

ISLE OF WIGHT TIMES Thursday 21st March 1866.

THE OLD TOWN BEADLE

Mr. **Nathaniel ASHFORD**, well-known to every individual in the town, and who was formerly Beadle under the old Board of Commissioners, has been gathered to his Father's at the ripe age of 84. All who were boys at the period when the deceased flourished in all the glory of "Bumbledom", will not readily forget his imposing figure or the terrors in which he was held. 25 years ago ASHFORD was the only paid constable in the place and it is not therefore surprising that a vast amount of importance was attached to his office, which was abolished on the passing of the Town Act of 1854. Since then poor ASHFORD has not been the same man, and although appointed to market-keeper, never appeared to like his situation; but as the Board could never make up their minds to discharge him, the old gentleman was allowed to do pretty much as he liked. Upon the whole he was a harmless man, and even in his palmy days never exercised his power over juveniles with undue severity.

Researched by Ann Barrett