NOVEMBER 2021
75



Datchet Village Society

NEWSLETTER

Datchet Library, Adrian Giddins

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THANK YOU TO ALL OUR MEMBERS

We hope this newsletter finds you in good health, looking forward to the festive season. Since July and the relaxing of Covid restrictions, we're delighted to have been able to organise two well-attended DVS events. We hope to have a stall at the Christmas Fayre and we are already putting together plans for the coming months.

As always, we are extremely grateful for your continued support. Renewing your membership has helped to keep the DVS going, especially during lockdown. Your support helps to fund our running costs including the website and research, insurance and admin costs, and contributes towards unique purchases for the village such as the oldest paintings of Datchet we've ever seen, a medal given to schoolchildren for Queen Victoria's Jubilee, a WWI memorial plaque, the original artwork for the rose window in the listed Cemetery Chapel, and a new pavement plaque to mark the original site of Datchet's milestone. We couldn't have done this without your support. It also allows us to publish cards, leaflets and booklets, and we hope to start publishing these again soon.

Please make sure your membership is up to date to continue to receive newsletters and updates about our work and invitations to DVS events.

With thanks again, *Your DVS Committee*

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



Right: *speculative lithograph of Herschel Park Estate by Hannon c1844*



Above: *The Mere (now the National Foundation for Educational Research) was built for Charles' Dickens' publisher Richard Bentley in 1887. (See the BBC website for more on Charles Dickens' associations with Slough.) Bentley, like Evelyn Ellis in Datchet, had a large collection of motor vehicles. His 'motor house' at The Mere, one of the first garages in this country, is now the Bentley Education Centre, a community and visitor centre*



Above: *The miniature watercolour was one of the many displays at the drop-in*

HERITAGE WALK AROUND HERSCHEL PARK

On Thursday 21 October 2021, a group of DVS members enjoyed a gentle stroll around Upton and the Grade II listed Herschel Park. Our guide was Elias Kupfermann, local historian and trustee of Slough Museum, who chaired the spectacular restoration of Herschel Park.

In the 1840s, James Thomas Bedborough, who had built Clarence Crescent and Claremont Road in Windsor, saw the potential for a select residential development at Upton and employed the architect Benjamin Baud who was working at the time at Windsor Castle. It is thought that Joseph Paxton, head gardener at Chatsworth House, may have landscaped the grounds. (Paxton later designed the Crystal Palace for the 1851 Great Exhibition.)

The development was one of the first to be advertised for commuters due to its proximity to Windsor and the railway, and it was marketed as a fashionable summer resort, attracting the aristocracy, gentry and professional classes. Among the retired colonels, barristers and clergy who lived there was Charles Dickens' publisher Richard Bentley.

Our stroll took us around the pleasure ground, now known as Herschel Park, which was laid out in an informal style as the centrepiece of the private estate, and contains curving paths, two small lakes, a bridge and a variety of trees. We also walked around the surviving estate buildings at Victoria Terrace, West Villas, East Villas and Diana Lodge.

Elias has written a series of self-guided trails through the park. These include a history trail, a historic tree trail and a natural history trail. Please click on the links for details.

DVS DROP-IN AGM

Many thanks to everyone who came along to the DVS drop-in session on 17 July at the WI Hall. It was a DVS meeting like no other - Covid-compliant, masked, sanitised and socially distanced - but it gave us an opportunity to present our latest acquisition, the exquisite miniature watercolour of the rose window in Datchet's Grade II listed Cemetery Chapel by glassmakers Powell & Sons. Janet Kennish travelled up from Hove to be with us and it was such a pleasure, after so long, to be able to catch up with so many members.

DVS GALLERY

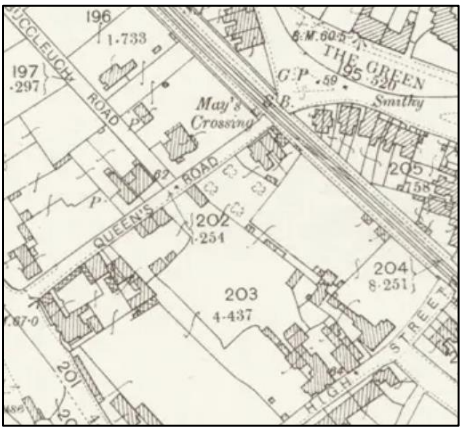
A HISTORY OF FLOODING
Janet Kennish has written extensively about the history of flooding and flood defences in Datchet from 1600s to 2000s. For details, please visit: https://datchethistory.org.uk/general-articles/history-datchet-floods-flood-defences-documents-time/



Right: *Queens Road during the Great Flood of 1894. Note the residents leaning out of the first-floor windows*



Above: *1868 OS map detail showing Back Lane, later Queens Road.* ***Below:*** *1899 OS map detail showing late 19th-century development in Queens Road and Buccleuch Road*



1894 FLOODS IN DATCHET

Here's an image from the 'unexpected finds' file. A random search for 'Datchet' on the National Galleries Scotland website threw up a photograph we hadn't seen before, from the Great Flood of 1894. The view is of Queens Road, looking towards the level crossing and Mays Island. The handwriting reads: *'Water at its highest to pencil mark on Saturday 17th Nov'*. The pencil mark has been drawn at the height of the brick wall behind the young boy.

Queens Road used to be known as Back Lane because it was the back entrance to the houses on the High Street and their associated buildings. The 1891 census shows its inhabitants as carpenters, labourers, dressmakers, gardeners and coachmen.

In the late 1800s, the Duke of Buccleuch, Lord of Datchet Manor, sold some of his land between Slough Road and the new Windsor Road for housing development. The land was released just as Datchet was becoming attractive as a riverside commuter village and resort, and a great building boom ensued.

Many of the 'new' houses in the photograph are still there today. Curfew Villa (recently renovated) is the first house on the left of the photo. This was probably built by the Hammerson family of Datchet blacksmiths and farriers. Next door is Remenham Villa, 6 Queens Road, on the corner of Buccleuch Road. In 1894, the village doctor, Thomas George Drake, lived here. Beyond that is Inniscrone House which became home to Harry Farquar de Paravicini and his wife, Lady Eva Cholmondeley, who were part of the network of rich and highly influential people in the village at the time.

On the right side of the road, the cottages where the lady is standing on the chair have been replaced by the houses of Queensmead. Beyond the tree, just before the level crossing, are Myrtle Cottages, now painted white. In the distance, on the far side of Mays Island, the gables of North Green and Patrixbourne are just visible.

DVS GALLERY



A TRIP DOWN MEMORY LANE

Eagle-eyed viewers of the recent BBC series *Ridley Road*, may have noticed that Datchet made a very brief appearance. The programme included a cut from a short film, made in the 1960s, of a drive through the village. The film, which comes from the Kinolibrary Archive Film Collections. can be viewed here on YouTube.



POSTCARDS OF DATCHET

We were given a couple of postcards recently. The first, above, a collection of village centre views, dates from c1965. It's fascinating to see the many changes which have taken place in the village in recent decades, the buildings which have been lost or altered, new boundaries added to the greens, and the roads and paths which have changed. The postcard was published by Francis Frith who have many more old photos of Datchet on their website: www.francisfrith.com/uk/datchet

The second postcard, below, was also probably published mid-20th century. It was discovered at an antiques market in Hungerford last summer. Published by TVAP Postcards of Oxford, it shows the riverside, and Windsor Road which is remarkably free of traffic. Kris Cruisers took over John Hicks' Boatyard in February 1966. Janet Kennish has written a history of the riverfront on her Datchet History website: https://datchethistory.org.uk/general-articles/the-history-of-datchet-riverfront/



LOCAL CHARACTERS

DATCHET COMMON
See Janet Kennish's Datchet History website to discover more about the history of Horton Road, Ditton Road, Holmlea Road, New Road and Penn Road.
Click here for details.



Above: *1868 OS map detail showing Datchet Mill in the lower right-hand corner, off Horton Road. The full map, and other historical maps, can be viewed on the Datchet History website*

ONLINE RESOURCES
The Times digital archive can be viewed remotely, free of charge, with a RBWM library card. A version of Ancestry is also available for remote use. For details, see RBWM A-Z Online Resources



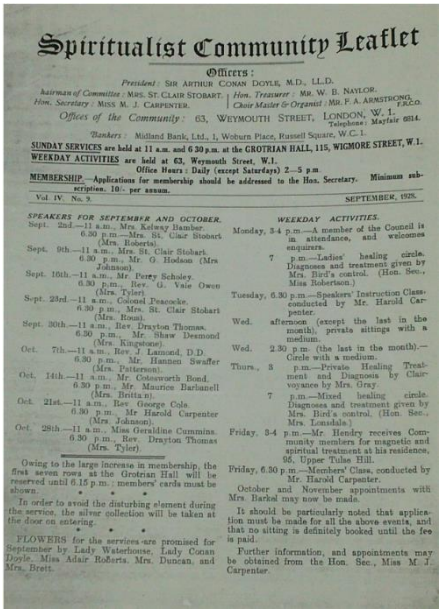
A TRAGIC ACCIDENT AT DATCHET'S MILL

Did you know that Datchet used to have a windmill? It's recorded on historical maps, including the 1868 OS map, **left**, and the plot had probably been the site of the mill since medieval times.
The etching, above, of the Great Flood of 1883, shows the mill and neighbouring buildings. Mill Place Cottages, on the left, still standing at the corner of Mill Place and Horton Road, were built about 1860 by the retired miller, George Jacques. The tall chimney indicates that the mill could be steam-driven although it still had its wind-sails. To the right of the mill, the miller's large house can be seen, at least partly still surviving as The Shrubberies.
On 26 September 1844, *The Times* reported a tragic accident:
'On Tuesday morning, between 10 and 11 o'clock, Mr G Sidingham, an extensive miller, residing at Datchet, near Windsor, met with a lamentable death in consequence of his being struck by the shafts of his windmill, on the common, close to the village. It appears that the mill had been stopped, and that while Mr Sidingham was standing at the door giving some change to a customer, a sudden gust of wind sprang up, which sent round the sails of the mill with great velocity. The shaft struck the unfortunate deceased on the temple, hurling him to a considerable distance, and when picked up life was extinct. Mr Sidingham was on the eve of being married to the daughter of Mr W Holderness, of Horton.'

FATAL ACCIDENT.—On Tuesday morning, between 10 and 11 o'clock, Mr. G. Sidingham, an extensive miller, residing at Datchet, near Windsor, met with a lamentable death in consequence of his being struck by the shafts of his windmill, on the common, close to the village. It appears that the mill had been stopped, and that while Mr. Sidingham was standing at the door giving some change to a customer, a sudden gust of wind sprang up, which sent round the sails of the mill with great velocity. The shaft struck the unfortunate deceased on the temple, hurling him to a considerable distance, and when picked up life was extinct. Mr. Sidingham was on the eve of being married to the daughter of Mr. W. Holderness, of Horton.



*The Kelway-Bamber family lived at Old Priory on The Green, **above**. Janet Kennish has written about this building on the Datchet History website.*



Spiritualist Community Leaflet

Officers:

President: SIR ARTHUR CONAN DOYLE, M.D., LL.D.

Chairman of Committee: MRS. ST. CLAIR STOBART. | Hon. Treasurer: MR. W. B. NAYLOR.
Hon. Secretary: MISS M. J. CARPENTER. | Chair Master & Organist: MR. F. A. ARMSTRONG, F.R.C.O.

Offices of the Community: 63, WEYMOUTH STREET, LONDON, W. 1. Telephone: Mayfair 6814.

Bankers: Midland Bank, Ltd., 1, Woburn Place, Russell Square, W.C.1.

SUNDAY SERVICES are held at 11 a.m. and 6.30 p.m. at the GROTRIAN HALL, 115, WIGMORE STREET, W.1.
WEEKDAY ACTIVITIES are held at 63, Weymouth Street, W.1.
Office Hours: Daily (except Saturdays) 2—5 p.m.

MEMBERSHIP.—Applications for membership should be addressed to the Hon. Secretary. Minimum subscription, 10/- per annum.

Vol. IV. No. 3. SEPTEMBER, 1928.

SPEAKERS FOR SEPTEMBER AND OCTOBER.

Sept. 2nd.—11 a.m., Mrs. Kelway Bamber.
6.30 p.m.—Mrs. St. Clair Stobart (Mrs. Roberts).
Sept. 9th.—11 a.m., Mrs. St. Clair Stobart.
6.30 p.m., Mr. G. Hodson (Mrs Johnson).
Sept. 16th.—11 a.m., Mr. Percy Scholey.
6.30 p.m., Rev. G. Vale Owen (Mrs. Tyler).
Sept. 23rd.—11 a.m., Colonel Peacocke.
6.30 p.m., Mrs. St. Clair Stobart (Mrs. Rosa).
Sept. 30th.—11 a.m., Rev. Drayton Thomas.
6.30 p.m., Mr. Shaw Desmond (Mrs. Kingstone).
Oct. 7th.—11 a.m., Rev. J. Lamond, D.D.
6.30 p.m., Mr. Hannen Swaffer (Mrs. Patterson).
Oct. 14th.—11 a.m., Mr. Colesworth Bond.
6.30 p.m., Mr. Maurice Barbanell (Mrs. Britta).
Oct. 21st.—11 a.m., Rev. George Cole.
6.30 p.m., Mr. Harold Carpenter (Mrs. Johnson).
Oct. 28th.—11 a.m., Miss Geraldine Cummins.
6.30 p.m., Rev. Drayton Thomas (Mrs. Tyler).

Owing to the large increase in membership, the first seven rows at the Grotrian Hall will be reserved until 6.15 p.m.; members' cards must be shown.

In order to avoid the disturbing element during the service, the silver collection will be taken at the door on entering.

FLOWERS for the services are promised for September by Lady Waterhouse, Lady Conan Doyle, Miss Adair Roberts, Mrs. Duncan, and Mrs. Brett.

WEEKDAY ACTIVITIES.

Monday, 3-4 p.m.—A member of the Council is in attendance, and welcomes enquiries.
7 p.m.—Ladies' healing circle. Diagnoses and treatment given by Mrs. Bird's control. (Hon. Sec., Miss Robertson.)
Tuesday, 6.30 p.m.—Speakers' Instruction Class, conducted by Mr. Harold Carpenter.
Wed. afternoon (except the last in the month), private sittings with a medium.
Wed. 2.30 p.m. (the last in the month).—Circle with a medium.
Thurs., 3 p.m.—Private Healing Treatment and Diagnosis by Clairvoyance by Mrs. Gray.
7 p.m.—Mixed healing circle. Diagnoses and treatment given by Mrs. Bird's control. (Hon. Sec., Mrs. Lonsdale.)
Friday, 3-4 p.m.—Mr. Hendry receives Community members for magnetic and spiritual treatment at his residence, 95, Upper Tulse Hill.
Friday, 6.30 p.m.—Members' Class, conducted by Mr. Harold Carpenter.

October and November appointments with Mrs. Barkel may now be made.

It should be particularly noted that application must be made for all the above events, and that no sitting is definitely booked until the fee is paid.

Further information, and appointments may be obtained from the Hon. Sec., Miss M. J. Carpenter.

***Above:** The Spiritualist Community Leaflet sent to DVS from Japan*

FANS IN JAPAN

The DVS inbox never fails to surprise and delight. In June, we received an email about a WWI aviator, Claude Herschel Kelway-Bamber, who is remembered on Datchet's war memorial. It reads,

'Hi I am Ryota. I am sending this from Japan. I translated *Claude's Book* and *Claude's Second Book* into Japanese.

It's on the internet now. Many Japanese people say they are wonderful books and are still reading them every day.

'I came across your site while researching Kelway-Bamber. I would like to link to it.

I learned a lot about Claude's family. It's worth reading. I am writing this in case you are surprised by many website visitors from Japan!'



"CLAUDE"
Pilot R.F.C., killed in mid-air 11th November 1915, aged 20 years, 6 months

Ryota had found the story of Claude Herschel Kelway-Bamber in our WWI research on the DVS website. Claude was a young pilot who lost his life in an aerial dogfight in 1915.

After his death, Claude's distraught mother, Eliza, joined the London Spiritualist Alliance and attended their lectures and meetings. She believed Claude could talk to her from beyond the grave and she published two books of their 'conversations', *Claude's Book* (1919) and *Claude's Second Book* (1920). The appendix of the first book also included some of Claude's actual letters home which gave a vivid insight into his character, self-confidence and youthful energy, and the thrill and excitement he experienced when flying. They paint a picture of what life in France was like for the young pilot.

We told Ryota that DVS would be delighted to have Japanese readers and he sent us a link to his website and a copy of a leaflet published in 1928 by the Spiritualist Community which he thought might interest us, **left**.

The president of the Spiritualist Community was Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, creator of the great detective *Sherlock Holmes*. By the time of his death in 1930, Conan-Doyle had also become one of the world's best-known proponents of Spiritualism. Like Eliza Kelway-Bamber, Conan-Doyle had lost a son in WWI. Kingsley Conan-Doyle had been badly wounded on the Somme and died of pneumonia in London in 1918. Although there is evidence that Conan-Doyle's interest in Spiritualism started much earlier, after the end of WWI he devoted the majority of his time and energy to the belief that the dead are able to communicate with the living through an earthly conduit or medium. The leaflet shows that Eliza Kelway-Bamber was a guest speaker at one of his Spiritualist Community's meetings in 1928.

LOCAL HERITAGE

The following have been proposed as non-designated heritage assets to be included in Datchet's Neighbourhood Plan:

1. *Drinking fountain*
2. *1930s' Garage*
3. *Hall Cottage*
4. *Horse/Cattle Trough*
5. *James's Cottages*
6. *Jubilee Cross*
7. *Montagu House (Library)*
8. *Manor Hotel*
9. *North Green/Patrixbourne*
10. *Pharmacy*
11. *St Mary's School*
12. *WWI Crucifix*

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For more information

To read the supporting evidence, please see the Datchet Neighbourhood Plan website.

When assets are designated in this way, it means that their value to the community will be taken into account, helping to inform planning decisions in a way that conserves and enhances local character and identity.

Designation does not change permitted development rights but it raises the profile of an asset to developers and councils when planning applications are submitted, particularly for demolition.

























HERITAGE ASSETS

Datchet has around 40 buildings and structures which are Grade II Listed. These buildings are of national importance but a Neighbourhood Plan provides the opportunity to create a list of heritage assets of local importance. These are known, in planning-speak, as Non-Designated Heritage Assets (NDHAs).

In a recent survey, Datchet's Neighbourhood Plan team (which includes DVS committee members) asked residents which local heritage assets they would like to preserve for future generations. This might be 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.

The team now has a starter list of some 40-plus buildings which residents think are locally important and should be considered for local listing. Creating a 'Local List' requires detailed evidence to demonstrate that these buildings and structures are of value to this and future generations because of their heritage significance.

This process will take several months so the team's intention, currently, is to cover some NDHAs in the Datchet Neighbourhood Plan which will be decided at referendum, and encourage local residents and groups, such as the DVS, to add to a Local List with RBWM support.



Above: *The milestone was in constant danger from damage at its former site by the road edge.* ***Below:*** *Part way through the restoration.* ***Bottom:*** *Andy Chalk gave us a preview photo of the restored milestone with its new 'root' before it was relocated*





MILESTONE: RESTORATION COMPLETE

By Marjorie Clasper



Datchet's milestone was installed by the Colnbrook Turnpike Trust in 1768 and indicates it is 20 miles to London, three miles to Colnbrook and one mile to Windsor. It has now been restored by Andy Chalk, the stone mason, and we are pleased to announce that it has finally been relocated on Memorial Green.

When the DVS (with some help from the Milestone Society) began a campaign to preserve the milestone in 2002, we did not think that it would take 20 years.

To quote Janet Kennish, as reported in *The Royal Borough Observer* on 26 June 2002: 'If we don't move it, we will lose it. ... It is going to be a long process and we will need the support of the Parish Council, the Royal Borough and Highways Agency'.



At the time Janet's prophetic words went unheeded and the parish council of the day decided to leave the stone *in situ*, near the kerb of the busy London Road. In September 2018, it was knocked out and damaged by a motor vehicle, only to be knocked out again a few months later after a temporary repair. It was left in a parlous state but at least by then most people were convinced that the advice from the DVS was sound.

The Parish Council agreed to restore and move the milestone to a safer place on the Green and the DVS proposed to mark the former position with a bronze plaque in the pavement. The DVS liaised with Historic England and the Milestone Society, and wrote the Heritage Statement for the planning application to move the milestone.

In 2019, planning permission to move the listed monument was granted. Unfortunately the Covid pandemic curtailed the stonemason's restorative work for many months and also little progress was made on the plaque.

We are delighted that the restored milestone has now been installed on Memorial Green, in line with the original site. Permission has been sought from RBWM Highways to install the plaque. The plaque has to made, tested for 'slipping' and approved by Conservation, Highways, the Lead Member for Highways, Borough Councillors, *et al*, before it can be installed by an approved contractor. DVS is working with the Parish Council on this and we hope to have positive news on its progress by the next Newsletter – fingers crossed!

More information We were delighted when the Milestone Society complimented the quality of the DVS Heritage Statement. Read the full statement here.



Above: *DVS is commissioning a plaque to mark the original site*



Above: *It is thought that demolition of all or part of the house would be necessary to create an access road*





SLOUGH ROAD DEVELOPMENT

DVS was contacted recently by residents of Ruscombe Gardens and Slough Road who were alarmed by the clearance work in the rear garden of a neighbouring property, 29 Slough Road.

When the house was put up for sale by Auction House London, the promotional brochure included architect's drawings indicating 'planning potential' for six four-bedroom detached houses in the rear L-shaped garden, close to the railway line and opposite the green belt land at the golf course.

Although the house did not sell at that auction, it was subsequently sold and the new owners, a development company, proceeded to clear the site and felled an estimated 40-45 trees. The images, ***above***, show the site before and after clearance.

Despite protests and letters of complaint to the developers and various bodies, the residents discovered that there is little they can do until a planning application is submitted because until then it's classed as a residential back garden outside the Conservation Area and none of the trees was protected by a tree preservation order.

If a planning application is submitted, it will need to show how the new development will meet national planning policy requirements to provide 'biodiversity net gain', delivering measurable improvements for biodiversity by creating or enhancing habitats in association with that development.

Trees act as natural flood defences so there is considerable concern that removing so many of them may have increased the flood risk to surrounding properties. The site is in Flood Zone 3 and the rear garden flooded in 2014 and 2003.

There are also highways issues associated with development on that site. Any access road would open on to Slough Road by Churchmead School, just before the mini-roundabout with Eton Road.

A residents' group has been formed. For more details, please contact Graham Buckland, email graham_audrey@hotmail.com



LANDMARK WELLINGTONIA

We recently alerted members to a campaign to save a 170-year-old Wellingtonia (*Sequoiadendron Giganteum Wellingtonia)* on Southlea Road, ***left***. Work on underpinning the neighbouring house appears to have started which, we hope, will mean that the subsidence issue will be resolved and the tree will be allowed to remain, but this has not yet been confirmed. We will keep you posted.



Newspaper articles
The Royal Borough Observer has invited DVS to submit monthly articles to its Nostalgia column. Here's a recent article written by Janet Kennish

MAIN DRAINAGE ARRIVES IN DATCHET

Datchet constantly suffers from traffic jams caused by the utility companies. They come to dig up the road to lay pipes or cables, then come back a week later to dig again and lay more. Never though, have recent disruptions equalled this scene from about 1970, which was all in a good cause and had been long awaited by all who lived in the village.

By the 1960s, Datchet was seriously lagging behind most other towns and villages by its lack of main drainage. Households and businesses relied on cesspits to hold sewage until it was pumped out at intervals. Eton Rural District Council (ERDC) was the local authority in charge of drainage, and their clerk had explained one of the current problems: "Pumping out the cesspits is an unpleasant job", he said, "and many men only stay a few weeks when they find out what the nature of the work is."

In March 1967, an inquiry was held by the Council, led by an Inspector for the Ministry of Housing. He was addressed not only by ERDC, but by Slough Borough Council, Thames Conservancy Board, Datchet Parish Council, the Women's Institute, Residents' Association and the Vicar.

Representing the Parish Council, Mr David Jefferson produced a letter from Dr J O Gallimore and Dr H W Parry Williams. They both described the frequent instances of gastroenteritis for which they were writing letters for patients who needed many days off work. They added: "On numerous occasions when the river level is high we have noted the cesspools tend to overflow. The aroma is highly obnoxious, without even considering possible medical ill effects." The Reverend John Bone revealed that the previous summer 230 children from the Church of England School had to tread through effluent to and from the school. Mrs Eileen Weaver told how the Women's Institute had organised a petition asking that a scheme proposed in 1964 and costing nearly a million pounds, should go ahead as soon as possible.

The immediate question causing delay was where to build the necessary pumping station and particularly whether a plot of land in Slough Road should be compulsorily purchased as its site. The fact that the owners objected to its being purchased in this way would cause delay to the whole process long before any actual work could begin.

Unfortunately the owner of that Slough Road site made a formal objection to the Ministry about the intended purchase. At that point the Ministry proposed to hold a public enquiry, not only into the purchase order but into Datchet's main drainage scheme in general. At a meeting of Datchet Parish Council, ERDC's clerk revealed they had gone 'right to the edge' to avoid a compulsory purchase order because of the enormous amount of delay it involved. If there was no further hold-up, it would still take about three to five years from the Ministry's approval of the scheme until work on it could begin, which it did eventually, in 1970.

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. A steady flow of enquiries keeps us busy making new discoveries to share

A SPORTING AFFAIR?

A DVS member has asked if other members have any information to confirm whether or not Suzanne Lenglen, a French tennis player from the 1920s, lived in the former coach house at The Lawn, off Horton Road, and whether there is any truth in the story that she was the mistress of the owner of The Lawn?

Suzanne, born in 1899, was Lawn Tennis Champion of France from 1919-23, and 1925-26; Champion of England, 1919-23, 1925; and Olympic Champion 1921. She turned professional in 1927, the first leading tennis player to do so, and opened a Tennis School in Paris in 1936. She is recognised as the first female athlete to become a global sport celebrity and her popularity led Wimbledon to move to its larger modern-day venue. She died in 1938.

She was an exceptional sportswoman but quite an unconventional character, reputedly adding brandy-soaked sugar cubes to her courtside water bottles. Several websites refer to her many affairs. Perhaps the most likely time period for an affair in Datchet, if indeed one existed at all, would be the early 1920s when Suzanne was regularly in the UK. At that time, William Robert Huckvale Temple, born 1861, was living at The Lawn. He was a barrister of the Middle Temple and a leading spirit of the Kennel Club. An obituary in the *Kent and Sussex Courier* adds that he was an ardent naturalist and sportsman and follower of the Eridge Hunt. William was married – his wife, Ida Mary, was 15 years younger - and they had three daughters. William died in 1922 and Ida continued to live at The Lawn until 1929.

Would the age gap between Suzanne and William make an affair less likely? Possibly not. Suzanne designed and modelled outfits for Selfridge's and was said to have had an affair with Henry Gordon Selfridge who was some 40 years older.

If anyone has any more information that we could pass on, please get in touch.



Above: *French tennis star Suzanne Lenglen playing at the 1922 French Championships in Paris*

ROYALTY AT DATCHET YACHT CLUB

We've been asked if anyone has a photograph of the Datchet Yacht Club sign? During the early 20th century, 'Datchet Yacht Club' was run privately as a social club at Patrixbourne/North Green – the large houses opposite Mays Island – and there used to be a sign on the building. No-one now knows why it was called the Yacht Club. King George V used to play billiards there while Queen Mary gossiped with her friends.

See Janet's Datchet History website for more information.



Above: *North Green and Patrixbourne, site of 'Datchet Yacht Club'*

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.

HAS YOUR MEMBERSHIP LAPSED?

If you would like to continue to receive newsletters and invitations to DVS events, etc, please make sure your membership is up to date.
If we haven't heard from you, we will, with regret, assume you no longer wish to hear from us and will remove your details from our mailing list to comply with data protection rules. If you are unsure whether your membership is up to date, please contact Sandra Needham, details below.

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP

Many thanks if you have renewed your membership.
Please note that membership runs from April each year to March the following year. The annual membership fee is £10 per adult.
Life membership is £125 per person. Junior membership remains £1.
How to pay
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.
If you have any queries, please call Sandra on 01753 593771.

MEMBERS' NEWS

We have received the very sad news that Brenda Sanctuary, a life member of DVS, passed away recently. We send our condolences to her family and friends.
We welcome three new members, Kate Hersey, Simon Oakland and Sally Blem. We look forward to welcoming them to a DVS event very soon.

DVS MAIN CONTACTS

President: Janet Kennish
Tel 07778 455706, email janetkennish123@gmail.com
Acting chair: Alison Crampin
Tel 01753 547090, email alison_crampin@yahoo.co.uk
Secretary: Marjorie Clasper
Tel 01753 545110, email marjorie.clasper@tiscali.co.uk
Websites: www.datchetvillagesociety.org.uk
www.datchethistory.org.uk

Current committee: President, Janet Kennish; Acting chair, Alison Crampin; Treasurer, Adrian Needham; Secretary, Marjorie Clasper; Membership Secretary, Sandra Needham; Photography and Archive, Adrian Giddins; Committee Members, Glenda Croft, Lesley Giddins.