

APRIL 2024

82

NEWSLETTER

Above: Memorial Green from St Mary's Churchyard, Adrian Giddins

Datchet Village Society

In this issue

AGM 2024
Recent visits
Next visits
Datchet's orchard
VC recipient
News
Planning
WWII
Parliament in Datchet
Postbag
In memory
Membership

Welcome to the April 2024 edition of your DVS newsletter

Did you know that the town we now call Windsor used to be known as 'New Windsor'? Or that there was a royal palace at Old Windsor long before the 'new' one at the Castle? We've booked a speaker to tell us more about The History of Old Windsor at this year's DVS AGM on 9 May, see page 2. As usual, there will be a brief business meeting at the start with an update on the past year and plans for the coming year. **Everyone is welcome so please invite neighbours and friends.**

In this issue, we review our recent visit to the Garrison Church and share our ideas for future visits and talks. (You may be interested to know that we'll have a stall at the Parish Council's Annual Parish Meeting on 22 April, see page 4.) If you have any suggestions for visits or talks, please let us know.

Did you know that in 1967 there was a proposal to move the Houses of Parliament to Datchet? See page 9 for more details. There's also news of an orchard in Datchet (page 5); an update on our various projects (pages 5-6); guidance on how to comment on planning applications (page 7); and details of a WWII 'ship' which never sailed on page 8.

Please note, annual membership fees are now due, see page 12.

We thank you for your continued support.

Looking forward to seeing you soon and at the AGM in May,

Your DVS Committee

Email: info@datchetvillagesociety.org.uk

www.datchetvillagesociety.org.uk

DVS AGM

MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS

Please note, **annual membership subscriptions run from 1 April 2024 to 31 March 2025.** Annual subscriptions are £10 per adult, £1 junior. If you have not already renewed, you can pay by cash or cheque at the AGM. Alternatively, you can pay by bank transfer or post. Please see page 12 for details. Donations are also gratefully received.

AGM PAPERWORK

The paperwork for the AGM, including an agenda, minutes of the last AGM, and a set of accounts will be emailed to members shortly. If you have any questions you'd like to raise at the AGM, please get in touch.

JOIN THE DVS COMMITTEE?

If you would like to join or would like to nominate a DVS member to join the committee, please email marjorie.clasper@tiscali.co.uk by 7 May 2024. Please note, nominations should be supported by a seconder. The Executive Committee consists of not fewer than six and not more than 10 members. If there are more nominations than places on the committee, a ballot will take place at the AGM. Currently there are eight; please see page 12 for further details. Committee members are required to relinquish their office every year and are eligible for re-election at the AGM. The current committee members are all willing to stand in 2024-25 and will be nominated and seconded for the AGM.



Bells of Ousley and the river bank, Old Windsor

DVS AGM: THE HISTORY OF OLD WINDSOR
Thursday 9 May 2024, WI Hall

Please arrive from 7pm for a 7.30pm start

Did you know that the town we now call Windsor used to be known as 'New Windsor'? It dates back 'only' to around 1070 when William the Conqueror established a fortification on a hilltop site, two miles from the much-older original settlement of Windsor, known today as 'Old Windsor'.



At our AGM this year, we've invited Blue Badge Guide Tony Howe, ***left***, from Visions of History to present a talk on 'The History of Old Windsor'. It was once the third largest town in Berkshire and the site of a royal residence before the Norman invasion. Tony will explain its importance and its decline after King Henry I moved the royal court into Windsor Castle, and will describe the subsequent development of grand estates, with reference to the wider local history.

If you've been to a DVS AGM meeting before, you'll know we like to make quick work of the business section in the first 10-15 minutes so that we can focus on the highlight of the evening which is Tony's talk. There will also be drinks and nibbles afterwards if you'd like to stay for a chat.

As always, the DVS AGM is open to everyone so please invite neighbours, friends and family to join us.

RSVP: To give us an idea of numbers for catering, please RSVP Marjorie Clasper**,** email marjorie.clasper@tiscali.co.uk, tel 01753 545110. Thank you.

RECENT VISITS



MILITARY MEMORIALS

There are many significant memorials here. Panels along the gallery commemorate 2116 Officers and Men of the Grenadier, Coldstream and Scots Guards who gave their lives in the Crimean War (1854-1857). Astonishingly, 83% died from sickness. (Some were cared for at Scutari where Florence Nightingale worked.) On the ground floor, 86 panels list 742 Officers and Men of the Household Brigade who died in the Boer War (1899-1902). The largest memorial is the Guard's Chapel, ***above,*** *dedicated to the memory of those lost in the 1882 Egyptian Campaign. On poles around the gallery, there are Standards and Regimental Colours of the Royal Horse Guards, Life Guards, Coldstream and Irish Guards. (The Coldstream Colours were at the Battle of Waterloo in 1815.) The Chapel also houses the temporary Regimental Memorial Cross, made from fence posts and erected by members of the 1st Battalion Welsh Guards in June 1982 at Fitzroy Cove, Falkland Islands, in memory of the 38 Welsh Guardsmen and attached soldiers who died as a result of the Sir Galahad incident. Kneeler cushions are embroidered with the names of Household Cavalry killed in Iraq. One of Datchet's WWI soldiers, Christopher Nichols, the village bobby, is remembered in the roll of honour.*



HOLY TRINITY PARISH & GARRISON CHURCH

In February, we arranged a guided visit for DVS members to Holy Trinity. It is thought to be the only church in the country functioning as a parish church which is also used by the army chaplains, and it is particularly important for its royal and military heritage ***(left)***.

Holy Trinity was founded with a gift of 200 guineas from Queen Victoria who wanted it to be built for the spiritual welfare of her troops garrisoned at Combermere and Victoria Barracks, and for the growing population of Windsor, particularly the poor who lived in the slums by the river (since replaced by Alexandra Gardens). At the time, Windsor was not a prosperous town; there was a great deal of poverty and sickness including typhoid and cholera. The poor were not made very welcome at Windsor Parish Church and frequent flooding made it difficult for them to get to Clewer Parish Church.

The new church was built in fields to the south-west of the Castle, now Claremont Road. It was designed by Edward Blore (perhaps best known for his work on Buckingham Palace) with involvement from Prince Albert, and additional funding from the Duke and Duchess of Kent, Eton College, St George's Chapel, and public subscription. Construction began in 1842.

On our visit, we learned more about the memorials ***(left)***, and also the church's connections with royalty. The Deliverance Window gives thanks for the deliverance of Queen Victoria from an assassination attempt in 1882 in Windsor. King Edward VII frequently attended services here and extracts from the visitors' book in the Guards Chapel show that he was often accompanied by his weekend house guests; among them were Tsar Nicholas II, Kaiser Wilhelm, presidents of France, the cricketer WG Grace and actress Ellen Terry.

Lord Mountbatten, who was killed in1979, made his last public appearance at the church, one month before his death. There is a room at the church dedicated to his memory, with various artefacts on display. More recently, Princes William and Harry and the Princess Royal have worshipped here at army services.

After a fascinating talk by Stephen Halton, DVS members enjoyed a 'walkabout Q&A' followed by tea and biscuits. We are very grateful to DVS member, Mike Thompson, and the church team for arranging our visit and making us so welcome.

EVENTS



Above: Ankerwycke Priory



Above: Veteran cars on The Cut

D-DAY COMMEMORATIONS IN DATCHET 6 June 2024

There are plans to light a beacon on The Green on the 80th anniversary of D-Day. This will be organised by Datchet Parish Council. Details to be confirmed.

DPC ANNUAL PARISH MEETING 22 April 2024, 6-8pm Village Hall, Allen Way

DVS has been invited to have a stall at Datchet Parish Council's Annual Parish Meeting. The purpose of this meeting is to give the Parish Council, and other local organisations an opportunity to let local residents know what they have been doing over the past year. It is also an opportunity for electors to have a say on anything they consider important to the people of the Parish. Everyone is welcome.

COMING SOON…

Here are some of our plans for the coming year. If you have any suggestions for visits or talks, please get in touch.

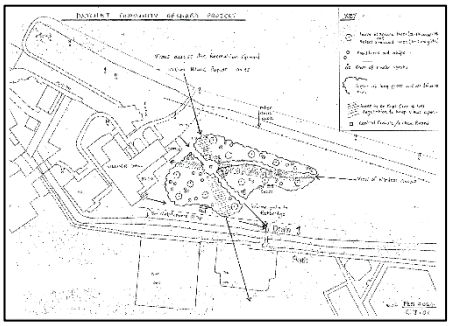
ANKERWYCKE This National Trust site is renowned for the Ankerwycke Yew, one of the Trust's oldest trees, but it was also the location of a Benedictine nunnery from 1160 to 1536, and then the site of an imposing Tudor House. Today, above ground, there are just picturesque ruins with the rest of the site adapted as pleasure grounds but since our last visit many years ago, there have been further excavations and new geophysical surveys which reveal how much more material survives beneath the grass. We're investigating whether we can arrange a guided visit this summer to learn more.

ELLIS JOURNEY On Sunday 7 July 2024, the veteran cars will return to the village to mark the anniversary of the first recorded journey by a motorised carriage in the UK. This journey was made on 5 July 1895 by pioneering automobilist, Evelyn Ellis, from Micheldever Station in Hampshire to his home at Rosenau on Southlea Road, Datchet.
The pre-1905 vehicles usually start arriving from 11am onwards, culminating in a display on The Cut (behind the library). The organisers, who also run The British Motor Show, have invited DVS to bring our Evelyn Ellis display. We look forward to seeing you there.

WINDSOR BARRACKS We're hoping to arrange a visit in the autumn to Combermere Barracks to visit the Household Cavalry Training Wing Stables, learn more about the history of the Household Cavalry, and visit the museum. There will be a charge for this visit, payable directly to the Household Cavalry Museum, with an option to have lunch in the cookhouse.

ST MARY'S CHURCHYARD As a follow-up to last year's 'walk and talk' around the stained glass windows and memorials inside St Mary's Church, Janet Kennish would very much like to offer members a walk around the Churchyard memorials, including the Edmund Earley tombstone which the DVS had restored in 2015.
We hope to set up a date in the coming months.

SOUTHLEA ARCHAEOLOGICAL FINDS Last year, we asked Windsor Museum if some of the other DVS finds from Southlea could be displayed at Datchet Library and a special drop-in 'handling session' arranged. The Museum agreed, the finds were taken away, and a notice left to say a new display would be coming soon. There were plans to set up a meeting with DVS at RBWM's Museum Store to confirm which finds would go on display but we have since learned there was a leak at the Store. Although there was no major damage to the artefacts, the carpets were soaked and had to be removed, and the museum team has been busy ensuring the collection is safe. The store is still out of bounds. We hope to have more news soon.



Wild ABOUT DATCHET

Wildaboutdatchet@gmail.com



DVS members are invited to Wild About Datchet's Seed & Seedling Swap on Saturday 27 April in the WI Hall.



Henry William Engleheart



DATCHET'S ORCHARD PROJECT

RBWM's Sustainability Team recently secured £27,000 from the Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affair's Coronation Living Heritage Fund for the purpose of creating community orchards throughout the Royal Borough.

Several community groups, schools, landowners and residents were invited to apply for funding to create their own orchard. Datchet Parish Council applied for a grant for Datchet in conjunction with local group Wild About Datchet.

It was announced at the April meeting of Datchet Parish Council, that they had received a grant of £3000 towards planting a mini-orchard and wildflower meadow by the Village Hall on the Sabatini Land, the triangular strip of land between the Recreation Ground ditch and Horton Road. Katy Jones, the former DPC clerk who is also a horticulturist and landscape architect, has drawn up a plan for the site. The trees, shrubs and wildflowers have been specially chosen to support biodiversity and to create an outdoor space which can be enjoyed by residents.

The plans for the site and proposed planting list can be viewed on the DPC website if you open the April 2024 agenda and click on the Dropbox link provided. It is anticipated that planting will start in the autumn. In the meantime, the grass will be allowed to grow to create the right conditions for the wildflower plugs.

HENRY WILLIAM ENGLEHEART, VC, 1863-1939

Blue plaques have been erected for all the Victoria Cross recipients who lived in Windsor so we have asked RBWM if there could be a plaque in Datchet for Sgt Henry William Engleheart, VC, who fought in the Second Boer War. RBWM's Museum team which handles requests for Blue Plaques has been dealing with a leak at the Museum Store but, in December, they said they would be setting up a panel in the new year to review requests. We've nudged gently and are waiting to hear back. If our request is approved, we will need to source funding for the plaque. Datchet Parish Council has said they will add the item to the agenda at their monthly meeting for councillors to discuss whether they can offer any assistance.



The newly-delivered plaque

MILESTONE PLAQUE

We're aware we sound like a broken record but we are inching closer to the milestone plaque being installed in the pavement by Church Cottage. The parish council clerk is liaising with Volker, RBWM's installation team, and we hope a date will be set soon. There then has to be a slip test to ensure it will not be a hazard to pedestrians. The plaque was made by the same company which supplied plaques for the Queen's Walkway in Eton so we don't anticipate any problems.

DONATIONS TO DVS ARCHIVE

We've received a few donations to our archives in the past couple of months. These include a suitcase full of papers which belonged to former Datchet Parish Councillor Gerry Symonds. We're slowly working our way through these, determining which should go to the Records Office, which to the Parish Council, and which we can keep in our own archives. We'll keep you posted as there is plenty of source material for future newsletters.



The wall continues to deteriorate

LONDON ROAD LISTED WALL

In early March we chased RBWM again about the continued deterioration to the listed wall on London Road. This is the latest correspondence in a chain dating back to 2019. As we received no response, we asked Parish and Borough Councillor, David Buckley, for his support. He has now also contacted RBWM's Planning Enforcement officers for an update.



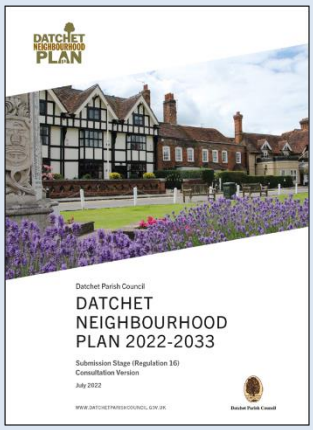
The war memorial on London Road is in need of some TLC

WWI CRUCIFIX MEMORIAL

Some people think that the crucifix on London Road belongs to the church but it's actually a WWI memorial. It is similar in style to the French wayside shrines which would have been familiar to those who fought on the Western Front. It was erected at what was then the entrance to the village; there was no other development nearby.
The memorial was donated by the Curling family and was dedicated on Empire Day in May 1919. The Curlings had three sons in the military, and mother and daughter both volunteered with the Red Cross (see Women in WWI on the DVS website).
It was Datchet's first WWI memorial, erected a year before the obelisk memorial on The Green, and it is now recorded as a Non-Designated Heritage Asset in the Datchet Neighbourhood Plan because of its historic significance. It was adopted by Datchet Parish Council which put two planters beside it in 2018 for the centenary of WWI, but nothing much has been done since.
The crucifix was repaired after it had been badly damaged during a storm in 2007 but it now looks as if it needs some more attention. DVS Committee member, Glenda Croft, has been tending to the planters but sadly one has been taken. DVS is starting to investigate how we can improve the area and signage around the memorial.

PLANNING

DNP DELIVERY AND MONITORING GROUP



We are pleased to report that the Datchet Neighbourhood Plan Delivery and Monitoring Group is now finally up and running, and the Terms of Reference for the group have been agreed by Datchet Parish Council.

The group has now asked to meet with the Parish Council's Strategic Planning Group to ensure that the objectives and policies in the Neighbourhood Plan are delivered and the non-policy actions, requested by residents, are followed up.

Following this meeting, the group will ask to meet with the lead and deputy lead members of the various departments at the council, such as Grounds, Properties, Highways, Planning, etc.

Members of the original DNP Steering Group (which included DVS Committee members) are currently on this group, alongside two parish councillors, Ewan Larcombe and Tim O'Flynn.

The DNP team will be at the Annual Parish Meeting in the Village Hall on Allen Way on 22 April 2024, from 6-8pm, if you have any questions and would like to find out more.



HOW TO COMMENT ON PLANNING APPLICATIONS

At its monthly meetings, Datchet Parish Council discusses and comments on all the planning applications submitted that month to RBWM. However, it is not widely known that the Parish Council's comments carry no more weight than those of an individual resident. For this reason, it is important that residents submit their own comments so that RBWM's Planning officers are aware of relevant local issues and the strength of feeling in support of, or against, an application.

Upcoming planning applications are listed on the village noticeboards. They can also be seen on the DPC website, using the link provided on the agenda for each meeting. You can also search for the applications and plans on the RBWM website: www.rbwm.gov.uk/home/planning-and-building-control/find-planning-application. Comments can be made directly on the RBWM website; by email to planning@rbwm.gov.uk; or by letter to Planning Services, Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead, Town Hall, St Ives Road, Maidenhead SL6 1RF. Correspondence should include the reference number of the planning application, your name and address, and a method of contacting you.

PLANNING ENFORCEMENT

There are currently quite a few developments in the village which are being investigated by RBWM Planning Enforcement. If you are concerned about any development taking place, you can check whether planning permission for the work has been granted on the RBWM website on the link above. If you think there has been a breach of planning control, you can alert the Enforcement Officers and request an investigation: www.rbwm.gov.uk/home/planning/request-enforcement-investigation. There is a link from that webpage to RBWM's Enforcement Policy which explains what constitutes a breach of planning control. (It is also a good idea to alert the Parish Council, clerk@datchetparishcouncil.gov.uk). You will need to provide details of the property in question, details of the owner/occupier (if known), a brief summary for the requested investigation, photographs if available, and your details. RBWM will keep your identity confidential and will not reveal it to the people you have requested an investigation about unless you want to give up your right to stay anonymous. You will be kept informed of the action RBWM intends to take.

THE 'SHIP' WHICH NEVER SAILED

In August 1939, the Admiralty set up HMS President III. *This was not, in fact, a ship but a shore-based accounting establishment, responsible for the payment and administration of men serving on Defensively Equipped Merchant Ships (DEMS). It was originally based in Bristol but soon moved to Dedworth Manor, Windsor. The Admiralty had established DEMS in June 1939 to maintain Britain's sea trade and to help protect merchant shipping. The plan was to arm around 5500 merchant vessels with guns to defend them against air attack, surfaced U-boats and other surface vessels. DEMS gun crews were supplied by the Royal Navy, Royal Marines, and Royal Artillery. Royal Navy gunners were trained at a number of locations but were mostly shown in official records as serving on HMS* President III. *After training they were attached to DEMS and required to sign on as members of the merchant navy crew. This was because military/naval personnel serving on merchant ships could have allowed the enemy to class them as warships and made them subject to attack. In practice, this was irrelevant as German U-boats and surface raiders attacked all Allied merchant ships. In the latter part of 1945, HMS* President III *was moved to London.*

With thanks to Derek Hunt who very kindly allowed us to extract the information above from a chapter about DEMS in his new book* Windsor in the Second World War, *which he is writing with Brigitte Mitchell.



Above: British oil tanker, MV Rosewood*, formerly MV* Stegg

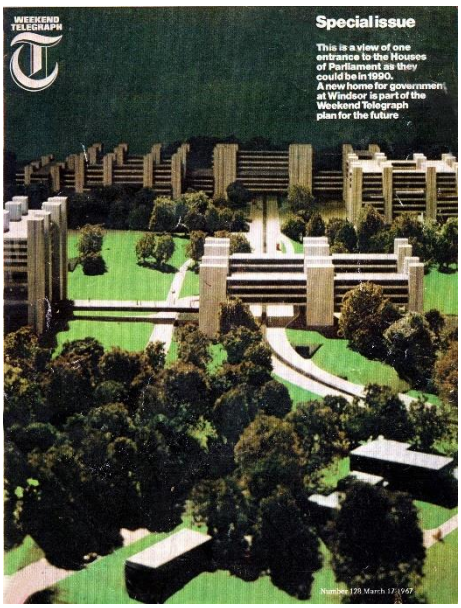
HERBERT WILLIAM JOYCE 1924-1943

Able Seaman Herbert William Joyce, born 30 December 1924, is remembered on Datchet's WWII memorial on The Green. In September 1939, at the start of WWII, he was living at 22 Lodgefield Cottages, opposite the cemetery on Ditton Road, Datchet, with his parents Thomas and Elizabeth, older siblings Ethel, Vera, and Thomas, and younger sister, Annie. The 1939 Register also indicates that he had already left school and, aged 14, was working in a factory making gas masks. His father died in 1941 and the following year Herbert Joyce joined the Navy, serving on HMS *President III*. Records show that he and his fellow crew members were all lost at sea in 1943. He was just 18.

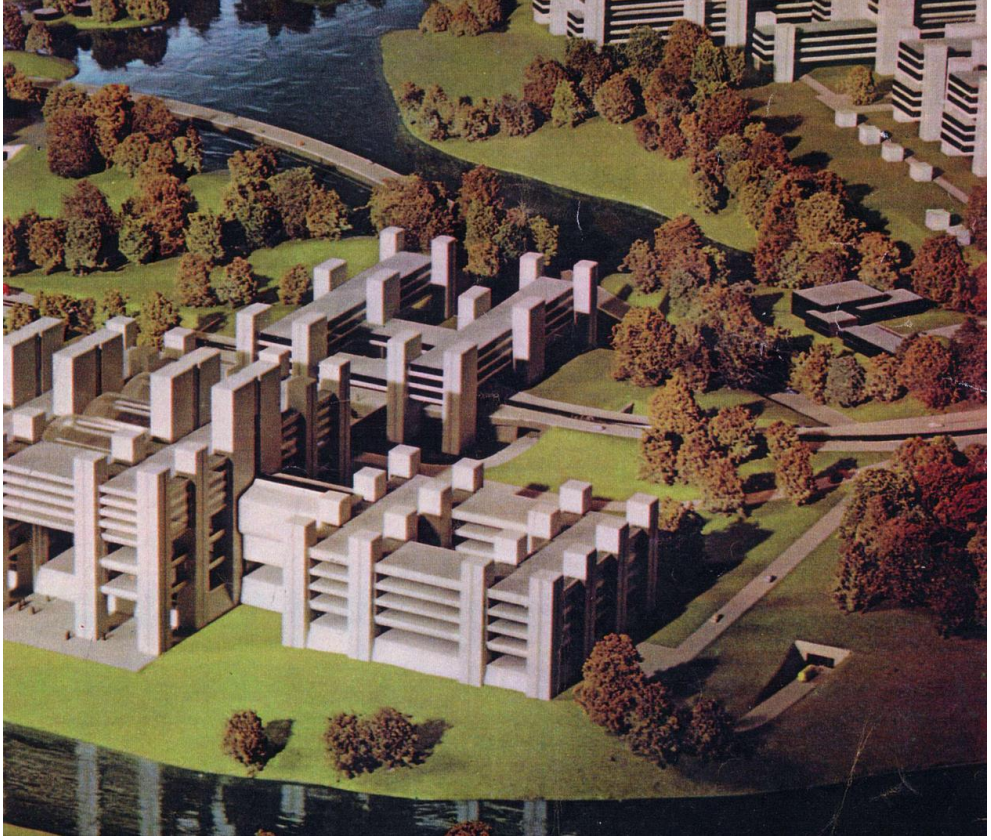
Although this loss of life is very sad, it hadn't seemed odd when we were adding his details to the WWII page on the DVS website until Derek Hunt, a Windsor historian, got in touch to explain that HMS *President III* was not actually a ship but a land-based Royal Navy establishment at Dedworth Manor, Windsor. As it was unlikely that the whole of Dedworth Manor could have been lost at sea, Derek did some further research. More information was available from the Commonwealth War Graves Commission which recorded Herbert Joyce's unit as "HMS *President III (*MV *Rosewood)"*. Derek discovered that Herbert Joyce had been a member of a specially-trained gun crew (see ***left***) on attachment from HMS *President III* to protect the merchant ship, MV *Rosewood*. On 9 March 1943, MV *Rosewood* was in Convoy SC-121 sailing from New York to the Clyde, when the convoy was attacked by U-boats south of Iceland. MV *Rosewood* was torpedoed twice, caught fire, and broke in two. All 42 crew members, including nine gunners, were lost at sea.

In May 1943, two months after Herbert Joyce had died, *Datchet Parish Magazine* reported that his mother, Elizabeth, had just received news that her son was missing. It wasn't until much later, in July 1944, that she received official notification of his death.

We managed to track down someone in Datchet who had known Herbert's sister, Vera, only to discover she had passed away in recent years. By chance, Vera's nephew lives across the road from one of our DVS committee, Glenda Croft. He was very interested to learn about his uncle and had no idea he was part of a DEMS gun crew. Herbert Joyce has no known grave and is remembered on the Portsmouth Naval Memorial and the WWII Memorial in Datchet.



"This is a view of one entrance to the Houses of Parliament as they could be in 1990. A new home for government at Windsor is part of the Weekend Telegraph plan for the future"



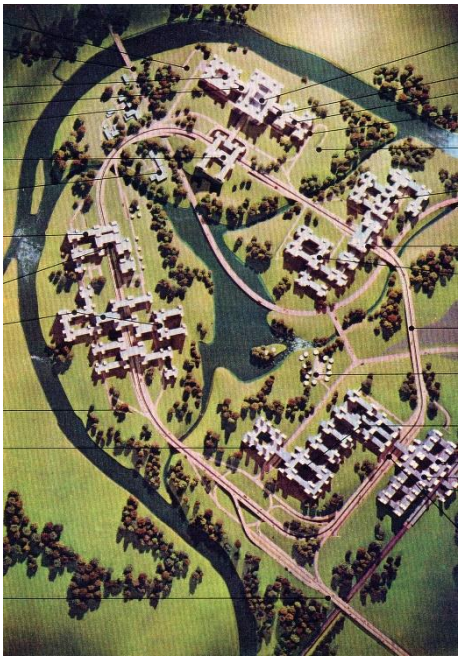
NEW HOUSES OF PARLIAMENT… IN DATCHET

Browsing through the DVS photo archives, we came across a supplement from the *Weekend Telegraph* of 17 March 1967. It was published to coincide with its London 1990 exhibition, a vision for the future created by Lord Redmayne and a committee of experts.

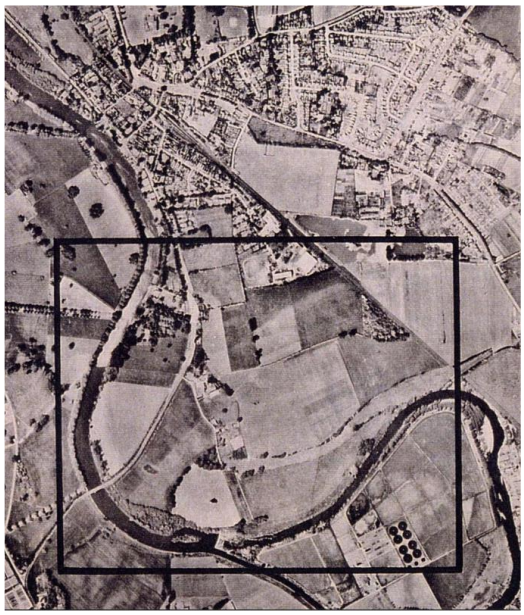
The article argued that the location of government was "haphazard and grossly inefficient" with Ministries and offices scattered across a wide area. It claimed it would be unworkable by 1990, with twice as many cars based in London; four times as many foreign visitors, and a predicted population in the South East of 22 million.

The committee proposed that Government should move to Windsor; more accurately, next to Datchet. The location was chosen because a link to the Crown was maintained, it would be on an orbital route, would be part of an expanded London by 1990, and could be brought within 30 minutes' travel of Central London. They did mention that the area was subject to floods "every 20 years or so" but were confident that William Whitfield's design would safeguard the buildings from flooding. The new parliamentary site was to take the name St Helen's from the "ruined monastery" in the centre of the loop.

We may think Datchet is congested now. Imagine what might have been…



If the loop in the river looks familiar, that's because it is; it's the area between Albert Bridge and the railway line



POSTBAG



Churchmead House



***Above:** This photo appeared in the Slough Eton and Windsor Observer in 1951: "The curious object, displayed by Mrs E Forbes at the handicraft exhibition, was expertly carved out of a solid block of wood and that's how the balls got inside."*



Datchet Bridge by J Chapman c1850

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 and questions keeps us busy making new discoveries.

CHURCHMEAD HOUSE

Janet Kennish received a request to reproduce the images of Arthur Good and Churchmead House from her Datchet History website. The enquirer was seeking to illustrate an article about a school in Prestbury, near Cheltenham, which prepared pupils, including Arthur Good (1880-1921), for entrance exams to the Royal Military Academies at Woolwich and Sandhurst as well as for the Militia. Arthur was the son of William Good, a London barrister, JP, and Inspector of Charities, who had purchased Churchfield Meadow in Datchet in 1865 in order to build a family house in a pleasant village, from which he could commute by rail to London.
At the outbreak of war in 1939, Churchmead House was requisitioned by the Royal Artillery as a control centre for the anti-aircraft base on the old Polo Ground in Horton Road. At the end of the war the house was left unoccupied and derelict for years. Many people who were children in the 1940s and '50s recall the excitement of exploring its wild and overgrown garden before the site was earmarked for a new County Secondary School, Churchmead School, which was built from 1958 to 1959.

WOODSTOCK, HORTON ROAD

We received an email from a former Datchet resident currently living in Slough. He had moved to Datchet with his parents, Edward Thomas Forbes and Eva Forbes, during WWII as it offered a safer environment than London. They lived at Woodstock, 122 Horton Road, which at the time backed onto farmland (now Holmlea Walk). He had some family items he wished to donate to DVS including photos and newspaper cuttings of the 1947 flood and the opening of the Recreation Ground by Princess Margaret, ***left***. His mother, a stalwart of the Women's Institute's drama group, also ran basket-weaving classes in the Working Men's Club, now Datchet Library. He has lots of memories of Datchet and recalls the allotments (now the Recreation Ground) being maintained by German prisoners of war.

DATCHET BRIDGE

Janet Kennish was asked for information about the various landlords of the Angel and Crown, the pub which used to stand on the Windsor side of Datchet Bridge, and duly produced a list. The pub was demolished, along with the bridge, when the railway line was opened in 1850-51. There is more information about Datchet's bridges and the pub on datchethistory.org.uk

IN MEMORY



Joan Bryant



Margaret Partington

MEMBERS NEWS

JOAN BRYANT 1926-2023

We were very sad to learn that one of our earliest DVS members, Joan Bryant, passed away in November. Her son, Garrick Davis, has very kindly written a few words about Joan for us:

"Datchet, with the rural reel of its Greens, steeple and river spoke to Joan Bryant of her wartime years in the Women's Land Army in Highworth. Evoking memories of those villages and market towns tucked into the hills and embowered folds of north Wiltshire, which she served on her weekly horse-drawn milk rounds.

"Joan left England after the big freeze and floods of 1947 on a converted merchant ship Australia-bound, via the Congo and Benguela railway through Southern Africa. Waylaid by marriage and children, instead Joan settled in the beautiful Western Cape.

"An early advocate and member of the Society, Joan returned to live in Datchet fifty years later, serving as the Society's Treasurer during its formative years. She died peacefully in Datchet, last autumn at the age of ninety-seven."

MARGARET PARTINGTON

We have also received the sad news that Margaret Partington passed away recently. Margaret will be known to many members at the 'Hat Lady'. She very kindly hosted several DVS visits to her listed house in the High Street, The Hall House, and can be seen, left, modelling one of her many hats for hire.

Janet Kennish has spent more time and interest researching Margaret's house than any other in the village. This complex building has a clear traceable history back to the 1590s, although parts of a much older house remain at its core. From the early 1600s the building was an alehouse or tavern, at first called the Rose and then the Duke of Northumberland's Head. By about 1750 it had become a butcher's premises, as it still was into the 1970s. In 1975 the property was sold to antique dealers, Charles and Jane Toller. More recently, under John and Margaret Partington's ownership and as *Elegant Hats for Hire,* the shop was a landmark in the High Street and a magnet for all those near and far who needed hats for glamorous occasions. Janet is currently writing an article about The Hall House which we hope will be published soon.



Inside The Hall House, DVS visit 2016

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; suggestions for the newsletter; 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 NOW DUE

Annual membership runs from 1 April each year to 31 March the following year. Many thanks to members who have already renewed their annual membership, and to life members who made a 'top-up' donation.

If you would like to continue to receive newsletter and invitations to DVS events, please make sure your membership is up to date.

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 a new pavement plaque to mark the original site of Datchet's milestone. We are now also investigating whether a Blue Plaque can be erected to commemorate a Datchet resident who received the Victoria Cross, and whether we can improve the area and signage around the Crucifix on London Road, the first WWI memorial in the village. The funds also allow us to publish cards, leaflets and booklets. We couldn't do this work without your support, thank you.

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 2023/4: 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.