

SPRING 2020

70

NEWSLETTER

Photograph of Datchet Riverside by Adrian Giddins, from DVS Photo Archive

In this issue

AGM
Recent events and visits
Battle of Britain Bunker
DVS news
Archaeology update
Listed buildings
Planning news
Planning enforcement
Wartime Datchet
'Lost' WWI medals
A family mystery
Postbag
Membership details

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING POSTPONED

We had pencilled in a date in late April for the DVS Annual General Meeting 2020 and had already started planning events for DVS's 25th anniversary year but, due to the corona virus pandemic, we have had to postpone these. We hope to be able to reschedule in the not-too-distant future and look forward to seeing everyone soon.
In the meantime, the present DVS committee has agreed to continue in office until we are able to hold a vote at the AGM. If you are interested in joining the committee in 2020-21, please telephone Marjorie on 545110 or email Marjorie.Clasper@tiscali.co.uk.
If you would like to see a copy of the DVS accounts summary for 2019-20, please let us know. Otherwise, this will be available at the AGM.
Please note, Annual Membership Fees are now due, please see p13.

DATCHET CORONA VOLUNTEERS

The Datchet Corona Volunteers group is a network of residents helping neighbours who are in self-isolation, are vulnerable 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. This is a non-contact service so they will arrange to leave any supplies outside your door. They are also running a chat support line for anyone who needs to hear a friendly voice.
If you would like to volunteer or if you need help, you can call them on 01753 905247, email datchetcoronavolunteers@gmail.com. There will soon be a website, www.datchetcoronavolunteers.co.uk, and there is a Facebook page (search for Datchet Corona Volunteers).

DVS PHOTO GALLERY

To see photos of our events, visit the 'Gallery' section of the DVS website. There are also photographs of events in previous years





Above centre: *With Art Ramirez, DVS members learning that The Round Tower isn't actually round after all*
Above right: *Braving the February drizzle*

RECENT EVENTS AND VISITS

♦ **THE COLLEGE OF ST GEORGE & WINDSOR CASTLE PRECINCTS**

The February drizzle did nothing to dampen the spirits of a group of 20 members who enjoyed a very special tour organised and led by Art Ramirez, local resident and Deputy Secretary to the Guild of Voluntary Stewards at St George's Chapel.

Art's knowledge is encyclopaedic. He started as a volunteer Steward 35 years ago and is now in charge of the introductory historical training and Health and Safety aspects of volunteering. He is also a warden in the Castle, regularly conducting tours of the Castle precinct, The Round Tower, Frogmore House and private tours of the State Rooms. His work for the Royal Collection Trust for the past 15 years, also involves working in London at the Royal Mews, Queens Gallery and Buckingham Palace.

Art's love of history and of the castle and Chapel was infectious. He had our rapt attention as he brought to life stories about recent discoveries and age-old mysteries, and we felt very privileged indeed to sit in the Quire under the banners and crests of the Garter Knights and to visit areas not normally open to the public.

125 YEARS OF DPC

Did you see Janet Kennish's article in *The Link* about the formation of Datchet Parish Council in 1895? If not, click here to read it online.



Above: *Members enjoyed a very sociable evening, learning more about the historical development of the village over a glass of wine and a mince pie.*
Above right: *Painting of the village centre by William Corden; Painting of St Mary's Church, 1850s, which belonged to Rev J A Miller; 1833 Parish Enclosure Map*







♦ **OLD MAPS, PAINTINGS AND PHOTOGRAPHS**

For our Christmas event last year, we hired the Church Rooms to display a fascinating historic map sequence showing how the village has grown and changed over time, with paintings and photographs to provide additional context. We were delighted that DVS members kindly loaned us two paintings of Datchet Bridge for the event, and the church allowed us to display their paintings by William Corden.

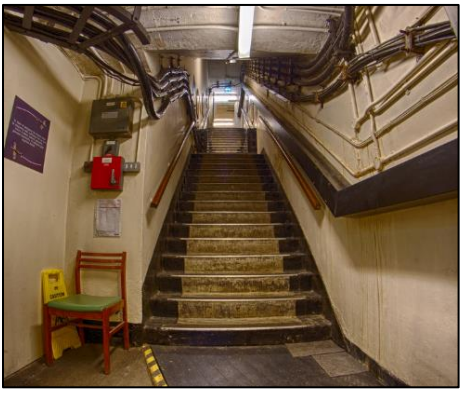
We had some interesting and surprising recent acquisitions on show, too, including the handwritten minutes of the Working Men's Club, and a photo album which belonged to Misses Gollop and Dean who ran the village post office for many years.

It was a very pleasant social gathering which drew a lot of interest. Thank you to everyone who came along to support the event.



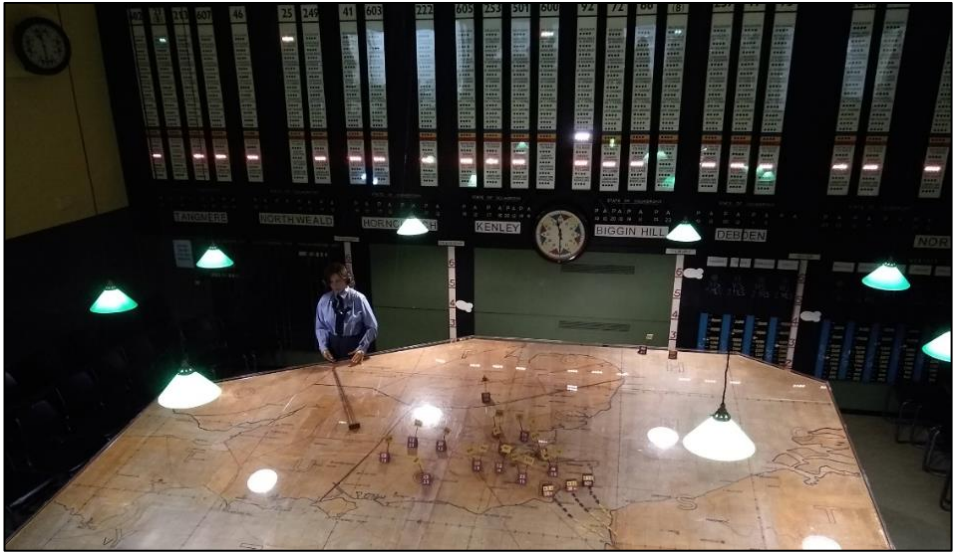


The Battle of Britain Bunker has a brand-new 2,000m² exhibition and visitor centre complex, ***above.*** *Private visits include a presentation in the underground plotting room* ***above right.*** *To reach the underground bunker, there are 76 steps down (and back up),* ***below.***





The Ellis Journey *July 2020 marks the 125th anniversary of the first recorded journey by a motorised vehicle in England, made by Datchet resident Evelyn Ellis to his home on Southlea Road*



THE BATTLE OF BRITAIN BUNKER

Did you know that throughout WWII, and most notably during the Battle of Britain and on D-Day, Fighter Command's No. 11 Group Operations were controlled from a tiny top-secret bunker at RAF Uxbridge, less than 10 miles from Datchet?

We were planning a private DVS visit to The Battle of Britain Bunker in the run-up to the 75th anniversary of VE Day, however, understandably, we have postponed our visit. We hope to reschedule later in the year, possibly around VJ Day in August.

> It was on emerging from this bunker on 15 September 1940, that Winston Churchill said, 'Never in the field of human conflict was so much owed by so many to so few.'

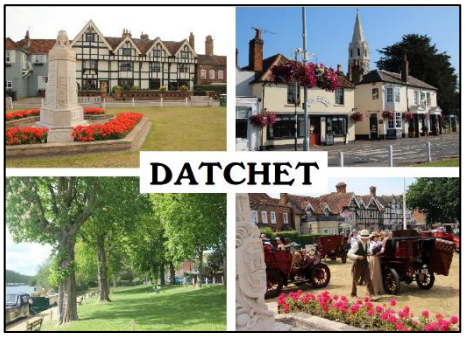
DVS CALENDAR 2020

We had made plans for the next few months but these are now either postponed, cancelled or on hold. When, we have more news, we will inform members by email.

Please see also www.DatchetVillageSociety.org.uk and www.DatchetHistory.org.uk

- **APRIL AGM** Postponed
- **MAY Battle of Britain Bunker** Postponed
- **MAY VE Day Celebration** The village event has been cancelled. (There's more about VE Day 1945 in Datchet on page 9.)
- **JUNE Midsummer walk** Plans for a village walk and 25th anniversary celebration are on hold.
- **JULY Village Fete** To be confirmed. DVS usually has a stall.
- **JULY The Ellis Journey**. The veteran cars are scheduled to return to the village on 5 July for a very special 125th anniversary. To be confirmed. DVS usually has a stall and display.
- **AUGUST VJ Day** To be confirmed.

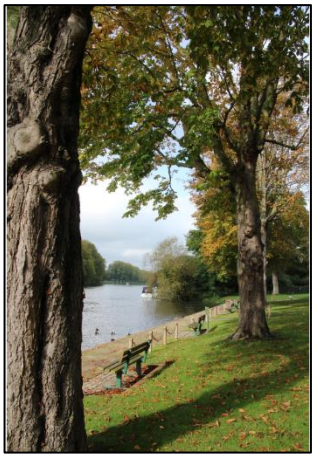
If you have suggestions for places to visit, speakers to invite, topics to cover, or local walks, for when things are back to normal, please let us know.



Above: *Design for a future greetings card*

GREETINGS CARDS OF DATCHET

Many thanks to everyone who completed our recent survey to choose the image for our next greetings card. This will be a picture of Datchet riverside, ***below left***. We are also planning to print a compilation of Datchet views, ***left.*** Our present card, ***below right,*** has been selling well, too.







Above: *Datchet in Flood, 1875, by William Corden, Datchet resident and painter to Queen Victoria*

REPAIRS TO PAINTING

In recent weeks, you may have noticed that the painting of *Datchet in Flood* (1875) by William Corden had been taken down from the wall at the library. This painting was purchased jointly by the DVS, The Barker Bridge House Trust and the Datchet Hall Endowment Fund. It was given to Datchet Parish Council in 2009 and since then it has been hanging in the Library. During recent redecoration, the painting and its frame were accidentally damaged. RBWM, which leases the library building, has apologised to DPC and the DVS, and accepted responsibility for the repair of the damage. RBWM is asking the South East Conservation Centre, who maintain the Royal Borough's Civic Collection, to include the repairs with the work they are undertaking for the art in Windsor Guildhall.

DID YOU KNOW?

The Corden family of painters to Queen Victoria used to live in the High Street. Click here for more information on Janet Kennish's Datchet History website

WILDLIFE GARDENING

While we're all being advised to practise 'social distancing' and 'self-isolation', Wild About Datchet is encouraging us to get out into our gardens with a wildlife gardening challenge. You can find entry forms and full details at www.wildaboutdatchet.com





Above: *Aerial views of, from top, Neolithic causewayed enclosure at Riding Court; and earthworks at the proposed housing site between London Road and the M4*

DATCHET ARCHAEOLOGY UPDATE

There have been a number of exceptional discoveries here in recent years. In 2018, following DVS's discovery of a prehistoric settlement at Southlea, Trent and Peak Archaeology carried out further excavations for the Environment Agency which is proposing to build the River Thames Flood Relief Channel there.

More recently, Wessex Archaeology discovered a Neolithic causewayed enclosure at the Riding Court Cemex site. This was the subject of last year's AGM and it caused much excitement again when it featured on *BBC London News* in March this year.

We've been told that, during preparatory work for the M4 Smart Motorway, evidence of a late Bronze Age settlement (1200-800BC) was unearthed near The Myrke. And, unofficially, we've heard that a ring ditch may have been discovered at the proposed new housing site on London Road but, as yet, we are unable to confirm that.

The Environment Agency, Wessex Archaeology and the M4 Smart Motorway team have all promised displays and exhibitions when their reports are finalised so DVS contacts them from time to time for an update on progress. The Environment Agency has told us that they hope to carry out a consultation later this year and during 2021, prior to submitting their planning application, and will be able to share some more detail about their archaeological findings at Southlea then.

RIDING COURT

The most recent plans for the eventual restoration of the Cemex quarry site at Riding Court are on our website, click here for details.



Above: *DVS visit to Kingsmead Quarry in 2016.* ***Below:*** *Neolithic house reconstruction at Butser Ancient Farm from Wessex Archaeology*



RECONSTRUCTION OF A NEOLITHIC HOUSE

Our friends at Wessex Archaeology have been in touch with exciting news related to their discoveries at Cemex's Kingsmead Quarry in Horton which DVS visited in 2016. The excavations revealed unprecedented levels of early Neolithic domesticity in England. Between 2008 and 2012, four Neolithic 'houses' were recorded. There are only 40 or 50 known across the country so to find four in one location was quite extraordinary. Carbon dating has indicated that they were occupied around 3800-3700BC, and used as dwellings for a small community or family group over several generations. Two of the houses survived as no more than rectangular groups of postholes, while the other pair had gully foundations which formed an external boundary, and an internal partition dividing the structure into two rooms.

Wessex Archaeology is working in collaboration with Butser Ancient Farm, near Petersfield, to reconstruct the largest of these houses, known as Horton 2, discovered in 2012. See the Wessex Archaeology blog for more details: www.wessexarch.co.uk/news/building-butsers-neolithic-house-archaeology



Above: *'Danger of falling masonry' signs at the Grade II listed Cemetery Chapel*



Above: *Bricks are now falling out of the Grade II listed wall on London Road*

LISTED BUILDING UPDATE

CEMETERY CHAPEL

The cast-iron gutters and drain pipes at the Grade II listed Cemetery Chapel have recently been replaced and the roof partially repaired. The work, organised and funded by Datchet Parish Council, is intended to help ensure that the building is watertight.

While working on the roof, the contractor discovered that one of the coping stones, underneath the lightning conductor, is cracked. Until it can be repaired, there are signs around the Chapel warning of the danger of falling masonry.

Repairing and repointing these sandstone coping stones is a specialist task so DPC has contacted stonemason Andy Chalk. Andy is well-known to the DVS for his work on the restoration of the Edmund Earley gravestone in the churchyard, the gateposts at the Chapel, and the War Memorial; he has also recently been asked by DPC to repair the milestone (see below). Andy is currently employed at the Castle and his skills are in high demand. If he is able to take on the work, these roof repairs may take priority over the milestone.

LONDON ROAD WALL

Some months ago, we contacted RBWM's Conservation Team again for advice about the stability of the Grade II listed wall on London Road. Several DVS members have expressed concern that it is badly eroded in places, bricks have fallen out and there are now holes in it.

The wall runs from the entrance of Datchet House to the gardener's cottage by the Cricket Ground. It is dated to 1748 when Lady Kilmorey of Datchet House leased a strip of land from the Lord of the Manor in order to build a wall alongside her property.

Each of the modern houses behind the wall has responsibility for the section forming the boundary of their rear garden. RBWM has written to the owners advising them of the condition of the wall and their responsibilities to maintaining the listed structure.

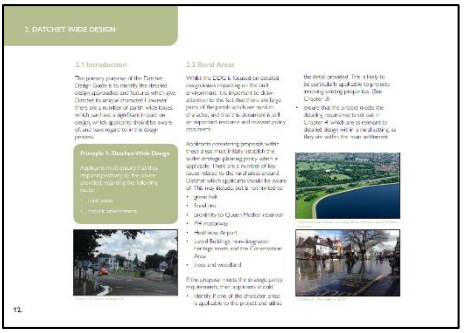
The wall is in poor condition but RBWM says is not considered to be structurally unsafe so they cannot issue an urgent works notice at the present time. RBWM's Conservation Officer says they will 'endeavour to keep the Village Society updated on this matter'.

DATCHET'S MILESTONE

Datchet Parish Council has agreed to fund the restoration of the milestone and its relocation to a place of greater safety on Memorial Green. Listed Building Consent has been granted and stonemason Andy Chalk has been asked to undertake a sympathetic restoration although, due to urgent repairs required to the Cemetery Chapel (see above), this may be delayed. We hope to be able to mark the milestone's former position with a plaque. Please click here to read DVS's heritage report on the Milestone which formed part of the planning application.

PLANNING NEWS







Above: *Sample pages from the Datchet Design Guide*



Above: *Proposals for the River Thames Scheme*



DATCHET DESIGN GUIDE

At the time of writing, the DDG is still in the consultation stage and we hope that many DVS members are responding, letting the Borough know if they think the DDG will help planners to raise the quality of design in any new development in Datchet.
See consult.rbwm.gov.uk/portal for details.
The consultation ends at 6pm on Tuesday 7 April 2020.
All the comments will then be reviewed and a revised version will be published which will go before RBWM council for final approval. Should it be adopted, the DDG will become a Supplementary Planning Document. It will sit alongside the emerging Borough Local Plan, currently undergoing examination by the Planning Inspectorate, and the emerging Datchet Neighbourhood Plan.
What will the DDG mean for a householder who wishes to extend a family home, or for a developer wishing to build new houses?
In a nutshell, it could mean that if the DDG is ignored, planning permission may not be given, or designs may have to be altered in line with the guidance. It will be one of the many planning conditions intended to keep development appropriate to Datchet, and of an improved quality.

CONSERVATION AREA UPDATE

Over the past few months, the DVS has contacted RBWM's Conservation Officer about unauthorised work to a listed building in the High Street. As a result the work was stopped and retrospective planning permission applied for and granted. We also asked about the concrete blocks and metal plates embedded in the flower beds around the listed War Memorial and have been asked by the Conservation Officer to forward our concerns to the RBWM Enforcement team.

RIVER THAMES SCHEME

It has been reported that the River Thames Scheme (RTS) has a shortfall of about £40 million funding. The Royal Borough has said that if this is not provided by central government, it may be funded through a Flood Levy. The latest proposals for the RTS are here, on our website

MAKING SENSE OF PLANNING IN DATCHET

PLANNING BREACHES

If you are aware, or suspect, that a planning breach has occurred, you can report to it to RBWM online and request an investigation, click here for details
Alternatively write to Planning Enforcement Team, RBWM Town Hall, St Ives Rd, Maidenhead, SL6 1RF.
Or send an email to Planning.Enforcement @RBWM.gov.uk
It is also a good idea to inform the Clerk at Datchet Parish Council and DVS would also be interested to hear about alleged planning breaches



We can all play a part in keeping Datchet special

FURTHER INFORMATION

For more details about planning enforcement from the RBWM website, please click here.

Q&A: PLANNING ENFORCEMENT

A brief explanation of how the system works

Q: Does all development need planning permission? It is not always clear when planning permission is required. Members of the public are encouraged to use the government's planning portal for information.

Q: What happens if planning permission is required and development goes ahead without permission? Unauthorised development of, for example, a new building, extension or out-building, or works to protected trees without permission, could be subject to enforcement.

Q: How does enforcement work? RBWM Enforcement Officers investigate reported breaches of planning control and prioritise them based on the impact of the alleged breach.

- **High priority** is a breach which could cause serious harm to the natural or historic environment or to public safety, eg unauthorised work to a listed building or protected tree, or unauthorised demolition of a building within a Conservation Area. A site visit takes place within one working day of the report being made.
- **Low priority** is a breach which is unlikely to cause harm to the environment or residential amenity, eg boundary treatments or minor variations from approved plans. The officers' ability to pursue this will be determined by current demands on the service.
- **Medium priority** covers all cases in between. Officers will conduct a site visit within seven working days of the report being made.

For complicated cases, more than one site visit may be necessary, and a Planning Contravention Notice, which requires the owner/occupier to give more information about activities on the land, may be served.

Q: What happens after the site visit? Enforcement action is discretionary. Its purpose is to remedy harm, not punish the perpetrator. Even when it is possible to take action, officers have to decide whether it would be expedient and in the public interest, and determine the appropriate course of action. This might be, for example, advising on applying for respective planning permission; negotiating an acceptable solution in line with national guidance, best practice and local planning policy; deciding to take no action; or issuing an Enforcement Notice.

Q: What powers does the Planning Authority have? If an Enforcement Notice is deemed necessary, the planning authority has the power to:

- Detail the alleged breach of planning control and issue instructions and a timetable for compliance.
- Issue a Listed Building Enforcement Notice or a Breach of Condition Notice requiring compliance with conditions imposed on a planning application.
- Issue a Stop Notice or Temporary Stop Notice on the development.
- Apply for an injunction to stop or prevent the development.
- Pursue a prosecution in the courts for carrying out illegal works, such as unauthorised work to protected trees or a listed building.
- In extreme circumstances, enter a site and carry out works to secure compliance with an Enforcement Notice and subsequently place a charge on the land for repayment of costs incurred.

NB There is a right of appeal against an Enforcement Notice.



Above: *Street parties, like this one in Slough, were held all over the country to celebrate the end of WWII*

VICTORY IN EUROPE DAY

On VE-Day 1945, virtually the whole of Datchet came out to celebrate, with an impromptu bonfire on the Green and dancing until dawn. In the following weeks, street parties were held for the children, with ice cream, oranges and gifts of shiny new pennies.
If you'd like to read more about the 1945 celebrations, we've published local newspaper reports on the DVS website: www.datchetvillagesociety.org.uk/datchet-in-wwi/datchet-in-wwii/ve-day-1945/. And there's an extract from Janet Kennish's *Datchet Past* which explains how the war changed the village: www.datchetvillagesociety.org.uk/datchet-in-wwi/datchet-in-wwii/how-the-war-changed-datchet/



WWI PHOTOGRAPHS

Have you ever seen a photograph like this one, ***left,*** where the sitter appears to be thinking about people pictured in a 'thought bubble'? It was sent to us by DVS members Sue Bennett and Ronnie Lewin. They'd come across a number of old sepia family photographs and were trying to identify the individuals and associated events.
Sue and Ronnie think the five individuals are their uncles - all Lewins from Datchet and soldiers in WWI - and that the sitter might be another Lewin sibling. They asked whether this was a style of photography which was popular at the time.
We didn't have the answer but we noticed a couple of clues which might help to establish the identity of the sitter. He is wearing shorts which suggests a hot climate. There is also a pith helmet at his side; these were used in WWI by British troops fighting in the Middle East and Africa.
Our assumption is that this type of photograph, superimposing one image on another, was perhaps, at the time, quite a novel way for soldiers away on military service to let family know they were thinking of them. We also wondered whether the photograph might have been 'staged' in a studio before departure, or taken somewhere abroad.
If you've come across WWI photographs like this, or can tell us anything more about them, please do let us know.



DATCHET'S WWII SOLDIERS

There are now brief details on the DVS website about the WWII soldiers remembered on the War Memorial.
If you have any information about any of the men and their families, please get in touch.



Above: *Philip Tarrant, church organist and labourer, whose medals were thought to have been lost forever*

A SPECIAL REUNION

One of the nice things about the DVS website is that we're never quite sure what mystery or surprise it will deliver next.

In mid-February, we received a message from Brian Langston in France who had acquired the medals and memorial plaque of WWI Datchet soldier Philip Tarrant. Philip was the church organist and he worked at the gravel pits on Horton Road. DVS knows quite a lot about him because his family very kindly lent Janet Kennish his diaries some years ago. (See www.datchetvillagesociety.org.uk/datchet-in-wwi/datchets-wwi-memorial/tarrant-philip-william-1880-1917/)

Brian, a former policeman, explained that he used to live in Wraysbury and had purchased Philip's medals at a car boot sale in Datchet about 30 years ago. When he later moved to the South of France he took them with him. It was only recently, when he was clearing out some old trunks of ephemera, that he discovered the medals again and decided to do some research. He was keen to find out if Philip still had any family in the village who might like them and asked DVS for help. He had read Philip's story on the DVS website and found it particularly poignant to see Philip staring back at him from a photo. 'It makes it very personal', he said. 'Please feel free to share my email with Philip's family. I am sure they would love to be reunited with the medals that he paid the ultimate sacrifice for'.

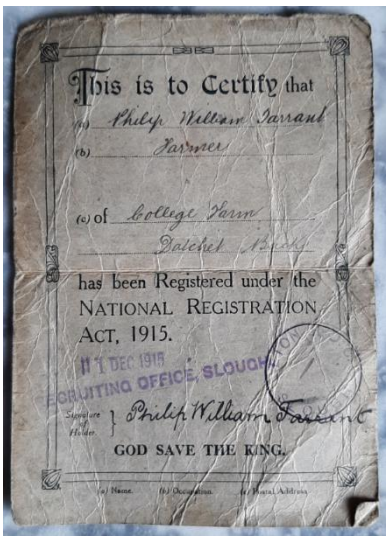
Janet contacted Philip's descendants in Datchet and they told us that the medals had been left by Philip's widow to her eldest son who, it is believed, sold them. In recent years, the family had been searching unsuccessfully for the medals. Believing them to be completely untraceable, they had practically given up hope of ever finding them. The news from France was a fantastic bolt out of the blue.

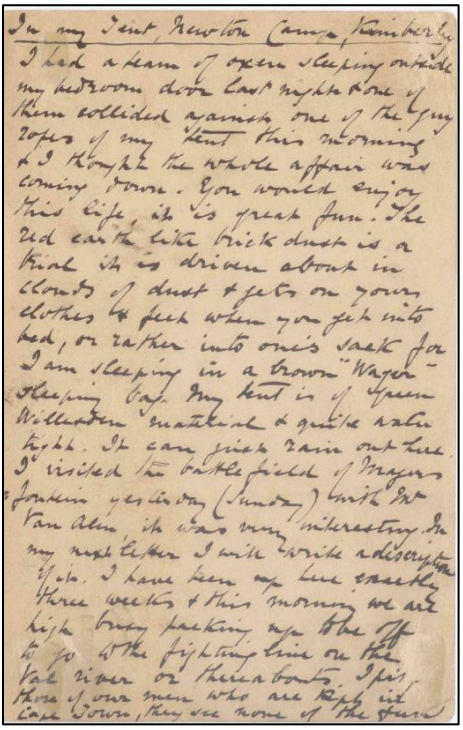
Brian will be visiting Datchet, as soon as he is able, to return the medals to the family. Both parties are delighted. 'It quite brought a tear to my eye!' said Brian. 'Many thanks to DVS for your help in bringing this matter to a happy conclusion.'

Below: *Brian with Philip Tarrant's medals and memorial plaque*









In my Tent Newton Camp Kimberley
I had a team of oxen sleeping outside
my bedroom door last night & one of
them collided against one of the guy
ropes of my tent this morning
& I thought the whole affair was
coming down. You would enjoy
this life, it is great fun. The
red earth like brick dust is a
trial it is driven about in
clouds of dust & gets on your
clothes & feet when you get into
bed, or rather into one's sack for
I am sleeping in a brown "Wayer-
proof" Sleeping Bag. My tent is of Queen
Willesden material & quite rain
tight. It can pour rain out here
& I visited the battle field of Magers
fontein yesterday (Sunday) with Dr
Van Alen it was very interesting. In
my next letter I will write a discrip-
tion of it. I have been here exactly
three weeks & this morning we are
busy packing up to be off to go to the fighting line on the
Vaal river or thereabouts. I pity
those of our men who are kept in Cape Town,
they see none of the fun.

A postcard sent from Samuel Osborn to his son, Stuart



The Maisonette on The Avenue, built for Samuel Osborn. See the Datchet History website



Judith Osborn drove for the Etaples Motor Ambulance Convoy. See 'Women in WWI' section of the DVS website

DR SAMUEL OSBORN'S 'MISSING' SON

In March, a Canadian professor contacted DVS via our website with a mystery. He had acquired a postcard, ***left***, sent in 1900 from a Datchet resident, Dr Samuel Osborn, to his son Stuart. It was written in his tent at Newton Camp, Kimberley, South Africa, during the Boer War:

'I had a team of oxen sleeping outside my bedroom door last night', he wrote, *'and one of them collided against one of the guy ropes of my tent this morning and I thought the whole affair was coming down. You would enjoy this life, it is great fun. The red earth like brick dust is a trial, it is driven about in clouds of dust and gets on your clothes and feet when you get into bed ... I visited the battlefield of Magersfontein yesterday ... It was very interesting. In my next letter, I will write a description of it. I have been here exactly three weeks and this morning we are busy packing up to be off to go to the fighting line on the Vaal River or thereabouts. I pity those of our men who are kept in Cape Town, they see none of the fun.'*

The professor said he found Dr Osborn's view of warfare as 'fun', rather callous or outmoded, but wondered if this was how one spoke to 11-year-old boys in Queen Victoria's days. He discovered that Dr Osborn clearly had some prestige but was struck by official biographies which said he had only one child, Judith. This roused his curiosity. What had happened to Stuart? Keen to discover more, he asked for our help.

DVS always enjoys a challenge. Janet Kennish already knew a lot about Dr Osborn. He had written a history of Datchet and lived at 'The Maisonette' in The Avenue. We also knew he had travelled with his daughter, Judith, to Bruges to nurse the wounded in WWI, and she later drove ambulances at Etaples. But we knew very little about Stuart. Why would he be erased from the family history?

We're starting to uncover a number of clues. Stuart's father and grandfather were both illustrious surgeons, his maternal grandfather was also a medical pioneer and his sister was a nurse, but Stuart became a civil servant for the Commissioner of Works and Public Buildings.

We think he moved to London around 1911, aged 21, and got married. About the same time, he was declared bankrupt. Did his family disapprove and cut him off?

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.

After the war, we think Stuart may have divorced his wife on the grounds of adultery but then there's very little trace of him.

He doesn't appear in local Datchet directories so it is unlikely he returned to live in the village after his father's death in 1936. He was called up again in 1939. We're still unravelling the mystery and investigating the possibility that he died in Hove. If we find out more, we'll let you know. And, as always, if you know anything, please get in touch.



Above, front row, from left to right, Dr W G Grace, Prince Albert, and Percy John de Paravicini



Above, The Lady and the Lemur, Georgie. **Below,** Ice-skater Arthur Cumming, AKA 'the flea'



POSTBAG

The DVS is often the first port of call for anyone wanting to find or share information about the history of the village.
Here's a recent selection from our postbag.

- Last year, we were visited by a couple from France, descendants of the Paravicini family who lived at Riverside on Windsor Road. (There's more about the family on the Datchet History website.) We recently sent them a clipping of a local newspaper article we'd found which reported that Queen Victoria's grandson, Prince Albert of Schleswig-Holstein, had stayed with their ancestor Percy John de Paravicini at Riverside in 1909 and had 'addressed the scholars' in the village school. In return, they sent us a fabulous photograph, ***left,*** of PJ de Paravicini and the Prince playing golf at Sunningdale. What they hadn't realised, perhaps because cricket is not as popular in France, was that the Dr W G Grace, sitting next to the Prince on the front row, was none other than the famous cricketer.
- A documentary-maker from the BBC asked if DVS knew anything about Princess Elizabeth's wartime pantomimes at Windsor Castle. He had heard that the supporting cast and audience were made up largely of local people and was keen to find an interviewee. We put notices around the village and asked on our website and on social media and found a contact for him. If you are able to help too, please get in touch.
- DVS was recently given Gwen Brady's photo album via her son-in-law's executor. The Brady family lived at Swanmead on The Avenue, and they are closely linked with the Hon. Mrs Mary Cadogan who skated in the 1912 Nordic Games with Olympic medallist Arthur Cumming. (The full, fascinating story is on the Datchet History website.)
  Mary was buried at Datchet cemetery on Ditton Road and has a rather unusual gravestone in the shape of a broken column, encircled by a snake, with a lemur carved at the base. There is also another stone in memory of Angy 1910 and George 1920. We knew that Angy was Mary's pet lemur as they'd been photographed together for *Country Life* magazine in 1907. We also knew that she had a pet python called Genesis but, until now, we had thought that George was her huge dachshund. In this album, however, we found a photograph, ***left,*** of Mary punting on the Thames, with 'Georgie' who is clearly not a dachshund at all, but another lemur. After Mary's death in 1914, her friend, Helen Lennox Boyd, took care of George at her house, Timsbury, on Montagu Road.
  In the album, there was also a photograph of Mary's skating partner, Arthur Cumming, labelled as 'the flea', on a motorbike (which we think might be a 1912 Iver Johnson). Sadly, he was involved in a fatal motorbike accident in London in 1914. He is buried beside Mary even though neither of them lived here.
- We have also answered requests for information about the Dunford, Bampton and Gregory families in Datchet.

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.

Celebrating 25 Years

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP FEES DUE

Membership runs from April each year to March the following year. Membership categories have now been simplified to 'individual', 'junior' and 'life' and a rise in fees was agreed at the 2019 AGM. This will be the first increase in eight years.
The annual membership fee is now £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.

INTRODUCE A FRIEND TO THE DVS

Do you know anyone who would enjoy DVS events, visits, talks, walks, and regular newsletters? It's easy to join, they just need to contact DVS Membership Secretary, Sandra Needham, telephone (01753) 593771, or email sandra@e-brimbles.com. Or maybe membership would make a nice gift for someone



MEMBERS' NEWS

We are delighted to welcome two new members Marie Cameron and Michael Ellis.-We have received the sad news that Alec Stacey and John Street passed away recently. We send our sympathies to their family and friends.

DVS MAIN CONTACTS

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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. We're always happy to receive feedback and ideas.