



Local Events

Wilton Parish

January 16 1841 – The Great Flood

Salisbury Plain

Saturday evening many villages on Salisbury Plain were visited with a sudden and alarming flood, occasioned by a rapid thaw, by rain, and by the frosted state of the ground over which the water passed, without much of it being able to penetrate the surface. At Shrewton thirty six houses had been washed away, and three lives lost, a man, a boy and a girl. At Wylve, not many houses, but one life. At Stoke, about thirty houses. At Tilshead, seven houses. At Chitterne, two entirely, two partially. Lower down in the stream of the flood the consequences have probably been still more disastrous than those above mentioned. The whole mass of waters bursting up stout bridges in its course, and receiving every mile large additions to its bulk, must have passed by Wilton and Salisbury, but the valleys are there broad, and therefore lives may not have been endangered. Few villages on the plain can have escaped altogether.

Morning Chronicle, 21 January 1841