

**RBA visit 4.3.26 Document reference: D/EEL/E16**

Outer: April 29. 1839  
E Berens  
[pencil] A Rev Berens was vicar of Shrivenham  
Solicitor Highworth

Shrivenham Ap 29. 1839

Dear Sir

As I understand that you are to hold a Court at the Barrington Arms on Thursday next, I trust that you will not think me troublesome or officious if I take the liberty of calling your attention to a subject of much consequence to the good-order and comfort of the Parish, viz – the appointment of constables. The bad state of health under which your lamented father suffered for some years previous to his decease, of course, precluded his attendance at this Court, and Mr Hartley was necessarily unacquainted with the person who was proposed to him for the office. The consequence was that most unfit appointments were frequently made. Repeatedly men far advanced in years have come to me to be sworn in. Not long ago Mr Collins (whom you probably know) a very respectable farmer at Bourton and above eighty years of age was appointed to this office. This year I am informed they have at Bourton no Constable at all, but Mr Keyte of Bourton Wharf, who is I believe much above seventy was named as Tything man. He ?runs the office by proxy. I am aware that these appointments are made at the Michaelmas Court, but perhaps you may be able to supply the deficiency which (if my information is correct) exists in Bourton,

Very faithfully yours  
E Berens.

and perhaps we may wish for a little change at Shrevenham. All that I would request is that on such occasions you, as judge of the Court, would have the goodness to ask a few questions respecting the age, circumstances and general fitness of the person named, for the important and responsible, though troublesome office to which I have alluded.

There is another subject which I wish to mention to you. I am about to make a little purchase in Longcot, a small fraction of which is Copyhold, which will probably be surrendered to me on Thursday. All the deeds relating to this property had been for some time in the hands of Mr Harries of Faringdon and peculiar circumstances induced me to leave the whole business to him. I have to beg however that you will not consider this as in the slightest degree a token of withdrawal of confidence from your house, - a house with which I have been so long connected. As I have already <sup>hinted</sup> circumstances of a peculiar nature have in this instance induced me to leave the business in the hands in which I found it.

May I beg you, to present my best compliments to Mr Crowdy and your sisters and to believe me to be

Dear Sir

Very faithfully yours

E Berens.