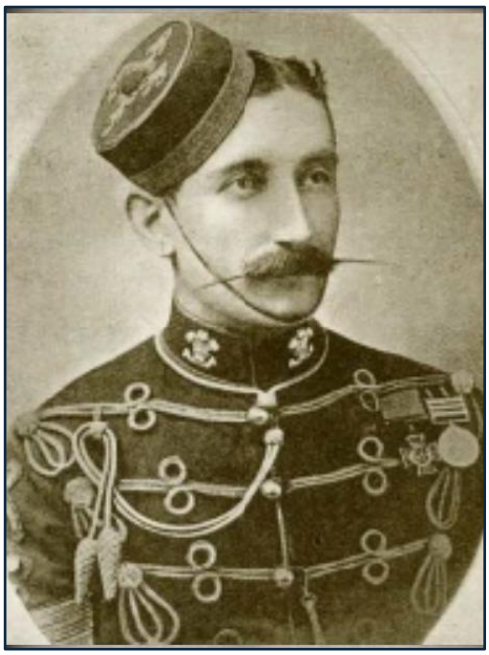
Datchet Village Society

Application to install a Commemorative Blue Plaque in Datchet



Dedicated to Henry William Engleheart VC 1863-1939

13 August 2024

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Proposal

To install a Blue Plaque at Fairlight, 24 Lawn Close, Datchet SL3 9JZ, in honour of Sergeant Henry William Engleheart VC. There are currently no blue plaques commemorating former residents in Datchet.



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Summary

Fairlight was the former home of Henry William Engleheart who was awarded the Victoria Cross for bravery in 1900, near Bloemfontein, South Africa, during the Second Boer War. The Victoria Cross is the highest and most prestigious award for gallantry in the face of the enemy that can be awarded to British and Commonwealth forces.

After leaving the Army, Sgt Engleheart was appointed Lodge Keeper at the South-Western Lodge of Windsor Castle, Datchet Road. He held this position for 25 years, until his retirement in 1933. After retiring, he moved to Fairlight, 24 Lawn Close, Datchet, where he died on 9 August 1939, following a long illness, aged 75.
He is believed to be the only VC recipient with a Datchet connection.

Application history

This application for a commemorative blue plaque is supported by Datchet Village Society (DVS) which learned about Sgt Engleheart from Derek Hunt, a military historian and author. Derek has researched all the VC recipients of Windsor and district and instigated the successful installation of blue plaques for all three Windsor VCs. He also curated The Windsor Victoria Cross Exhibition in 1998. DVS is indebted to Derek for his permission to use his extensive research in this document supporting the application.

April 2018. A proposal for this plaque was supported by Cllr Samantha Rayner. Andrew Scott at RBWM liaised with Datchet Ward Councillors, Cllr Jesse Grey and Cllr Gary Muir, and there was general support. RBWM had funding for one plaque per year and the application was placed in a queue.

December 2018. Derek Hunt was informed by Suzie Parr that RBWM did not have the resources “this year” but the service could “coordinate the plaque if sponsorship was found". As alternative sponsorship was not available at that time, the application remained in the queue. The paperwork was subsequently lost when a member of staff dealing with it left the Council, although the applicants were not advised of this until 2023.

August 2023. Derek Hunt contacted Datchet Village Society (DVS) which supports this application. The DVS offered to help source funding for the plaque if permission is granted. An application was resubmitted, to Stephanie Lewis, Lead Museum Officer. The DVS also wrote a letter of support.

December 2023. Datchet Village Society (DVS) was informed by Steph James, RBWM Service Lead for Economic Growth, that a panel would be set up in the new year to review and process requests for blue plaques. Since then, although no direct communication has been received, we understand that the panel has approved an application for a plaque for George Pocock in Eton, submitted in August 2023.

August 2024. Funding for the plaque was agreed by Datchet Parish Council at its August meeting.

Funding

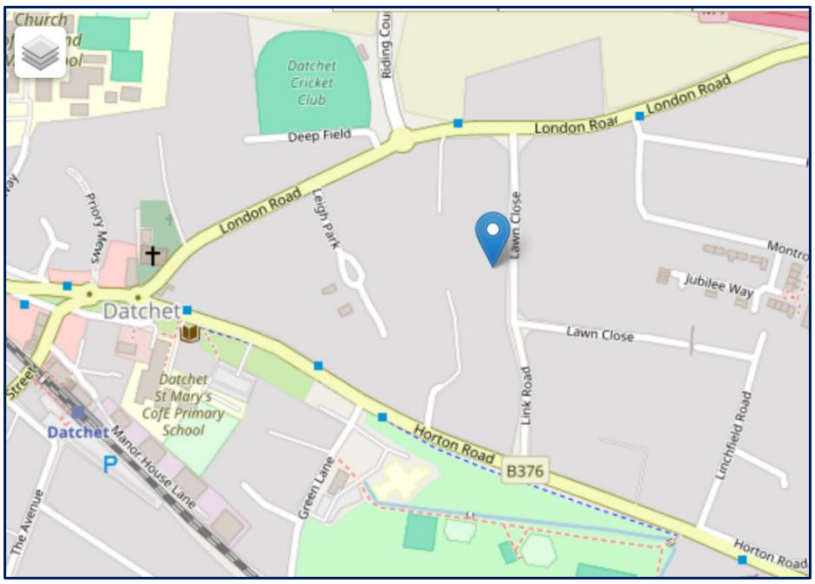
The DVS approached Datchet Parish Council (DPC) to ask whether they would consider funding the plaque. DPC Chairman, Cllr David Buckley said, “I think this is a great opportunity to pay respects and honour to one of our heroes”. The request was put before the parish council at their August 2024 meeting and the councillors unanimously agreed to fund the plaque and its installation.

Location

In December 2023, the DVS committee approached the owners of Sgt Engleheart’s former home, Fairlight, 24 Lawn Close, ***right***. They were already aware that Sgt Engleheart had lived there and had no objection in principle; owner Jacqueline Trood wrote, “We would be delighted to have a blue plaque if it is given the go ahead”. The plaque would be installed on the front of the house where it could be read by the public.



The building is not listed and it is not in Datchet’s Conservation Area. Number 24 is on the west side of Lawn Close which runs south from London Road, B470, joining Link Road then connecting with Horton Road, B376, ***right***.



The case for a Blue Plaque

In 1900, Sergeant Henry William Engleheart, 10th Royal Hussars (Prince of Wales's Own) British Army, was awarded the Victoria Cross for an act of extreme bravery carried out under direct enemy fire during the Second Boer War in South Africa. The Victoria Cross is the highest and most prestigious award for gallantry in the face of the enemy that can be awarded to British and Commonwealth forces.

The VC Citation published in the *London Gazette* on 5 October 1900[1], reads as follows:

Sergeant H W Engleheart

At dawn on the 13th March, 1900, the party that had destroyed the railway north of Bloemfontein had to charge through a Boer piquet[2] and get over four deep spruits[3], in order to make their way back through the Boer lines. At the fourth spruit Sapper Webb's horse failed to get up the bank and he was left in a very dangerous position.

In face of a very heavy rifle and shell fire, and, notwithstanding the great chance of being cut off, Sergeant Engleheart returned to Sapper Webb's assistance.

It took some time to get the man and his horse out of the sluit[4] and the position became momentarily more critical owing to the advance of the Boers. He was, however, at last successful, and, retiring slowly, to cover Webb's retreat, was able to get him safely back to the party.

Shortly before this, Sergeant Engleheart had shown great gallantry in dashing into the first spruit, which could only be reached in single file and was still full of Boers hesitating whether to fly or fire. Had they been given time to rally, they must have destroyed the small party of British, as they outnumbered them by 4 to 1.

[1] https://www.thegazette.co.uk/London/issue/27235/page/6126/data.pdf
[2] Piquet - a small military outpost to warn of the enemy's approach.
[3] Spruits - streams or watercourses, typically dry except during the rainy season.
[4] Sluit - a deep, dry gulch or channel formed by erosion due to heavy rains.

Queen Victoria awarded the Victoria Cross to Sgt Engleheart on 15 December 1900 at Windsor Castle. He was one of the last five recipients to be decorated personally by the Queen. This is confirmed by the Queen's own Journal for that day[5]: "At 5 gave five Victoria Crosses & two D.S.O.s to Officers & men, who had much distinguished themselves in S. Africa, also an Albert Medal to a Naval Officer."

After Sgt Engleheart was discharged from the army in 1908, (as Quarter Master Sergeant), King Edward VII appointed him as a Lodge Keeper at the Castle. He took up the post and moved, with his wife and twin sons, into South-Western Lodge on Datchet Road)[6]. In 1933, after holding the position for 25 years, he retired, and the family moved to Lawn Close in Datchet[7].

PLEASE NOTE, Since submitting the application we have learned that the Lodge on the Datchet Road near the farm shop, below, is not South-Western Lodge. There is another Datchet Road in Windsor, near the Home Park. We now believe South-Western Lodge was in this area.



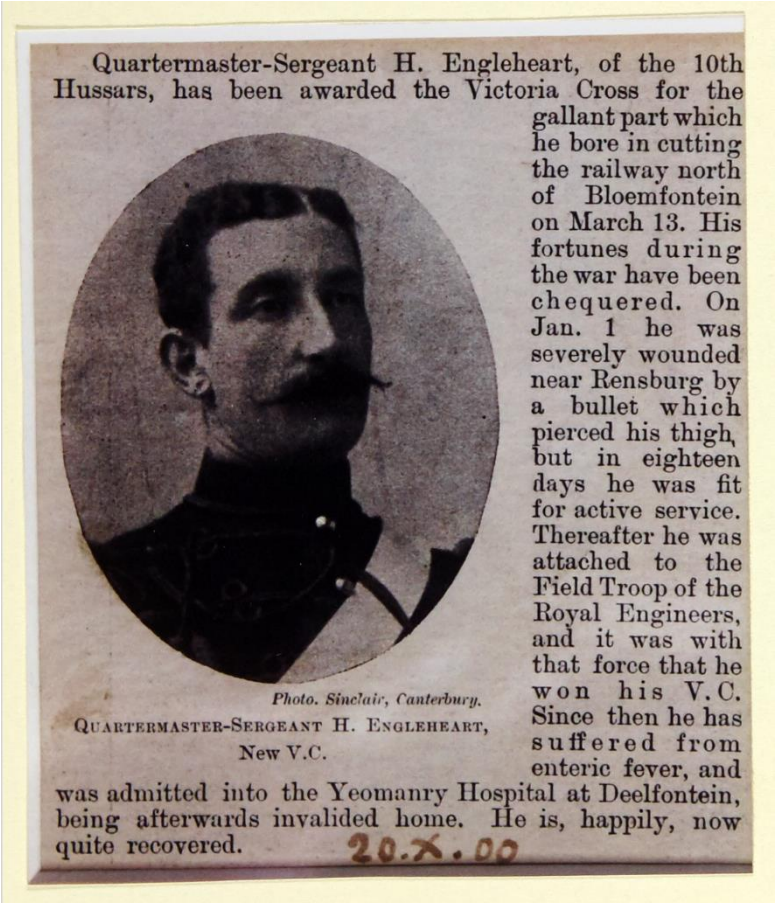
Left: *Lodge, Datchet Road*

[5] Queen Victoria's Journals 15 December 1900
[6] 1911 Census
[7] 1939 Register

Service Record[8]

- Henry William Engleheart enlisted in the 10th (The Prince of Wales's Own) Royal Hussars at Hounslow, 23 August 1887. He was described as 5'7" tall, weighing 129lbs, ruddy complexion, brown hair and eyes.
- Obtained his 3rd Class Education on 8 November 1887.
- Obtained his 2nd Class Education on 6 December 1889.
- Promoted to Lance Corporal on 23 December 1889.
- Promoted to Corporal on 15 October 1891.
- Extended his service to 12 years on 15 August 1894.
- Promoted to Lance Sergeant on 25 February 1895.
- Promoted to Sergeant on 22 October 1896.
- Extended service to 21 years on 15 June 1899.
- Sent to South Africa (2nd Boer War) 6 November 1899.
- Wounded at Rensburg on 1 January 1900.
- In action north-west of Bloemfontein, Orange Free State, South Africa, on 13 March 1900 while serving under Brevet Major Aylmer Hunter Weston. VC action in which he saved life of Sapper Webb.
- Returned to England 19 July 1900.
- Attached to 7th Hussars on 3 December 1903.
- Returned to 10th Hussars on 1 April 1904.
- Obtained his 1st Class Education on 10 December 1904.
- Went to India 17 December 1904. Returned to England on 23 October 1908.
- Discharged on 6 November 1908 at Gosport, Hampshire, on termination of his period of service, having served a total of 21 years and 76 days. His character and conduct were Exemplary: trustworthy and dependable. His intended place of residence was given as Branksome, Prospect Road, New Barnet, which was the address of his parents.

[8] Sources: https://horsepowermuseum.co.uk/henry-william-engleheart-v-c/
https://victoriacrossonline.co.uk/henry-william-engleheart-vc/
https://vcgca.org/our-people/profile/415/Henry-William--ENGLEHEART
https://collection.nam.ac.uk
The Victoria Cross and The George Cross: The Complete History Vol 1 1854-1914;
The History of the Victoria Cross, Philip A Wilkins;
Monuments to Courage, David Harvey.
London Gazette 6126, 5 October 1900.



Quartermaster-Sergeant H. Engleheart, of the 10th Hussars, has been awarded the Victoria Cross for the gallant part which he bore in cutting the railway north of Bloemfontein on March 13. His fortunes during the war have been chequered. On Jan. 1 he was severely wounded near Rensburg by a bullet which pierced his thigh, but in eighteen days he was fit for active service. Thereafter he was attached to the Field Troop of the Royal Engineers, and it was with that force that he won his V.C. Since then he has suffered from enteric fever, and was admitted into the Yeomanry Hospital at Deelfontein, being afterwards invalided home. He is, happily, now quite recovered. 20.X.00

Photo. Sinclair, Canterbury.

QUARTERMASTER-SERGEANT H. ENGLEHEART, New V.C.

Left: A newspaper extract in the Queen Elizabeth Grammar School archives[9], dated 20 October 1900, announced Sgt Engleheart's award and provided additional details of injuries he received at Rensburg, and a bout of enteric fever he suffered.





Left: Sgt Henry William Engleheart's bravery was remembered on cigarette cards of the era.
(No evidence has been found to confirm whether they waded through deep water, or whether this was artistic licence.)

[9] https://explore.qecollections.co.uk/a-twe-alb-v01-021

Victoria Cross and Medals

Sgt Henry William Engleheart was awarded:

- Victoria Cross
- Queen's South Africa Medal 1899-1902, with clasps *Relief of Kimberley, Paardeberg, Driefontein*
- Army Long Service and Good Conduct Medal
- King George V Coronation Medal 1911
- King George VI Coronation Medal 1937

The Victoria Cross and medals were donated to the Royal Hussars by Henry's twin sons in 1977 and can now be seen on display at Horse Power, The Museum of The King's Royal Hussars in Winchester.[10]



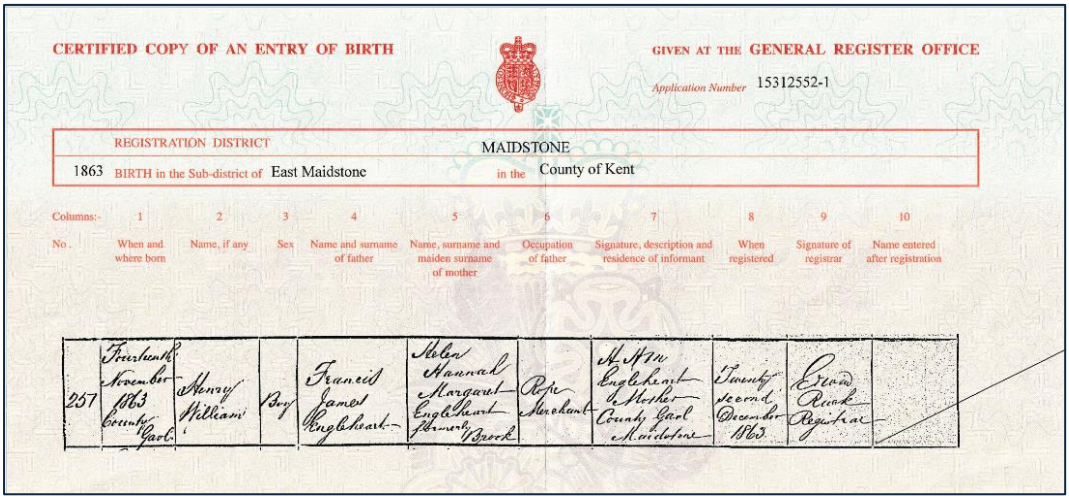
Support for the plaque from The King's Royal Hussars

Major (Retd) Steve Penkethman, Regimental Secretary of The King's Royal Hussars wrote to Datchet Village Society in July 2024, "We are delighted to hear that you are planning to erect a blue plaque on Sgt Engleheart's former home. As you can imagine, he is a key figure in the history of The King's Royal Hussars. We would be glad to provide a supporting letter."

[10] https://horsepowermuseum.co.uk/henry-william-engleheart-v-c/

Early life

Henry William Engleheart was born on 14 November 1863 in the County Gaol Maidstone as confirmed by his birth certificate.[11]



CERTIFIED COPY OF AN ENTRY OF BIRTH

GIVEN AT THE GENERAL REGISTER OFFICE

Application Number 15312552-1

REGISTRATION DISTRICT MAIDSTONE

1863 BIRTH in the Sub-district of East Maidstone in the County of Kent

Columns:-	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
No.	When and where born	Name, if any	Sex	Name and surname of father	Name, surname and maiden surname of mother	Occupation of father	Signature, description and residence of informant	When registered	Signature of registrar	Name entered after registration
257	Fourteenth November 1863 County Gaol	Henry William	Boy	Francis James Engleheart	Helen Hannah Margaret Engleheart formerly Brook	Stock Broker	H. H. M. Engleheart Mother County Gaol Maidstone	Twenty second December 1863	Edward Rivett Registrar	

His parents were Francis James Englehart, a stockbroker and member of the Stock Exchange, and Helen Hannah Margaret Engleheart (née Brook). They had married on 23 April 1859 and lived at Eltham Green in Kent. Francis was the son of Nathaniel Brown Engleheart Esq of Blackheath, a senior government lawyer and the last of the Queen's Proctors. Prior to their marriage, Helen and Francis had a daughter, Constance ("Conny") Augusta, who was born on 9 October 1958. Their second child, a son, Percival Francis, was born in 1860.

Conny was reportedly a sickly child and the doctor advised Helen to place Conny in a bath of cold salty water followed by a dose of cod liver oil to build her up. On 31 July 1863, Conny knocked over a jug of milk onto the carpet. Her mother picked her up and placed her in a bath of cold water in the kitchen. Helen placed a cloth over Conny's mouth and dunked her under the water two or three times. Conny was left in the cold bath for up to ten minutes before her mother lifted her out, dried her off and took her upstairs. Helen then ordered the maid to fill a bath with hot water and while she was carrying the child back downstairs, she claimed to have dropped her. The maid was instructed to run next door and ask the neighbour to call for a doctor. Conny died the next morning, and a post-mortem revealed a large quantity of blood on the brain with bruising on the right temple

[11] https://www.freebmd.org.uk/cgi/districts.pl?r=36045942:1644&d=bmd_1716567329

and a recent bruise on the top of the left foot. Several other old bruises were discovered on the body.

Helen was charged at the Old Bailey (Central Criminal Court) with killing her daughter. The transcript of the case is available online.[12] She was acquitted of manslaughter but found guilty of common assault, on account of her gross cruelty to her daughter, in September 1863. She was sentenced to 18 months' imprisonment in Newgate Prison, London. As she was heavily pregnant at the time she was transferred to Maidstone Gaol, Maidstone, Kent,[13] where Henry was born. In 1864, presumably while Helen was in gaol, her son Percival died. His death was registered in Hastings. (Helen's family came from that area.)

In 1871, the family was living at Vincent Terrace, St Mary Islington, London. At the time of the census, Francis and Helen Engleheart were recorded there with four children, Henry, age 7, Clementina, age 5, Florence, age 3 and Arthur, age 1[14]. Another child, Louis Victor, was born in 1873, and in 1881 the family was at Warwick Road, Chipping Barnet (High Barnet), Herts.[15]

Henry was educated at Queen Elizabeth's Grammar School[16], Barnet, and joined the army in 1887. By 1891, his parents had moved to Branksome, Prospect Road, New Barnet.[17] This was Henry's intended place of residence when he was discharged from the army in 1908.



Right: This 1880 photograph of a group of cricketers from the Queen Elizabeth Grammar School archives includes H W Engleheart on the far left.

[12] Transcript of the trial, https://www.oldbaileyonline.org/record/t18630921-1149?text=engleheart
[13] Source: *North and South Shields Gazette*, 1 October 1863. *The Standard*, 29 September 1863.
[14] Census 1871
[15] Census 1881
[16] References to HW Engleheart on the Queen Elizabeth Grammar School website
[17] Census 1891

Family life

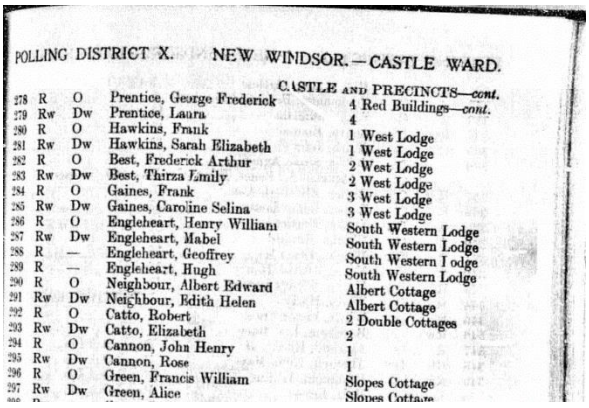
On 15 May 1909, a year after his discharge from the army, 45-year-old Henry Engleheart married his first cousin, Mabel Engleheart, at St Mark's Church, Barnet Vale, Herts. Henry's father, Francis, and Mabel's father, Benjamin Octavius Engleheart, an estate agent, were brothers.[18]

The following year, Henry and Mabel had twin boys. The 1911 census (2 April 1911) shows the family at South-Western Lodge, Home Park, Windsor. Henry, 47, and Mabel, 41, were living there with eight-month-old sons, Geoffrey and Hugh. Henry's occupation was listed as Army Pensioner Lodgekeeper.

On 3 July 1920, the *Windsor, Eton and Slough Express*, reported that "The King and Queen received at Buckingham Palace on Saturday, three hundred holders of the Victoria Cross. Of all ranks, they lunched together at Wellington Barracks and marched thence to the Palace, great crowds cheering them enthusiastically on the way. Among the V.C.s were Sergeant H Engleheart (late 10th Hussars) Lodge-keeper at the South-Western Lodge, Windsor Castle."[19]

During the time Henry was at the Lodge, members of the Royal Family frequently called on him, and King George V and Queen Mary often enjoyed a chat with him when they were walking the grounds during their Easter stays at the Castle.[20]

The 1933 electoral register, ***right,*** shows Henry and Mabel with 23-year-old twins, Geoffrey and Hugh, at South-Western Lodge. Henry retired from his position as Lodgekeeper on Saturday 28 October 1933, after 25 years' service.[21]



POLLING DISTRICT X. NEW WINDSOR.—CASTLE WARD.

CASTLE AND PRECINCTS—*cont.*

278	R	O	Prentice, George Frederick	4 Red Buildings—*cont.*
279	Rw	Dw	Prentice, Laura	4
280	R	O	Hawkins, Frank	1 West Lodge
281	Rw	Dw	Hawkins, Sarah Elizabeth	1 West Lodge
282	R	O	Best, Frederick Arthur	2 West Lodge
283	Rw	Dw	Best, Thirza Emily	2 West Lodge
284	R	O	Gaines, Frank	3 West Lodge
285	Rw	Dw	Gaines, Caroline Selina	3 West Lodge
286	R	O	Engleheart, Henry William	South Western Lodge
287	Rw	Dw	Engleheart, Mabel	South Western Lodge
288	R	—	Engleheart, Geoffrey	South Western Lodge
289	R	—	Engleheart, Hugh	South Western Lodge
290	R	O	Neighbour, Albert Edward	Albert Cottage
291	Rw	Dw	Neighbour, Edith Helen	Albert Cottage
292	R	O	Catto, Robert	2 Double Cottages
293	Rw	Dw	Catto, Elizabeth	2
294	R	O	Cannon, John Henry	1
295	Rw	Dw	Cannon, Rose	1
296	R	O	Green, Francis William	Slopes Cottage
297	Rw	Dw	Green, Alice	Slopes Cottage

[18] www.freebmd.org.uk, The marriage was announced in the *Bromley Telegraph and Chislehurst Chronicle*, on Saturday 22 May 1909.
[19] See also *A Party Fit for Heroes: His Majesty's Garden Party for recipients of the Victoria Cross 26th June 1920* by Derek Hunt and John Mulholland, The Naval and Military Press Ltd 2007.
[20] *Windsor, Eton and Slough Express*, 11 August 1939.
[21] Source: *Portsmouth Evening News*, 30 October 1933.

After his retirement, Henry and his family moved to Fairlight[22] on Lawn Close in Datchet, and Henry took a great interest in all ex-service men's organisations. He was appointed vice-chairman of the Windsor Ex-Service Men's Club in 1933 and elected chairman in 1937, a position he held until his death. He also acted in an official capacity with the annual show of the Berks, Bucks and Oxon Canine Association held in the Home Park. He was taken ill at the Sealyham [Terrier] Show in the Home Park in June 1938, after which he never fully recovered.[23]

Henry died from kidney disease on 9 August 1939 at his home in Datchet. His death certificate records the causes of death as uraemia, hyperpiesis, and chronic nephritis. Henry was cremated at Woking Crematorium and his ashes were scattered in Byron Garden South in the Garden of Remembrance.[24]

His obituary in the *Windsor, Eton and Slough Express* said, "Mr Engleheart was held in the highest esteem by a very wide circle of friends both in and out of the service and much sympathy is felt with his widow and grown-up twin sons."

The 1939 Register (taken in September that year) shows Mabel at Fairlight, with her older sister, Ada, and 29-year-old Geoffrey, an "assistant to Eton College Master". Mabel died on 12 April 1944 at King Edward VII Hospital, Windsor. Hugh married in 1948 and lived at Fairlight until his death in 1987. Geoffrey died in 1989 at a nursing home in Littlewick Green, Maidenhead.

Local connections

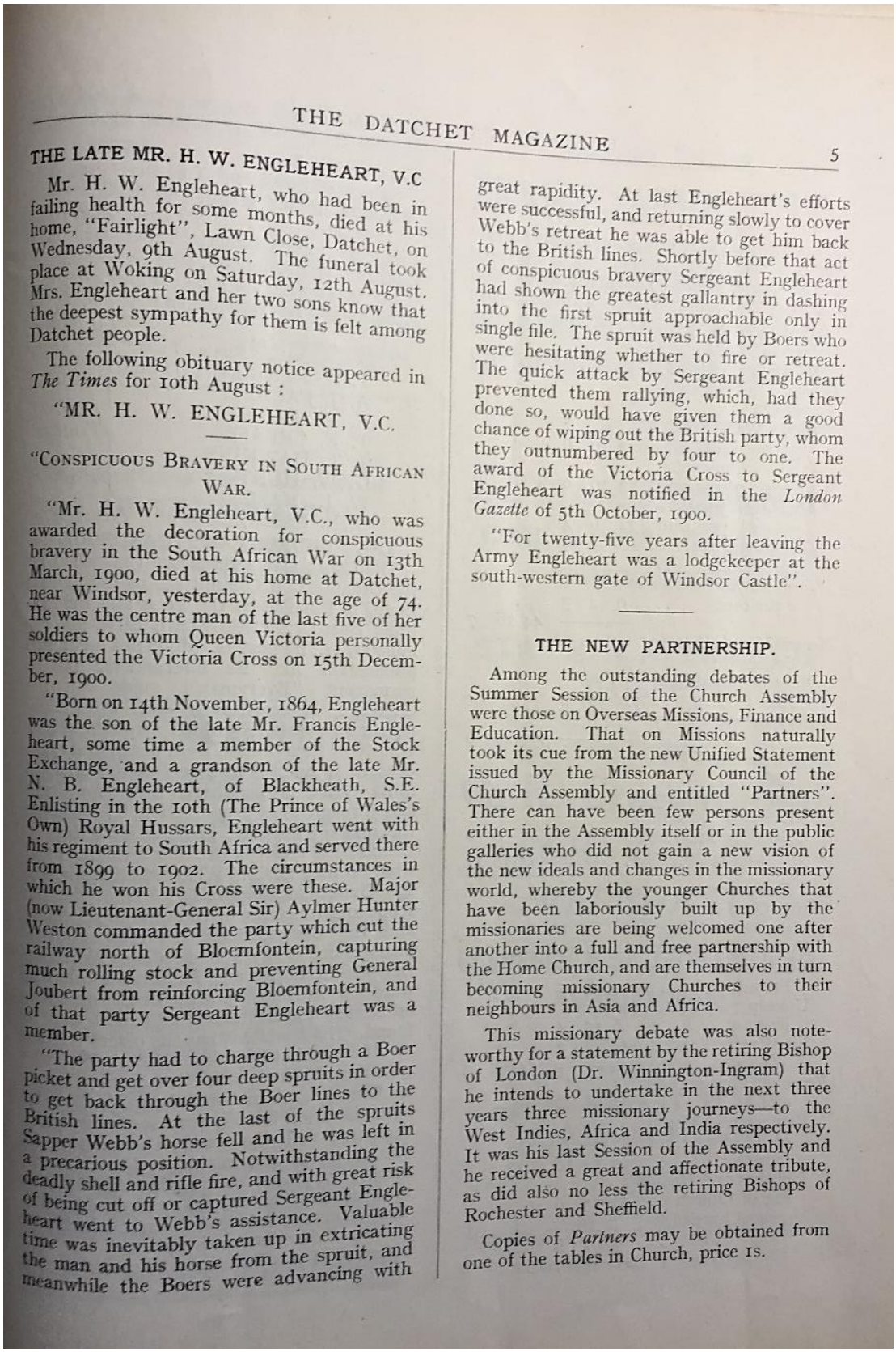
- Lodge Keeper, South-Western Lodge, Windsor Castle, 25 years, 1908-1933.
- Lived at Fairlight, Lawn Close, Datchet, after retirement
- Vice Chairman/Chairman of Windsor Ex-Service Men's Club 1933-1939
- Died at his home in Datchet on 9 August 1939

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[22] The house is still called Fairlight and the name, number and Engleheart family ownership has been tracked in 1939 Register and Kelly's Directories 1947, 1950, 1956, 1960, 1963, 1965, 1970, and 1974.
[23] Obituary, *Windsor Eton and Slough Express*, 11 August 1939
[24] https://web.archive.org/web/20041028141342/http://www.homeusers.prestel.co.uk/stewart/wokingcr.htm

Datchet Parish Magazine

Henry's death was reported in the Parish Magazine in September 1939.



THE DATCHET MAGAZINE 5

THE LATE MR. H. W. ENGLEHEART, V.C

Mr. H. W. Engleheart, who had been in failing health for some months, died at his home, "Fairlight", Lawn Close, Datchet, on Wednesday, 9th August. The funeral took place at Woking on Saturday, 12th August. Mrs. Engleheart and her two sons know that the deepest sympathy for them is felt among Datchet people.

The following obituary notice appeared in *The Times* for 10th August :

"MR. H. W. ENGLEHEART, V.C.

"CONSPICUOUS BRAVERY IN SOUTH AFRICAN WAR.

"Mr. H. W. Engleheart, V.C., who was awarded the decoration for conspicuous bravery in the South African War on 13th March, 1900, died at his home at Datchet, near Windsor, yesterday, at the age of 74. He was the centre man of the last five of her soldiers to whom Queen Victoria personally presented the Victoria Cross on 15th December, 1900.

"Born on 14th November, 1864, Engleheart was the son of the late Mr. Francis Engleheart, some time a member of the Stock Exchange, and a grandson of the late Mr. N. B. Engleheart, of Blackheath, S.E. Enlisting in the 10th (The Prince of Wales's Own) Royal Hussars, Engleheart went with his regiment to South Africa and served there from 1899 to 1902. The circumstances in which he won his Cross were these. Major (now Lieutenant-General Sir) Aylmer Hunter Weston commanded the party which cut the railway north of Bloemfontein, capturing much rolling stock and preventing General Joubert from reinforcing Bloemfontein, and of that party Sergeant Engleheart was a member.

"The party had to charge through a Boer picket and get over four deep spruits in order to get back through the Boer lines to the British lines. At the last of the spruits Sapper Webb's horse fell and he was left in a precarious position. Notwithstanding the deadly shell and rifle fire, and with great risk of being cut off or captured Sergeant Engleheart went to Webb's assistance. Valuable time was inevitably taken up in extricating the man and his horse from the spruit, and meanwhile the Boers were advancing with great rapidity. At last Engleheart's efforts were successful, and returning slowly to cover Webb's retreat he was able to get him back to the British lines. Shortly before that act of conspicuous bravery Sergeant Engleheart had shown the greatest gallantry in dashing into the first spruit approachable only in single file. The spruit was held by Boers who were hesitating whether to fire or retreat. The quick attack by Sergeant Engleheart prevented them rallying, which, had they done so, would have given them a good chance of wiping out the British party, whom they outnumbered by four to one. The award of the Victoria Cross to Sergeant Engleheart was notified in the *London Gazette* of 5th October, 1900.

"For twenty-five years after leaving the Army Engleheart was a lodgekeeper at the south-western gate of Windsor Castle".

THE NEW PARTNERSHIP.

Among the outstanding debates of the Summer Session of the Church Assembly were those on Overseas Missions, Finance and Education. That on Missions naturally took its cue from the new Unified Statement issued by the Missionary Council of the Church Assembly and entitled "Partners". There can have been few persons present either in the Assembly itself or in the public galleries who did not gain a new vision of the new ideals and changes in the missionary world, whereby the younger Churches that have been laboriously built up by the missionaries are being welcomed one after another into a full and free partnership with the Home Church, and are themselves in turn becoming missionary Churches to their neighbours in Asia and Africa.

This missionary debate was also noteworthy for a statement by the retiring Bishop of London (Dr. Winnington-Ingram) that he intends to undertake in the next three years three missionary journeys—to the West Indies, Africa and India respectively. It was his last Session of the Assembly and he received a great and affectionate tribute, as did also no less the retiring Bishops of Rochester and Sheffield.

Copies of *Partners* may be obtained from one of the tables in Church, price 1s.

The plaque – design and manufacture

If the application is approved by RBWM, it is proposed to commission a cast aluminium plaque from Leander Architectural, Hallsteads Close, Dove Holes, Buxton SK17 8BP, www.leanderuk.com/blueplaques. This manufacturer was used for the recent blue plaque in Eton.

Design

The design will follow guidance issued by RBWM to comply with house style.

The standard plaque used in RBWM is circular.

Diameter: 15” (381mm)

Colour: Midnight blue BS20 C40 for background with white lettering and outlining of the rings

Font: TNR (Times New Roman)

Font size: 17mm caps and matching lower case for the heading, 13mm caps and matching lower case for the text (or as appropriate)

The plaque is provided with rear lugs and fixings. Fixing details are provided by Leander Architectural.

Suggested wording:

Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead

SERGEANT

HENRY WILLIAM

ENGLEHEART VC

1863-1939

Awarded the Victoria Cross in

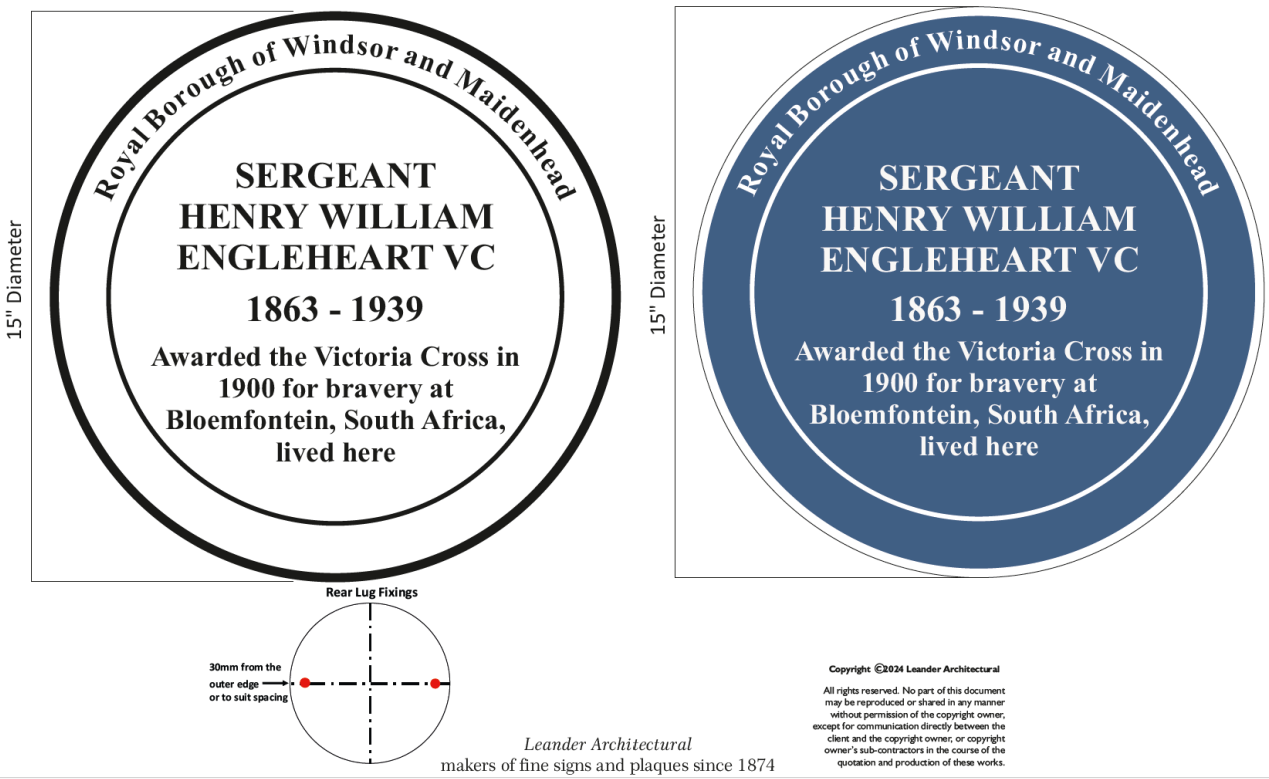
1900 for bravery at

Bloemfontein, South Africa,

lived here

Mock-up

13897 v1.0 Layout of 15" Dia cast aluminium plaque for Datchet Village Society
Drawn: GR 28/06/24
Fixings: 2 x M8x80mm Hidden rear resin anchor studs.
Colour: Blue BS 20 C 40 & Lettering/Border white + colour crest
Typeface: Times New Roman



Leander Architectural
makers of fine signs and plaques since 1874

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Positioning

The mock-up image, ***right,*** suggests the proposed siting for the plaque, on the front wall of Fairlight.



Estimated costs

The estimated cost, based on a quote provided 29 June 2024, is **£503.50** including carriage, plus £100.70 VAT. This quote is valid until 23 August 2024. The lead time from pre-production sign off is six weeks. The funds will be sourced from Datchet Parish Council.

MiddlePeak Engineering Ltd
T/A Leander Architectural,, Hallsteads Close, Dove Holes
Dove Holes, Derbyshire, SK17 8BP
United Kingdom
Website www.leanderuk.com
Telephone: 01298 814941
Email accounts@leanderuk.com

SALES QUOTE

Issued To:

Alison Crampin
Datchet Village Society
c/o 4 Buccleuch Road
Datchet
Berks
SL3 9BP

Issue Date	24/07/2024
Expiry Date	23/08/2024
Reference	MQ13897a
Number	834

Code	Description	Qty	Price/Rate	VAT %	Net
Aluminium Plaque	Cast Aluminium Plaque. 15" Diameter. Fully painted BS20 C40 & highlighted white. Supplied with hidden rear resin anchor fixings.	1.00	475.00	20.00	475.00
	Carriage			20.00	28.50

VAT Rate	Net	VAT
Standard 20.00% (20.00%)	£503.50	£100.70

Total Net	503.50
Total VAT	100.70
TOTAL	**£604.20**

Notes:

LEADTIME: 6 weeks from Pre-Production checklist sign off.

SHIPPING TIME IS TYPICALLY 2-3 DAYS (INTERNAL UK) FROM PRODUCTION COMPLETION.
FAST-TRACK orders are typically shipped on a next working day service.

PAYMENT BY BACS CAN BE MADE DIRECTLY TO MIDDLEPEAK ENGINEERING BANK ACCOUNT: STATE THE QUOTATION NUMBER AS REFERENCE
Sort Code: 01-06-05 | Account Number: 43204759 |IBAN: GB76NWBK01060543204759 | BIC code: NWBKGB2L

Installation

The plaque is supplied with hidden rear resin anchor fixings for mounting on the wall. Installation details are supplied by the manufacturer

Maintenance and protection

The proposed plaque complies with the requirements set out by RBWM and will be made of coated cast aluminium which is durable, corrosion-resistant and low maintenance.

As a plaque physically becomes a part of a building, it could be seen that the property owner is responsible for its maintenance (for example, wiping it with soapy water when the windows are cleaned). In practice, however, it is often the group which arranged the installation which deals with the upkeep of the plaque if it deteriorates over time.

A plaque can add to the attraction of a property due to its historical significance, and in turn help to preserve it, but it does not create any legal protection for the property.[25] The plaque itself does not have listed protection. On rare occasions, the owners of a property might decide that they no longer wish to have a plaque on their property. For example, a plaque to Karl Marx in Chalk Farm was twice vandalised and replaced, and the owner declined a third replacement. The proposed plaque is not expected to be contentious: there have been no issues related to plaques installed for other VC recipients in Windsor.

The following information is provided by English Heritage/Historic England for their blue plaques:[26] *"The plaque will – once installed – become part of the property of the owner of the building, a point which remains true regardless of the status of the group responsible for the plaque's installation or the source of its funding. Although those responsible for its erection may wish to retrieve the plaque in cases of removal or demolition and may also be involved in plaque maintenance, they have no legal control over it following installation – unless, that is, a formal agreement, signed by the building owner, states otherwise. In such an instance, the agreement will only be valid while the property remains in the hands of the*

[25] https://www.kingsleynapley.co.uk/insights/blogs/real-estate-law-blog/blue-plaques-and-what-they-mean-for-a-property-owner
[26] https://www.english-heritage.org.uk/siteassets/home/visit/blue-plaques/propose-plaque/commemorative-plaques-guidance-pt2.pdf

owner concerned." It should be noted that the costs of drawing up a legal agreement may be greater than the cost of the plaque itself, especially if the agreement has to be renewed each time the property changes hands. We understand that there is no formal agreement in place for a similar plaque in Eton which was recently approved by RBWM.

In the unlikely event of Fairlight being demolished, there is a local precedent for the retrieval, and possible relocation, of the plaque. In 1997, RBWM erected a blue plaque at Englemere, King's Ride, Ascot, former home of Field Marshal Lord Roberts VC KG. (Lord Roberts recommended Sgt Engleheart for the VC.) At the time, the estate belonged to the Chartered Institute of Building. It was subsequently sold to a property developer who submitted a planning application to demolish Englemere (not a listed building) and build apartments. RBWM attached conditions to the planning permission which covered the plaque. (Further details available on request.)

Unveiling ceremony

If permission for a plaque is granted, it is hoped that a public unveiling ceremony and reception can be announced in due course, in consultation with the residents of Fairlight. Datchet Village Society would like to invite representatives from RBWM and Datchet Parish Council, historian Derek Hunt and Barbara Hunt, the Trood family of Fairlight, DVS members, Horsepower Museum, Royal Hussars, Datchet British Legion, members of the public, and local press.

When the Windsor VC plaques were installed (paid for and fitted by RBWM), Andrew Scott, Democratic and Civic Services Manager, also arranged for curtains to be fitted for the formal unveiling of the plaques. If the request for this plaque is approved, Datchet Village Society would like to ask whether these curtains could be borrowed for the unveiling.