

WINTER 2020

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# NEWSLETTER

Datchet Riverside, Adrian Giddins

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We hope this newsletter finds you and your family in good health, coping with all the changes this pandemic brings to our lives.

Like many societies, we have had to abandon plans to hold an AGM this year. This is when members would normally vote in the committee and approve the society's accounts. As it has not been possible, we have circulated our draft accounts and the present committee has confirmed they are happy to remain in office. If you have any questions about this, please do get in touch.

Meanwhile, we hope that you are finding our longer newsletters of interest and that they are helping to fill the gap left by the absence of DVS events, talks and visits. In this issue, there are details of an interesting heritage project which you might like to be involved with, and the opportunity to say what you think about our important local green spaces.

At this time of year, we would normally be making preparations for a DVS Christmas event, looking forward to an enjoyable evening with members, chatting over a glass of wine and a mince pie. Instead, we look forward to the time when we can all get together again and wish you and your family a happy and peaceful Christmas.

*Your DVS Committee*


Email: info@datchetvillagesociety.org.uk

**www.datchetvillagesociety.org.uk**








## SURPRISE DONATIONS TO THE DVS ARCHIVES

Earlier this year, we reported that we'd been given a photo album which had belonged to Datchet resident Gwen Brady. It came to us via her son-in-law's executor. Gwen Brady, née Ledsam, lived with her family at Swanmead on The Avenue, and continued to live there after her marriage in 1920 to Captain William AH Brady. They had two daughters Beryl (born 1925) and Georgina (born 1928).

DVS came across the Brady family when we were researching their friend, the Hon. Mrs Mary Cadogan who has a very unusual headstone in Ditton Road cemetery, a ruined stone column encircled by a snake atop a plinth with a carving of a lemur. Mary was an Olympic skater with an unusual taste in pets. She used to take her lemur, Georgie, with her when she went punting on the Thames. (The full, fascinating story is on the Datchet History website.)

In October, the executor got in touch again. He wanted to give DVS a trinket box which had belonged to the Bradys. It is engraved *'Cox, Single Sculling, P.A.R. Datchet Aug 1912'*. At first we thought it might be a prize awarded at a Parish Annual Regatta but we could find no reports in the local press. Instead, we discovered there had been a Private Annual Regatta in August 1912. Gwen's mother, Mary Gertrude Lennox Boyd Ledsam, had entertained friends and participants to tea afterwards at Swanmead.

The executor had another surprise for us. A sketch of Gwen's husband, Captain Brady (60cm x 25cm) *right*, and his cigarette case, *top*. The portrait is titled *Billy 1917* and signed HV. Inside the cigarette case is an engraving: *'Paul from Geordie. A memento of the "Barmore" Cruises, 1931 - 32 - 33 -34 - 35, Cruinneag II 1936 - 1937 - 1938 - 1939 - WAR'*, and a handwritten note *'Return to Mrs Brady, Swanmead, Datchet'*. The yacht, *Cruinneag II,* was built for a wealthy silk and textile importer from Glasgow. She was owned from 1936 by George M Campbell of Monkton but we haven't discovered the connection to the Bradys. (As for 'Paul' and 'Geordie', just to add to the confusion, we know the family had nicknames for each other.)

Tantalisingly, the executor has a locked deeds box which belonged to Captain Brady. When Brady retired from the Indian Army, he became a Parish Councillor so there may be documents inside of interest to DVS. The executor has found the combination to the lock but still can't get it to open. If he does, and finds anything of interest to DVS, he says he'll be in touch...









DATCHET

THE LATE MRS. LENNOX BOYD LEDSAM.

The death of Mrs. Lennox Boyd Ledsam, which occurred last Saturday morning, is very deeply deplored. The deceased lady had resided at Datchet for many years, and was held in the highest respect. Her heart was open to every charitable cause, and there are many who will miss her benevolence. She had been ailing for some considerable time, but had borne her suffering with great patience and fortitude. Almost the last time she was seen in public was on the occasion of the private regatta in August, when she kindly entertained those who took part, as well as friends, to tea at her residence, "Swanmead."

*Above from top: Datchet Regatta c1908 from the Brady photo album; the family home, Swanmead in The Avenue; report from Slough Eton & Windsor Observer, Nov 1912*



*Philip Tarrant, church organist and labourer, whose WWI medals were thought to be lost forever*



*Brian returned the WWI medals, papers and memorial plaque to Philip's family. His great-great-grandchildren were there to witness the 'tearful, joyous and emotional occasion'*





## A VERY SPECIAL FAMILY REUNION

You may have read in the local press recently, or heard on Swan Radio, a heart-warming story about how a WWI soldier's medals were returned to his family in Datchet.

In the spring newsletter, we reported that we'd been contacted by Brian Langston who had purchased the medals of a Datchet WWI soldier, Philip Tarrant, at a car boot sale in Datchet about 30 years ago. Since then, he moved to the South of France and it was only when he was clearing out some old trunks that he rediscovered the medals.

An internet search led Brian and his wife, Sharon, to the DVS website where they found it particularly poignant to see a photo of Philip and to read the moving extracts from his diaries.

Brian emailed DVS to ask if Philip Tarrant still had any family in Datchet. 'I am sure they would love to be reunited with the medals that he paid the ultimate sacrifice for', he said.

The DVS contacted Philip's family and learned that his widow had left the medals to their eldest son who had sold them. His granddaughter, Teresa Bruce, and her family had been searching for them for many years and had practically given up hope of ever finding them.

When Brian was finally able to visit Datchet, a 'Covid-secure' meeting was arranged beside the WWI memorial. Teresa, her husband Paul and their extended family, including Philip's great-great-grandchildren were there to meet Brian and Sharon and they enjoyed an impromptu, socially-distanced picnic.

'It was a very tearful, emotional and joyous occasion,' said Brian. 'Clearly the return of Philip's medals and papers meant a great deal to the family. I felt strangely close to Philip on the day and am pleased to have played a tiny part in helping to keep his legacy alive. Teresa bought me a lovely poppy brooch which I will wear with pride and think of Philip. Many thanks to DVS for their help in bringing this matter to a happy conclusion.'

# LOCAL HERITAGE

## LISTED BUILDINGS

Click here for photos of Datchet's Grade II listed buildings. They include:

**Around The Green:**
St Mary's Church, Old Council Offices, 1&2 Manor House, Manor Cottage and Manor Green Cottage, The Bridge, Royal Stag, Costa, War Memorial, Milestone.

**London Road:**
Church Cottage, Datchet House and wall.

**High Street:**
6 & 8 High Street, Goodwyn House, Hall House, Little Dene, St Helen's Cottage, Post House, Old Bridge House.

**Windsor Road:**
Datchet Lodge.

**Horton Road:**
The Lawn, Cedar House, 17, 17A and 19 (Astracot).

**Lawn Close:**
The Lawn Icehouse.

**Ditton Road:**
Cemetery Chapel and Lodge.

**Riding Court Road:**
Riding Court Farmhouse.

**Southlea Road:**
Wall at Southlea Farm.

**Ditton Park Road:**
Ditton Farmhouse, Granary and Barn; Ditton Manor (various structures), park and garden.



## HELP TO PROTECT OUR LOCAL HERITAGE

Datchet has some 37 buildings which are Grade II Listed by Historic England. These buildings are of *national* importance but Datchet's Neighbourhood Plan provides the opportunity to create a list of heritage assets which are of *local* importance – a Local List. These can be a site, monument, building, place (such as a street or cemetery), an area or landscape. They should be of value to this and future generations because of their heritage significance, for architectural, historic, archaeological or artistic reasons, for their association with important people or past events, or because they contribute positively to the character and appearance of the area.

Creating a Local List requires community involvement and lots of research to provide supporting evidence. Once a Local List is adopted by the planning authority, the value to the community of a heritage asset will be taken into account when considering planning proposals, helping to conserve and enhance local character and identity.

Subject to further consultation with the community and proprietors, initial suggestions for local listing have included: Montagu House (the library), the old St Mary's School buildings, the 1930s' garage by Mays Green, the Manor Hotel, the pharmacy frontage, the Greens and their monuments, and the WWI crucifix on London Road.

It is important to consider the less obvious, too. Local distinctiveness may lie in the commonplace, such as a letterbox, as much as it does in the rare and spectacular.

## WHICH BUILDINGS WOULD YOU ADD TO A LOCAL LIST?

To help kick-start the project, DVS members have been asked for their suggestions for locally-valued heritage assets. The DNP team is asking individual members to name three buildings, places, monuments or structures (not already Grade-II Listed) which you think contribute positively to the character and appearance of Datchet. You can do this, and comment on matters outlined in the following pages, in the latest DNP survey.

Click here to complete the survey.








## LOCAL GREEN SPACES

Which of Datchet's green spaces are "demonstrably special"? The Datchet Neighbourhood Plan (DNP) can designate green areas of particular importance to the local community as Local Green Spaces (LGS) to give them special protection against development. In order to meet the requirements of national planning policy, LGS must be demonstrably special to the local community, for their beauty, history, recreational value, tranquillity or wildlife, for example. They must be local in character, close to the community they serve; and not extensive tracts of land.

In consultation, residents have said they want to preserve and protect Datchet's beautiful green spaces which are key to the village's character and identity, ensuring local people have access to nature.

Based on this feedback, the DNP team has assessed the green spaces which are most important to residents, to determine whether they meet the criteria required by national planning policy. They are proposing that the following are designated as Local Green Spaces.

- The Recreation Ground.
- The Sabatini Land (alongside Horton Road).
- The Willowfields (at the back of the Recreation Ground).
- The Village Greens and The Cut (by Horton Road car park).
- The public Riverside Garden.

You can read the draft proposals and supporting evidence for designating these Local Green Spaces here on the DNP website.

There are other areas of local importance or environmental value in the village which have not been proposed for designation. This is because their status within the Green Belt already provides a significant level of protection which would not be added to by designation as a Local Green Space, or because they do not fulfil the required criteria.

### HAVE YOUR SAY

There is a DNP survey where you can comment on these proposed LGS, heritage assets and various matters outlined on the following pages.
Click here to complete the survey.

### WHAT PROTECTION DOES LOCAL GREEN SPACE DESIGNATION PROVIDE?

It is a formal record of the importance of an area to the local community. LGS have similar protection to Green Belt land. This doesn't mean that they can't be developed but any development should be 'appropriate'. Appropriate development on Green Belt land might include, for example, the provision of suitable facilities for outdoor sport and outdoor recreation; the extension or alteration of a building provided that it does not result in disproportionate additions over and above the size of the original building; or the replacement of a building, provided the new building is in the same use and not materially larger than the one it replaces. While Datchet's green spaces may not be in immediate danger, LGS designation will help to protect these special spaces from being sold off for inappropriate development.

# NEIGHBOURHOOD PLANNING

DATCHET NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

## AIR POLLUTION

Friends of the Earth monitoring kits were used last year to measure pollution levels around the village. This was part of DNP's investigations into key pedestrian movement routes and how they might be enhanced. They recorded a high reading on The Green so, with the support of the Parish Council, RBWM were asked to install additional pollution monitors near The Bridge and in the High Street in mid-2019. The most recent annual air quality report shows that the monitor near The Bridge registered an average of 43µg/$m^3$ Nitrogen Dioxide ($NO_2$) with the highest reading of 53.8µg/$m^3$. This is above the EU legal limit for $NO_2$ pollution of an annual mean of 40µg/$m^3$**.** This is not a planning issue, so the DNP cannot address this directly. They have passed on these findings to the Parish Council.



## ARE YOU LOOKING TO DOWNSIZE?

We have been asked whether DVS members might be interested to discuss downsizing with the Datchet Neighbourhood Plan team.
After investigating housing issues with residents and estate agents and looking at the census data, the DNP team has highlighted a potential need for more downsizing properties in the village.
A third of households in the village consist of one person of retirement age or a couple with no dependent children. The proportion of two- and three-bed homes - the size which tends to be sought by downsizers - is relatively low, whereas the proportion of four-bedroom houses is high. This suggests that if suitable downsizing units were available in the village, people living in large houses might be more inclined to move, freeing up family houses which are most in demand.
The DNP team is planning to run some focus groups on Zoom to investigate the specific features which downsizers are looking for.
If you would like to participate, you can let them know in their latest survey.

## PLAY AREAS

RBWM's Borough Local Plan is being examined by the government's planning inspector. This will determine, among other things, whether a site known as AL39 (formerly HA42, between London Road and the M4) can be taken out of the Green Belt and used for housing.
One of the planning requirements for this development is the provision of a play area and allotments. There are already some very good play facilities at the Recreation Ground so, in their latest survey, the Neighbourhood Plan team is asking residents which play facilities Datchet needs so that they can investigate ways to support proposals to provide these.

## VERGES

A key characteristic of Datchet is the generous grass verges. The Neighbourhood Plan can request that new development includes roadside verges and that these are designed to discourage parking on them. On the Character Assessment walks the DNP team did with residents, several verges were identified for enhancement. In the DNP's latest survey, they are asking if there are specific verges which residents would like to see improved.

## WHAT'S IMPORTANT TO YOU?

You can comment on Local Green Spaces, heritage assets and the matters above, in the DNP survey.

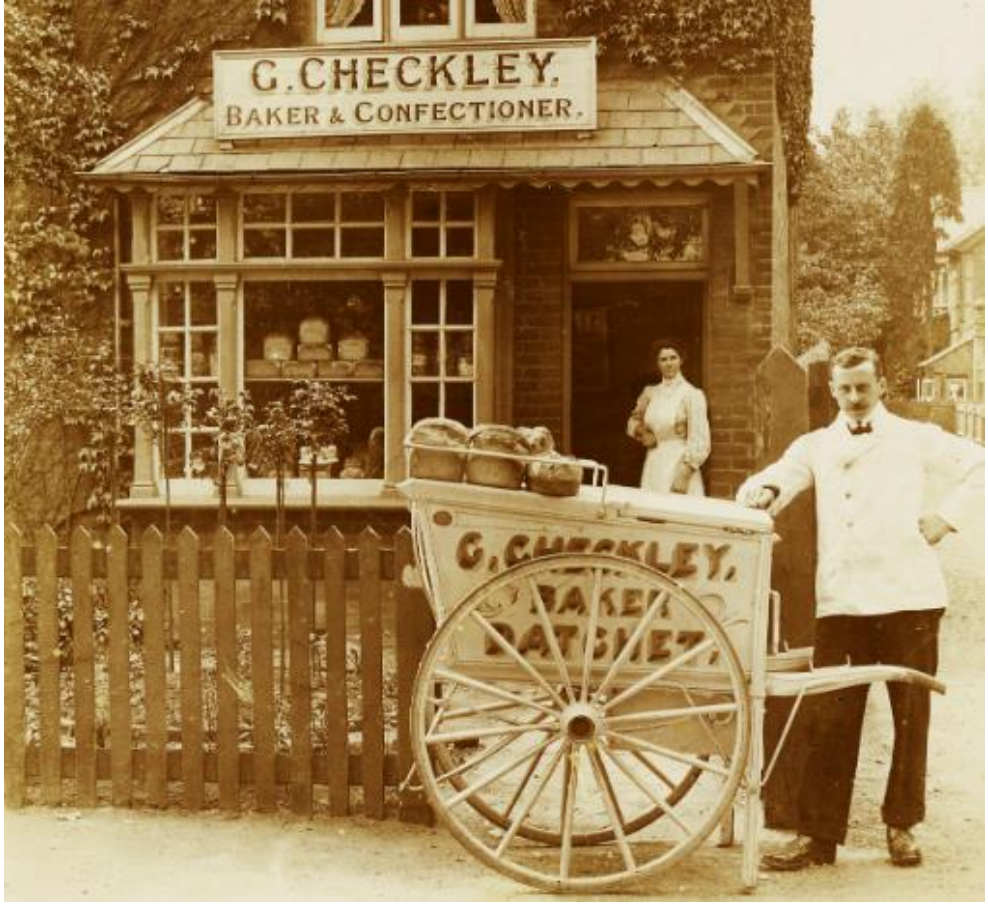
## MODEL VILLAGE

## OLD PHOTOGRAPHS

DVS is still holding out for a photograph of the model village. If you have one, or know someone who might have one, please let us know.
If you have any other old photos of the village which we could add to the DVS archive, we would be delighted to see them.

## DVS GALLERY

If you'd like to be reminded of some of the DVS events from recent years, visit the 'Gallery' section of the DVS website




## THE MODEL VILLAGE – AN UPDATE

In the summer newsletter, we were prompted to ask if anyone remembered the model village after receiving two letters asking if it was still here. Since then, we're delighted to have been sent some more information.
The model village was built by Fred Avis, a local signwriter, as an advertisement for his business. It was in a field near White's Lane, opposite the driveway to Fred's house and studio which were set back off Slough Road.
Stephen Neate who grew up in Datchet in the 1950s and '60s wrote to us from New Zealand. He remembered figures, maybe a soccer match, a row of houses and a cart with a large tree-trunk pulled by a horse. He thought the model was about 2m x 1.2m with a brick backdrop. It was semi-neglected, he said. It would have taken some looking after as it was set in grass and maybe Fred grew too old to care for it.'
Roger Hardy told us that he found the model village fascinating as a boy. He was evacuated to Datchet during WWII, to live with his Great Auntie Vi and Great Uncle George Checkley at their shop and bakery on Slough Road, *above*. 'As a small child, so much closer to the ground, the detail and the reality of the model allowed me to be part of its life,' he said.
After appealing for more information, we were delighted to receive a response from a DVS member who remembered Fred and his model village very well: 'It created great interest among we youngsters. In its heyday before WWII, I remember there being a water mill with a wheel that turned slowly, driven by electricity. Hence the brick-built cupboard backdrop. It all fell into disrepair during the war years and the plot returned to the Barkers at Riding Court Farm on Fred's death. I also remember the jars of sweets at the Checkley Shop, and buying sherbet dabs for a penny!'

## DATCHET CHARACTERS




*Samuel Osborn, **above**, lived at The Maisonette on The Avenue, **top centre**. With the help of Datchet's Parish Clerks, we discovered that Samuel's grave, **top right**, is in Ditton Road Cemetery*



*Samuel Osborn had also been Master of the Worshipful Society of Apothecaries. A stained-glass representation of his coat of arms is one of the many displayed in the windows of the Apothecaries Great Hall in London.*

Read more about Samuel Osborn on the Datchet History website





## SAMUEL AND STUART OSBORN

A few months ago, we wrote about Stuart Osborn, son of the surgeon and Datchet historian, Samuel Osborn (1848-1936). This followed an enquiry by a Canadian professor who sent us a copy of a postcard Samuel had written to his son Stuart during the Boer War. The professor asked if DVS knew why Samuel's obituaries made no reference to his son who was alive at the time, and whether we had any more information.

Since then, coincidentally, we've heard from a writer researching Samuel Osborn's work with St John Ambulance and the Red Cross. He requested permission to use some of the material on the DVS website about Samuel's daughter Judith who drove ambulances during WWI. He also shared with us an article from the *Windsor & Eton Express* which shed more light on the possible causes of a family rift.

We had discovered that Stuart married young, moved to London, became a civil servant, and was divorced a few years later. We speculated whether Samuel, a third-generation medic, might have been disappointed that his son Stuart didn't follow in his footsteps.

The newspaper article explained that Stuart had been private secretary to Earl Beauchamp earning £250 a year but was no longer employed by his lordship. He was subsequently employed as assistant secretary to the Government Hospitality Fund but was asked to resign in September 1911. In October 1911 at Windsor Bankruptcy Court, 21-year-old Stuart admitted owing £700, including £500 in loans, £27 for luncheons, £50 of betting debts, and £62 for clothes. The Court heard that he had married in July 1911 and moved to Portland Place, London, where he ran up large household debts.

During the case, the Official Receiver admonished Stuart for lolling in his chair, adding 'Perhaps the fact that you have to loll and are unable to sit up straight may have something to do with your resignation'.

Stuart told the court that took out the loans when he came of age and opened an account with one money-lender to pay off another. He stayed at hotels including the Savoy where he entertained friends. One supper bill amounted to £27 10s. He took up gambling, hoping to win enough money to pay off his debts but lost £250 betting on horses.

Unlike his father and sister who went to Bruges as soon as war broke out, Stuart didn't join up until 1916 but he acquitted himself well. He was a lieutenant with the Royal Garrison Artillery Special Reserve in Italy, was awarded the Military Cross and mentioned in despatches. He and his father are both remembered on Datchet's War Roll.

The researcher has kindly offered to share his work about Samuel Osborn's service in conflict zones when it is completed.



*A miniature by Caleb William Wing (1801-75) in the style of Jean Colombe, from a manuscript once owned by John Boykett Jarman*



## JOHN BOYKETT JARMAN

Datchet seems to attract more than its fair share of colourful characters and clever and ambitious rogues which makes researching its history all the more fascinating and rewarding.

One such character was John Boykett Jarman. His great-great-grandson, Marshall Hall from Lismore, NSW, Australia, got in touch with DVS to ask about Rosenau *(above)*, Jarman's country house in Datchet from the early 1840s until his death in 1864, at the age of 81.

Rosenau, on Southlea Road, is perhaps more familiar to DVS members as the home of the Hon. Evelyn Ellis who made the first recorded journey of a motorcar in England in 1895. But, as Janet Kennish discovered, its history goes back much further and its origins are likely to be late medieval. (Rosenau has since been rebuilt as Woollacoombe.)

### Controversy in the art world

Jarman was a wealthy goldsmith, jeweller and art dealer in Mayfair. He collected illuminated manuscripts, ancient stained glass, portraits, miniatures, pictures, weapons, clocks and various other *objets d'art*.

A few months after his death, Jarman's collection went under the hammer at Sotheby's, causing controversy in the art world.

There was nothing in the sale catalogue to suggest it was anything unusual, apart from an occasional hint of damage by water. The truth was somewhat different. In 1846, there had been an unusually violent storm in London. Enormous hailstones shattered windows and roofs. Torrential rain fell for hours and Jarman's London house was flooded. He was away at the time and returned home some days later to find his valuable collection, secured in tin boxes on the floor, had been soaking in dirty water.

***'A dapper, ferret-eyed little man, dressed summer and winter in a black swallow-tailed coat, full-blown shirt-frill and Hessian boots with a tassel in front'***

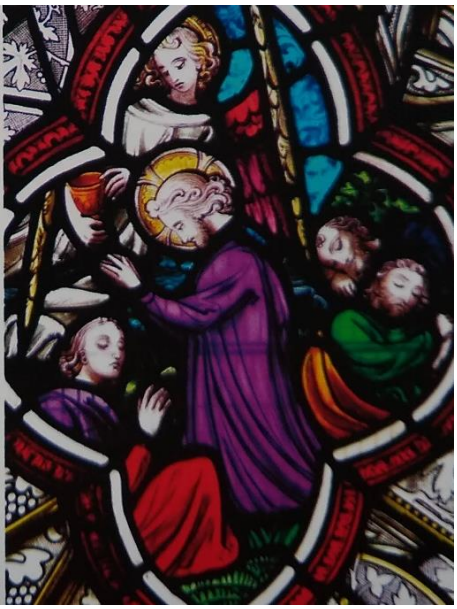
*Jarman, as described by JC Robinson of the South Kensington Museum*

### A dubious 'restoration' project

Jarman carefully salvaged what he could and employed Caleb William Wing to assist. Wing was a prolific miniaturist and accomplished artist who made his living reproducing accurate copies of original material.

He was initially engaged to repaint areas of damaged illumination in the manuscripts. In the 19th century it was considered perfectly respectable to repaint damaged miniatures or even to complete unfinished work. However, it did not stop there. ▶





*Details from the stained-glass window in St Mary's Church which is dedicated to Jarman*

### John Boykett Jarman (continued)

Wing was set to work painting entire new miniatures for insertion in existing manuscripts or to be bound as independent volumes. Jarman also appears to have regularly handled modern copies of medieval and Renaissance works of art.

It's not clear whether Jarman attempted to sell these facsimiles as authentic during his lifetime; some contemporary sales catalogues openly described his items as modern copies. When his family auctioned his collection in 1864, they were possibly unaware that, without the proper attribution, it might be considered fraudulent.

### Personal life

Jarman's personal life was as questionable as his professional one. Marshall Hall, who sent DVS the enquiry about Rosenau, tells us that his great-grandfather, John Charles Fitzjohn Hall, born in 1841, was the result of Jarman's affair with a much-younger tenant. In 1863, John Charles emigrated to Australia and, somewhat ironically, became Professor of Art at Sydney University.

In 1844, *The Era* reported that 61-year-old Jarman had been charged with 'feloniously ravishing and carnally knowing Ann Elizabeth Townsend, a spinster, aged 21 years'. Ann, a housemaid at Rosenau, did not appear at court and the case was dismissed.

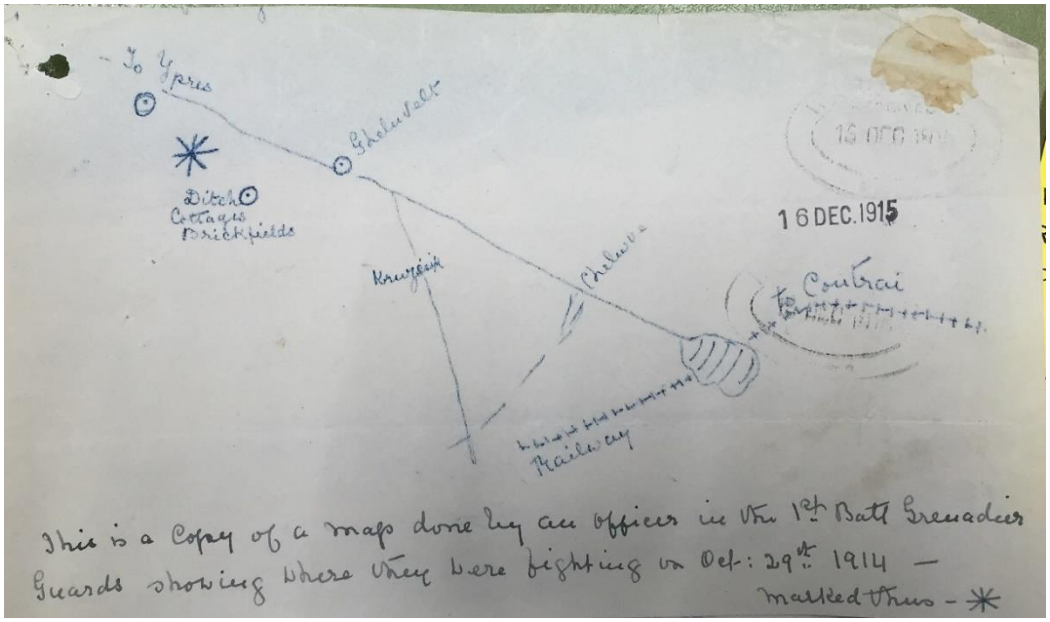
There was sadness too. That same year, local newspapers reported that Jarman's son, Egbert, drowned in the Thames.

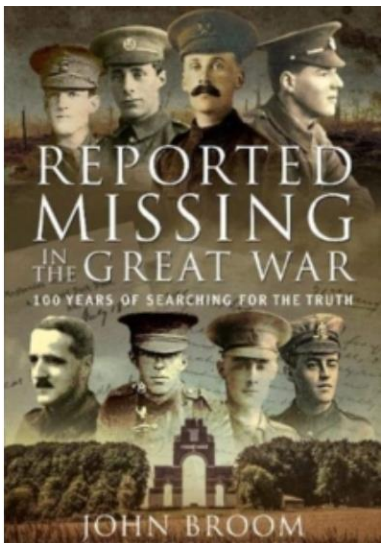
### Remembered at St Mary's Church

Jarman was buried in St Mary's churchyard and there is a stained glass window in the church (at the west end of the outer north aisle) which is dedicated to him. For details, see Janet Kennish's *Parish Church of St Mary the Virgin Datchet: History & Guide.*

'The window is a bit of a mystery,' she writes. 'The small pictorial panels are much earlier than any other glass in the church. They may have been used to create a whole with other random fragments forming a patchwork in the upper parts of the window and as backgrounds to the panels.' It has been suggested that Jarman's daughter may have commissioned the work from pieces of ancient stained glass in her father's collection.

Sources: *A Victorian Connoisseur and His Manuscripts: The Tale of Mr Jarman and Mr Wing* by Janet Backhouse *The British Museum Quarterly,* 1968; and *The Dictionary of 19th-century antique and curiosity dealers*, Mark Westgarth.




*A new book tells the story of Datchet soldier, Lieutenant John Gillis Butt, pictured second row, third from left on the cover*

## KNOWN UNTO GOD

More than half a million WWI British and Empire military personnel have no known grave. Of these men who were killed in action, who died of wounds, injury or disease, or who were missing presumed dead, nearly 188,000 were buried anonymously with the epitaph 'Known Unto God'. The remains of a further 339,000 lie scattered across the battlefields, having been buried in marked graves that were later obliterated as front lines moved back and forth.

In light of this, when Lieutenant John Gillis Butt's great-nephew, Nick Previté, set out to find his great uncle's grave a few years ago, he knew he was facing a daunting task.

Butt is remembered on Datchet's War Memorial and DVS researched his story as part of our WWI research project. (See DVS website.)

He was a doctor in the Royal Army Medical Corps, attached to the 1st Battalion Grenadier Guards, who was shot while treating his commanding officer's head wound.

DVS had found, at The National Archives, a letter to his family which included a hand-drawn map, *above,* showing the location of Butt's battalion when he was shot. This was published on the DVS website and it attracted Nick's attention. He pieced together all the evidence and became convinced that the grave of an unknown lieutenant, at Hooge Crater Cemetery, was his uncle's.

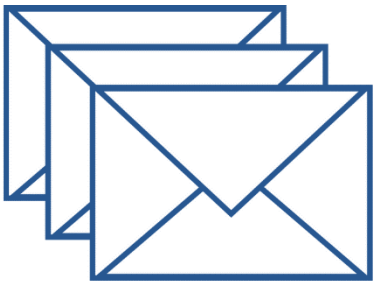
In 2016, the case for rededicating the grave was presented to the Commonwealth War Graves Commission who accepted the evidence and forwarded the submission to the Ministry of Defence, the final adjudicator. In July 2018, the case was accepted by the MoD and a service of rededication took place at the graveside on 9 October 2018. Nick Previté was there to represent the family.

Lieut. John Gillis Butt's story has now been included in a new book *Reported Missing in the Great War: 100 years of searching for the truth* by John Broom, published in October 2020. This tells the story of eight soldiers who had no known resting place. The graves of three of these men, including Lieut. Butt, have since been identified.

## REMEMBRANCE DAY

*Although it wasn't possible to commemorate Remembrance Sunday in Datchet in the usual way, around the memorial, the service at St Mary's was live streamed and is available on You Tube:* www.youtube.com/watch?v=rOuspTA5dSM

## POSTBAG



## A SELECTION FROM OUR INBOX

The DVS is often the first port of call for anyone wanting to find or share information about the history of the village. Many people have been using lockdown and furlough as opportunities to research their family history and during the past few months, we've received more emails than ever. Here's a couple we received recently.

**FLT SGT DEREK BELLINGHAM JAMESON**

Does anyone know if this pilot, who is remembered on our war memorial, still has any family in the area? Datchet Village Society has been asked this question by someone whose relative flew with Derek in WWII. We think Derek's mother Charlotte Ann Jameson lived at Byeways, 3 Castle Avenue, until her death in 1980. He had a sister, a nurse, Sheila Kathleen who lived in the area until the late 1990s. Another sister, Joan, married Guy Cattell and they had three children, two of whose births were recorded in this area.

**DUNFORD CROSSING KEEPERS**

We were asked whether Franny Dunford, the wife of the railway crossing keeper at Mays Green, was buried in Datchet. With help from the Parish Council which keeps the cemetery records, we found Franny's burial place, although sadly, like many graves at Ditton Road Cemetery, there was no headstone remaining.

## VILLAGE GROUPS

## WILD ABOUT DATCHET

Wild about Datchet has been busy recently with a '13 Days Wild' project for Halloween. Before the recent lockdown, they organised a community clean-up which had a great turn out in the pouring rain. They are hoping to run another clean-up in the New Year.
www.wildaboutdatchet.com

## ENVIRONMENT AWARENESS GROUP

Datchet Parish Council has formed an Environmental Awareness Working Group to encourage environmental improvements. They hope to bring together local clubs, groups, societies, schools, businesses and individuals to evolve local initiatives, and are asking for ideas. So far, suggestions include increasing the number of trees in the village; encouraging traffic to switch off engines when waiting at the level crossing; reducing energy use in public buildings; holding litter-picks; improving recycling facilities and encouraging initiatives such as 'freecycling' items which would otherwise be thrown away or upcycling to raise funds.

## DATCHET CORONA VOLUNTEERS

Datchet Corona Volunteers are still helping neighbours who are vulnerable, in self-isolation, or who do not want to leave the house. They will collect shopping, take post, get urgent supplies or just be there to talk on the phone. If you would like to volunteer or if you need help, you can email datchetcoronavolunteers@gmail.com or call 01753 905247.

Datchet Village Society




## ABOUT THE DVS

In 1995, the Datchet Village Society was formed to help preserve the special character of Datchet and to encourage interest in its history and environment. Our focus is primarily on Datchet but also includes its locality and historical connections. The DVS organises talks, exhibitions, guided walks and visits to places of interest for members and publishes Datchet-related books, leaflets and cards. We're the first port of call for anyone wanting to know more about their family history in Datchet, or about the history of the village generally. The Society also monitors local planning policy, conservation and development issues and is contributing to Datchet's Neighbourhood Plan. Regular updates about our work and events are posted on the DVS website. New members are always welcome.

## DATCHET BOOKS & CARDS

Janet Kennish's books about Datchet and our DVS greetings cards are on sale at The Bridge when it is able to open. During periods of lockdown or tier restrictions, we can arrange for copies to be delivered to you. Please contact Alison for details, email alison_crampin@yahoo.co.uk

## ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP

**Membership runs from April each year to March the following year. The annual membership fee is £10 per adult, and life membership is £125 per person. Junior membership remains £1.**
Membership fees can be paid by bank transfer, the Sort Code is 09-01-29, Account 04339438, reference MEMBER and your surname; or by cheque payable to 'Datchet Village Society' and sent to Sandra Needham at 114 Slough Road, Datchet, SL3 9AF.
Many thanks.

## DVS MAIN CONTACTS

**President: Janet Kennish**
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**Acting chair: Alison Crampin**
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**Secretary: Marjorie Clasper**
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**Websites: www.datchetvillagesociety.org.uk**
**www.datchethistory.org.uk**

## WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE TO READ ABOUT?

Please tell us what you'd like to see in your DVS newsletters, especially while we're not able to organise events and visits. We're always happy to receive feedback and ideas. And if you have any ideas for Covid-secure events we could run, please do let us know.

Email: info@datchetvillagesociety.org.uk
**www.datchetvillagesociety.org.uk**