



NEWSLETTER

Above: Ruins of the Priory at Ankerwycke, Adrian Giddins.



**Datchet Village
Society**

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Welcome to the Autumn edition of your DVS newsletter

Thank you if you joined us for our recent visit to Ankerwycke in September.

Our next visit is to Combermere Barracks in November with the option of staying for lunch in the Cookhouse. Please see inside for details.

Did you know that the world's first fashion photographer lived in Datchet?

Or that not one but two famous Monet paintings once hung in Southlea Road? Neither did we until recently. Find out more on page 8.

We have updates on the first Blue Plaque in Datchet and our proposed survey of Datchet's first war memorial, as well as details of plans to publish a new guide to the Conservation Area, to help preserve and protect the character and heritage of our village.

In October, the Environment Agency is holding a series of public events to present potential measures to reduce flood risk locally, see page 7.

For Remembrance Weekend in November, DVS has been invited to put up discreet information notices beside WWI and WWII soldiers' graves in Ditton Road cemetery. We are also hoping to get permission to clean some of these graves in the new year. If you would be willing to help, please let us know.

Please note, annual membership fees were due in April, see page 12.

We thank you for your continued support and look forward to seeing you very soon.

Your DVS Committee

Email: info@datchetvillagesociety.org.uk

www.datchetvillagesociety.org.uk



Above, the Archive is located in the former regimental museum building. See <https://householdcavalry.co.uk/museum/collection-research/archive/>

Below, a pre-WWI postcard of the Barracks. Queen Victoria ordered the replacement of the original Clewer Barracks after a visit in 1864 when she saw its unhygienic conditions.

The new barracks were named after Field Marshal Lord Combermere and include a riding school. The barracks were renovated in 2006



LUNCH IN THE COOKHOUSE

If you would like to stay for lunch, please let us know when you book. This is charged separately and is £5 per person paid in the cookhouse canteen.

Diners can choose what to eat and then pay for the item at the end. We have been told that there will a number of options on the day, including a vegetarian meal. Freshly-cooked omelettes with different fillings can also be provided. Anyone with special dietary requirements should speak to the catering manager.



Household Cavalry MUSEUM ARCHIVE

DVS VISIT TO COMBERMERE BARRACKS 14 November 2024

We have booked a private tour for DVS members of the Household Cavalry Museum and Archive at Combermere Barracks, Windsor, SL4 3DN, (on St Leonard's Road, opposite King Edward VII hospital) on Thursday, 14 November 2024. There is a charge for this visit, please see below, and an opportunity to stay for lunch in the cookhouse.

The Museum has provided the following itinerary for us.

9:45/10am: Meet at 9.45am for a 10am start. (For security reasons, please do not arrive before 9.45am.)

10am: Visit to the Household Cavalry Training Wing Stables.

11am: Brief history of the Household Cavalry and museum visit.

12pm: End of tour. Optional lunch in the cookhouse (see below).

Combermere Barracks is an operational military establishment and arrangements are subject to change due to any operational or ceremonial commitments of The 1st Battalion, The Welsh Guards.

Security

Visitors are requested to carry some form of photographic identity document (Passport or Driving Licence for example).

Refreshments/lunch

If you would like to stay for lunch, please let us know when you book, see panel, *left*. Refreshments are not available in the museum itself but visitors are welcome to bring a bottle of water with them.

Parking

Parking is not usually available on site although they will make an exception for anyone with a mobility problem. Please let us know if you need a parking space when you book.

The closest free car park is the Stag Meadow car park by Windsor FC (postcode SL4 3DR) about 10 minutes' walk away. [East Berkshire College car park](#) (pay and display) is about 12 minutes away

HOW TO BOOK AND PAY

There are 20 places available. For security reasons, booking is essential. Please book with Marjorie, tel 01753 545110, email Marjorie.clasper@tiscali.co.uk The cost for the visit is £20 per person. You can pay by bank transfer, Santander Sort Code 09-01-29, Account number 04339438, reference MUSEUM and your surname. Or by cheque made payable to 'Datchet Village Society', sent to Marjorie Clasper, 3 Riverbank, 9 Southlea Road, Datchet SL3 9BY.

RECENT EVENTS



Above: The Priory of St Mary Magdalene. The National Trust interpretation panels show how the Priory might have looked, based on the recent archaeological discoveries.

Below: The Tudor mansion. Part of the priory building indicated by the circle on both images is incorporated into the Tudor mansion



Above: The Georgian mansion



DVS VISIT TO ANKERWYCKE

Nineteen DVS members enjoyed a fascinating guided tour of Ankerwycke in September with James Brown, regional archaeologist for the National Trust, and his dog, Toby. (If you're a regular viewer of *Digging For Britain*, you'll know that the programme joined James and his team, during one of their recent excavations here.)

We were allowed to use a private entrance and parked at what was once the Georgian manor house. From there, we walked along the avenue of black poplars, part of the mansion's original pleasure grounds, to see the famous 2000-year-old yew and priory ruins. A lot has changed since DVS last visited in 2015. There are now interpretation panels, with QR codes to find out more, and a seating area from which to view the famous ancient yew.

The island of Ankerwycke is a secluded place surrounded by water channels and the Thames. Its name, Old English for the home of an anchorite (a Christian holy woman or man who lived a reclusive life) speaks to a long association with Christian activity beside the river. The Benedictine nunnery, the Priory of St Mary Magdalene, was founded in 1160. There were fewer than 10 nuns, but the priory eventually owned more than 680 acres of land.

The recent archaeological digs have revealed a lot more about the site. James showed us where they had dug trenches and had uncovered the cloister walls of the priory, fallen clay roof tiles, a flagstone walkway and steps to a basement, which enabled them to draw a much more precise image of the original building.

The priory was closed in 1536, during the Reformation, and in 1551 Henry VIII's son, Edward VI, gave it to his secretary of State, Sir Thomas Smith who built an imposing brick and stone Tudor mansion, which once hosted Queen Elizabeth I, next to the partially demolished priory. He included the walls of the priory's refectory as part of his house. In 1804, John Blagrove, a sugar plantation owner from Jamaica bought Ankerwycke and its estate. He demolished the Tudor house and built a modern Georgian mansion further away from the river. This was repurposed in the 1930s as the Santa Monica Nightclub, a haunt for movie stars. It burned down in 1962.

Further information: Visit the [National Trust website](https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/ankerwycke) and search for Ankerwycke, or read their [Excavation reports](#). Visit [SketchFab](https://www.sketchfab.com/) and search for 'Ankerwycke' to explore interactive 3D models of the trenches.

A BLUE PLAQUE

SOUTH-WESTERN LODGE?

Sgt Engleheart VC was a lodge keeper at South-Western Lodge, Windsor Castle. But where was South-Western Lodge? The address given in newspaper reports is Datchet Road. At first, we thought it was Datchet Road near the Farm Shop but the Historic England website lists the lodge there as Royal Gardens Lodge. Oddly, there was no listing for a South-Western Lodge. We then turned to the 1911 census. The area near the Farm Shop is Enumeration District 4. Sgt Engleheart's lodge was in District 1 which suggested it was more likely to be Datchet Road, Windsor. The census enumerators followed a set route through each district and recorded, in order, who lived along that route. In District 1, the enumerator visited Double Cottages (opposite Datchet Riverside), then followed the river, visiting Albert Cottage, Victoria Bridge Lodge, The Slopes Lodge (north of the castle), before South-Western Lodge, then The Lodge - Public Home Park. That puts South-Western Lodge, geographically between The Slopes and the Home Park, so we wondered if the name might refer to South Western Railway. We had a good idea of where we thought the Lodge was and checked with the Royal Archives. Unable to help, they suggested we ask the Crown Estate who explained that many of the lodges at the gates to the Castle are still tenanted, with some providing access for 'significant individuals' to private areas within the Great Park. They asked us not to reveal the precise location or modern name for Sgt Engleheart's Lodge in our publicity. So we now know where it is, and what it's called but we can't tell anyone!



Above, Sgt HW Engleheart, VC, and a mock-up of the Blue Plaque

A BLUE PLAQUE IN DATCHET

It seems plaques are like buses. DVS waited 20 years to get a plaque and then two come along at once! At the AGM in May, we commented on how long it had taken to get the milestone removed to a place of safety and install a plaque to mark its original location. Fortunately, it seems our quest for a Blue Plaque won't take quite as long.

The plaque will commemorate Sgt Henry William Engleheart, who fought in the Second Boer War and was awarded the Victoria Cross for bravery in 1900, near Bloemfontein, South Africa; this is the highest and most prestigious award for gallantry in the face of the enemy that can be awarded to British and Commonwealth forces. He is believed to be the only VC recipient with a Datchet connection, and he was brought to our attention by Windsor historian, Derek Hunt, who instigated Blue Plaques for all the Windsor recipients of the Victoria Cross.

When Sgt Engleheart left the Army, he was appointed Lodge Keeper at the South-Western Lodge of Windsor Castle (*see panel left*), a position he held for 25 years. After retiring in 1933, he moved to Fairlight in Lawn Close, which is where the plaque will be located. The present owners have been very supportive of this application.

Derek had originally applied for this plaque in 2018. RBWM was only funding one or two plaques a year so the request was put in a queue. In 2023, he learned that the original application had been lost so he resubmitted it and contacted DVS to see if we could help. We wrote a letter of support, offering to seek funding if the request was approved, but the department which looks after plaques is understaffed and we didn't make any progress. We then learned that a plaque application in Eton, submitted after ours, had been approved. The main difference between our applications was that they already had funds in place.

We approached Datchet Parish Council to ask if they would consider funding the plaque on behalf of the village, and were delighted when they agreed. This meant we were able to submit a fully-funded application to RBWM. We anticipated having to wait a while for a response but within two weeks we had an answer; our request had been approved.

The plaque has now been ordered by the Parish Clerk and it is due to be delivered at the end of October. We are very grateful to the parish council and their clerk for their support and for making this possible. Our next task will be to arrange an unveiling event and organise a small public display about Sgt Engleheart. We'll keep you posted.



*The Crucifix Memorial was the village's first war memorial erected in 1919, later followed by the Women's Memorial, the Celtic Cross in the churchyard (**above**), in 1920, and the obelisk memorial on The Green. You can read more about these memorials on Janet Kennish's [Datchet History website](http://www.datchet-history.co.uk)*



WWI CRUCIFIX MEMORIAL – CONSERVATION SURVEY

We have more good news to report, this time about the WWI Memorial on London Road. At the DVS AGM, we explained that we would like to investigate what could be done to restore and preserve this memorial and enhance its setting sympathetically.

The crucifix memorial was the first WWI memorial in the village, designed in the style of a French wayside shrine which would have been familiar to WWI soldiers returning from the Front. It was donated by a local family, the Curlings, and positioned at what was then the entrance to the village. Over the years, it has suffered damage at various times and is again in need of some conservation and restoration. Its setting is also neglected and there is no signage to explain what it is, or why it's there. Most people assume, incorrectly, that it has something to do with the nearby Baptist Church which was built much later.

The memorial itself is the responsibility of Datchet Parish Council. It is now included in the Datchet Neighbourhood Plan as a Non-Designated Heritage Asset, but it stands on land which we believe is the responsibility of the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead.

We thought the best first step would be to see if we could commission a professional survey to assess the memorial's condition and understand what could be done. We contacted local conservation specialists for a quote, then asked DPC for permission to do the survey, which was granted. So far, so good, but we still needed to source funds to carry out the work. As the [Barker Bridge House Trust](http://www.barkerbridgehouse.co.uk) had generously funded the restoration of the War Memorial on The Green, we approached them for a grant. The trustees readily agreed to our application, and we are very grateful for their support.

We are now waiting for permission from RBWM Highways to carry out the survey on their land. This will involve a site visit with an access tower to be able to inspect the memorial closely. An accredited specialist metal conservator will undertake a full condition survey and then prepare a report with recommendations for conservation treatment and costed proposals for the work involved. In due course, depending on the findings of the survey, we hope to present proposals for the remedial work and conservation to the councils. We would also seek funding or a grant to do the work. We hope to have more news for you soon.



The listed milestone had been turning green

NEW GREETINGS CARD

We have been asked to produce another DVS greetings card of Datchet. We're told that many people like to send them to friends and family at home and abroad, showing off our pretty village.

The cards have a 'classic' view of Datchet and are blank inside for your own messages.

We are deliberating which view to use next and hope to publish a new card soon.

Below, a previous card



MILESTONE SURROUND

At a recent Parish Council meeting, Cllr Ian Thompson, lead member for Grounds, announced his intention to create a border of gravel and granite setts around the listed milestone on Memorial Green. DVS asked that Andy Chalk, the heritage stonemason who did the restoration work, be consulted about the size of the border and proposed materials.

Some time ago, Andy told us that one of the reasons he thought the milestone had been turning green was because, after mowing, grass cuttings get left and die, sinking into the pea-shingle which surrounds the milestone. This then produces a high nitrate 'feed' for growth. Andy had offered to rinse the shingle periodically to help prevent this, so we wanted to make sure that any new border left enough space around the milestone for this work to be done. A wider border might also mean that grass cuttings were not falling as close to the milestone.

Andy suggested laying out the proposed design to see how it looks before installation. We have asked if we can go along for this stage and take photos for the DVS archives. We have also asked that great care be taken if weed killer is used anywhere near the milestone as this can affect stone and masonry material.

NEW DVS LEAFLETS

We are in the process of producing two new DVS leaflets. One about the Blue Plaque, and the other about the pavement plaque marking the former site of the milestone. These leaflets will be available at the unveiling of the Blue Plaque and also on our DVS stall at the Christmas Fayre at St Mary's Church. We understand that the Fayre will be held on 30 November this year, the Saturday before the first Sunday in Advent. The Parish Council event, Christmas on The Green and the Christmas Tree lighting, is scheduled to take place on the same day.

30 YEARS OF THE BRIDGE

A Thanksgiving Service was held at St Mary's Church on 14 September to celebrate the 30th anniversary of The Bridge. The service, led by Robert Spicer and Bill Knight, was well attended with our new MP, Jack Rankin, and RBWM Mayor, Simon Bond, among the congregation. Afterwards there were refreshments in the church rooms where Caroline Cole, manager of The Bridge, thanked the volunteers, the Parish Council, and local groups, including DVS, for their support over the years.

Cllr Ewan Larcombe spoke about the Parish Council's decision to support the project in 1994 in a building which belongs to the council. At the time, they didn't know if it would work but it was a worthy cause which deserved a chance. Thirty years later, Ewan was gratified that The Bridge had been, and continues to be, such an important part of the community, thanks to the dedication of everyone involved.

DVS is very grateful to The Bridge for selling our books and cards for a small commission, and for allowing us to use the café, after hours, for committee meetings. We make a donation to The Bridge each year as a token of our thanks.

FLOOD RISK



Datchet in flood, 2014

DON'T MISS...

The EA is organising a series of public presentations where you can find out more about the local flood improvement measures they're investigating and discuss their proposals with them.

These events will be held at:

Wraysbury Hub

Thursday 10 October 4pm-8pm
12a High St, Wraysbury, TW19 5DB

Datchet Village Hall

Friday 11 October 10.30am-2.30pm
Allen Way, Datchet, SL3 9HR

Old Windsor Memorial Hall

Tuesday 15 October 4.30-8.30pm
Straight Rd, Old Windsor, SL4 2RN

The Hythe Centre

Thursday 24 October 12.30-4.30pm
36 Thorpe Rd, Staines, TW18 3HD

Webinars

Thursday 17 and Sunday 20 October. See the website for details.

Further information

Details of these events can be found on the link below. From 7 October, the website will include the detail that will be presented at the events.

<https://consult.environment-agency.gov.uk/thames/datchet-to-hythe-end-fim/>

"Dredging is often proposed as a means to increase the river capacity by making it deeper and wider, but the river would have to be made so deep and so wide that it was not considered a feasible option as a flood defence"

Datchet to Hythe End Flood Improvement Measures

The Environment Agency and the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead are exploring ways to reduce flood risk to communities in the Datchet, Horton, Wraysbury and Old Windsor area.



ROYAL BOROUGH OF
**WINDSOR &
MAIDENHEAD**
WWW.RBWM.GOV.UK



**Environment
Agency**

LOCAL FLOOD IMPROVEMENT MEASURES

After it was announced that funding was not currently available for the River Thames Scheme Channel 1, the Datchet to Hythe End Flood Improvement Measures (DHEFIM) project was set up by the Environment Agency (EA) and the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead (RBWM), to explore ways to reduce flood risk to communities in the Datchet, Horton, Wraysbury and Old Windsor area.

Earlier this year, the DHEFIM team asked for volunteers to join a Community Liaison Group (CLG) to provide a direct link between the project team and the local community. The CLG is not a decision-making body; its purpose is to provide a forum for dialogue; to help communicate key aspects of the project to local communities; and to involve those local communities in the development of the project and wider resilience measures, where appropriate.

The CLG comprises core members of the DHEFIM team, RBWM, and a mix of locally elected and non-elected people. From Datchet, Cllrs David Buckley, Ewan Larcombe and Susan Young have joined the CLG along with Alison Crampin, chair of DVS and the Datchet Neighbourhood Plan Monitoring and Delivery Group, and Allen Corcoran, chair of Wild About Datchet and an RBWM Flood Warden.

The project team has been investigating and evaluating local flood improvement measures. They are narrowing down options based on feasibility, assessing them against set criteria, and following EA guidance for funding (ie what the government will or won't fund; for example, there is no government funding for flood protection to houses built after 2012). They have now produced a short list and will recommend a single preferred option next year.

The project team will present details of the options they are currently considering at local events and webinars (**see panel left**). Information will also be available on their website from 7 October. These presentations will include not only the proposals which have made the shortlist, with details of how they will affect flood risk across the area, but also, details of proposals which have been discarded, eg dredging, and why. The DHEFIM project team would welcome feedback on their proposals from the local community.

Email: info@datchetvillagesociety.org.uk

www.datchetvillagesociety.org.uk

DATCHET CHARACTERS

SANDLEA COURT

We found a photo of Sandlea, *right*, in Country Life, 1922. It had three reception rooms, a billiard room, 14 bedrooms, three bathrooms, housekeeper's rooms, servants' hall and large offices, as well as a coach house and stabling, gardens, lawns, pleasure grounds and a paddock. It stood in about 16 acres with 900ft of riverfront.

Just before the de Meyers moved in, there was a sale of surplus furniture; maybe it was not to their taste.

An article in The Sphinx, an English-language magazine published in Cairo, said the couple 'carried out most original and decorative schemes both in the interior of the house and the garden'. This decorative scheme included not one but two paintings by Monet; one was the famous view of Waterloo bridge, the other a view of Venice.

(The Sphinx provided quite a few leads, including pictures of Olga sunbathing in Venice, and modelling 'trouserettes'. Apparently, the de Meyers later travelled to Egypt, in 1923/24, with a woman who may have been Olga's lover.)

We wondered if they had known Nora Albertini, who was the next lessee of Sandlea. She was a glamorous actress and singer, with high society, artistic and bohemian friends. During her time at Sandlea, she threw the most extravagant parties. The Albertinis would surely have had acquaintances in common with the de Meyers but we were unable to find any close links.

After the Albertinis, Sandlea became a hotel. We discovered an interview in the local press with a 19-year-old waitress who was working as the caretaker of the empty 30-roomed, "still lavishly furnished", Thames-side mansion. She said it had ceased to be a hotel in 1934.



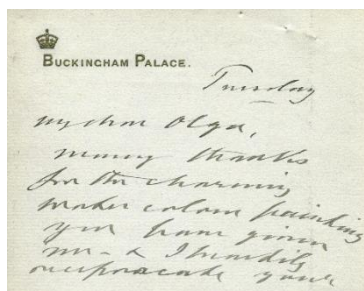
BARON ADOLPH DE MEYER

One of the joys of opening the DVS email inbox is that we never quite know what we'll find. In July, we received a message from a French author. He was writing a biography of Baron Adolph de Meyer (1868-1946) who photographed the rich and famous, including British royals, and was also the world's first fashion photographer, for American Vogue. (The *Illustrated London News* described his photos of Edward VII and Queen Alexandra as 'masterpieces', 'the finest photographs ever taken of the King and Queen'.) The Baron had married Donna Olga Caracciolo, a divorced Italian noblewoman, in 1899. She was said to be the goddaughter of Edward VII but there were rumours that she was his illegitimate daughter. It was a 'lavender marriage'; the groom was homosexual and the bride was bisexual or lesbian. Adolph and Olga had to leave London following a number of scandals involving drugs and immorality that alarmed high society. They had moved to Sandlea on Southlea Road from 1909-1922, and the author was hoping DVS might be able to tell him more about their time in the village. How could this be the first we had heard of such a colourful couple in Datchet? We thought it would be fun to investigate and so began a delightful correspondence as we shared our discoveries by email.

FRIENDS AND NEIGHBOURS

The couple socialised in royal circles. Olga was at Westminster for Edward VII's coronation in 1902, seated in the royal box alongside his former mistresses. She was also at the King's Garden Party in Windsor in 1907. In 1908, the year before the de Meyers moved to Datchet, the Marquess of Cholmondeley leased Sandlea for the summer. (His sisters lived in the village.) When we shared this information, the author told us that, in 1905, Olga had attended a party where the Marchioness of Cholmondeley was present. Perhaps they moved in similar circles. (Edward VIII later used one of the Cholmondeleys' homes as a romantic getaway.)

Continues overleaf ►



By chance, we came across a handwritten three-page note, *left*, on a private auction site, which Edward VII sent to Olga in 1908, thanking her for a watercolour painting.

DATCHET CHARACTERS



THE PAVILION CLUB

We were able to tell the French author a little about the de Meyers' neighbours at Rosenau.

The Honourable Evelyn Ellis moved out around the same time that they arrived. The next owners were the McGrigors who lost their son in

WWI. Rosenau burned down around 1930 and was rebuilt as the Pavilion Club which opened in 1931.

In Datchet Past, Janet Kennish writes: 'There was an air of scandal about what went on there. Its private approach by boat was appreciated in particular by two people who did not want their meetings to be made public, the future Edward VIII and Mrs Simpson.'

The building was later damaged by fire, but it still exists today as a private house, Woollacombe.

The de Meyers probably never saw the Pavilion Club as they seldomly came to the UK after 1922, but the Baron did photograph the Duke of Windsor and Wallis Simpson.



*If the de Meyers were here in early 1911, they might have seen Tommy Sopwith, **above**, land his bi-plane at Datchet golf course (his sister lived in the village), before flying to the Castle to show his aeroplane to the King.*



Continued from previous page.

WHY DATCHET?

The de Meyers moved to Sandlea in 1909, shortly before Edward VII's death in 1910. The French author wondered if they chose Datchet because it was a place of social isolation. We explained that it was probably more discreet than London; things were more likely to go 'under the radar' here. Datchet was very good at

keeping secrets, and living by the river would have also meant that visitors could arrive by boat, unseen. At that time, the future King George V and Queen Mary were living at Frogmore House, just across the river from Sandlea. The Baron, **above**, photographed them too. They were known to frequent 'The Yacht Club' on North Green in Datchet.

We told the author about Maidenhead's increasingly racy reputation at that time, as a playground for the wealthy. The Gaiety Girls from the London music halls were lodged there. Skindles Hotel was popular with the 'smart set' from London; officers from the Brigade of Guards set up a boat club nearby; and there were a number of drinking clubs along the river. The riverside hotels became notorious for adulterous associations, hence the saying, 'Are you married, or do you live in Maidenhead?'



Olga de Meyer by John Singer Sargent

The author told us that Adolph and Olga visited Covent Garden each week, but he had now started to wonder if they might have also had a secret social life near their house. (In passing, he said the Baron was famous in New York for introducing the tango the way it was danced in Europe.)

We listed some of the people who were in the village in case they had crossed paths with the de Meyers. Olga was an accomplished fencer so we wondered if she had known Mary Cadogan. Mary had a pet lemur and used to go to dinner parties with her python draped around her neck. She was

also a fencer and a championship ice skater. The author had no record of Mary in his archives which he regretted as he felt she would have been an ideal friend for the couple. He was reminded of another of their friends, the Marchesa Luisa Casati, who owned a boa constrictor and used to walk around Venice with her pet cheetah!

A resident who was in their circle of friends, and one of Adolph's photography subjects, was the poet and author, Radclyffe Hall, best known for her novel *The Well of Loneliness*, a groundbreaking work in lesbian literature. She lived in Buccleuch Road. Other people who visited the de Meyers in Datchet included the Dutch actor Lou Tellegen who spent several months at Sandlea; Mrs Brown Potter who left her husband and child to pursue a career on the stage; French artist Jacques-Emile Blanche; Romanian aristocrat Prince Antoine Bibesco; Serge de Diaghilev, founder of the Ballet Russes, and the Russian-born pianist, socialite and patron of the arts, Misia Sert.

The author has promised to be back in touch if he comes across anything more about Datchet. And we have agreed to pass on anything we discover.

PLANNING

DISTINCTIVE CHARM

A number of factors can contribute to the charm and look of a Conservation Area. These can include, but are not limited to:

- the historic layout of roads, paths and boundaries;
- the scale and grouping of buildings, and their different uses;
- rooflines, chimneys, windows;
- characteristic materials and local architectural details;
- vistas along streets and between buildings, including views of landmarks and natural features;
- quality shop fronts
 - street furniture;
- public and private spaces;
- green open spaces and trees.

PROTECTION FOR TREES

Trees in Conservation Areas are automatically protected if they have a stem/trunk diameter greater than 75mm when measured at 1.5m above ground level.

Six weeks' written notice must be served on RBWM council if someone wishes to carry out works to these protected trees (except where exemptions apply). See the [RBWM website](#) for details.

A tree works form and associated guidance can be downloaded from RBWM's planning application forms section.

There is more information on the Government's website: www.gov.uk/guidance/tree-preservation-orders-and-trees-in-conservation-areas



CONSERVATION AREA GUIDE

The Datchet Neighbourhood Plan Delivery and Monitoring Group has been given permission by Datchet Parish Council to start work on a Conservation Area Guide for everyone who lives or runs a business in, or adjacent to, Datchet's Conservation Area. (To find out if you live in the Conservation Area, please see the [map on the DNP website](#).)

The Government's National Planning Policy Framework allows local authorities to designate Conservation Areas to ensure that the quality of a townscape is preserved and enhanced, to be enjoyed by this and future generations.

In Datchet, Conservation Area designation is intended to preserve and protect the character of our village, its attractive historic centre and village greens, public riverside, heritage assets and special views. While individual buildings, both listed and unlisted, make a significant contribution to Datchet's distinctive character and appearance, it is the quality and interest of the area as a whole which is important, not just the individual buildings.

Datchet's Conservation Area was first assessed in 1995, with the help of local historian and DVS President Janet Kennish. Its special characteristics are described in a [Conservation Area Statement](#) which clearly defines and analyses the special features and historic interest that warrant the area's designation.

Work on the guide is in its very early stages but the DNP Delivery and Monitoring Group, which includes DVS members, is hoping it will raise awareness of the location of the Conservation Area, as well as the Conservation Area Statement, and the specific planning procedures which are in place to make sure that any development proposals, alterations, or work to trees do not detract from the area's character and appearance but, instead, conserve and improve its qualities.

CLEANING THE GRAVESTONES

For the 100th anniversary of the end of WWI, DVS researched the histories of the men on Datchet's

War Memorial, and the men whose names were missing.

As a result of our research, another panel was added to the War Memorial.

We also published a Memorial Trail Leaflet showing where the soldiers had lived; and recorded which WWI servicemen were buried in the cemetery on Ditton Road. On Remembrance weekend 2018, we put up discreet information notices about each of

the servicemen beside their graves in the cemetery so residents could find out more.

This year we will be putting up information notices again but, as we approach the 80th anniversary of the end of WWII, we will also be including information about WWII servicemen buried there.

As family members have moved away or are no longer able to tend these graves, some of the headstones are now in need of a gentle 'wash and brush up'.

Historically, the Commonwealth War Graves Commission used to pay the parish council to clean the headstones, but this hasn't been done for a long time.

DVS would like to organise some volunteers to clean them, as a mark of respect.

We are currently liaising with DPC about this. Before we touch any of the graves, we will be publicising a list of the headstones we would like to clean so that we don't upset anyone by cleaning a family grave without permission.

The gravestones would be cleaned only with soap and water, cloths and soft brushes.

If you would be willing to help us do this, please let us know.

REMEMBRANCE WEEKEND

A new DPC councillor, Caroline Wise, is now looking after the Cemetery on Ditton Road. We told her about previous DVS events held at the Cemetery and Chapel and she has invited us to put up discreet information notices beside servicemen's graves for Remembrance Weekend, 9-10 November 2024.

We did this a few years ago for the WWI servicemen buried in the cemetery, to commemorate the centenary of the end of WWI, but this year there will be notices beside the graves of WWII servicemen, too. We've included a few details about each of them below. If you can, please make time to come along and have a look.

George Edward Boxall

George was a Sergeant (Wireless Operator/Air Gunner) in 99 Squadron, Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve. He was killed on 1 September 1941 on his return from an operational flight over Germany, aged just 21. He was the son of Edward and Daisy Boxall of Upyonda, Lawn Close

Cyril Duncan Cross

Cyril was serving as a Commander in the Royal Naval Reserve during WWII. He had also served in WWI. He lived at Bar Hatch, 26 London Road, with his wife and daughter, both named Margaret. He died in Old Windsor Emergency Hospital on 7 February 1945, age 66.

Aubrey Leonard Croxford

Aubrey was a Driver with 1 Corps Troops Workshops, Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers. He had survived the Dieppe Raid but died while serving in the UK on 31 December 1943, aged 30, as the result of an accident. He was given a military funeral in Datchet. He lived at Tivoli on Horton Road with his wife, Violet, and baby son, Leonard, born in 1943.

Charles William Elliott

Charles was a Fusilier with the Royal Fusiliers (City of London Regiment). He was with his regiment in the retreat to Dunkirk but afterwards was invalided out of the army. He lived with his wife, Frances, and daughter, Deborah, at 2 Westview Cottages, Horton Road. He died at Lewisham Hospital on 28 December 1942, aged 34. As yet, we do not know why he is not remembered on the War Memorial.

William James Knight

William was a Gunner in 349 Battery, 76 Heavy Anti-Aircraft Regiment, Royal Artillery. He died, aged 32, in Windsor Hospital on 30 May 1942 of a 'trying and enduring illness' and was given a military funeral in Datchet. He lived with his wife Kate and three children at Lodgefield Cottages, Ditton Road.

John Scott Rickcord and Anthony Rickcord

John was a midshipman in the Royal Navy, serving aboard HMS *Exeter*. He died on 13 December 1939 during the Battle of the River Plate, off Uruguay, when his ship suffered the loss of 61 crewmen. His brother, Anthony, a pilot, was also killed in action over Bremen, Germany on 28 June 1941. Brothers Richard, Gerald and Michael also served during WWII. Michael was a POW from 1943-1945. The family lived at Beaulieu on Windsor Road from around 1928 to 1936. Neither John nor Anthony is remembered on the War Memorial in Datchet.



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

Many thanks to members who have already renewed their annual membership, and to life members who made a 'top-up' donation. Annual membership runs from 1 April to 31 March the following year. 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 the new pavement plaque to mark the original site of Datchet's milestone. We are also organising the official unveiling of a Blue Plaque to commemorate a Datchet resident who received the Victoria Cross; investigating how the area and signage around the Crucifix WWI memorial can be improved; and requesting permission to clean the war graves at the cemetery. 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

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www.datchetvillagesociety.org.uk, www.datchethistory.org.uk

Current committee 2024/25: 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.

Email: info@datchetvillagesociety.org.uk

www.datchetvillagesociety.org.uk