



The Western Gazette

1900-1949

- 1901 **The Development of Salisbury Plain**
In the course of an application at the Pewsey Brewster Session for a provisional license for a new hotel at Ludgershall, it was mentioned as showing the great increase which had taken place through the military occupation of Salisbury Plain, that in July 1901, the number of persons booked to Ludgershall was 4,900, exclusive of the military, as against 1,050 in the corresponding period of the previous year. The total number of troops and Volunteers who had been at Ludgershall since May in this year was 14,000. The general manager of the Midland and South-Western Junction Railway stated that his company would be shortly erecting a new station there to cope with the great increase of traffic.
Western Gazette 06 September 1901
- 1903 **Deaths from Suffocation**
A strange death has befallen a middle aged man named Josiah Muspratt and an unknown woman with whom he lived at Ludgershall Wiltshire. They occupied a shepherd's hut and before retiring to rest they made a coal fire in a bucket, commonly known as a devil fire. They were found dead next morning without any signs of a struggle, and medical evidence at the inquest on Tuesday showed death was due to suffocation from sulphur fumes, there being no ventilation to the hut.
Cheltenham Chronicle 17 January 1903
- Tragic Death**
Mr Henry Norris Berry, a well-known agriculturist, of Ludgershall, met his death in a tragic manner on Wednesday afternoon. He was in his usual heath when he rode off to the harvest field, but subsequently he was found dead, having either been thrown or fallen from the saddle. His face and head were badly bruised. Deceased was a prominent local Liberal and a member of the Wilts County Council.
Western Gazette 04 September 1903
- 1904 **Boot Dealer's Failure**
The creditors of William Thomas Hill, boot and shoe dealer, of No 19, Winchester-street, Ludgershall, held their first meeting at Salisbury on Saturday. The statement of affairs submitted by the debtor shewed gross liabilities amounting to £335 5s 11d, of which all but £5 is expected to rank for dividend. The assets are estimated to produce £50 13s 3d, leaving a deficiency of £279 12s 8d. Debtor attributed his failure to "having to make large payments under a deed of assignment, executed in February 1901."
Western Gazette 22 January 1904
- 1906 **Ludgershall Petty Sessions**
George White, Jack King, and Harry Bowles, navvies, hailing from Tin Town, near Ludgershall, were charged with being drunk on licensed premises. PS Abel stated that he, in company with PC Philpott, visited the Bishop Blaize Inn, New-street, Andover, and there saw the three prisoners. They were all drunk, so they were taken into custody and locked up. PC Philpott corroborated. Superintendent Bowles said that when prisoners were brought to the Police Station shortly after eight o'clock they were drunk. Prisoners now admitted they were lively, but were not helplessly drunk. The justices imposed a fine of 5s on each prisoner, or in default, seven day's imprisonment. They went to gaol.
Western Gazette 09 February 1906
- 1907 **Ludgershall Petty Sessions**
Edward Fox, a labourer, of Ludgershall, was summoned for being drunk and disorderly in Winchester-street. The defendant did not appear. A fine of 10s was imposed with the alternative of seven days.
- A Paternity Case.**
At Ludgershall Petty Sessions on Friday, Frank Ernest Brown, a butcher, of Martock, was summoned to show cause why he should not contribute towards the maintenance of the illegitimate child of Elizabeth Andrews, of Ludgershall. Mr T E Longman, of Andover appeared on behalf of the complainant. The defendant did not appear. Mr Longman stated that he did not anticipate the attendance of the defendant as they had received a postcard from Yeovil stating "Off to Liverpool for Australia." The complainant said she kept company with the defendant for some time he then being a butcher in Ludgershall. The child was born on October 14th and defendant was the father. She had received various letters from the defendant promising marriage and offering to provide for her and the child. After hearing extracts read from these letters the magistrates said they were satisfied and made an order for 2s 6d a week until the child attains the age of 13, and for the payment of 30s confinement expenses.
Western Gazette 06 December 1907
- 1908 **Devizes Petty Sessions**
Tom Burton, driver, in the employ of Messrs Simmonds, brewers of Reading, and who lives at Ludgershall, was summoned for driving his car at 30 miles an hour. There was no previous conviction and a fine of £2 and 10s costs were inflicted.
Western Gazette 28 August 1908

1909 Ludgershall Petty Sessions
Albert McDowell, of Ludgershall, was summoned for the non-payment of the poor rate, amounting to £1 10s, and also the lighting rate, 2s. Defendant said it was not a case of refusing to pay; it was not being able to pay. A fortnight was given to the defendant to pay, otherwise a distress warrant will be enforced.
Western Gazette 07 May 1909

Ludgershall Petty Sessions

Charles Lansley was summoned for assaulting Robert G Miller, at Ludgershall. Complainant, living at Tidworth, said he was coming out of the Queen's Head and the defendant came up and said he was going to throw him in the pond. With that he hit witness on the jaw and knocked him down several times. A man standing behind kicked him in the back. Defendant was bound over to keep the peace for six months and ordered to pay the costs, 9s.

William Lansley was also summoned for assaulting Maurice Fitzgerald at Ludgershall. The Clerk said Fitzgerald had written to the police from Walworth, stating he could not afford his fare to Ludgershall. PC Hosey said he heard several shout out "In the pond with him (meaning Fitzgerald). He saw William Lansley leave go of Fitzgerald, whom witness went to pick up, and someone knocked off his helmet. The crowd closed in on witness in order to prevent him getting Fitzgerald up, and he called on the military police for assistance, which they rendered.

Defendant, in defence, said he left the Queen's Head at five minutes to ten and when near the Crown he heard the fighting going on. He walked back, and while there PC Hosey came and told him to go home. Witness told him he had nothing to go home for, as he was not in the row. Defendant called George Easton, who said they were all in the Queen on this particular night drinking together, and he and Lansley went away and stood "jawing" near the Crown. When they heard the row near the Queen, they walked back and stood near White's yard until the military police came and charged the crowd back.

The Chairman said the police were right in bringing this case forward, for there seemed very grave disorder, but there appeared to be a doubt in the case, and the defendant would have the benefit of it.
Western Gazette 05 November 1909

1915 Diversion of the Churchyard Path.
The Rector, the Rev H C W Byrde, and the Churchwardens having made an application to the Rural District Council asking the latter body to facilitate the diversion of the path leading through the parish churchyard, the Council agreed, subject to the applicants undertaking to recompense them for any expenses they were put to in the matter. This the Rector and Churchwardens undertook to do, and at the meeting of the District Council on Monday, at Pewsey, the Clerk presented a formal agreement between the Council on the one part and the Rector and Churchwardens on the other, in which the latter formally undertook to bear any costs the Council was subjected to in connection with the presentation of the petition to the Court of Quarter Sessions for notification. The Chairman was authorised to sign the agreement on behalf of the District Council. The application will be made in the ordinary course at the Quarter Sessions at Marlborough in October.

The Overseers' Difficulties.

At the last meeting of the Board of Guardians and Rural District Council at Pewsey, Mr J J May initiated a strong complaint against the overseers of Ludgershall in consequence of the calls for the parish due on the 1st June and the 1st July not having been paid in by the date, while the Union and District Council accounts at the bank combined showed that they were overdrawn. The Clerk was instructed to write to the Overseers urging that the amounts due should be paid in at once. At the meeting of the Council, on Monday, a letter was received from the Overseers (Mr W H G Wigley and Mr F Grace) acknowledging the receipt of the Clerk's letter and stating that the call due on the 1st June was paid in on the previous Monday and that due on the 1st July would be paid in within a day or two.

While writing on the subject, the Overseers said they might explain that practically all the resident ratepayers had paid their rates, which included some of the largest, who could only be reached by post. They had been written to, but had not paid the amounts due. Ludgershall was in many respects different to many of the other parishes in the Union in this respect. It seemed to the Overseers that to be able to meet the demands of the Union and Rural District Council at the specified times, it would be necessary for the Overseers to keep a larger balance in hand. They put it to the authorities whether the Auditor would allow of that.

The Chairman, Mr F Stratton, said the Overseers could hardly expect the Council to advise them; all they could say was that they must have the money. The Clerk said the Overseers should keep a working balance in hand in the same way that the Guardians did. The Chairman said they could only reply to the effect that they were unable to advise whether the auditor would allow the Overseers to keep a sufficient balance, but the guardians and the Rural District Council were bound to have the money in order to meet the county calls. With regard to the Overseers' reference to the absentee ratepayers, the Chairman said that as a rule the larger ratepayers paid the more promptly. It was decided to reply on the lines suggested by the Chairman.
Western Gazette 30 July 1915

1926 Andover Village League - Final - Ludgershall Sports Club defeat Longparish
This annual event, played on the Sports Ground, on Thursday and Friday evenings, created, as usual, great interest. The contestants this year were Ludgershall Sports Club (holders) and Longparish, and the former, having the good luck to win the toss, put together 150 in their first innings. Longparish could only reply with 79. On a second knock, Ludgershall did not do so well, and were dismissed for 105. Wanting 177 to win, Longparish knocked off the odd 77 on Thursday evening for the loss of three wickets, but although they made a plucky effort on Friday evening, the task of getting the other hundred was too much for them and they were eventually beaten by 40 runs. Each of the contestants has won the cup twice in succession since the war.
Western Gazette 20 August 1926

- 1933 Motor-coach Parties
The Traffic Commissioners for the Southern Area prosecuted several West Country firms of motor-coach proprietors at Bournemouth on Tuesday for breaches of the regulations under Section 72 of the Road Traffic Act 1930, the allegation being that parties of people were conveyed without special road service licenses having first been obtained. The Wilts and Dorset Co. were summoned for the use of four coaches on the same date in respect of a journey from Ludgershall to Bournemouth, on the occasion of the annual outing of the Ludgershall Mission Hall Women's Social Hour and Sunday School. Each of the adults paid 5s into a special fund for the outing and the children were taken free. The total number in the party was 93. Finding that this case was slightly different to the last, the Bench dealt it with under the Probation of Offenders' Act and ordered defendants to pay the cost.
Western Gazette 06 October 1933
- 1949 Ecclesiastical Intelligence
The Bishop of Sherborne (the Right Rev Maurice Key) on Friday instituted and inducted the Rev Dr F C Oliver to the benefice of Ludgershall in succession to the Rev R S Miller, who has recently been appointed to the living of Canford Magna, Dorset.
Western Gazette 18 March 1949