

Broad Chalke

Not Good Neighbours

“A Virago:- On Tuesday, John Lush, labourer of Broad Chalke, was summoned for an alleged assault on an old woman, Eliza Coombs, in the same parish. The complainant, who was a most loquacious and fiery-tempered person, stated that she and the defendant’s wife had frequently quarrelled, and that on Friday the 19th instant, she had a row with the defendant, who struck her several times on the head, pulled her down with her hair, and kicked her several times. She then called her daughter, who corroborated her statement. The defendant said that Mrs Coombs had been for some time in the habit of abusing him, and she boasted that she was able to thresh any man in the parish. He then called Mr Randall, a highly respectable farmer of Broad Chalke, who deposed to witnessing the whole of the transaction. He stated that the woman abused Lush until the man could bear her foul language no longer, and he pulled her by the hair into the bank. The Bench, considering that the defendant had received some provocation, ordered him to pay the costs of the hearing: at the same time they severely censured his assaulting the woman.”

Source: Report from the Wiltshire County Petty Sessions in the Hampshire Advertiser & Salisbury Guardian of Saturday, December 27, 1851; pg. 5