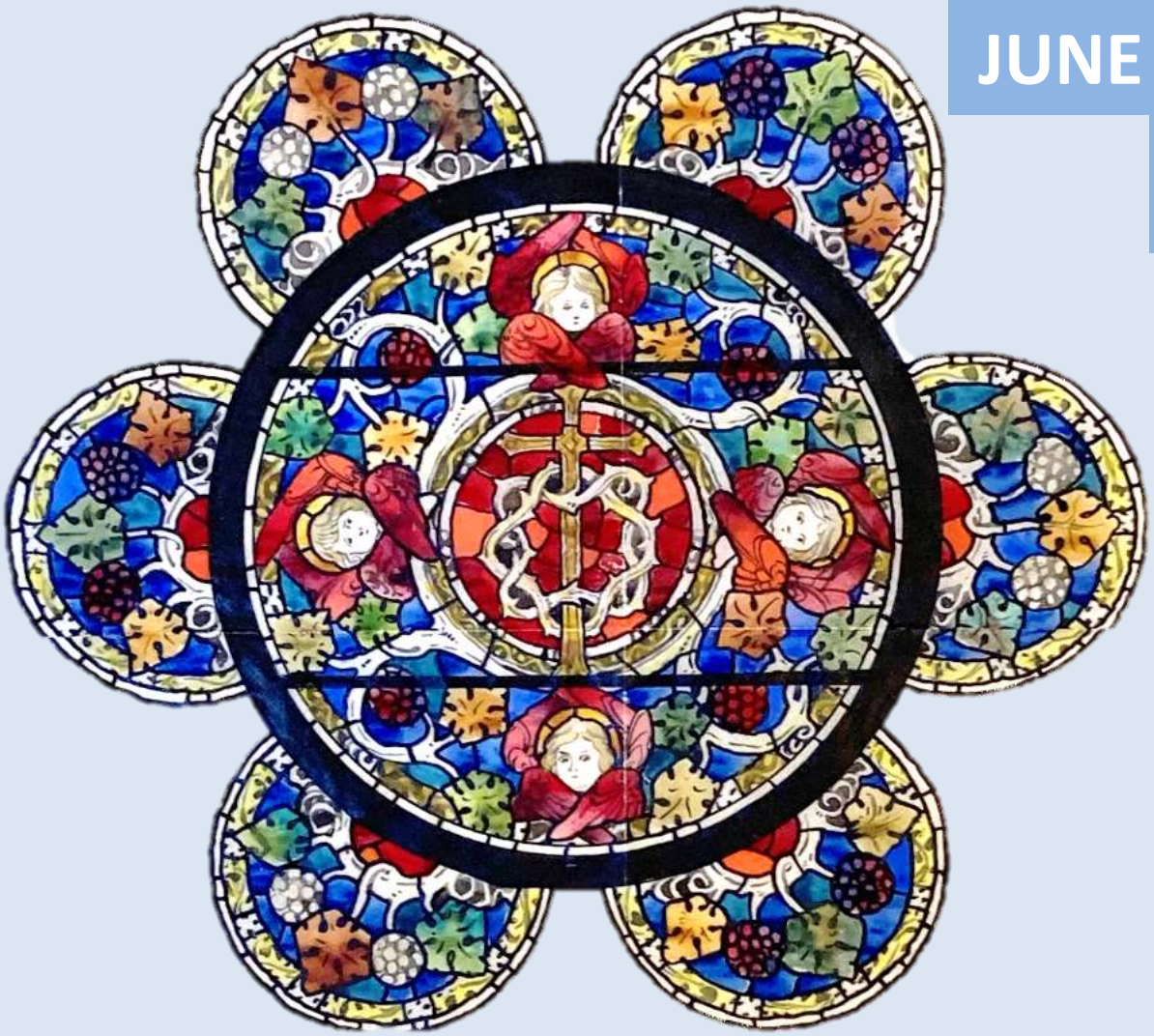
JUNE 2021
74



Datchet Village Society

NEWSLETTER

In this issue

Our new acquisition
Meredith de Lisle Caulfeild
Lady balloonist
King's Messenger
Barker Bible
WWI Crucifix memorial
Milestone restoration
Corden painting returned
Landmark tree at risk
Datchet's Coronation Arch
Postbag
Membership & AGM

WE'RE BACK! DVS AGM SATURDAY 17 JULY

We hope this newsletter finds you, your family and friends in good health. We're delighted to announce a date for the DVS AGM at long last, and we have a stunning new acquisition to reveal!

Rather than holding a talk in the school hall, we've booked the WI Hall on The Green for a drop-in session which we hope will be just as enjoyable. This will give us flexibility to comply with the prevailing Covid restrictions as there is plenty of space to spread out and we can keep the doors open to provide ventilation.

Please come along anytime between 2.30pm and 5pm. We'll have the kettle on to welcome you back, with tea, coffee and biscuits on us. As always the AGM is open to everyone so please invite neighbours, friends and family, too. We've also invited some other local groups to join us. **Please see page 12 for more details.**

We would like to thank you for your continued support throughout this difficult past year. We really appreciate it and are very much looking forward to seeing you soon. We hope you will join us.

Your DVS Committee

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



'Datchet Cemetery Chapel', Berkshire. Ink and watercolour. Inscribed and signed 'James Powell & Sons / (Whitefriars) Ltd / 100 Wigmore St. W1'. 10.5x9.25 inches.

POWELL & SONS

Whitefriars Glasshouse, founded in the early 18th century, was bought by entrepreneur James Powell in 1834. His three sons established a department which created glass as close as possible in texture and colour to medieval stained glass and the quality of their techniques attracted artists of the calibre of Edward Burne-Jones.

An aggressive marketing department meant few churches, institutional buildings and indeed houses across the British Empire, and North America, escaped a Powell window.

The memorialisation of WWI, for which many presentation watercolours were painted, led to a burst of activity in the 1920s. The company continued to make stained glass until 1973.



A UNIQUE FIND

Just before Christmas, DVS was contacted by the son-in-law of one of Janet Kennish's former neighbours in London Road. He'd come across some artwork when he was looking for a gift for his wife, and thought it might be of interest to us. The piece was in the online catalogue of a London gallery, Abbot and Holder in Museum Street, which was selling presentation watercolours by glassmakers Powell & Sons. It was an exquisite miniature of the rose window in Datchet's Grade II listed Cemetery Chapel.

The rose window has long been something of a mystery. In 1991, two experts in Victorian stained-glass visited the Cemetery Chapel. They had a particular interest in the window depicting St Martha which they attributed to William Morris & Co from a design by Burne-Jones. At the time, they examined the rose window and thought it might be by James Powell & Sons. They also noted that the window was not the shape planned for the building as there was some 'inelegant infilling'.

DVS asked Abbot and Holder for more information about the painting. They explained that presentation watercolours were used to help clients choose a design and show them what to expect.

A church might get in touch requesting, say, a 'John the Baptist' stained-glass window and they would be shown images to choose from. These presentation watercolours were usually on card and robust enough to be handled but, unusually, the rose window artwork is on tracing paper, headed 'Datchet Cemetery Chapel' and labelled 'James Powell & Sons'. This is because it came from a later stage in production and would probably have been put over a lightbox. It is quite rare for these fragile tracing paper designs to survive.

It was clear to the DVS committee that this small, intricately-beautiful piece of art was an important part of the history of the Grade II-listed Cemetery Chapel and proof that the window was indeed by Powell & Sons. The purchase wasn't cheap but we reasoned that, due to Covid, our activities had been severely hampered and this was one thing DVS could do for Datchet under lockdown. It was a rare opportunity to buy a unique piece of art which belongs here.

Once Abbot and Holder learned that we were enquiring on behalf of the DVS and we told them the story of Meredith De Lisle Caulfeild, to whom the window is dedicated, they were as convinced as we were that the artwork belongs in Datchet and even gave us a discount.

The AGM on 17 July will be our first opportunity to put the painting on display. Please do come along to see it.



Above *The rose window at Datchet Cemetery Chapel.*
Below *Ceramic panel set in the wall below the window. Photographs: Adrian Giddins*





Above *Merry's gravestone in Ditton Road Cemetery*

WHO WAS MEREDITH DE LISLE CAULFEILD?

The rose window in Datchet's cemetery chapel is dedicated to Meredith but we can find no record of her family in local directories. 'Merry' and her sister, Eila, were born in Colombo, Sri Lanka; Merry in 1899 and Eila in 1896. Their parents were Reginald Marshall John, a stockbroker, and Frederica ('Freddy') Isabella de Lisle John, nee Saunders. The family lived in Colombo and London.

The two sisters married two brothers. In 1917, Eila married St George Frederick Gordon Caulfeild in Colombo. In 1923, Merry married his younger brother, Wilmot Smyth Caulfeild, in London.

The Caulfeild brothers had spent time in the area. George, the fifth of nine children, was born in 1881 in Sunninghill, and although Wilmot, the seventh, was born in 1887 in Belize, British Honduras, both attended Bradfield College in Berkshire. They followed in their father's footsteps and joined the military. Both fought in WWI. George was mentioned in despatches, and rose to the rank of Colonel in the Royal Marines. Wilmot was an officer in the 2nd Battalion of the Leinster Regiment and by 1923 was a Captain in the East Surrey Regiment.

Merry and Wilmot married at Brompton Holy Trinity Church, on 9 January 1923, and held their reception at The Rembrandt Hotel in Thurloe Place.

Their connection with Datchet seems to be that Merry gave birth here, at Holmcroft nursing home in Montagu Road. At the time, Holmcroft was run by Misses Lovell and Dawson for surgical, medical and maternity patients. They also cared for the elderly and infirm. Birth announcements in newspapers indicate that a number of military wives gave birth here. A family would have to be quite well off to afford this sort of maternity care and, possibly, Wilmot and Merry's families might not have been in the country at the time.

On 18 September 1924, Merry had a daughter, Pamela. Sadly, less than six weeks later, on 27 October, Merry died at Holmcroft and was buried in Datchet Cemetery on Ditton Road.

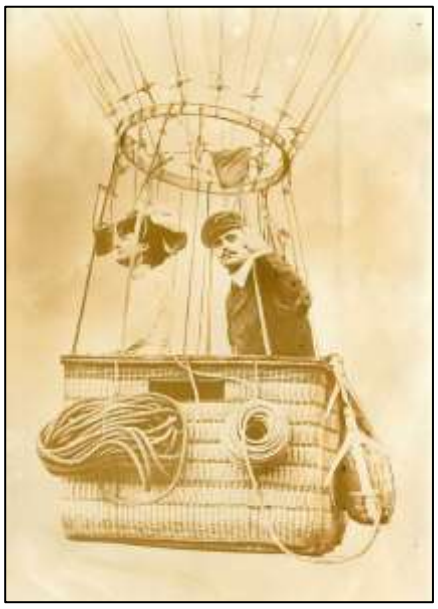
Her family chose to commemorate her in Datchet. Merry's parents erected the rose window in the Cemetery Chapel with a decorated ceramic panel of text below it. Wilmot's separate tribute was an exceptionally beautiful sculpted gravestone in the cemetery. The dedication reads: 'Meredith de Lisle, Dearly loved wife of Captain Wilmot Caulfeild, the East Surrey Regiment, Born 23 September 1899, called away 27 October 1924. Where my treasure is there will my heart be also.'

Some years later, Wilmot married Susan Emily Bevan and went on to have three more children. He fought in WWII and was awarded the Civil Defence Long Service Medal in 1967. He died in 1980 age 93 in Horstead, Norfolk. Daughter Pamela married Major Philip Godsal and her family line continued in that name. She died in December 2004.



FAMOUS LADY BALLOONIST ILL.

Her many friends will be sorry to hear that the Hon. Mrs Assheton Harbord, the famous lady balloonist, and the first lady to cross the Channel in her own balloon, has been laid up with a severe attack of typhoid fever. She is now, however, ever so much better, and has left town for her country house at Datchet.



Top: *Newspaper report.*
Above*: Charles Rolls and Hon Mrs Assheton Harbord in the basket of balloon, photo by Horace Hall, January 1910. Though the badge is indistinct, this balloon may be Rolls' 'Midget'*

More information

If you use your library card to access RBWM Libraries' online resources, you can read more about May in *The Times* Digital Archive. During lockdown, there has also been free remote access to the Ancestry Library edition.

FAMOUS LADY BALLOONIST

It's always a joyous moment in researching Datchet's history when you're looking for something specific then, by chance, discover something completely unexpected and unrelated.

A little while ago, a newspaper search turned up this gem. It was published in the *Evening Telegraph and Post* in Dundee on Tuesday 29 July 1913. It reads: 'FAMOUS LADY BALLOONIST ILL. Her many friends will be sorry to hear that the Hon Mrs Assheton Harbord, the famous lady balloonist, and the first lady to cross the Channel in her own balloon, has been laid up with a severe attack of typhoid fever. She is now, however, ever so much better, and has left town for her country house at Datchet.'

May Constance Harbord, nee Cuningham (1866-1928) had developed an interest in hot air balloons quite accidentally. In 1906, she went to see some friends who were making a balloon ascent and at the last moment they suggested she should join them. From then on she was hooked and became very well known for her aeronautical exploits. In 1909 she was awarded the Mortimer Singer Plate for the longest balloon journey the previous year, and she was the first lady to obtain an aeronaut's certificate (number 16 in May 1912). She owned two balloons which she kept near Battersea gas works and made nearly 200 voyages including a number of trips across the Channel. She had a few lucky escapes; on one landing, in a storm, she was thrown out of the basket and later pronounced that she was 'the only woman who has landed on the Continent on her head'.

May often flew with John and Eleanor Shelley-Rolls. (Eleanor was the sister of Charles Rolls, of Rolls-Royce, and, in 1919, one of the original signatories of the Women's Engineering Society's founding documents. The couple also flew in early Zeppelins and aeroplanes in the pre-war years.)

May also drove her own car and was reportedly convicted for speeding at least four times by 1911. She served in the Volunteer Motor Mobilisation Corps in 1915, helping to convey wounded soldiers from hospitals to convalescent homes. She also took soldiers who had lost limbs out for recreational drives to lift their spirits.

It is not thought that May's husband, Assheton Edward Harbord, shared his wife's interests. He was the sixth child of Charles Harbord, 5th Baron Suffield, a close friend of Edward VII.

Initial searches of local directories haven't revealed the location of the Harbords' country house in Datchet but we'll keep looking. Datchet seems to attract pioneers: Evelyn Ellis and the first motor car, Tommy Sopwith landing his biplane on Datchet Golf Course and now May Assheton Harbord, a famous lady aeronaut. Did she fly her balloon over Datchet, we wonder?



***Above right**, Moy Lodge, mid-1900s.*

***Above**, The C.V.O., O.B.E. group of four, attributed to Francis Edward Raikes, Senior King's Foreign Messenger*



Francis Edward Raikes married Iris Sopwith, sister of airman Tommy Sopwith, pictured in a newspaper report above, who landed his plane on Datchet Golf Course in 1911.

Francis and Iris lived at Moy Lodge. Its proportions and distinctive detailing are reminiscent of a Malaysian tea-planter's house, possibly because its original occupants may well have been tea traders.

For more details, see Janet Kennish's Datchet History website:

- Tommy Sopwith
- Moy Lodge



FRANCIS EDWARD RAIKES, KING'S MESSENGER

We enjoy hearing from members who have made discoveries about Datchet and its residents. We had an email from a keen collector of the insignia of British Orders of Knighthood to tell us that the catalogue from auction house, Dix Noonan Webb, included medals belonging to Francis Edward Raikes C.V.O., O.B.E. of Moy Lodge, Slough Road. The estimate was £600-£800 and the lot sold for £1700 but of particular interest was the accompanying information about Raikes.

Francis Raikes, born in 1870, was the second son of the Right Hon. Henry Cecil Raikes, a Conservative politician. Francis joined the military and held a commission in the 3rd Battalion Cheshire Regiment. In 1890-91, he became Private Secretary to his father, who was then Postmaster General. In 1892, Francis was appointed a Queen's Foreign Service Messenger, rising to become Senior King's Foreign Service Messenger under King George V.

King's Messengers are the 'James Bonds' of the diplomatic world. They have been employed to deliver sensitive royal documents and messages into the right hands for more than 1000 years. In the 17th-century, Charles II employed four messengers. When asked how they were to be identified as His Majesty's messengers, the king broke off four greyhounds from a silver breakfast platter and presented each with this token. They then became known as the Silver Greyhounds and this has remained the symbol of the Messenger to this day.

Francis came to live in Datchet in 1905 and in 1906 married Iris Sopwith, sister of the aviator Tommy. Iris's mother used to rent one half of Datchet Manor House from Lord Montagu. Iris and Francis rented the other half. Their daughter, Rosamund Violet, was born in 1907.

His work meant that Francis was often away from home. He was in Petrograd at the time of the revolution in 1916, and returned after an arduous journey suffering from congestion of the lungs. His health began to fail and he retired in 1920. It was around this time that they moved to Moy Lodge. Francis died in 1922, age 53. Iris and Violet remained at Moy Lodge until c1930, then moved to St Albans. Iris died in 1977, age 94.

The Corps of Queen's Messengers still exists today, as not everything can be sent by electronic or registered mail. In 2005 there were reportedly 15 messengers in Her Majesty's Service. They are still issued with a red passport and carry the official sealed diplomatic bag which cannot be inspected by customs officers.

Right, *Everyone was very upset when the church's second edition 1614 Barker Bible was stolen from its display case in June 2014*



Above**:** A memorial in St Mary's, erected in 1938 by the Barker Bridge House Trustees. It reads: In memory of Robert Barker, Printer to Queen Elizabeth and King James I. Born at Southley Manor Datchet c1568. Died 10 January 1645. He printed at his own expense in 1611 the new translation of the scriptures known as the Authorised Version. His benefaction in 1644 called Robert Barker's or The Bridge House Trust perpetuates his memory and has proved of great value to this Parish Church as well as to the village of Datchet. A tablet erected by him to Christopher his father and Rachael his wife, daughter of William Day, Bishop of Winchester, is in the Chancel of this Church.



A QUERY ABOUT A BARKER BIBLE

Tony Street from Bedfordshire emailed to say that a bible printed by Robert Barker in 1600 had come into his possession. He had found Janet Kennish's article about Barker on the Datchet History website and was curious about the historical significance of his bible.

In reply, Janet wrote: 'When I first started researching this topic I assumed that the small Robert Barker bible that had been bought for Datchet's parish church was exceptional and of great interest. Later, I realised that a 17th-century bible or prayer book that had not been printed by the Barkers would actually be a more unusual find.

'Father and son, Christopher and Robert Barker, deliberately acquired, at considerable cost, all available Royal Printing Patents. Robert fought expensive legal battles with other printers who challenged his rights, and he himself checked on shipments attempting to come in from the Continent. This defence of his rights was successful although the expenses were a factor in his imprisonment as a debtor in later life.

'Christopher died in 1599 so a publication date of 1600 fits well with Robert's inheritance of the business but there were no other major landmarks at that point, such as the new translation and printing in 1611 of the King James Bible, or Authorised Version.

'There is one Barker bible that I'd really love somebody to find. In 1584 Robert donated a Bible and Book of Common Prayer to St Mary's, the Parish Church of Datchet. We know this because somebody once wrote to the Vicar to ask if the books were still there, and enclosed a photocopy of the title page in which Robert Barker had recorded his gift to the parish and village. So someone had seen the Bible in recent times and had made photocopies, but where are those gifts now? I have tried very hard to track them down but with no luck.'

Read more about Robert Barker and the 'Wicked Bible' on Janet Kennish's Datchet History website: Robert Barker













Photographs of the restoration process courtesy of Borough and Parish Councillor Ewan Larcombe





***Left and above**: The damaged crucifix memorial in 2007*

THE CRUCIFIX MEMORIAL

As part of the work on Non-Designated Heritage Assets with the Neighbourhood Plan, DVS committee members have been investigating the history of some of Datchet's monuments.
We came across a fascinating story about the restoration of the crucifix memorial. It was Datchet's first WWI memorial, erected a year before the obelisk on The Green. It is located on London Road at what was then an open site at the entrance to the village. It is similar in style to the French wayside shrines which would have been familiar to those who fought on the Western Front in WWI. It was donated by the Curling family of Datchet and dedicated on Empire Day in May 1919. (There is more information about the Curling family on the Datchet Village Society website)

Damage and restoration

In January 2007, the crucifix was badly damaged during a storm. The canopy, cross-bar and top section of the main upright, blew off and broke away, tearing the left arm from the corpus. The lead flashing which had covered the canopy and the arm were then stolen.
The repair work was funded by Datchet Parish Council and supervised by Cllr Ewan Larcombe. The hollow corpus, made of a thin layer of copper filled with a whitish material, was taken to Splash Studios in Wraysbury where artist Mick Charsley carved a replacement arm in rigid foam. A replacement right hand (which had previously lost a finger) was also carved. These were then coated in plaster and rubbed smooth. Resin steel was used to bond the arm and hand to the body then the replacement sections were sprayed with molten copper, a process used in EMC (electro-magnetic compatibility) shielding. This copper finish was aged with an acidic flux to create a similar patina to the rest of the figure. The oak cross and canopy were also repaired. The stolen lead was replaced with Foamex, a versatile weatherproof PVC foam sheet which is often used for outside signage and less likely to be stolen.
Ewan has very kindly given DVS a set of the photographs of the restoration, completed in June 2008, for our archives.

RESTORATION WORK







***Right**: repairs to replace the material missing from the nose and base, and limewashing.*
***Below:** the repair process*



MILESTONE RESTORATION

News from Andy Chalk, the stonemason. His workload has slowed during the pandemic and he has had to reduce the size of his team but St George's Chapel is keeping him busy and the restoration of Datchet's milestone is progressing.

He has discovered that the milestone has been repaired more than once during its lifetime. He says this has made things more difficult but that is often the case with historic repairs.

It remains now to cut and add the 'tail' which will sit below ground, and in due course the milestone can be anchored into its new location on The Green, out of harm's way.

We are investigating the possibility of having a plaque of some sort to mark its former position on London Road. We'll keep you posted.



DATCHET IN FLOOD

We were delighted to see the restored William Corden painting returned to Datchet library on 29 April ready for the reopening on 4 May. DVS has been overseeing the restoration and cleaning of the picture. The painting and its frame had suffered some damage during decoration work at the library and it seemed a good opportunity, while it was being repaired by the South East Conservation Centre, to have it restored too. The repair work was covered by RBWM's insurance and the cleaning and restoration of the painting and its frame was funded by Datchet Parish Council.

The painting was first disinfected to ensure nothing was eating away at the image, then it was gently cleaned to remove the surface dirt and the discoloured varnish was removed. This revealed much more depth to the picture, so it could be seen as the artist intended. A few small areas were repaired and a fresh coat of varnish was then applied following the standards used by the National Gallery so that the restoration work is reversible. The frame was also cleaned to reveal the original gilt and the missing sections were repaired.

You can see the restored painting on the wall of the Library. When you enter the building through the front door, it's above the doorway to the right.

Datchet Library
At the time of writing, the opening hours are:
Tuesday: 14:30-17:30
Wednesday: 10:00-13:00, 14:00-19:00
Friday: 14:30-17:30
Saturday: 10:00-13:00

#SaveDatchetTree







On 22 May, residents gathered on The Green to sign a 7m-long #SaveDatchetTree banner. There are also banners beside the Wellingtonia on Southlea Road

#SaveDatchetTree
For more information, see the #SaveDatchetTree pages on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.
A petition has also been started on the Change.org website: http://chng.it/MpJV2YTjkp





***Above**: MP Adam Afriyie joined Borough and Parish Councillors on The Green to listen to residents' views*

LANDMARK WELLINGTONIA AT RISK

We recently alerted DVS members to a campaign to save a 170-year-old Wellingtonia (*Sequoiadendron Giganteum Wellingtonia)* on Southlea Road. On Saturday 22 May, residents were invited to sign a #SaveDatchetTree banner, funded by Datchet Parish Council. During the day many people added messages while younger residents and pupils from Churchmead School added pictures and poems.
Datchet's three Borough Councillors, some DPC Councillors and Cllr Samantha Rayner were there to offer support. MP Adam Afriyie, who has supported campaigns to save other trees in the Borough, joined them to listen to residents' views. After his visit, he tweeted: 'Good to meet residents and councillors in Datchet fighting to save one of our signature local Redwood trees. It's tricky, but given the focus on tree planting and the environment locally, I'm hoping that a way forward can be found if at all possible.' Since then, he has written to Direct Line, the insurance company which wants to fell the tree.
RBWM's officers granted permission to fell this giant Wellingtonia. It is one of the tallest and oldest trees in Datchet and an important part of the village's environmental heritage. The tree was one of the most protected in the village: it has a Tree Preservation Order, is in the protected Conservation Area, is mentioned specifically in the Conservation Area Statement, and is listed on the Woodland Trust Ancient Tree Inventory. It is implicated in minor subsidence at a building insured by Direct Line but other solutions are available which would allow the tree to be kept. An eminent arboricultural consultant has also cast doubt over the extent to which the Wellingtonia is implicated.
Residents are writing letters of protest to RBWM and Direct Line asking both to honour their environmental and climate commitment and find alternatives to felling the tree. RBWM saved a giant cedar in Windsor in nearly identical circumstances. The #SaveDatchetTree campaign is asking that RBWM gives Datchet's landmark Wellingtonia the same consideration.

For further information see:
www.datchetvillagesociety.org.uk/saving-datchets-landmark-170-year-old-wellingtonia



On the balcony at Buckingham Palace, Coronation Day 1937
Above *from left to right: Queen Elizabeth, whom we knew as the Queen Mother; Princess Elizabeth, now Queen Elizabeth II; Queen Mary, King George VI's mother; Princess Margaret; and King George VI*



DATCHET'S CORONATION ARCH

The Royal Borough Observer *has invited DVS to submit regular articles to its Nostalgia column. Here's the first, written by Janet Kennish and published on 28 May 2021.*

Reactions on seeing this picture, above, tend to be along the lines of: 'That's not Datchet!' or 'Where on earth is this, I've never seen it before!' People who lived in Datchet at the time were equally astonished when they woke up on the morning of 12 May 1937.

It was Coronation Day for the new King George VI and a wonderful surprise had been created in the middle of the village while almost everybody was asleep.

It was the work of a well-known local building developer, Mr Nelson Masters, and of the village sign-writer, Mr Avis. He and his wife ran the Gospel Chapel and its well-attended Sunday school in Horton Road.

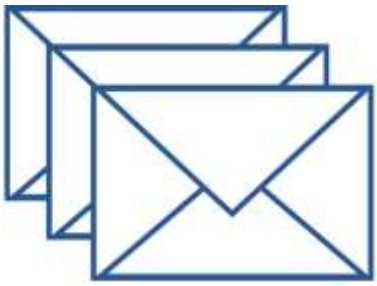
They must have been working secretly on these 'stone' towers for a considerable time and storing the pieces until the night on which they would be assembled. The finished arch spanned across the High Street from the Manor Hotel to the shops on the opposite side. It was possible to walk across the bridge section, although sightseers had to go through the pedestrian arches at the base of the towers.

Sightseers certainly arrived in numbers as soon as the word went around the village, to see this first and most memorable excitement of a day packed with celebrations. The decorated houses and shops were then inspected before a carnival and sports were held on the cricket field. Tea was served in a series of sittings to accommodate everybody and dancing on the village green went on until midnight. There were also river sports, including lilo races, boxing on rafts and a procession of illuminated boats after dark.

Meanwhile, back in London, King George VI had been crowned in Westminster Abbey and the Royal procession passed through streets massed with crowds to Buckingham Palace. There the family took their traditional places on the high balcony, overlooking the cheering crowds far below.

Below*: From the High Street looking through to the oak tree on The Green*





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. There is always a steady flow of enquiries to keep us busy discovering new things to share.

WILLIAM GEORGE NORRIS



Out of the blue, we received a copy of a postcard showing Datchet WWI soldier, William George Norris, in an Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry Band. The postcard had been found on eBay by Kevin Tobin, who runs his own Facebook page and website about the OBLI. He told us he was originally unable to find George in any of the records but had found the DVS website – about which he was very complimentary –which confirmed details of George's service. He thought we might like the postcard to add to our files. George is indicated with the blue arrow.

WARWICK COTTAGES

Patricia emailed to say she had just discovered that her paternal grandfather, Harold Frederick William Lawrence, was born in Datchet in 1897 at 2 Warwick Cottages, Datchet Common. Patricia had found an 1899 map online but could not find Warwick Cottages.
She remembered tales of Harold's father, William Henry Lawrence, being given venison and pheasant by his boss and thought he may have been a gamekeeper in the area.
Janet Kennish has written extensively about the cottages at Datchet Common so we were able to tell Patricia exactly where to find them; nos 218-224 Horton Road. See Datchet History for more details.

MIRIAM AND EMILY GRAY

Cousins Lesley and Glenda have recently started researching their family history. They wrote to tell us how excited they were to discover some of their relatives on the DVS website and thanked us for writing about them. Glenda's grandmother was Ann Victoria Gray, sister to Miriam and Emily Gray who are mentioned in the WWI histories of soldiers Frederick and William Gray. It took quite a while to untangle all the Grays in the area and we were particularly puzzled about Miriam and Emily living at 2 Jubilee Cottages on Horton Road. As laundresses they would have been unlikely to earn enough money to pay the rent on such a house, even with lodgers. They were renting it from the owner, a Mr J Dean of Chelsea. We're hoping that together we can discover more.

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.

WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE TO READ ABOUT?

Please tell us what you'd like to see in your DVS newsletters. We're always happy to receive feedback and ideas.

DVS AGM, 17 JULY 2021. PLEASE RSVP

AGM Drop-in session, 2.30-5pm Saturday 17 July,
WI Hall, The Green, Datchet
Please RSVP to Sandra Needham, smn@needlands.co.uk.
If you have not already renewed your membership online, you can do so in person on the day, please see below.
We'll send the paperwork for the AGM separately by 19 June. This will include the minutes of the previous AGM in 2019 and the accounts.
The current officers are willing to stand again and, in these exceptional circumstances, the executive committee has decided that they should continue in office until we are able to hold a formal election in 2022.
Current committee: Acting chair, Alison Crampin; Treasurer, Adrian Needham; Secretary, Marjorie Clasper; Membership Secretary, Sandra Needham; Photography and Archive, Adrian Giddins; Committee Members, Glenda Croft and Lesley Giddins. Janet Kennish remains as President.

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP – RENEWALS DUE

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.
Bank transfer: Membership fees can be paid by bank transfer, Sort Code 09-01-29, Account 04339438, reference MEMBER and your surname.
By cheque: These should be made payable to 'Datchet Village Society' and sent to Sandra Needham, 114 Slough Road, Datchet, SL3 9AF.
In person: We will also be accepting payment at the AGM on 17 July**.**
If you have any queries, please call Sandra on 01753 593771.
Many thanks.

MEMBERS' NEWS

We've received the very sad news that Joanna Malins passed away recently. We send our condolences to her family and friends.

DVS MAIN CONTACTS

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