

GET INVOLVED!

Datchet Village Society events 2019

1 MAY AGM Discover Stone-Age Datchet

This year's Annual General Meeting will include a presentation about the excavations at Riding Court, followed by drinks and nibbles. There is no charge and everyone is welcome.

SPRING Wildlife Walk

Plans are afoot to organise a nature walk for DVS members with new local group Wild About Datchet.

JUNE Brooklands Museum

We're hoping to organise a special members' visit to Brooklands to learn more about Tommy Sopwith and his links with Datchet.

30 JUNE Evelyn Ellis Journey

Come and see the DVS display about Victorian Datchet when the veteran cars return to the village.

28 AUGUST Frogmore House

We've booked a special visit for members. Numbers are limited so please book early.

WINTER Maps and photos

A special display of historic maps and photographs of Datchet.

Details of all our visits and activities, and photos of previous events, can be found on our website:

www.datchetvillagesociety.org.uk



DID YOU KNOW...?

Find out more about your village

◆ 'Datchet' as a place name is very old indeed. It derives from the Celtic language spoken across Britain by the late Iron Age.



◆ In 1895, Evelyn Ellis made the first recorded journey by a motor car on English roads when he drove his Panhard Levassor from Micheldever to his home in Datchet.

◆ In early 1911, aviation pioneer Tommy Sopwith made two spectacular flying visits to Datchet, one to see his family here and another on his way to visit the royal family at Windsor Castle. On both visits, he landed his bi-plane on the Golf Course.



◆ Famous astronomers William and Caroline Herschel stayed at the Royal Stag on their first night in Datchet and lived in the village for four years.

◆ The greens are more recent than many of the buildings around them. They were created when the watercourse which ran through the centre of the village was culverted.

◆ Datchet has been a commuter village since at least the 1850s when the railway was first built.



To find out more, visit: www.datchethistory.org.uk and www.datchetvillagesociety.org.uk



Datchet Village Society

Stone-Age Datchet



WESSEX ARCHAEOLOGY

Did you know that people have been living in this area since the end of the last Ice Age?

Archaeological remains dating back 12,000 years have been found at Riding Court Farm. One of the most exciting discoveries is a huge Stone-Age circular enclosure of national importance, part of which is shown in the photo, above.

Excavations are revealing the hidden secrets of this monument, including what is thought to be a Stone-Age house, as well as fascinating finds of pottery, tools, and a rare antler comb.

FREE EVENT: Come along and find out more Datchet Village Society has invited Wessex Archaeology to tell us more about their exciting discoveries on Wednesday 1 May, 7.30pm, at St Mary's Primary Academy. Everyone welcome. ►

WHAT IS THE DVS?

Datchet Village Society was formed in 1995 to help preserve the special character of Datchet and to encourage interest in its history and environment. The focus is primarily on Datchet but also includes its locality and historical connections.

To get in touch, email:
info@datchetvillagesociety.org.uk

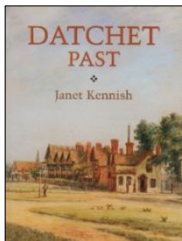
WHAT DO WE DO?

Promote local history



The DVS organises talks and guided walks, exhibitions and visits to local places of interest for members.

Publish books, leaflets and cards



Janet Kennish, DVS chair and author of *Datchet Past*, has spent more than 20 years researching the history of the village and its residents. We publish a range of Datchet-related books, written by Janet, as well as booklets, leaflets, guides and greetings cards which are available year-round at The Bridge café.

Support village events



We're always at local events, such as the Fete and Christmas fair, with DVS books, leaflets and cards, and often a special display or exhibition, too.

Assist with research

The Society is the first port of call for anyone wanting to learn about the history of Datchet or their family here. We also help members discover the history of their own houses.

Contribute to archaeological discoveries



We like to get hands-on too. Many members were involved in investigating cropmarks seen in aerial photos of Southlea. Field walking produced some remarkable finds ranging from the Neolithic, Bronze and Iron Ages to the Roman period. We returned to the site late last year to learn more about the excavations which were taking place prior to development of the new River Thames Scheme.

Monitor planning



The Society monitors local planning policy, conservation and development issues, and takes a special interest in historic and heritage buildings and monuments. Our research is proving invaluable for others too; we have produced reports for Datchet Parish Council on the history of the milestone and the Cemetery Chapel. The DVS is also assisting with the development of Datchet's Neighbourhood Plan.

Add to local knowledge



We're always looking out for anything related to Datchet's history. Last year, we discovered two lovely small watercolours, the earliest pictures of the village yet known, and a Victorian Jubilee medal, which we purchased for the village.

Keep a photographic record



We have an extensive collection of historic photographs and archive material, and we record images of current events for future generations.

Research the history of Datchet in WWI



As part of the DVS War Memorial Project, we've been researching Datchet in WWI and the stories of the 54 soldiers remembered on the memorial. As a result of this work, a new stone has been added in memory of 11 soldiers whose names were omitted.

Encourage interest in our environment

Late last year we organised a talk about the wildlife of the Jubilee River and we hope to have more events related to local wildlife and the environment in the coming months.

Join us today!

New members are always welcome. For details, please see the 'Join us' section of our website

www.datchetvillagesociety.org.uk