

SUMMER 2023

79

NEWSLETTER

Above: The Ellis Journey event 2019, Adrian Giddins

Datchet Village Society

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Welcome to the summer 2023 issue of your DVS newsletter

Inside, you'll find details of this year's AGM and reviews of our most recent visits to Cumberland Lodge in the Great Park and to St Mary's Church where we viewed the oldest memorials in the chancel.

We found some Victorian photographs of Datchet on a Scottish website and reprint one of The Green in flood which makes a fascinating comparison with the present-day village. And we've been given a few mysteries and house histories to investigate.

We're delighted that the Datchet Neighbourhood Plan was successful at referendum but there are currently quite a few planning/enforcement issues in the village which we're keeping an eye on. We also have an update for you on our listed buildings and monuments, including the London Road wall and the Milestone, and a new Historic England project.

Please note, membership fees were due on 1 April 2023.

Please see the back page for details.

Join us for The Ellis Journey, 2 July 2023, Horton Road

We're hoping to have a DVS display at the Ellis Journey event when the veteran cars return to the village, re-enacting the first recorded journey by a motorcar in the UK, made in 1895 by a Datchet resident, Evelyn Ellis. The event takes place at The Cut, in front of Horton Road car park. Cars are due to start arriving from about 11am onwards.

We look forward to seeing you soon, *Your DVS Committee*

Email: info@datchetvillagesociety.org.uk

www.datchetvillagesociety.org.uk

RECENT EVENTS



Our tour, led by the Chief Executive Canon Dr Ed Newell, started in the Drawing Room, above



Above: The Tapestry Hall.
Below: The Tapestry Hall looking towards the staircase





Above: The visitors' book shows the many notable public figures and writers who have visited.
Below: our DVS group





CUMBERLAND LODGE, 30 MAY 2023

DVS members enjoyed a private visit to this beautiful 17th-century former royal residence. It was originally called Byfield House after John Byfield, one of Oliver Cromwell's officers who bought the plot of Crown land. After the restoration of the monarchy, Charles II re-possessed it and made it the home of the Rangers of the Great Park. It takes its present name from William Augustus, Duke of Cumberland, second son of King George II who was given the rangership in 1746 as a reward for Culloden (which also gave rise to his nickname, the 'Butcher Cumberland', in Scotland).

A wing of the house was severely damaged by fire in 1869 but, after its restoration, Queen Victoria's daughter, Princess Helena, moved here from Frogmore with her husband Prince Christian of Schleswig-Holstein, and the Queen often came to the Lodge to take tea with them.



Queen Elizabeth II and Princess Margaret also knew the Lodge well as they lived next door during WWII, in the smaller Royal Lodge. (On our visit, we were even allowed to sit on the Queen Mother's favourite chair, **right**.)

The Lodge has been an educational foundation since 1947 when King George VI broke with tradition and made it available to a new organisation which was coming into being as a result of Amy Buller's book, *Darkness over Germany.* She feared that what happened in Germany could happen here and wanted to establish a place where university students of all beliefs could reflect on moral and spiritual issues of the time.

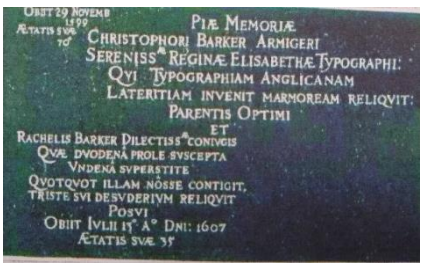
Today the foundation is an educational charity, known simply as Cumberland Lodge, which provides a unique place for exchanging views and inspiring minds, hosting thousands of students each year. It promotes fresh thinking on important ethical and societal issues through its programme of cross-disciplinary discussions. It is also a venue for conferences and meetings and was even used as a film set for *The King's Speech* in 2010.



Above, Katherine Berkeley's memorial dating from 1559



Busts of Maria, Hanbury and John Wheeler



Memorial to Christopher Barker (d1599) and his first wife Rachel (d1607)



MEMORIALS AT ST MARY'S CHURCH

In April, Janet Kennish led a walk and talk around St Mary's Church for DVS members, focusing on the fascinating memorials in the chancel.

The earliest, dating from 1559, pictured top left, is dedicated to Katherine Berkeley. She died giving birth to a daughter who was baptised in the church a few days after her burial. Katherine was the wife of Sir Maurice Berkeley, standard bearer to King Henry VIII. He leased Riding Court, the most prestigious property belonging to the Manor of Datchet, from the King in 1544. (The Manor had belonged to the Crown since 1472 when it was forfeited by the de Molyns family who were on the wrong side during the Wars of the Roses.)

Janet had also arranged for a magnificent brass rubbing of one of the early memorials, above, to be on display. It was made by a former vicar and gifted to Janet who has asked if it can now be displayed in the Church rooms. The memorial is dedicated to Alice Hanbury who died in 1593 and shows her kneeling at the altar with her two daughters and her husband, Richard Hanbury of Riding Court. He was a City of London goldsmith who had leased Riding Court from Elizabeth I in 1586. The memorial was also intended to be his, too, with spaces left for the date of his death, but these were not added when he died in 1607.

Richard's daughter, Elizabeth, was married to Edmund Wheeler, another goldsmith. They had four sons and a daughter, three of whom, Maria, Hanbury and John, centre left, are remembered in the chancel.

Also of note is a memorial to Christopher Barker, left, who died in 1599. It was originally an elaborate memorial on the north wall, erected by his son Robert Barker, Royal Printer, but at the 1857 rebuilding of the church it was reduced to just a wall plaque which is now scarcely legible. There was space for Robert's details to be added after his death but by then, 1645, he was in a debtor's prison. He has no known grave. The Latin inscription says Christopher 'found printing as brickwork and left it as marble'.

RECENT EVENTS



We were delighted that Janet Kennish, Datchet's historian and DVS president, travelled up from Hove to join us for the evening. It was a great opportunity for members, old and new, to catch up with Jan, have a chat, and quiz her on Datchet's history!

BOMBS OVER BUCKS

At the AGM, we were asked about a recent article in the newsletter about bombs which dropped on Datchet in WWII, The information was queried as it didn't correspond with the member's own recollections. Happily, it turned out that both were correct. The article focused on bombs dropped within the parish while our member's recollections also included those which landed just to the north. View the Bombs over Bucks map here.

WHAT NEXT?

The DVS Committee is always on the lookout for ideas for talks, visits and event. If you have any suggestions, know of a good speaker or an interesting venue, or if you'd like us to repeat something you missed, please get in touch.



DVS ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 17 May 2023, WI HALL

We were delighted that the AGM was so well attended. Thank you to everyone who came along to support us and to hear the fascinating presentation by Gareth Chaffey from Wessex Archaeology. And thank you, too, to all our new members who joined that evening.

As the AGM is open to everyone, we had created a display about the DVS and what we do, alongside an exhibition of our treasured paintings of Datchet. It was also an opportunity to show off some newly-acquired prints of the ferries and bridges which historically crossed the Thames at Datchet, kindly donated by Helen Jenkins.

Due to an unavoidable clash of dates, not all the committee were able to be present so we were very grateful to Harry Clasper who stepped in to deputise for treasurer, Adrian Needham, to present the treasurer's report. DVS secretary, Marjorie Clasper, presented the minutes from the last AGM, which were duly approved and the DVS committee, who had all agreed to stand again, were voted in *en bloc*. Marjorie expressed our gratitude to Sandra Needham for her work as membership secretary. Sandra remains on the committee but is stepping down from that role so there is a vacancy if anyone would like to join us.

Alison Crampin, DVS chair, reviewed our recent activities, events and visits and spoke about our plans for the coming year. She also highlighted the valuable work being undertaken by the committee. Marjorie is working with Windsor and Reading museums to organise the new display of archaeological finds from Southlea at the library, and also chasing RBWM to get permission for the pavement plaque to mark the original site of Datchet's milestone. DVS photographer Adrian Giddins, who manages the photo archive and keeps a photographic record of current events, is updating the images of our listed buildings on the Historic England website. Janet Kennish, DVS president, and Alison are both working on a new project with St Laurence's Church, Upton, which we will be publicising shortly. Alison thanked The Bridge, which very kindly sells DVS books for a small commission, and the WI for their support. The greatest thanks, though, were reserved for members. The DVS committee is extremely grateful for your continued support.

ARCHAEOLOGY

Right: *Excavating the huge Causewayed Enclosure at Riding Court by the M4; the tiny specs of red are actually archaeologists!*

WHAT ARE CAUSEWAYED ENCLOSURES?

On the ground, a causewayed enclosure is made up of a series of ditches separated by small gaps or 'causeways'. The Historic England website explains that this construction of an artificial boundary around an area, creating a distinction between 'inside' and 'outside', was to prove a profound social and architectural development.



Above*: One of the exciting finds at Riding Court was a near-complete, early-Neolithic pot with a large handle, carefully placed at the base of a ditch.*
Below*: A flint axe found near the enclosure would have been made by striking off flakes then grinding the cutting edges. Such objects would have been used to clear woodland but may have also held a symbolic role*





NEWS FROM RIDING COURT

Gareth Chaffey from Wessex Archaeology came along to talk to us at the DVS AGM this year. Since 2007, Gareth has been closely involved with the excavations at Kingsmead Quarry, Horton; at Richings Park, Langley; and at Riding Court so he was able to give us an overview of the similarities and links between the three sites as well as giving us an update on the 5,500 year-old early Neolithic Causewayed Enclosure at Riding Court.

He explained how they had thought that the finds at Kingsmead Quarry were exceptional when, in 2008, they found an early Neolithic house, in itself a very rare find. But, they went on to discover not just one but four houses on the same site. (One of these has been reconstructed at Butser Ancient Farm in Hampshire.) Then, better still, at Riding Court they found a complete Neolithic causewayed enclosure, a monumental gathering place, made up of ditch segments forming an oval shape with a perimeter of some 400m. (See the YouTube video here.)

At Riding Court, they found archaeological remains from multiple periods, providing evidence that people have occupied, settled, farmed and altered the landscape here since the end of the last Ice Age, a period of 12,000 years. Every six inches they dug down, they discovered more.

Gareth said he and his colleagues had never experienced anything like it. They unearthed a 'ludicrous' amount, he said, more than a tonne of finds, including 80,000 sherds of pottery, and a similar number of pieces of flint. They also excavated an oval monument within the enclosure where they dug up 5400 flints, 35kg of animal bone, 62kg of pottery sherds, and discovered evidence of a Neolithic house about 10m x 7m, similar to one at Horton. A Cemex employee even spotted a large stone on the conveyor belt which turned out to be an axe!

Gareth brought with him some large stone axes and worked flint which he invited us to handle and he explained how the trainees working on the site were unfortunately given a false impression of life as an archaeologist; since leaving Riding Court, they've been digging in Devon for six months and have only made one or two tiny finds!

DATCHET IN PICTURES



***Above**: This hand-coloured postcard, dated before 1910, shows the large elm, growing through the pavement in front of the pharmacy. It was cut down in the 1940s. Also just visible are the Jubilee Cross, the Jubilee Oak and the drinking fountain - three late Victorian additions to the Greens - as well as two new Edwardian buildings: the Pharmacy, which had recently been re-fronted in Mock-Tudor style, and the Bank and Bank House newly built just a few years previously. For more information, see Janet Kennish's Datchet History website*



***Above**: Janet found this photo of the Manor Hotel in the 1947 floods in the* Baltimore Sun's *archives. At that time, a lot of the hotel's brickwork was visible. This has since been painted and/or rendered*



VICTORIAN DATCHET IN FLOOD

A random online search delivered this photograph from the National Galleries Scotland website. It is one of three photos of Datchet given to the Scottish Portrait Gallery in 1985 by a Mrs Riddell in memory of Peter Fletcher Riddell, an enthusiastic collector. He began to buy old photos in the 1950s at a time when there was little interest in the subject. Over time he amassed thousands of items which he considered beautiful or worthy of preservation. Many were unnamed and the archivists have had to try to identify the locations, dates and photographers. Many images remain unidentified.

On the website, the image is captioned as 'Floods of 1894, Datchet by the Manor Hotel' but, based on similar photographs Janet Kennish has collected in the DVS archive, it could be either 1891 or 1894.

Apart from the sheer extent of the flood, it is interesting to note how much has changed and how much has stayed the same. In the foreground, at the top of the High Street, the drinking fountain can be seen, then topped with a light. It was the philanthropic gift of Lady Georgiana Needham of Datchet House. (It has since been moved to North Green for its protection and is now listed as a 'Non-Designated Heritage Asset' in the Datchet Neighbourhood Plan. See the DNP website for more details about its history and designation.)

The Jubilee Oak, planted in 1887 to mark 50 years of Queen Victoria's reign, is still a sapling. (The branches in the foreground, top right, belong to a large elm which grew in front of the pharmacy.)

Hawes Bakery stood on the corner now occupied by Datchet Food and Wine. On the same side of the road, by the railway line, if you enlarge the image, you can just make out the tall windows of the Baptist Church which has since been converted into shops including Candy Box/Londis.

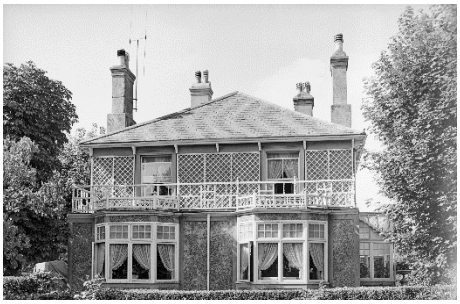
The brick-built section of the Manor Hotel (behind and to the left of the drinking fountain) was added in the 1870s, with the decorative applied timberwork added later to the upper right-hand bays. The hotel building is now also an NDHA; see the DNP website for details about how it has changed over time.

HOUSE HISTORIES

***Right**: 1868 map of Welley Road*



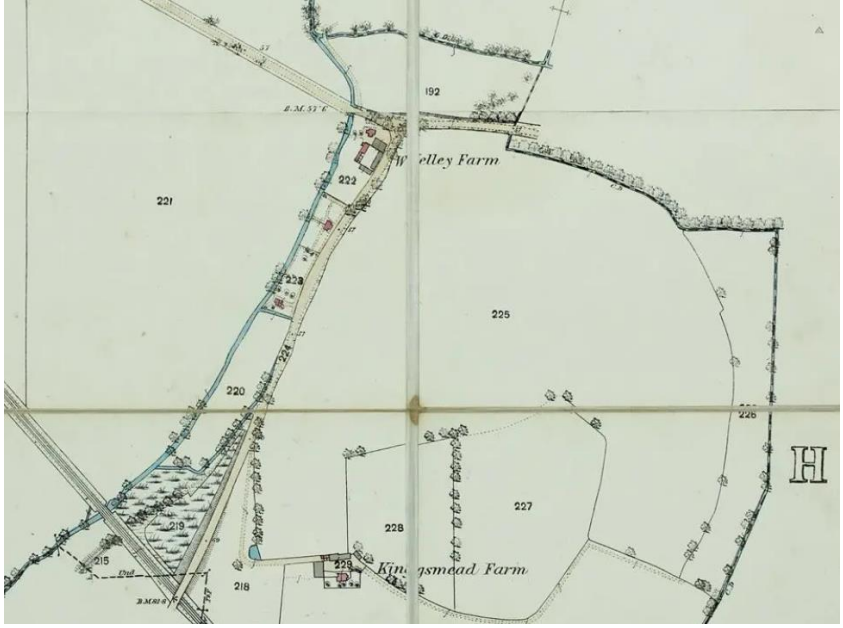
***Above:** New Butts Farm, from Thames Water Archives, demolished to make way for the reservoir*



***Above:** Milton Lodge, also demolished, from the same archives*

FIND OUT MORE ABOUT YOUR HOUSE

Local directories can be a great source of information if you want to find previous occupants of a house. Windsor Library has quite a few directories and they're also available online, on websites such as Ancestry, which is free of charge at RBWM libraries, and the Leicester University website. DVS also has copies of several of the Datchet sections of local directories. Please contact us for details. If you're looking for historic maps, the National Libraries of Scotland website is an excellent source.



WELLEY CORNER

Janet Kennish recently received an enquiry asking for any information about Welley Farm and cottages. The enquirer said that her relative, Joseph Wiggins, was born in one of the cottages in 1899. The 1911 census records him living there with his parents, Henry and Emily, and siblings Henry, Jesse and Frederick.

Janet consulted the historic maps on her Datchet History website. The earlier map, from about 1833, doesn't show Welley Farm and cottages but the 1868 map, **above**, does. This suggests that the farm was built between those two dates. (The stream shown alongside the road was called the Fleet Brook.)

To help locate the exact cottage, we consulted the routes taken by the census enumerators in 1901 and 1911. In 1901, the enumerator called at the Shrubberies (the miller's house next to Datchet's wind-and-steam flour mill in Mill Place, off Horton Road) before visiting the Wiggins at Welley Farm, and then the other cottages. That would suggest they were living in the first dwelling the enumerator came to at Welley Farm. In 1911, the enumerator went the opposite way, visiting Kingsmead Farm first, then Welley Farm, visiting the Wiggins in the last cottage before continuing on Horton Road to the Shrubberies. Combining this information with the 1868 map (which shows dwellings as pink blocks) confirms that the Wiggins lived right on the corner, closest to Horton Road.

Janet was also asked if she knew when the Welley Farm cottages were demolished. Our best guess is in the late 1960s. The cottages still appear on the 1966 OS map but not the 1970 map. The farmland to the west was excavated for gravel and the resultant lakes are now a local wildlife site and, somewhat incongruously, also home to Liquid Leisure's aqua park.

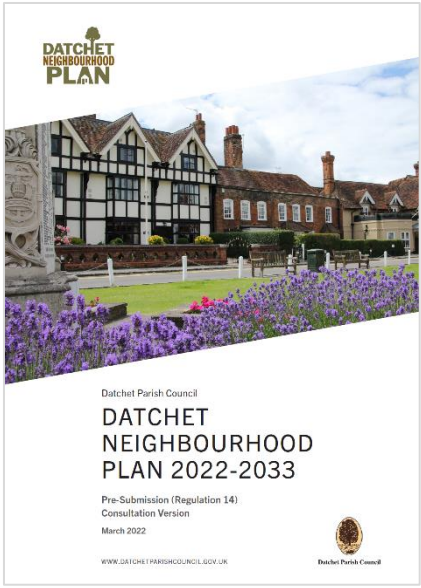
Other Wiggins relatives lived in the area, too, at Milton Lodge and New Butts Farm in Horton. An OS map from 1947 shows the location of these buildings which were demolished when the Queen Mother Reservoir was built. (It was completed in 1976.) There are photographs of these buildings, and others, in the Thames Water archives, see above left.

PLANNING

'This is Datchet's plan, created by local residents to address planning issues the village may face in the next ten years'

PLANNING POLICY

Previously, there were two types of planning policy which applied in Datchet: National and Borough. But smaller communities within these larger areas have specific planning needs so a 'one-size-fits-all' approach doesn't always work. Datchet's Neighbourhood Plan works at a local level, giving communities like ours the power to establish our own planning policies to address specific local needs while still working within the wider planning framework.



DNP SUCCESSFUL AT REFERENDUM

At the AGM, we were able to convey the good news that residents had voted overwhelmingly in support of Datchet's Neighbourhood Plan (DNP) at the village-wide referendum on 4 May. Following formal adoption by RBWM, the DNP will be a statutory document forming part of the development plan for our area alongside the Borough's Local Plan.

As you will know, DVS members were closely involved with the DNP and the Datchet Design Guide. Both aim to protect the character and heritage of the village.

The DNP provides a set of planning policies which cover important issues raised by residents on topics such as character and heritage, the environment and green spaces, housing need, sustainable design, community assets, and ways that good planning can help to reduce pollution and mitigate flooding. This means it will have an impact on almost every aspect of Datchet Parish Council's work.

Importantly, Chapter 10 of the DNP identifies a series of actions considered by the community to be important matters, which do not necessarily require planning permission, to be followed up by the Parish Council.

The next step is to ensure that Datchet's Plan is delivered. At DPC's May meeting, the council announced it would be setting up a DNP delivery working group, and it is usual for the progress and delivery of a Neighbourhood Plan to be reviewed each year at the Annual Parish Meeting.

There are hard copies of the DNP at the Library, in The Bridge, and in the Parish Council offices, as well as online. Each parish and ward councillor has also been given a copy. Additional background information, including full details of the Non-Designated Heritage Assets, Local Green Spaces, Character Assessments of all areas of Datchet, air quality test results, pictorial information about the Conservation Area Statement, and survey results, are on the DNP website: www.datchetneighbourhoodplan.org

NEW LORRY PARK IN DATCHET

Datchet has recently acquired a lorry park for articulated lorries and skip trucks on Riding Court Road, not far from the road bridge over the M4. We have not been able to find a planning application for this site and have contacted RBWM Planning for information. We have also asked if there are any route restrictions placed on the large vehicles which use the site and whether they are permitted to come through the narrow roads in Datchet's centre. (Cemex lorries at the nearby quarry have to use alternative routes.) We have now been notified that an enforcement investigation will be made, ref 23/50117/ENF



A lorry park appeared by the M4



Above and right, *Before and after*



POLICY DAT3: SHOPFRONT DESIGN

A. Proposals for new shopfronts must demonstrate high quality design which respects the features of high quality shopfronts identified in the Datchet Design Guide. In particular this relates to:
   a. projecting signs and features
   b. lighting
   c. colour and materials
   d. signage and signwriting
   e. shutters.

B. Original features such as recessed doorways, pilasters, plinths, cornices and fascias should be retained and repaired where damaged.

Above: The policy regarding shopfront design in the Datchet Neighbourhood Plan is very clear and the guidance in the Datchet Design Guide encourages applicants to seek to 'sympathetically complement the overall aesthetic'

PLANNING ENFORCEMENT ISSUES

DVS has heard several complaints recently about the new Datchet Grill. Some time ago, when the building work started, we contacted RBWM Planning as we had not seen a planning application for the work.

The enforcement officer visited the site in December 2022 and, in her written response, she stated that the internal works did not require planning permission as they were not facilitating a change of use. She was told that the owners wished to open predominantly as a restaurant, selling food and drink for consumption (mostly) on the premises, which fell under the existing permitted use (class E commercial, business and service). She explained that changes to the shop front, however, would require planning permission and possibly advertisement consent.

Since then, the shop frontage was altered. Planning permission was only applied for retrospectively. (See application 23/00374 on the RBWM planning website.) This was refused by RBWM in April 2023.

RBWM's Conservation Officer said that 'the alterations have resulted in a shopfront that no longer has a traditional appearance, with a door that is oversized and has inappropriate fanlights. These appear highly conspicuous in this traditional frontage that forms part of this very prominent group of buildings at the heart of the Conservation Area.'

The officer concluded, 'the proposals have caused a level of harm to the historic and architectural significance of the Datchet Conservation Area, through their poor design and use of inappropriate materials'.

When a retrospective application is refused, a local authority can issue an enforcement notice which requires things to be put back as they were, however, an applicant first has the right to appeal.

More recently, huge new signage has been added which is inappropriate in the Conservation Area and does not comply with the shopfront design policy in the Datchet Neighbourhood Plan or the guidance in the Datchet Design Guide. Also, the shop appears to be operating mostly as a hot food takeaway, not a restaurant, which may fall under a different use category known as 'Sui Generis'; and there are highways issues with cars parked across the pavement. We are keeping an eye on this but, if you would like to request an investigation, please visit the RBWM website, or email your comments to planning.enforcement@rbwm.gov.uk

LISTED BUILDINGS & MONUMENTS

MILESTONE PLAQUE

We are still waiting for permission from RBWM Highways to install a plaque to mark the original site of Datchet's milestone on London Road. We're very grateful to DPC's new locum clerk who is now following this up and regularly contacting Highways.

CEMETERY CHAPEL

We have no news to report on repairs to the Cemetery Chapel roof. The heritage stonemason, Andy Chalk, is willing to quote on the work for DPC but needs a skilled and trustworthy heritage scaffolder to work with him. Meanwhile the Commonwealth War Graves Commission has asked to add a sign at the gate to let visitors know there are war graves there. DPC has granted permission in principle and is checking whether listed building consent is required. Our DVS research about the WWI soldiers remembered at the cemetery, is on the DVS website



The eroded 18th-century wall





MILESTONE UPDATE

As you may remember, DVS has been concerned about the condition of the recently-restored Grade II listed milestone which had been turning green over winter. We thought the growth of algae, moss and lichen might be due to insufficient drainage. DPC had originally intended to add a larger gravel margin to assist drainage and reduce wicking, which hadn't happened, so we met with Cllr Thompson, DPC lead member for Grounds and the new locum clerk to discuss this. We then consulted Andy Chalk, the heritage stonemason, to ask for his advice. The answer was slightly more complicated than we'd anticipated.

Andy said he would expect some greening naturally but he thought the issue wasn't drainage; the milestone is sitting on a layer of stones that are used for the base of road building and it is surrounded by gravel to a considerable depth. When he restored the milestone, he used a traditional limewash to coat it, building up layers slowly over several days. He explained that limewash 'breathes' and doesn't trap water inside the stone, as might happen with a layer of modern waterproof paint, hastening the milestone's demise. However, limewash holds an amount of water and during the winter months it may not have time to fully evaporate and there isn't enough UV light to kill off the growth.

What Andy thinks is happening - and will continue to happen, however wide the gravel margin - is that the nitrates from the grass cuttings are sinking into the gravel. (The cuttings are now left on The Green after mowing.) This is providing a high-nitrate feed, fuelling the green growth. Andy thinks the solution is a matter of continued maintenance and that it will help if the gravel is dug out and rinsed periodically, which he has offered to do for DPC. We forwarded Andy's email to DPC in March. The clerk said that she would discuss his suggestions with Cllr Thompson and hoped to have some recommendations for us soon. Meanwhile, as Andy predicted, the sunlight is starting to kill off the growth.

THE LISTED WALL, LONDON ROAD

Bricks have been falling out of the 18th-century listed wall in London Road for many years. In 2019, following our emails to RBWM, the Planning/Enforcement team wrote to the owners in the houses behind, reminding them of their responsibilities, but no remedial work was done. Since then, there has been further erosion. We have written to RBWM Conservation every month since January but have only recently received a reply; the officer is going on holiday and will have a look on their return.

LISTED BUILDINGS & MONUMENTS



Datchet's unique War Memorial was listed in 2019. DVS photographer, Adrian Giddins, has added two images of it, including the one above.

DATCHET'S OBELISK MEMORIAL

Full details about the Memorial are on the List where it is described as 'a hexagonal cenotaph with a three-handled urn on top with swags hanging from the handles. Between the swags are lion masks in relief. A carved relief below the urn has representations relating to the First World War including an aircraft, a tank, and an airship. [The other three are a gas mask, a torpedo and a sea mine]. *On three of the bottom corners of the obelisk are large shields bearing the arms of the Army, Navy and RAF in relief. On the other three sides of the memorial are tall marble plaques.'*



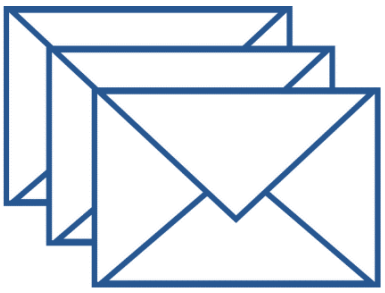
MISSING PIECES PROJECT

Our DVS Photographer, Adrian Giddins, is in the process of updating the images of Datchet's listed buildings on the Historic England website as part of their 'Missing Pieces' project. This project invites members of the public to share pictures and stories of the unique, significant and memorable places on the National Heritage List for England (otherwise known as 'the List') which is the register of all nationally protected historic buildings and sites across England.
Many of the images of Datchet's buildings were out of date or were simply non-existent. The Bridge, for example, was still pictured as R S McColl. This has now been replaced by Adrian's photo, above.

INSURANCE COVER FOR DATCHET'S MONUMENTS

Datchet's unlisted monuments are now formally recorded as 'Non-Designated Heritage Assets' (NDHAs) in the Datchet Neighbourhood Plan. This 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.
Some time ago, we asked the Parish Council whether the memorials and historic monuments they own, were insured. These include the drinking fountain and cattle trough on North Green, the drinking fountain at the riverside, the Jubilee memorial on Jubilee Green, the WWI crucifix memorial on London Road, and the war memorial and milestone on Memorial Green, both Grade II Listed. We learned that they are not currently insured.
DPC's new locum clerk has spoken to the council's insurers and has been told they can be insured but the insurers would need a replacement value. She asked DVS for guidance on this. We suggested that the council consult the Historic England booklet about insuring heritage assets. The recommended approach would seem to be to use a specialist broker experienced at valuing such monuments. To assist in this, DPC has access to the NDHA research undertaken by the DNP team which drew heavily on DVS research by Janet Kennish. DVS has also offered to share information on the listed milestone and war memorial.

POSTBAG

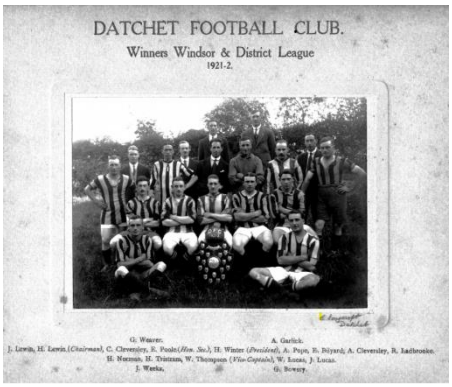




Queenie Sams photographed in 1999 by Rob Gordon



Above, Datchet Football Team, 1923-24, finalists in the Berks & Bucks Cup. Below, 1921-2, Jack Lucas is at the right-hand end of the central, seated row.



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 emails keeps us busy making new discoveries to share.

DID YOU KNOW L M SAMS?

Janet Kennish received a query to her Datchet History website asking for information about L M Sams, who lived in Lawn Close in the 1980s, next door to the enquirer's great aunt. His aunt commissioned L M Sams to paint her childhood home from a photo and our enquirer is hoping to find out more about this artist. Janet remembers "Queenie" Sams, left, very well but is not aware of an L M Sams. (We have copies of local directories up to 1974 which list a Mrs Sands at 20 Lawn Close and a Mrs Sams at 180 Horton Road, but not a Sams at Lawn Close.) Any information or memories would be very welcome, please, for Janet to pass on.
Queenie M Sams (born 14.09.1912) was also an artist. Her parents, William and Mary King, had bought the Morning Star pub (now Costa) in 1933. Queenie and her husband, William John Sams, were married in 1942 and took over the pub in 1949. She continued to run it until 1962. (The FreeBMD website indicates that they had two children, Peter J Sams in 1944 and Pauline M Sams in 1947.)
In 1941 Queenie was entrusted with a national secret which she kept faithfully for 50 years. One day in that year she served a glass of bitter to a stranger, a middle-aged lady, who was then collected from the pub by Commander Thomas Holden of the Admiralty Compass Observatory at Ditton Park. They left, as Holden later told Queenie, for Heathrow Airport where the lady was to be dropped by parachute over France to meet the resistance movement. In 1991 the stranger was identified as Josephine Butler, the only woman member of Churchill's secret circle of spies and who won the George Cross for her wartime exploits.

DATCHET FOOTBALL TEAM

We were recently sent a photograph of a newspaper clipping, left, of Datchet Football team in 1923-24 when they were finalists in the Berks & Bucks Cup. It was sent by Debbie R. who knew her Great Uncle Jack Lucas was in the photograph but she didn't know which of the men he was. Debbie told us that Jack (John) Lucas, (1903-1971) married her great Aunt Florence (1903-1971) and they lived in Dedworth. 'They didn't have children,' she said, 'but they raised my mother, and were like grandparents to me. I remember Jack a little, but I was only five when he died.'
By chance, in the DVS archives we had an earlier photograph of the team which we'd published on the DVS website. In this image, the players' names were given so we were able to spot which one was Jack. Sitting next to him is his brother W Lucas, listed as Vice-Captain. Debbie remembers mention that 'W' was a semi-professional player.

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 has contributed to Datchet's Neighbourhood Plan and the Datchet Design Guide. Regular updates about our work and events are posted on the DVS website. New members are always welcome.

WHAT NEXT?

If you have ideas for events, visits or guest speakers, or if there is a visit, walk, or talk that you missed and would like us to repeat, please let us know

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP FEES DUE 1 APRIL 2023

Very many thanks if you have recently renewed your annual membership for 2023, or if you are a life member who made a 'top-up' donation.
If you're not sure if your membership is up to date and you would like to continue to receive newsletter and invitations to DVS events, please check with Marjorie, see below for details.
Please note, annual membership runs from 1 April each year to 31 March the following year. The fee remains £10 per adult. Junior membership is £1. Donations, too, are always welcome.

HOW TO PAY:
Bank transfer Sort Code 09-01-29, Account 04339438, reference MEMBER and your surname.
By cheque made payable to 'Datchet Village Society' and sent to Marjorie Clasper, 3 Riverbank, 9 Southlea Road, Datchet SL3 9BY.
By cash at a DVS stall at local events.
If you have any queries, please call Marjorie on 01753 545110.

What do we do with your membership fees?
We are extremely grateful to members for your continued support. DVS membership fees help to keep the Society going, contributing to the cost of the website and research, insurance and admin, our AGM and other events, and 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 soon, we hope, a new pavement plaque to mark the original site of Datchet's milestone. It also allows us to publish cards, leaflets and booklets. We couldn't do this work without your support, thank you.

DVS MAIN CONTACTS

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www.datchetvillagesociety.org.uk, **www.datchethistory.org.uk**
Current committee 2023: President, Janet Kennish; Chair/sales and marketing, Alison Crampin; Treasurer, Adrian Needham; Secretary and temporary Membership Secretary, Marjorie Clasper; Photography and Archive, Adrian Giddins; Committee Members, Glenda Croft, Lesley Giddins, Sandra Needham.
If you would like to join the Committee, please get in touch.