



Crime Reports - Gorsehill - 1900-1999

1900 – Albert Thomas VENN, postman, of Cricklade Road, Gorse Hill, was charged with wilfully retaining the delivery of a certain letter on December 15th. Accused pleaded guilty, and the evidence of the postmaster showed that the defendant failed to deliver a letter at the Isolation Diseases Hospital, which is situated about 400 yards from any home, but put it in his bag and delivered it a post late. The bench fined him 10s and 7s costs. The **Western Daily Press 06-01-1900**

– Thomas ROACH, house decorator, Gorse Hill, was sent down for 14 days for stealing a coat value 5s, the property of Jasper Jefferies of Swindon. The **Western Daily Press 02-02-1900**.

1900 – Emily BREAKSPEARE, was charged with stealing £1, the monies of John LOVERIDGE, of Gorse Hill. She had been in Loveridge's employ as housekeeper and had absconded with the cash. In order that further evidence might be adduced, the case was adjourned for a week. The Citizen 16-02-1900.

1901 – William Hill, late of Gorse HALL, was summoned by his wife, Mary Ann HALL, who applied for a separation order to which he objected. After hearing the evidence an order was made for 5s a week to support 4 children. Complainant stated she did not want any money for herself. The **Citizen 06-09-1901**.

– Charles William POWELL, chemist of 238 Cricklade Road, Fined for supplying peach & apricot kernel oil instead of Almond oil, fined 2s 6d and 17s 6d costs. **Swindon Advertiser 27-12-1901**.

1902 - Ivor Henry WARWICK of 6 Poulton Street for stealing a bottle of aerated water, the property of Ernest Cox. Bench ordered boy to receive 3 strokes of birch rod. **Swindon Advertiser 18-07-1902**.

- Arthur Evans, boy of 24 Beatrice Street, for using obscene language by the Railway Station. Fined 3s and 7s costs. **Swindon Advertiser 12-09-1902**.

1903 – William Fallimore. Who gave the address of 41 Eldon Place, Larkhall, Bath, and Percy JOBBINS, of 147 Cricklade Road, Gorse Hill, Swindon, were charged with feloniously and burglariously breaking into the house of Mr. Walter MOREMAN, 15 Cricklade Street, on the night of January 7th, and stealing therefrom one timepiece, value 7s 6d.- Supt. Webb said the two men were taken into custody at 10.30 on Wednesday night and brought to the police on the charge of having broken into the shop of Mr, Moreman, jeweller, in Cricklade Street, and stealing a clock, which was taken from one of the men by a constable who apprehended him. They admitted breaking into the place by smashing two or three panes of glass and said they should have cleared the window if they had had a chance to raise money to get back to Ireland. Both men were in the uniform of the Royal Field Artillery, and belonged to No. 138 Battery, stationed at the Curragh, from which place JOBBINS said he had come on furlough and Dallimore said he be deserted. They walked from Swindon to Cirencester on Wednesday afternoon, and were without money. A gold ring was found on each of them, and JOBBINS had a new purse and razor. Prisoners were not seen to break the glass – which was apparently done by a blow with a riding whip; but two young men named Stevens and Dainty, walking on the footpath a dozen yards ahead of them, hearing the noise, turned back in time to see one of the men

insert his hand into the window and take out the clock. On the application of Supt. Webb, they were remanded in custody till Monday's Petty Sessions. **The Citizen 09-01-1903.**

-Frederic GIBBS, 80 Cricklade Road, for committing a nuisance fined 5s and 7s costs. **Swindon Advertiser 23-01-1903.**

-Harold TAYLORRR, 14, of 38 Beatrice Street for stealing a portion of a load from Ernest J Cook, baker of Swindon. Bound over for 3 months. **Swindon Advertiser 01-05-1903.**

-Frederick Cox, labourer of 10 Chapel Street. Application for separation order by Violet Cox, Swindon, due to drunkenness & violence. Order of 5s week made. **Swindon Advertiser 31-07-1903.**

Anne LOGG, Chapel Street and her mother Mary LEGG were summoned for use of obscene language. Fined 2s 6d and 7s 6d costs each.

Thomas JRNKINS, 24 Beatrice Street for keeping dog without licence, fined 10s and 7s costs.

Frederick Saunders, Chapel Street for obscene language, adjourned.

Thomas GOODMAN, youth, 60 Edinburgh Street for obscene language, fined 2s 6d and 7s 6d costs. **Swindon Advertiser 09-10-1903.**

Edmund PREATER, dealer of Gorse Hill, for allowing 2 horses to stray on 5th Nov. Fined 4s and 4s 6d costs. **Swindon Advertiser 13-11-1903.**

James WOODWARD, 55, of Cricklade Road allowing a chimney fire. Fined 1s and 2s 6d costs. **Swindon Advertiser 20-11-1903.**

William HARDING of Chapel Street for committing a nuisance. Fined 3s and 7s costs.

Swindon Advertiser 11-12-1903.

Albert SIMPSON, of 111 Cricklade Road for cruelty to a mare. Fined 1s and 9s costs.

Swindon Advertiser 11-12-1903.

Edmund H PREATER of Ferndale Road for allowing horses to stray. Fined 5s and 5s 6d costs. **Swindon Advertiser 11-12-1903.**

Joseph HEATH, 52 Hinton Street, for being drunk & disorderly. Fined 2s 6d & 5s costs. & Thomas JENKINS of 24 Beatrice Street for committing a nuisance. Fined 2s 6d & 7s costs. **Swindon Advertiser 18-12-1903.**

1904 - Henry RUDDLE of Gorse Hill being drunk and disorderly on Boxing Day. Fined 10s and costs and bound over for 3 months in sum of 40s. **Swindon Advertiser 15-01-1904**

-William TITCHENER of Gorse Hill fined 1s and 2s 6d for allowing a chimney fire. **Swindon Advertiser 15-01-1904.**

-George KEMBREY, Gorse Hill for driving an un-taxed cart. Fined 8s. **Swindon Advertiser 15-01-1904.**

- At Swindon Police Court on Monday – before the Mayor (Ald. J. Hinton) and other magistrates George William Bull, of Gloucester, was brought up on a warrant charged with having obtained the sum of £4 1s by false pretences from Mrs. Elizabeth GORTON, on January 13th. Mrs. GORTON who carries on a small confectionery business at Gorse Hill, Swindon, said that Bull represented to her that he was the agent of a London firm for the sale of eucalyptus cigarettes, and held out inducements for her to take up the local agency, she to be the sole agent for a radius of five miles. She agreed to take the agency and paid him £4 1s for the goods which he left. She was to have the money returned in six weeks' time if the sales were not to her satisfaction. The prisoner had not carried out his promises to send name plates, bags and advertisements, or to call again. M. Boodle (for the defendant) cross-examined Mrs. GORTON at some length, and the case was adjourned till Thursday next week, bail of £50 being allowed. **The Citizen 17-05-1904**

-George ILES, 37 Edinburgh Street, for committing a nuisance in a public place. Fined 1s and 7s costs. **Swindon Advertiser 01-07-1904.**

-George COLLETT, labourer of 54 Beatrice Street for assaulting PC Lloyd while drunk. 7 days for being drunk and 21 for the assault. **Swindon Advertiser 01-07-1904.**

-William DYER, 123 Cricklade Road & Sidney MAIDMENT of 72 Beatrice Street for not sending their children to school. 2s 6d & 1s costs. **Swindon Advertiser 01-07-1904.**

William WATKINS of 135 Chapel Street, for using obscene language. Fined £1 and 7s costs of 7 days imprisonment. Also, Henry LEWIS of 9 Hinton Street, remanded as he arrived in court drunk. **Swindon Advertiser 08-07-1904.**

- Henry LEWIS, 9 Hinton Street for bad language. And attending court drunk. Fined 2s 6d plus costs for each case. **Swindon Advertiser 08-07-1904.**

- Charles KIBBLE, painter of 35 Argyle Street applied for administration order on debts of £29 13s 3d. Order made. & Walter EVANS, painter of 35 Avening Street for debts of £12 3s 9d, agreed to pay instalments of 10s per week.

Swindon Advertiser 08-07-1904.

-Henry GOODSHIP, for wilful neglect of his three children. Six weeks hard labour. **Swindon Advertiser 22-07-1904.**

-Elizabeth HAWES of 165 Beatrice Street, applied for a separation order from her husband Robert. He was a boot salesman, they had 6 children and the weekly rent was 6s 6d, she received no income other than that from her husband which was not enough to cover the rent., Application granted and husband to pay 10s a week. **Swindon Advertiser 02-09-1904.**

-Louis DYER of Gorse Hill for driving an omnibus without a licence. 4s 6d costs. **Swindon Advertiser 02-09-1904.**

-Joseph SELWOOD – Bad Language – Fined 10s and 7s costs. Also, Wallace FRANKJLIN (19) of 156 Beatrice Street for theft of a jacket value 4s 3d from Messrs Hepworth & Son, four strokes of the birch rod. **Swindon Advertiser 18-11-1904**

William Charles GRAY, 124 Beatrice Street, for Wilful damage to Conservative Club door glass. Fined 5s and £1 costs. At same court Edward FROUDE of 90 Beatrice Street for bad language, Fined 7s and 3s costs. **Swindon Advertiser 02-12-1904.**

John George HALL, 35 Avening Street, summoned for a separation by wife, Selina HALL of 7 Beatrice Street, due to assaults while drunk. Court made the order, gave wife custody of children, and ordered defendant to pay 6s per week, also charged 10s costs. **Swindon Advertiser 23-12-1904.**

Edwin Charles GRUBB, 23 Avening Street, applied for administration order being in debt to £35 16s 1d, due to 17 creditors. Offered to pay 10s in £1 at 6s per month, Granted. **Swindon Advertiser 23-12-1904.**

1905 – Robert HAWYES, 87 Argyle Street, for embezzling several sums, 5s, 4s & 6s was bailed at £10 later in week he was gaoled for 6 weeks with hard labour. **Swindon Advertiser 17-02-1905.**

-James FERRIS, labourer of Gorse Hill for keeping a dog without a licence. Fined 5s & 7s costs or 7 days. **Swindon Advertiser 10-03-1905.**

-George HAYWARD was summoned for obstruction with a cart in Haydon Street, Fined 5s & 5s 6d costs. **Swindon Advertiser 14-04-1905.**

Mary Ann TALBOT of Argyll Street for being drunk. Fined 2s 6d and 6s costs, also Thomas GREGORY, labourer of 20 Avening Street. Separation order brought by wife Mary Jane GREGORY now of Pewsey. Defendant was bound over. **Swindon Advertiser 26-05-1905.**

James ABBOTT of 148 Cricklade Road for being drunk & disorderly. Fined 2s 6d and 4s 6d costs. **Swindon Advertiser 09-06-1905.**

-Sarah DORE of 2 Bright Street applied for separation order against her husband Joseph DORE of 94 Princess Street. An order of 10s per week. **Swindon Advertiser 09-06-1905.**

-Edmond PREATER, of Ferndale Road for allowing a horse to stray on Cricklade Road. Fined 5s and 5s 6d cost, seven days on default. **Swindon Advertiser 30-06-1905.**

-Mary HORTON, 167 Cricklade Road, for stealing 6 cabbages, worth 9d, the property of Ernest W IMPEY of 24 Whiteman Street. 14 days hard labour. **Swindon Advertiser 21-07-1905.**

-Edward MORRIS, fitter of 87 Ferndale Road. Summoned for committing a nuisance. 4s 6d costs. Also, Louisa DREWITT, 16, of 12 Cricklade Road for stealing a purse, containing 2s 6d and a key. As she was under bond for a similar offence, she was given two 21 hard labour sentences. **Swindon Advertiser 28-07-1905.**

-Sarah JORDAN of 119 Cricklade Road for assaulting Clara L WILKINS, there was also a cross summons. There had been ill feeling for some time, but it was Mrs JORDAN who had started the fight. Fined 50s including costs. **Swindon Advertiser 04-08-1905.**

-Thomas SARGEANT, William LOVEGROVE, Henry PINCHIN and William ANGELL all of Gorse Hill, for taking perch the property of Mr George WHITEHEAD. 2s each costs. **Swindon Advertiser 04-08-1905.**

-Job PACKER, Frederick PACKFORD, John COOK and William HOBBS, juveniles of Gorse Hill for wilful damage to rose trees. 2s 6d each costs. **Swindon Advertiser 04-08-1905.**

-Frederick CADHILL & Edward PREATER of Gorse Hill, charged by RSPCA for cruelty to a horse. Preater fined £1 + 6s 6d costs & Cadhill 1s + 2s costs. **Swindon Advertiser 04-08-1905.**

-Geoffrey KIMBER, labourer of Gorse Hill. Separation order by Ellen KIMBER, 4 Radnor Street. Order to pay 7s 6d per week and mother to have custody of child. **Evening Advertiser 11-08-1905.**

Oliver FRY, grocer, 219 Cricklade Road & William George TURK, bootmaker, 262 Cricklade Road, for 'Passive Resistance' in non-payment of educational part of rates. Ordered to pay under the Act. **Swindon Advertiser 11-08-1905.**

William DYER of 123 Cricklade road fined for non-attendance of children to school, fined 1s & 2s 6d costs.

Swindon Advertiser 15-09-1905.

Jesse HUTT of 14 Cricklade Road for furious driving in Moredon Road and obscene language to a constable. Fined 10s 6d and 5s cost. **Swindon Advertiser 15-09-1905.**

1906 – William Henry CLARKE of 132 Chapel Street, summoned for being drunk & disorderly. Fined 5s 6d and 4s costs. Also, James SUTTON of 54 Argyle Street in respect of two children, adjourned. Also, William WATKINS of 135 Chapel Street Backs for being drunk & disorderly, as previous offender committed to 14 days hard labour.

Swindon Advertiser 06-03-1908.

-Mary WEST, 107 Cricklade Road, for stealing 3 mats worth 1s. bound over for three months.

Swindon Advertiser 16-03-1906.

-Frederick & Ellen YEATES, charged by N.S.P.C.C. for neglecting their child Walter in a manner likely to cause suffering and neglecting their other children. Walter had been removed and sent to Workhouse where he died. Other children were poorly fed and clothed although Mr Yeates had a weekly wage of £2 8s. Father sent to prison for 3 months and mother for 6 months with hard labour. **Citizen 27-03-1906. & Swindon Advertiser 30-03-1906.**

-William Alfred PARFITT, labourer of 184 Beatrice Street for wilful damage of glass Swindon. Fined 5s and £1 11s 2d costs.

-Robert LEWIS, Chapel Street backs for obscene language, defendant did not appear, and a warrant was issued.

Swindon Advertiser 08-05-1906.

-John MORRIS of Stratton St. Margaret, was charged with embezzling 3s 1½d, the moneys of his employer, William ANDERSON, grocer, of Gorse Hill. - The Superintendent of police asked for a remand until Monday, intimating there would be several charges against the prisoner. - Mr. Withy, who appeared to defend MORRIS, did not object to the remand, but asked for bail. - This was granted, the recognisances being fixed at £10, with surety of £5. The **Citizen 27-07-1906.**

-Mary FELL, 9 Ferndale Road for being drunk at Volunteer Hotel. Fined 3s 6d & 4s 6d costs. **Swindon Advertiser 27-07-1906.**

-At Swindon Petty Sessions MORRIS pleaded guilty, he was sent to gaol for three months with hard labour. The **Citizen 31-07-1906.**

-Charles CRIPPS, of Gorse Hill, formerly employed as a riveter in the Great Western Railway Works was charged with stealing a mare (value £18), a trap, and set of harness (value £10), cheques to the value of £155 13s 8d., and £22 in cash, the property of Albert HAYNES, grocer, and wholesale bacon curer, on July 24th. According to the evidence of prosecutor, prisoner was sent to the bank with the cash and cheques, and at the same time he had to take the horse and trap to deliver some goods. Prisoner never returned, and he was traced to Hungerford, Berks, where the horse was recovered. P.C. Bower traced the prisoner on to Newbury, Reading and Guildford, and arrested him in the latter place. Prisoner who was drunk at the time of his arrest, said he had bought a new suit of clothes, and changed while travelling in the train, throwing his old clothes out of the window. Nearly the whole of the stolen property had been recovered. Prisoner, who said he had a wife and nine children, now said; "It was all through drink. I do not know what made me do it. I shall lose my pension." Prisoner was committed to take his trial at the next Wiltshire Quarter Sessions in October. The **Citizen 31-07-1906.**

1907 – A labourer named Arthur EVANS, of 24 Beatrice Street, admitted being drunk and disorderly in Bridge Street on Boxing Day and paid the usual fine. The **Citizen 08-01-1907.**

-George KEMBREY, carter, of Gorse Hill, was charged with driving without control of his horses on the Cheltenham Road, in the parish of North Cerney, on March 25th. He pleaded not guilty. – P.C. Hands said at 10.30 a.m. he found defendant asleep in a furniture van. Other conveyances had to turn clean off the road, and defendant narrowly missed knocking down a wall. – Fined 10s., to include costs. The **Citizen 08-04-1907.**

-Harry SMITH, 24 Bright Street for being quarrelsome and disorderly at The New Inn, Stratton on July 1st. Fined 3s & 7s costs. **Swindon Advertiser 19-07-1907.**

-Frank MOULDEN, of 136 Chapel Street backs, for leaving a horse and cart for 25 minutes in Chapel Street. 3s 6d costs. **Swindon Advertiser 08-11-1907.**

-Henry E ROSE, 117 Beatrice Street for being drunk on Tow Path on 23rd. 4s costs. **Swindon Advertiser 29-11-1907.**

1908 – Arthur NEW, Harold SMITH, Arthur CANCELL, Frank MORGAN, Harry MOLDEN, Richard BARBER and Clarence FREEGARD for playing 'Banker' on March 14th. All to pay 3s 6d costs. **Swindon Advertiser 27-03-1908.**

-Ernest H HAYWARD, 60 Cricklade Road, for allowing a chimney fire 3s 6d costs. **Swindon Advertiser 27-03-1908.**

-Henry LOVE, 53 Hinton Street for keeping a dog without a licence. 6s 6d costs. **Swindon Advertiser 27-03-1908.**

-William PERRY, 139 Beatrice Street 4s 3d & George SCAMMELL, 140 Chapel Street backs, 3s 1d, for allowing chimney fire. **Swindon Advertiser 27-03-1908.**

-Esther SMITH of 3 Edinburgh Street applied for separation order from Walter SMITH of 16 Argyle Street. Married 9 years with 2 children, separation due to husband beating wife. Awarded 9s per week, and 10s 6d costs Swindon Advertiser 10-04-1908.

-Beatrice RUDDLE of 52 Bright Street applied for affiliation order against John William DUNN, apprentice fitter of 96 Beatrice Street. 3s 6d per week and £1 0s 6d costs. **Swindon Advertiser 10-04-1908**

-Lily CASTLE, 11, of 86 Bright Street for stealing a half-crown the property of John NEW of 87 Bright Street. Bound over for 3 months and father to pay 5s costs. **Swindon Advertiser 18-09-1908.**

-David JENKINS, Frederick BARNES and Knightly PEARSON, boys of Gorse Hill for wilful damage to Hay rick and chasing a horse the property of Arthur W Burson of Bath Road. Fined 1s and 3s costs each. **Swindon Advertiser 18-09-1908.**

1909 – Edward G COTTRELL, 17, of 133 Chapel Street backs, charged with improper behaviour. P.C. Farr spoke of previous complaints. Mother did not think prisoner was responsible for his actions. Re-manded for one week for medical examination. **Swindon Advertiser 14-05-1909.**

-Agnes SAVILLE, 71 Hinton Street, charged with neglecting her 3 children. RSPCA brought the case. The issue was drink, the case was adjourned for 6 weeks and defendant was advised to keep off the drink. **Swindon Advertiser 22-10-1909.**

-Lydia TOPP (formerly HARRIS) of 256 Cricklade Road in debt to £13 7s 11d. Agreed to pay off at 12s 6d per month. **Swindon Advertiser 22-10-1909.**

1910- Samuel Ernest TOPP of 256 Cricklade Road, for non-attendance of son at school, kept home to help mother with business. Fined 5s and costs. **Swindon Advertiser 01-10-1910.**

1911 – John Emmanuel PEARSON of 169 Beatrice Street, was so outraged at the refusal of Lily Baker to continue "walking out" with him that he knocked her down and hit her on the face and head, causing her to bleed and leaving several bruises. He was sent down for one month's hard labour as he had been previously convicted. **Citizen 13-06-1911.**

1912 – Francis James LEWIS of 64 Beatrice Street, was fined 5s and 4s costs for committing an act of indecency in a back road. **Citizen 12-11-1912.**

1920 – Stow Police Court – Thomas Henry KEMBREY, of Gorse Hill, pleaded guilty to playing a game of Crown and Anchor at the Stow Sports Club on June 7th, but said it was a fair game, and was played in the Army all over the world. – The Chairman said as defendant had been put to great expense in coming to attend the court, he would be fined only 5s. He must, however, understand that games of chance will not be allowed. **Cheltenham Chronicle and Gloucestershire Graphic 03-07-1920.**

1928 – DRUNK AT MOP – at Cirencester Police Court, on Tuesday (before Mr W Ormond), Thomas William BAKER (35) a Waterworks worker, of Gorse Hill, was charged with being drunk at Cirencester, on Monday night. Baker, who had visited the Mop, was found hopelessly drunk in Black Jack Street, and had to be conveyed to the

police station on a hand truck by P.S. Smith and P.C. Pendry. BAKER who is a single man, pleaded guilty, and said he did not remember anything about it. He was fined 2s 6d and was advised to leave the intoxicants alone.

Cheltenham Chronicle and Gloucestershire Graphic 20-10-1928.

1934 - William JONES, 145 Chapel Street, for driving an unlicensed motor car at Langford on 28th April and no insurance. Fined £9 and costs. **North Wilts Advertiser 01-06-1934.**

1943 – Mrs. Evelyn Ruth BUTLER, 30, Bright Street Gorse Hill, 3 months hard labour for stealing a dress, value £2 3s 6d, from John Lewis, Oxford Street, London, also for stealing a second dress from the same shop and one from Selfridges to be taken into consideration, The **Western Daily Press 26-03-1943.**

1944 – MOTHER SENT TO GAOL IN GLO'STER. – For neglecting her five children in a manner likely to cause them unnecessary suffering and injury to health, Rita CARTER (33), of 4 Hinton Street, Gorse Hill, Swindon and formerly of 77 Great Western Road, Gloucester was at Gloucester City Police Court on Tuesday sentenced to six months imprisonment. The children ranged in age from eight months to ten years, were now being cared for by the Social Welfare Authorities. Carter was living apart from her husband who paid her £3 5s per week. The **Citizen 8-11-1944.**

1948 – Failure to conform to a “No Entry” sign, led to a fine of 10s against Alfred John PLATT a van driver, of 46 Whiteman Street, Gorse Hill. He was stated to have struck a stationary car in The Strand, Cheltenham. The **Gloucester Echo 23-8-1948.**

1949 – Maintenance Arrears – Ada Irene PICKERNELL, 59 Hopewell Street, Gloucester, summoned her husband John H. PICKERNELL of 32 Whiteman Street, Gorse Hill, Swindon for £129 arrears of maintenance. A suspended order for committal to prison for three months was made against the husband, the execution to be stayed for three weeks. The proviso was added that if the amount of the original order, plus 10/- per week were paid, the order would not be executed. The **Citizen 11-2-1949.**

1962 - Four safes were blown open when raiders struck at South Western Gas Board Offices in Chapel Street, Gorse Hill. They also forced open a strong room, and the total haul came to nearly £100. The thieves made their getaway in a gas board van which was later found abandoned. Police officers said clothing and books had been packed around the safes to muffle the sounds of the blasts. **Swindon Advertiser, 21 June 1962**