

GRAVE OF THE MONTH

George Deane – Police Superintendent (1806-1873)



George Deane began his career in the Police Force as a **Constable** in his home town of Shinfield and was promoted to **Sergeant** in the Reading Constabulary in 1836. He was appointed **Superintendent** of the Night Police in Newbury in June 1840.

In 1856 he replaced the retiring **Gaoler** of the Newbury Borough prison and his wife, Susannah, became Matron. She was described as “a good soul and extremely kind”.* They lived on the premises in Cheap Street.

George took over the administration of the Police Superannuation Fund and was rewarded with half a guinea extra in his pay packet, which came in very handy for looking after his growing family.

By 1861 he was **Chief Superintendent of Police** in Newbury. He was also in charge of the town Fire Brigade and Inspector of Weights and Measures. A very busy man!

In 1870, on the 30th anniversary of his arrival in the town, he was presented with a silver teapot by the inhabitants of Newbury along with a purse containing £10 4s 3d (about four times his weekly wage). He was praised for “the zealous performance of his duty” and acknowledged as a man who was “not influenced by fear, favour or intimidation”. In fact, it was stated that “no Superintendent in the County of Berks had been more vigilant, or detected more horse stealers, sheep dealers, or bona fide rogues”.*

After being ill for nearly two years, followed by a more serious illness of four months, George became house-bound and died at the age of 67. Susannah died in 1896, twenty-three years after George. It was reported that she was survived by five of their children, six of their grand-children and seven of their great-grand-children.* Their grave, nestled within the wild flowers, is barely readable, but (if you look very, very closely) you can just make out the name George.



More information is available on our website: www.fnrcnewbury.org.uk
and in the Newbury Weekly News archive (28.8.1873; 9.7.1896)*