Sessions last week, **William Maisey**, turf reporter, of Bishopstone and Swindon, was charged with assaulting **George Gosling** and his brother, **Albert Ernest Gosling**. On the application of complainant, the case was not gone into, but the summonses were allowed to be withdrawn. **Swindon Advertiser and North Wilts Chronicle, 2 February 1895**

Swindon Police Court, Thursday Drunk and Disorderly **William Merchant**, carter, of Bishopstone, on June 29th last. Defendant pleaded guilty. P.C. Smith proved the case, and the Bench fined defendant 5s. and 7s. costs. **Swindon Advertiser and North Wilts Chronicle, 13 July 1895**

Wilts Autumn Assize Charges of Indecent Assault **Frank Baker**, 18, labourer, was charged with indecently assaulting Dora Emm, at Broadchalke, near Salisbury, on the 19th September, she being under the age of 13. Mr. Radcliffe prosecuted, and Mr. Thornton Lawes defended. Prisoner was found guilty of an attempt, and sentenced to 19 months imprisonment. **Swindon Advertiser and North Wilts Chronicle, 2 November 1895 [see also 1897]**

1897

Wilts Autumn Assize Assault **Frank Baker**, a young man, was convicted of an assault on Emily Caroline Baker, at Bishopstone, on June 8th, and a conviction for a similar offence two years ago was also proved against him. His Lordship ordered the prisoner to be sent to penal servitude for five years. Mr. F. R. Y. Radcliffe was for the prosecution. **Swindon Advertiser and North Wilts Chronicle, 6 November 1897 [see also 1895]**