



# Crime and Punishment

## *Wilsford Cum Lake*

### **Stealing a Purse**

George Marchant, George Flower, and Albert Matthews were charged with stealing at Wylde on March 24th, 2s 3d and a purse from Joseph Martin. – Mr Ravenhill prosecuted.

Prosecutor, an aged labourer, of Lake, went to Wylde in search of a bit of business. At the Swan Inn, Wylde, he tried to get a bed, but failed. Had some refreshments, and then saw the prisoners in the house. They heard he was going to Salisbury. They took advantage of him, and when he left to go to the station he got into the wrong road. Turning back prisoners threw him down; he hurt his poor arm, and Marchant knelt on his poor chest. Matthews took the purse from his pocket, containing four sixpences and a fourpenny bit. The fellows then went away, and he told the police at Wylde, and Police-constable Cook went after the prisoners, whom he found in the tap of the George Inn, at Longbridge Deverill, ten miles from the scene of the robbery.

Merchant was sentenced to fifteen, Flower, who was also an old offender, to twelve, and Matthews to nine months with hard labour.

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