

AUTUMN 2023

80

NEWSLETTER

Datchet Village Society

Above: Datchet Riverside, Adrian Giddins

In this issue

Autumn events
Local Astronomers
High Street in 1950
Datchet from the air
The Jubilee Oak
House Histories
Datchet in WWII
New housing site AL39
Dick Turpin
Updates
Postbag
Membership

Welcome to the autumn edition of your DVS newsletter

Inside, you'll find news of Janet Kennish's upcoming talk at St Laurence's, Upton, entitled *"One bridge, two(?) benefactors and six bibles: parish charities in Upton and Datchet from the time of Queen Elizabeth I to King Charles III"*. This is part of a season of events to commemorate the tricentenary of local benefactor (and Datchet resident) Benjamin Lane.

We also have news about the recent commemoration of famous astronomers, the Herschels; details of our latest acquisition of a 1950s' photo of the High Street; and some fascinating Historic England images of Datchet from the air.

We explain how the histories of the Jubilee Oak and the Barrel Arch culvert are closely intertwined, and consider whether tales of Dick Turpin tethering his horse at Ditton Road are true. There are some interesting discoveries to share from our latest House Histories research, and some new information about a WWII airman, killed in the D-Day bombings.

You may be aware that permission has been granted for the new housing development on London Road; we report back on the development panel meeting and update you on various local planning matters.

We look forward to seeing you in October,

Your DVS Committee

Email: info@datchetvillagesociety.org.uk

www.datchetvillagesociety.org.uk

EVENTS

AUTUMN EVENTS FOR YOUR DIARY

BENJAMIN LANE SUNDAY
22 October

Janet Kennish will be giving a presentation entitled:

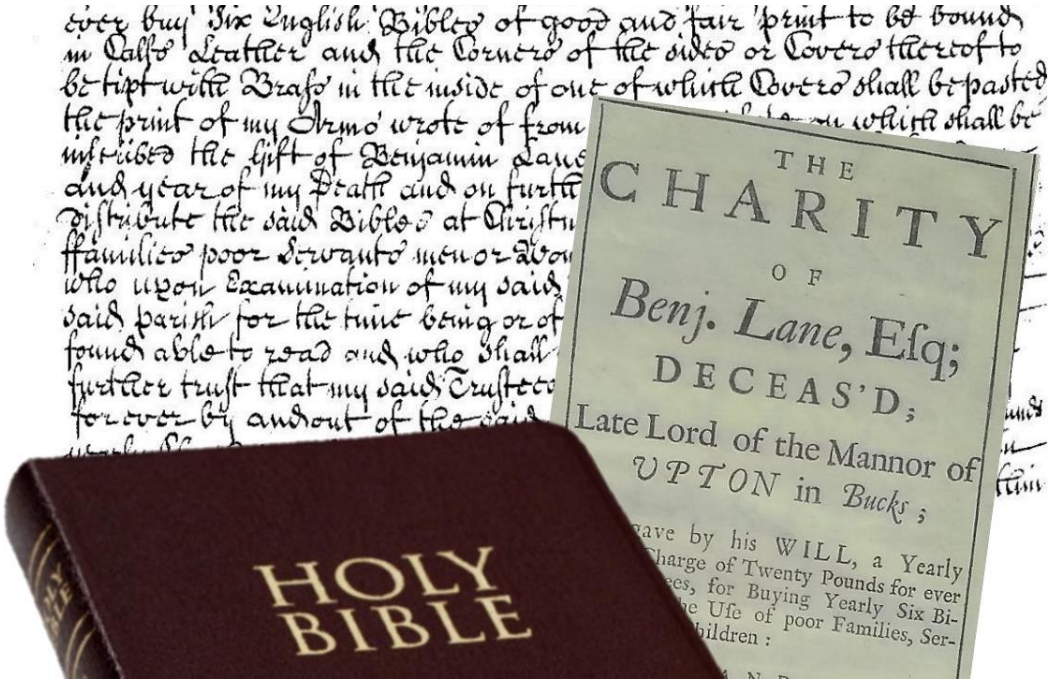
"One bridge, two(?) benefactors and six bibles: parish charities in Upton and Datchet from the time of Queen Elizabeth I to King Charles III".

The event is free and starts at 3pm. It will be followed by tea. Visitors are welcome to arrive a little earlier to have a look around the Grade I listed church. Visit the DVS website for more information about Janet's talk and parking information, etc.

In his bequest, Benjamin Lane also left money to pay the minister twenty shillings to preach an annual sermon 'extolling the excellence of the scriptures'. So, earlier in the day, at 11am, the Rector will be delivering his 'Benjamin Lane Sermon' at St Laurence's - and will still receive the princely sum of £1 for his troubles!

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.



BENJAMIN LANE'S TRICENTENARY

This autumn, St Laurence's Church at Upton is celebrating the tricentenary of Benjamin Lane (1651-1723), with various events, see ***left***.

Benjamin was a Datchet resident and Trustee of the Bridge House Trust. From 1694 until his death in 1723, he was also Lord of the Manor of Upton-cum-Chalvey. In his will, he set up a trust to donate bibles and clothing to the poor of Upton each year. His trust still exists, 300 years later.

When Janet Kennish was invited to speak at the event, DVS was told that 'little is known about Benjamin Lane'. This was just too tempting a challenge, so while Janet was preparing her presentation, Alison Crampin set about discovering more.

Benjamin Lane's father, John Lane (1594-1654), was a wealthy merchant grocer in London and a Parliamentarian Army Officer who served with one of the regicides of King Charles I. John's brother, Richard Lane, emigrated to America because of his unorthodox religious beliefs.

Benjamin's mother, Judith Alcock, was John's second wife. Benjamin had a much-older half-brother, also called John, from his father's first marriage. After John senior's death in 1654, Judith married Sir Charles Doe, a London goldsmith who bought the Manor of Upton in 1663, the same year that he sold two very expensive diamond rings to Charles II. He was Sheriff of London during the plague and, not dissimilar to the recent Covid pandemic, he closed the taverns and 'tippling houses' to prevent its spread.

His business failed after the Great Fire of London and he mortgaged the Manor to Benjamin's half-brother John for £600, on the understanding that if the debt was repaid, with interest, by a set date, it would be returned to him. While the debt was outstanding, John became Lord of the Manor. John died in 1670, followed shortly by his executor, then Charles. It was left unclear whether the debt had been repaid in full. There were several legal challenges to the ownership of the Manor brought by various members of the extended family. Benjamin's mother, Lady Judith Doe, became Lady of the Manor in 1674 and Benjamin inherited it in 1694.

Enticingly, the Lane family appears to have royal connections, with an ancestor who was the first cousin and lady in waiting of Katherine Parr, the last wife of Henry VIII. We're investigating further…

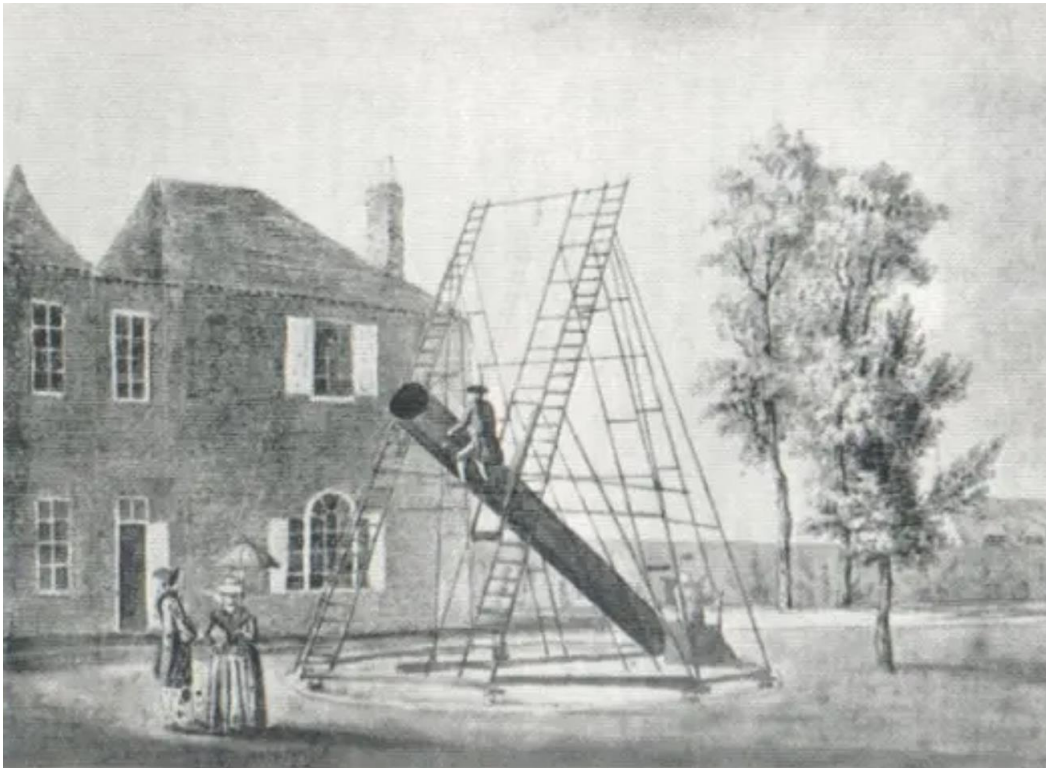
RECENT EVENTS

Right: *Herschel's 20-foot telescope, built at Datchet, probably seen here behind the house at The Lawns, on Horton Road. Image from Janet Kennish's Datchet History website*



Above*: An audience gathered at the Herschels' former home in Upton Road for the private unveiling event which was organised by the Friends of St Laurence Church and the Institute of Physics. For details see the Institute of Physics website Image credit: James Gifford-Mead Photography*

"Apparently, rubbing himself with a raw onion was not sufficient protection!"



LOCAL ASTRONOMERS COMMEMORATED

The lives and achievements of astronomers William and Caroline Herschel were commemorated on 19 August 2023 with two green plaques on their former house at 74 Upton Road, Slough.

The Herschels had previously lived in Datchet from 1782-1785 in a building, since demolished, at The Lawns on Horton Road.

You can read more about the siblings on Janet Kennish's Datchet History website.

As Janet discovered in her research, one of the main reasons they didn't stay longer in Datchet was because the damp, foggy and unhealthy weather, to which William was constantly exposed while gazing at the night sky, made him ill; apparently, rubbing himself with a raw onion was not sufficient protection!

Sadly, Datchet also failed to impress Caroline. She complained bitterly on her arrival in the village about the lack of reliable servants; one who had been appointed for them was in jail by the time they arrived, and the gardener's wife was of no use at all except to show her the local shops. These were no better; Caroline was scandalised by the price of eggs and meat, and refused to do business with the village butcher who, she complained, 'would not give her honest weight'.

The pair are credited with developing the world's first giant telescope and discovering Uranus in 1781. William Herschel is also known for discovering infrared rays in 1800, and conducting deep-sky surveys with Caroline. As well as being William's assistant, Caroline was the world's first female astronomer in her own right. She discovered eight comets, compiled a catalogue of 2500 nebulae and star clusters, and was awarded the Royal Astronomical Society's Gold Medal.

HIGH STREET.

From The Green to Windsor road.

West side.

1 Ackerleys Ltd. bakers
1 Richards Arnold Wm
2 Faarup Christian L.D.S. R.C.S.Eng. dental surgn
2 Allen Norman Fredk
3 Stevens A. & Sons Ltd. dairymen
4 Reeves C. & Sons (Staines) Ltd. butchers
4 Warwick Cyril Ernest
5 Cleversley Mrs. Edith Mabel, draper
5 Cleversley Alfd. Edwd
Baptist Chapel
Mumford Mrs. (Goodwyn ho)
Dollery Frank (Thames cott)
Gillett Jas. W. butcher

East side.

Manor Hotel (Ralph Norris, propr)
Penguin Cleaners (W. Freck, propr.), dyers & cleaners
Barnes, fishmngrs
Colbourn Alfd. fruitr
...here is Station approach...

BERYL STICKLAND was born in 1927. As a child, she used to visit her aunt who was the housekeeper at The Hall, a large house on The Green since replaced by Hall Court. She trained as a nurse in Windsor and, in 1951, married Frederick Stickland who ran the football for the Cubs in Datchet. They moved to Slough Road where their four children were born.

After providing holiday cover with Dr Gallimore, Beryl was asked to join the practice on Horton Road, later Green Lane, where she became practice manager. They retired to the Isle of Wight but after Fred's death, Beryl returned to Datchet. Her life then almost turned full circle when she moved to Hall Court.

With thanks to David Simpson for the information about Beryl's life from his 2018 article in The Link. *DVS will archive this interview with the photo.*



HIGH STREET DATCHET, c1945



DVS recently acquired a large, framed photo of Datchet High Street c1945. It had belonged to Beryl Stickland who is well known in the village, and it was offered to DVS by her family. Although it is much newer than many of our acquisitions, we felt it would be a valuable addition to the DVS photo archive for future generations, providing a snapshot of the village around the end of WWII. Photos and paintings always generate a lot of interest at village events, too.

Kelly's Local Directory, 1950, ***left,*** lists the shops which were in the High Street around that time. Building and house numbers have changed but many of the premises are still there, if somewhat altered.

In the photo, on the west side of the High Street, the two shops with the awnings, Stevens' dairy and Reeves' butcher's, are now LA Clinic and the Nail Bar. The arched windows of the Baptist Chapel are just visible at the front left of the photo; this much-changed building is now home to Londis/Candy Box. (James Gillett's butcher's, listed in Kelly's, was further down the High Street, out of view. It later became the hat shop and is now residential.) The buildings on the east side, next to the Manor Hotel - the cleaner's, the fishmonger's and the fruiterer's - were later demolished to make way for the station development. Lots of people still remember Barnes' fishmonger's (with the awning) which later became a popular fish and chip shop, Walfords Fish Bar. On The Green, the Barclays Bank building and the chemist's can be seen beyond the Jubilee Oak.



Left: *A photo from 1900 for comparison. (The large tree is the elm in front of the pharmacy. The Jubilee Oak was still a sapling)*

DATCHET FROM THE AIR

Right: *View of flooding around Datchet Railway Station and Green Aerial photograph: EAW003698 flown 18 March 1947.*
Below right*: Aerial view of Datchet, RAF photography Aerial photograph: RAF_106G_UK_687_RP_3063 flown 23 August 1945.*
Images © Historic England. Aerofilms Collection
Click on the links above for details and to view high-definition images on the Historic England website.
To view the photo collection, visit: https://historicengland.org.uk/images-books/archive/collections/aerial-photos.



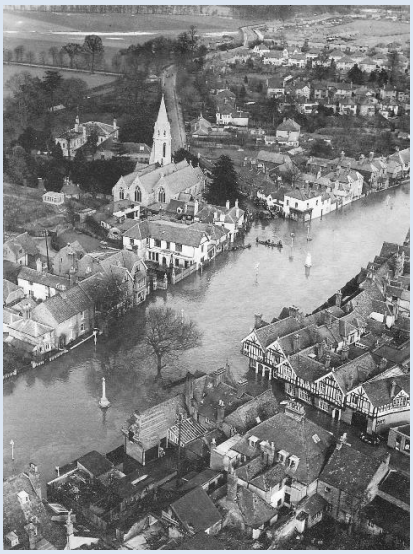
HISTORIC ENGLAND AEROFILMS COLLECTION

Visitors to the Historic England website can now explore over 400,000 digitised photos from their aerial photo collection. There are also 20,000 photographs captured by reconnaissance aircraft over England during WWII which show airfields, military bases, towns, and countryside in England between 1943 and 1944.

The collection includes some spectacular and unusual views of Datchet, including the photo, ***above,*** from the 1947 floods. The 'river' running from top to bottom through the centre of the picture is the railway line. The 'lake' in the top left corner is the Recreation Ground, and the one in the bottom right corner is the golf course. The other 'river' from the top left corner to the centre of the picture is Horton Road and The Green.

The photo, ***right,*** is an aerial view of the village taken by the RAF in summer 1945. You can zoom in to see more detail on the Historic England website, see left.





This is the 1947 aerial view that some of us are perhaps more familiar with, from Janet Kennish's Datchet History website where you can also read Janet's comprehensive History of Datchet Floods

THE CULVERT AND THE JUBILEE OAK

***Below**: Detail from 1905 colour postcard of The Green, with the small Jubilee Oak on the left. (The large tree in front of the pharmacy is an elm.)*



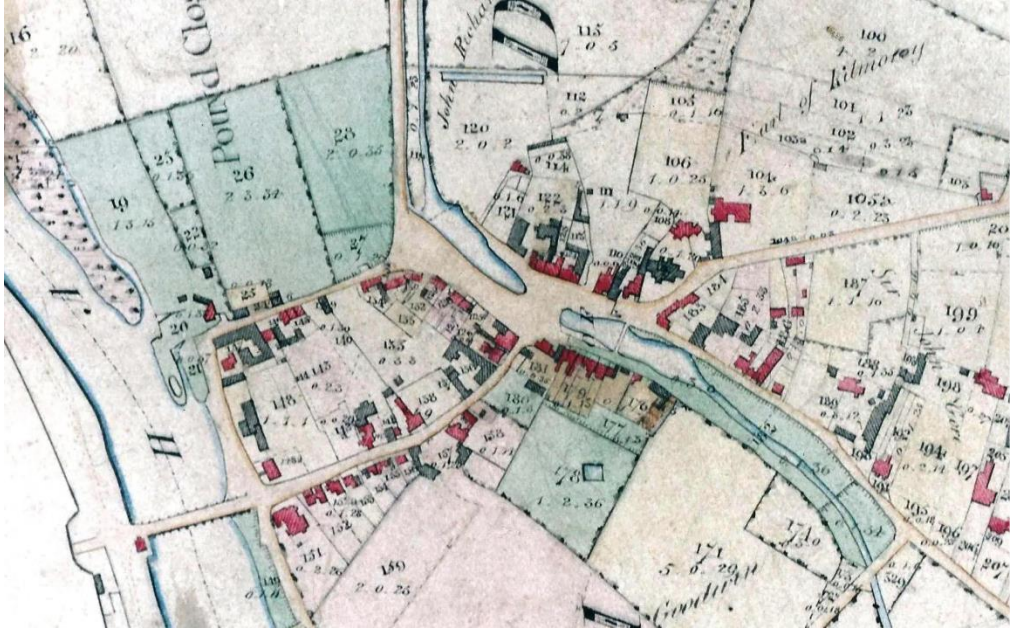


***Above**: 1915 floods with the spindly Jubilee Oak behind the boat*
***Below:** 1930s' postcard*
***Bottom:** 1950s' postcard*





*Note the red phone box on The Green, **above**. DPC has a red phone box in the parish yard which will eventually be installed on Memorial Green. It will house a defibrillator*



Detail of map showing the watercourse, surveyed c1810

THE BARREL ARCH CULVERT AND THE JUBILEE OAK TREE

You may be aware that the culvert which runs through the centre of the village was cleaned recently. The silt was removed so that the 'barrel arch', as it is known, can be inspected and repaired.

The map, above, shows the watercourse before it was culverted. It ran beside Slough Road (from top of map) and into a pool in the village centre. The Barker Bridge House Trust (BBHT) Bridge crossed over the pool from the site of the modern pharmacy to the High Street. (Note, too, Datchet Bridge across the Thames at the other end of the High Street.) The pool then becomes a stream as it runs beside Horton Road and under Green Lane.

When Janet Kennish researched the history of the BBHT from the 1570s onwards, she discovered how useful their documents were in explaining the peculiarity of how the original culvert was built. It was created in three sections, firstly the barrel arch which culverted the stream through the centre of the village, and then the two ends, from the centre westwards in 1847, and from the centre eastwards in 1850.

What Janet found particularly striking was how the Jubilee Oak, planted for Queen Victoria's Golden Jubilee in 1887, grew so slowly at first, but then seemed to have a growth spurt. The reason for this, Janet was told, is that the tree was mistakenly planted directly over the top of the brick barrel arch which, by then, had been in place for more than 50 years. For some years, the oak's young roots made their way through the brickwork, damaging it as they grew into the pipe-like, hollow, brick culvert below. At that point they may have dangled helplessly until eventually reaching down to the culvert's floor and the old stream bed which had been channelled to run through there. "Looking at a series of Jubilee Oak photos, there is a point at which growth suddenly seems to develop as might be expected", Jan says, "presumably as the tree's roots breathed a sigh of relief!"

More recently, for Queen Elizabeth II's Diamond Jubilee in 2022, another oak tree was planted by DPC, this time on Memorial Green, just a few metres from the underground barrel arch…

For more information about 'The Stream Underneath The Greens', see Janet's Datchet History website.



Freehold Residence.

Messrs. BUCKLAND & SONS

Have received instructions to Sell by Auction at the Manor Hotel, Datchet, on Wednesday, June 6th, 1900, at 6 o'clock precisely,

THE Well-built FREEHOLD RESIDENCE situate and known as "HAMBRO LODGE," in the Parish of Datchet, within a short distance of the Railway Station and the River Thames, and one mile from Slough, commanding a fine view of Windsor Castle, lately let at £90 per annum. Possession on completion of the purchase.

Particulars and Conditions of Sale at the place of sale, of J. P. Garrett, Esq., Solicitor, 38, Great James Street, Bedford Row, W.C., and of Messrs. Buckland and Sons, Auctioneers, 4, Bloomsbury Square, W.C., and Windsor.



Above: *Basil Antony Harwood, later QC, Senior Master of the Supreme Court, and the Queen's Remembrancer.*
(The Remembrancer is an ancient, legal, judicial post, originally created in 1154 by Henry II as the chief official in the Exchequer Court to remind the Barons of Court of such things as unpaid taxes.)

WESTFIELDS AND HAMBRO LODGE

This smartly-dressed gentleman, ***left***, is a former Datchet resident, Charles Norman Lacy. The photo was sent to us by the new owners of Westfields on Eton Road who are enjoying discovering more about the previous occupants of their home.

We knew about Charles from our House Histories research, but this is the first time we have seen a photo. He was born c1869 in Hampstead and he married Edith Benson from Notting Hill in 1894. Hambro Lodge, built in 1893 at the far end of Slough Road, may have been their first married home. The Lacys had three daughters: Patricia b1896, Audrey b1900, and Felicité b1904. In May 1900 Hambro Lodge was advertised for sale in the *Slough, Windsor & Eton Express, **left***. The auction was to take place at the Manor Hotel.

By the time of the 1901 census, the family had moved to Westfields. Charles' father was a banker, of Woodbridge, Lacy, Hartland & Co. Charles had also entered the banking business in 1886 as a clerk and subsequently became a partner in his father's company, based at Old Bank, Uxbridge. By the time of the 1911 census, the family was living at Englefield Green and Charles was the local director of Barclays Bank. Charles served in WWI as a Captain in the 4th Royal Berkshire Regiment.

DATCHET GOLF CLUB'S CLUBHOUSE

We have been asked if we have any information about 16 Buccleuch Road which used to be the clubhouse for the golf club. Sadly, the Golf Club's own records were destroyed by the fire there in 2007.

We were able to explain that the land which became Buccleuch Road was sold for development around 1890 by the Duchess of Buccleuch, the great-great-grandmother of the present Lord Montagu. (She lived at Ditton House and had given Datchet an oak tree sapling from Ditton Park to mark Queen Victoria's Golden Jubilee in 1887.)

Golf had been played on Datchet Mead for many years, but the club itself was not officially constituted until 1890. The house closest to the course was Polesden, number 18. This was where the Stevens lived. They ran a dairy and farmed the land adjoining the course.

In the 1901 census, the house next to Polesden was recorded as 'golf club house'. William Higgins, a golf professional and greenkeeper, lived there with his wife, Anne, the stewardess at the clubhouse.

In the 1911 census summary, a Mr Joel and his daughter lived there, both servants at 'golf club house'. It was still being used as the clubhouse in 1928, when the *Windsor Observer* reported an addition to the pavilion there. These buildings don't seem to appear on maps before 1920.

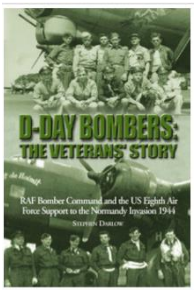
By the late 1930s, the house was called Greenfields and Basil Antony Harwood, a barrister, ***left***, was living there. The later 1947 and 1950 local directories list Harry William Bradley there. (We have yet to learn more about him.) And, of course, Bill Middlemass, lifetime president of the Datchet Players, known to many DVS members, lived there from 1966. Research is ongoing.



***Above and below**, photographs of Richard Haine and his headstone at Bayeux War Cemetery, kindly sent by author Steve Darlow. Richard's headstone reads: 925316 Flight Sergeant R Haine, Air Bomber, Royal Air Force 6th June 1944, Age 22*



For more details about Steve Darlow's books, including D-Day Bombers: The Veterans' Story, see https://stevedarlow.com



FLIGHT SERGEANT RICHARD HAINE

Some time ago, by chance, Alison Crampin met Steve Darlow, the author of *D-Day Bombers*, published in 2004. He mentioned that one of the casualties he had written about, Richard Haine, had lived in Datchet. This sparked our interest because Richard is not remembered on Datchet's war memorial.

With the 80th anniversary of D-Day fast approaching (6 June 2024), we recently passed on this information to Windsor historian, Derek Hunt, who is writing a new book about Windsor and its inhabitants, *Windsor in the Second World War.* With his help, we've discovered that Richard's grandfather, Joseph William Haine, was a farmer at Southlea Farm in Datchet. Richard's father, Philip, appears to have taken on the farm after Joseph's death in 1926, and lived there with his wife, Gladys, and family, Peter (b1916), Joan (b1919) and Richard (b1921).

Steve Darlow very kindly sent an extract from his book which explains that 'Dick', as he was known, joined up early in the war but his aspirations to fly were crushed by a medical officer and he stayed in the RAF as groundcrew.

In the summer of 1941, he began work with 76 Squadron at RAF Middleton St George, County Durham. Dick wrote to his sister Joan, who was serving with the WRNS: 'How are you, little sister? Surviving the blitz, I hope. I'm on four-engined bombers now on a new squadron, just formed, and as we haven't many planes, we don't get worked very hard.'

In a letter to Joan in December 1941, he informed her that he had gone back to school in an attempt to improve his education and keep his flying aspirations alive. He asked what she was doing for Christmas and whether she would be free to celebrate together in their hometown. 'I should think things will hum around Datchet, wouldn't you?'

Early the following year, he had good news to share. 'Yesterday I had a medical, which I passed FIT for pilot. Today I had to interview the CO who was a very decent bloke, this being the first time I have met him personally. He seemed to think I was the right type and signed my form with pleasure. I gave him quite a long lecture on how a milking machine works, incidentally. By the way, don't tell mother about me going as a pilot as it may still fall through 'cos I've still got a selection board and another medical.' Dick passed and embarked upon his aircrew training as part of the Empire Training Scheme.

In January 1943, Dick wrote to Joan from 48 Air School, East London, South Africa. 'After nearly four days on the train [from Southern Rhodesia] we arrived here in East London, which is on the east coast and a very nice little place. There is some marvellous swimming to be had here practically all the year round. There are also beautiful sands with beautiful damsels all sun-tanned and jolly good swimmers.'

Dick completed his initial training, but there was disappointment. He could get a plane into the air and fly it. His problem was getting back down. Eventually he was given an ultimatum; he could train as a bomb aimer or go back to groundcrew. He chose the former.

He was posted back to England and took the chance to return to Datchet. He wrote to Joan, 'Tony and I painted Datchet and district a pretty lurid colour during my short stay, in fact the other customers in The Stag told me it was about time I left as there was a danger of them running short. The Stag hasn't changed a bit, has it? They still manage to push 'em back at a rate bordering on the alarming.'

Dick then moved on to RAF Halfpenny Green, near Stourbridge, 'one of the most lousy holes in creation'. In spring 1944, he was posted to No. 16 OTU (Silverstone) and then to 1645 HCU to familiarise himself with Lancasters. On 20 May 1944, Dick arrived with his crew at 5 Group's 50 Squadron, RAF Skellingthorpe, Lincolnshire, just in time to begin their operational duties on tactical targets in support of D-Day. Sadly, Dick was killed on 6 June 1944 in the D-Day bombings.

FLOOD RISK

According to the application documents, the developer is proposing to raise garden and floor levels at AL39 to reduce the risk of flooding on site. If we have understood correctly, there are also plans to: unblock a drain under the M4 so surface water can drain into the Datchet Common Brook (DCB) which runs behind houses in Ditton Rd and Penn Rd; install a 330,000-litre, underground, surface-water storage tank beside the M4 to regulate the flow into the DCB; and create a sustainable drainage system of swales and a pond at the east of the site, in an area prone to high groundwater.

The local flood authority recommended that the following conditions should be included if it was decided to grant permission: No development shall commence until a sustainable surface water drainage scheme has been approved, including:

1. Full details of all components of the proposed scheme including dimensions, locations, gradients, invert levels, cover levels and construction details.

2. Supporting calculations confirming compliance with the Non-Statutory Technical Standards for Sustainable Drainage Systems.

3. Details of the maintenance arrangements relating to the proposed scheme, confirming who will be responsible and the regime to be implemented.

The flood authority explains that these conditions are to ensure compliance with National Planning Practice Guidance and the Non-Statutory Technical Standards, and to ensure the proposed development is safe from flooding and does not increase flood risk elsewhere.





AL39: NEW HOUSING SITE BEHIND LONDON ROAD

Some years ago, in order to meet housing targets set by the government, RBWM put out a call for potential sites for development. Most of the sites which came forward were in the Green Belt.

Originally, RBWM's Borough Local Plan (BLP) proposed three housing sites in Datchet, however, the government's planning inspector determined that development should be centred mainly in the towns rather than the villages, and two of the sites (at Eton Road and Slough Road) were removed, leaving site AL39 between London Road and the M4.

This land was taken out of the Green Belt so it could be developed, subject to the usual planning regulations. At first 150 homes were proposed but this was reduced to 80, providing a mix of houses and flats. The developers, then Inland Homes, held a consultation event in the Village Hall and submitted a planning application, number 22_02737. Residents were invited to comment on the proposals to RBWM who received 39 objections from 19 households.

The application was 'called in' to the Windsor Development Panel. This means that the decision whether to grant planning permission was taken out of the planning officers' hands. They could make a recommendation, but the ultimate decision would be made by the councillors on the panel.

The application came before the panel at their meeting on 7 September 2023 at 7pm. A few members of the public, including some of the DVS committee, were in attendance. Local Borough and Parish councillor, David Buckley, had stepped down from the panel for the meeting so he could speak against the application. No other parish councillors were present.

Cllr. Buckley had sent a 49-page document to the panel at 4.25pm that day in which he laid out his objections. He asked for an extension to the usual three minutes allotted to speakers, in order to run through these, but this request was not granted. The chair of the meeting said that DPC had had since October to state its objections. (The developer submitted a 75-page report the same day, about increasing biodiversity on the site, and a summary, sent to panel members at 4.45pm, was accepted.)

The panel of councillors then questioned the planning officers about the development. In the absence of any *planning* reasons to refuse being raised during the meeting, all voted in favour of permitting the development.

(If an application is refused, the developers can appeal to the government's planning inspector. If that happens, the local planning authority is obliged to defend its position. This can be very costly so it is important that a refusal can be defended in planning law.)

The planning officers attached a list of conditions to the permission. These include conditions related to flood resilience, ***left***, affordable homes, Zebra Crossings, and more. You can read these and a summary of the application in RBWM's Agenda Reports Pack, and view the meeting on YouTube.

At the time of writing, Cllr. Buckley is hoping to challenge this decision.

There is a DPC meeting about this on 20 September 2023.

DICK TURPIN

Right: *Pumps would have been a fairly common sight. This detail from an 1870s' photograph of the village centre, from Janet Kennish's Datchet History website, shows one in the village centre. It's on The Green, behind a pile of building materials 'on the left-hand side of the road going from London'. The Manor Hotel is the white building with two front-facing gables and a single-storey extension, where the ladder is propped up. The High Street runs between the Manor Hotel and the white building opposite which was the White Hart. The Morning Star (now Costa) can also be seen, on the right.*



Above: *There was a pump near St Mary's school and the Working Men's Club/Library, seen in this 1912 photo from Janet Kennish's book,* Datchet Past *(p88). It was used for road-watering to dampen down the dust in summer. (Note, too, the bell tower at St Mary's.)*



Right: *The last public well and pump built in Windsor in 1852, stands near Windsor & Eton Riverside station*



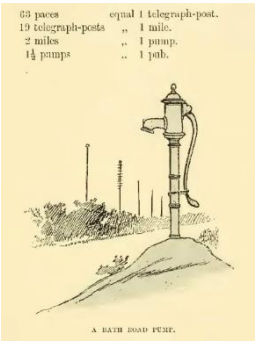
THE GHOST OF DICK TURPIN

We were recently sent an article from the *Windsor, Slough and Eton Express*, 16 August 1940, about a pump that was taken away as scrap metal in WWII.

"DICK TURPIN RELIC GOES: A DATCHET LANDMARK

"Will the ghost of Dick Turpin ride again at Datchet? This question is being asked by a number of older residents who are perturbed by the removal of an old landmark, the pump which has stood for hundreds of years at the junction of Service Road and Ditton Road. It has been taken as scrap metal to form part of the village's great effort, and the fact that, according to legend, the notorious highwayman used at one time to tether his horse there has not been allowed to count against the nation's need. Whether the slur on his memory will be sufficient to make Dick Turpin return in spirit to his old haunt is, however, not causing serious perturbation to local inhabitants, who feel that the possibilities of air raids and invasion is of far greater importance."

We found some light-hearted information about the roadside pumps in *'The Bath Road: History, Fashion and Frivolity on the Old Highway,* by Charles G Harper, 1899: "*It is just beyond Cranford Bridge that the pumps which are so odd a feature of the Bath Road begin. They line the highway on the left-hand side going from London, and are all situated in the same position as shown in the illustration. They are of a uniform pattern and are placed at regular intervals. These pumps are relics of the coaching age, but are peculiar to the Bath and some stretches of the Exeter roads. Placed here for keeping the highway well watered in the old days of road-travel, they have evidently long been out of use; in fact, their handles are all chained up. They recur so regularly that they might almost form part of a new table of measurement as thus:*



- *64 paces equal 1 telegraph post*
- *19 telegraph posts equal 1 mile*
- *2 miles equal 1 pump*
- *1½ pumps equals 1 pub."*

When Janet was researching the history of Datchet's milestone, she learned that the main roads around Slough were managed by the Colnbrook Turnpike Trust, established in 1727. Their stretch of the Great West Road from London to Bath (now the A4) ran from Cranford Bridge near Hayes to the Bucks side of Maidenhead Bridge. Today, we're used to driving up London Road to reach the M4 to London but before this route was turnpiked, it was only the narrow Churchfield Lane leading to Riding Court and Ditton Park. The old main route had been along Horton Road to Colnbrook and from there directly into the west of London. As for Dick Turpin (1705-1739) tethering his horse? Given that the Trust's branch roads, including the 'new' London Road, weren't built until 1768, this seems highly unlikely!

UPDATES



MILESTONE PLAQUE

At the risk of sounding like a broken record, 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. Highways has asked to see the 'slip test' data before granting permission but, of course, we won't have that until the plaque has been made and we are able to test it. Meanwhile, we don't want to pay for a plaque to be made if Highways hasn't granted outline permission, in principle, subject to the plaque meeting safety requirements. Our preferred supplier made the plaques for the Queen's Walkway in Eton so we don't anticipate any problems but we won't know for certain until the tests are done. Datchet Parish Council's locum clerk is now making some headway with Highways for us, and we hope to have news very soon.
You might have noticed, too, that the milestone was cleaned recently but also that some of the black paint of the lettering had run. It had been looking a bit green so Andy Chalk, the heritage stonemason, gave it a clean and a fresh coat of limewash to help keep the algae at bay. While he was there, he retouched the lettering and it all looked fine until the next downpour. As Andy says, 'It seems the case that this paint does not do what it says on the tin!" Andy is attending to it and assures us that all the materials he uses are specialist conservation materials and no permanent damage was done.



THE LISTED WALL, LONDON ROAD

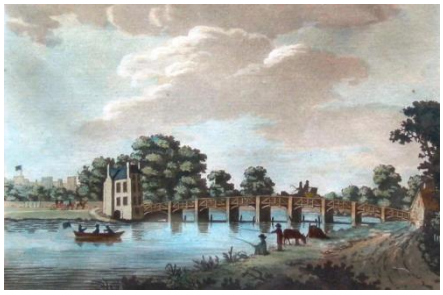
Bricks have been falling out of the 18th-century listed wall in London Road for many years. In 2019, at DVS' request, RBWM Conservation wrote to the various owners of the wall (in Deep Field) and reminded them of their responsibilities. Since then, there has been no remedial work, the erosion is worse, and bricks are still falling out; you can see right through it in places. We have written to RBWM Conservation several times. Most recently, in May 2023, we received a response saying that the officer was about to go on leave but would look at the wall on their return and get back to us with a comprehensive response. As we haven't heard anything, we've contacted Conservation again for an update. We'll keep you posted.



DATCHET GRILL SIGNAGE

We reported in the last issue that RBWM Planning had refused retrospective planning permission (application 23/00374) for the repositioning of the shopfront door at Hardware House, ***left***. This matter is now with RBWM's planning enforcement team, ref 23/50025/ENF.
We thought the shopfront signage had been erected without advertising consent, too. This is now also with planning enforcement, ref: 23/50145/ENF. At the September parish council meeting, we learned that an application to retain the two externally-illuminated fascia signs has now been submitted to RBWM planning, ref 23/02113. The Parish Council has objected to the application because the property sits in the middle of the historic Conservation Area and these signs do not comply with the adopted Datchet Design Guide or Datchet Neighbourhood Plan. If you would like to comment on the application, you can do this on the RBWM Planning website, or directly to planning@rbwm.gov.uk, quoting the reference, by the Neighbour Consultation expiry date, 29 September 2023.

POSTBAG



Above: *Painting of Datchet's second bridge, artist unknown, showing The Angel and Crown on the far side of the river, with Windsor Castle beyond. In 1770, the Crown paid for completely rebuilding the bridge, using substantial brick and stone piers (which lasted very well) to carry a wooden roadway or deck which constantly needed expensive upkeep. For more information see https://datchethistory.org.uk/general-articles/datchets-thames-bridge-and-the-railway*

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.

THE ANGEL AND CROWN

Janet Kennish received an email to her Datchet History website, asking if there was ever a public house in Datchet called The Angel and Crown? The enquirer had been going through his father's loft and found a pewter tankard with that name and the words 'Datchet Bridge' engraved on it which had belonged to his grandfather. He said he'd had a look but couldn't find any such place. Curious to know more, he contacted us.

Janet replied, explaining that The Angel and Crown was not strictly a Datchet pub, although it was just over the bridge from Datchet High Street, see image left, and sent him a link to her article on Datchet's Thames Bridge. We've asked for a photo of the tankard.

VICTORIA CROSS RECIPIENT

Windsor historian Derek Hunt contacted DVS recently. He is the co-author, with Brigitte Mitchell, of *Windsor in the Great War* and is currently working on a new book *Windsor in the Second World War*. In 1998, he organised a Victoria Cross exhibition in Windsor, detailing the stories of VC recipients who lived in Windsor, and worked with RBWM to have blue plaques erected for these men. He has since been researching other VC recipients throughout the Borough and informed us of a Datchet recipient, awarded the VC in the Second Boer War. We hope to have more news to share shortly.

WEBINAR: BERKSHIRE LOCAL NATURE RECOVERY STRATEGY (LNRS)

DVS members have been invited, via RBWM, to attend a free introductory webinar for residents on 26 September 2023 about the development of a new set of statutory strategies for nature recovery across England, which are locally led. You can find out more and book here: https://rbwmtogether.rbwm.gov.uk/berkshire-local-nature-recovery-strategy

TEARFUND BIG QUIZ NIGHT

Although this is not strictly within DVS's remit, in the spirit of supporting local groups, we're happy to pass on this invitation. Richard and Nick from the Baptist Church on London Road have written to DVS and other organisations in the village to invite members to their Tearfund Big Quiz night on Saturday 21 October. Churches and other groups nationwide will be taking part in what they promise will be an "epic evening of poverty-fighting fun". For details, see: https://datchetbaptist.org.uk/whats-on

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

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.

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP QUERIES

Very many thanks if you have 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 would like to continue to receive newsletter and invitations to DVS events, please check with Marjorie Clasper, 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.

DVS MAIN CONTACTS

President: Janet Kennish

Tel 07778 455706, email janetkennish123@gmail.com

Chair: Alison Crampin

Tel 01753 547090, email alison_crampin@yahoo.co.uk

Secretary: Marjorie Clasper

Tel 01753 545110, email marjorie.clasper@tiscali.co.uk

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.