

Datchet Local List – Non-Designated Heritage Asset Information Sheet

Name, address, location of asset		Number
Jubilee Cross Jubilee Green, The Green Datchet SL3 9JH		Is the asset ✓ In the Conservation Area ✓ In Datchet Parish
OS Map and coordinates (Outline asset in red on map and provide OS coordinates)		
		Grid reference SU 98707 77070. (SU987770)
Significance of asset (NPPF)		
<input type="checkbox"/> Archaeological <input type="checkbox"/> Architectural <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Historic <input type="checkbox"/> Artistic <input type="checkbox"/> In the setting of a heritage asset		
Type of Asset Please tick relevant category		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Monument		
Description/History of asset		
		<p>Jubilee Cross 1897 <i>Jubilee Cross c1900, left, and below January 2021.</i></p> <p>A free-standing, upright, Hamstone monument made by Messrs Doulton and given as a gift to the village by a local resident, Mrs Mary Anne Crake of The Lawn. It commemorates Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee and was unveiled in June 1897.</p> <p>Description: Latin cross with Fleur de Lys points atop a four-sided, tapered shaft with decorative grooves. At the top of the shaft, on each of the four sides, a Fleur de Lys motif is repeated above an apex. The cross and shaft (approx. height 12' 9") are set on an octagonal base (approx. height 2' 4") with eight indents and four commemorative plaques.</p> <p>These indents are separated by semi-circular cross-section uprights. The monument is raised on a flight of four steps, also octagonal in shape (approx. height 3' 8"). Three steps have 'lipped' edges and the lower step is squared off.</p>
		
		
		
		
		

In 1897, Datchet Parish Magazine reported that the cross was 19 feet tall including the steps; it was made of Ham Hill stone by Messrs Doulton; and the inscriptions, in gunmetal, were executed by Messrs Gawthorpe [Gawthorp].

Donor

One of the wealthy *Grandes Dames* of Datchet, Mrs Mary Anne Crake who lived at The Lawn estate on Horton Road, donated the cross to the newly-formed Datchet Parish Council. She persuaded the Council that a cross of a medieval type, like that in Muchelney, Somerset, would be an appropriate commemoration for Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee.

Mrs Crake was following the philanthropic lead of two other wealthy Victorian ladies in the village: Lady Georgiana Needham (Datchet House) had donated the drinking fountain (originally positioned at the top of the High Street) in 1886, and the Dowager Duchess of Buccleuch (Ditton Park) gave the Jubilee Oak planted in honour of Queen Victoria's Golden Jubilee in 1887. This tree, from Ditton Park, was planted by the schoolchildren as a small sapling and slowly grew to its present size, dominating the centre of the village and dwarfing the Jubilee Cross. The Duchess also provided a day of village celebrations in Ditton Park where Queen Victoria herself was driven around the crowds. The Duchess and the Queen were close friends. (Source Datchet History website.)



The design was based on a 15th-century village cross in Muchelney Somerset, pictured right.

Commemorative Plaques

There are indents on each face of the octagonal base with brass plaques on the north, east, south and west faces. (Photographs by Alison Crampin taken in January 2021.)



On the eastern face of the octagonal base is the original brass plaque commemorating Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee with biblical quotations. It reads:

TO THE GLORY OF GOD
AND IN COMMEMORATION OF HER
MOST GRACIOUS MAJESTY
QUEEN VICTORIA
COMPLETING 60 YEARS OF
HER REIGN, 1837-1897
"MANY DAUGHTERS HAVE DONE VIRTUOUSLY, BUT THOU EXCELLEST
ALL" (PROV.XXI.29)



On the southern face, the plaque reads:
IN COMMEMORATION OF
QUEEN ELIZABETH II
GOLDEN JUBILEE
1952-2002



On the western face, the plaque reads:
SILVER JUBILEE
QUEEN
ELIZABETH
1952-1977

Originally there was a plaque on this face recording Mrs Crake's gift but this has disappeared. It read: 'Erected by Mrs John Crake, 70 years resident of Datchet'.



On the northern side, the plaque reads:
IN COMMEMORATION OF
QUEEN ELIZABETH II
DIAMOND JUBILEE
1952-2012

There are four spaces for plaques to be added in future, for example to commemorate Queen Elizabeth's Platinum Jubilee in 2022.

Present condition and originality (See also RBWM planning history and give details where relevant)

The shaft is a late-20th-century replacement of the eroded original. It appears to be of a different stone (or composite) from the rest of the monument and the grooves are poorly aligned at the top where they meet the Fleur de Lys and apex motif.

In 1897, the monument was described in the Parish Magazine as 19' tall including steps. An approximate measurement of the height with replaced shaft is 18' 9" (January 2021)



There is some damage to the 'apex' at the top of the shaft on the eastern (above Queen Victoria's plaque) and northern sides, see images left.

Originally there was a second plaque recording Mrs Crake's gift but this has disappeared.

The monument is in need of cleaning (January 2021). Repair work should also

be considered by a specialist qualified heritage stonemason. It is recommended to ask professional advice on whether a protective coating should also be added to protect the monument from further erosion.

Is site in use?

Give details of use

✓ YES

The commemorative monument can be appreciated by all who pass or cross Jubilee Green. In addition to marking a historic occasion, the addition of plaques dedicated to the present monarch, Queen Elizabeth II, gives it contemporary relevance.

Criteria Fill in the relevant boxes stating the reasons why the asset meets these criteria. <i>(Please score to indicate how well the asset meets the criteria where 0 is not applicable, and 3 indicates very well.)</i>	
1. Has architectural interest or quality 1	The cross is a replica of a medieval monument in Muchelney, Somerset, so is somewhat unusual in this area. It was originally well-crafted from Ham Hill Stone (Hamstone) by a notable maker, Doultons. The 20 th -century replacement shaft is of lesser quality.
2. Is a landmark feature 3	Yes. Jubilee Green is so named because of the commemorative Jubilee Cross and Jubilee Oak tree.
3. Has a relationship with adjacent designated heritage assets in age, materials, or in any other historically significant way 3	Part of a group of commemorative monuments, trees and benches, on the Village Greens, including the listed war memorial, which record historic events.
4. Individually, or as part of a group, illustrates the development of the local area 0	
5. Has significant historic associations with features such as a historic road layout, a park or a landscape feature (designed or natural) 0	
6. Has historic associations with important people or past events 3	The monument was given to the village by a philanthropic resident to commemorate Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee. There was a trinity of wealthy Victorian ladies in Datchet who competed in public philanthropy on The Green. These ladies were: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lady Georgiana Needham (Datchet House) – Drinking fountain 1886 • Dowager Duchess of Buccleuch (Ditton Park) – Jubilee Oak tree 1887 • Mrs Crake (The Lawn) – Jubilee Cross 1897.
7. Reflects the traditional functional character or former uses of the area 0	
8. Contributes positively to the character or appearance of the area 3	The protected Village Greens are at the heart of Datchet's Conservation Area. The monuments on these Greens contribute positively to the historic character and heritage of the village.
9. Other. Is there another reason it has special local value?	
Have owners been notified? (Give details of date, method, eg letter/email, response and comments)	
Datchet Parish Council has been notified, June 2021.	
General feedback from members of the public	
In a 2021 survey when residents were asked to nominate buildings and monuments for NDHA status, the historic non-listed buildings and structures around the Green were among those which received the most nominations.	

Appendices Give details of any supporting documents or sources, eg background history and websites

With thanks to Janet Kennish, local historian, for the following information. See also Janet's website, www.datchethistory.org.uk

Datchet Parish Magazine, June 1897: The Queen's Diamond Jubilee

'On Wednesday June 23rd, at 4pm, the Cross erected by Mrs Crake will be unveiled. It is of course a Commemoration Cross, not a memorial one, as it is sometimes incorrectly described.

On Friday June 25th 200 children from our day and Sunday schools, will proceed with their teachers to the Home Park, Windsor, where tea will be provided, with an ample variety of suitable amusements. The Queen herself has graciously promised to be present, and on her arrival the children, massed together as far as possible, will sing 'God Save the Queen'. Each child must wear a distinctive riband and the Jubilee medal, which will be supplied by the Windsor Committee.

'On Wednesday June 30th will take place the great entertainment at Ditton Park, due to the generosity and loyalty of Mr King, the present tenant of Ditton. May we enjoy once more the proverbial serenity of 'Queen's weather', and may nothing occur, here or elsewhere, to mar the brightness of our rejoicing, either by unavoidable accident, or by foolish excess.'

Edited extract from the *Windsor & Eton Express*, June 1897: Unveiling the Village Cross at Datchet

The handsome village cross which Mrs Crake has erected at Datchet was unveiled on Thursday. Mrs Crake has lived in the parish for 70 years and is one of only five people who were alive there in 1837 at the time of the Queen's accession. There was a very large attendance of inhabitants and villagers* and the village was gaily decorated, the Union Jack being displayed by many houses. However, the Drinking Fountain which the late Lady Georgiana Needham provided for the village appeared neglected, and it would have been left without adornment if old Mr Crude, who was gardener to the late Lady Needham, had not managed to borrow a flag and get one of the more nimble villagers to affix it to the summit. Punctually at half past twelve the Vicar, Rev Canon Thompson, the curate and the choir, started from the Church and took up a position near the cross. A hymn was sung and prayers were said. Mrs Crake then pulled the cord and the covering fell to reveal the handsome cross. The National Anthem was sung and three cheers were given for the Queen and for Mrs Crake.

(* 'Inhabitants' are the rich important people and 'villagers' are the ordinary ones.)

Edited extract from the *Windsor & Eton Express*, June 1897: Children's Party,

On Friday, 200 of our children from Datchet joined in the great entertainment of over 6000 in the Home Park. There, refreshments in the shape of milk and buns, specially sent by the Queen, were provided for them on their arrival. Games and swings followed, after which the children were marshalled in due order, and when the Queen arrived and drove slowly round the great circle, the thousands of children joined in singing the National Anthem with an enthusiasm which could not be surpassed. Afterwards, tea was served in tents, with an abundance of cake and other delights. Then the great assembly broke up after a very enjoyable, though somewhat fatiguing day. Some of the little ones gave way through the heat and excitement, and perhaps through the frequent use of swings, but they were speedily attended to by the ambulance corps and we have heard of nothing serious having occurred.

Datchet Parish Magazine, July 1897: The Village Cross

'The idea of this cross was taken from an old village cross in the parish of Muchelnaye [*Muchelney*] in Somersetshire. Its proportions are singularly graceful. Its height, including the steps on which it stands, is 19 feet. It is made of Ham Hill stone and is from the works of Messrs Doulton. The inscriptions, in gunmetal, were executed by Messrs Gawthorpe [*Gawthorp*].

'The inscription on the East side is as follows: To The Glory of God And in Commemoration of Her Most Gracious Majesty Queen Victoria Completing Sixty Years of Her Reign 1837-1897 "Many daughters have

done virtuously, but thou excellest all" (Prov.xxi.29). On a tablet on the Western face is the following: Erected by Mrs John Crake, 70 Years Resident of Datchet. *[This has not survived]*

'THE UNVEILING, WEDNESDAY 30TH JUNE

'The Vicar and Curate accompanied by a portion of the Choir, took their stand in front of the Cross punctually at 12.30. The Old Hundredth Psalm was sung as a hymn, which was followed by the Lord's Prayer and a short prayer of Dedication. The Vicar then called upon Mrs Crake, as the donor, to unveil the Cross, which was done by manipulating a cord, on which the covering fell, and the graceful proportions of the Cross stood out in full view. The National Anthem was then sung and the proceedings concluded by hearty cheers for the Queen and for Mrs Crake.'



Datchet History website:

A Memory of the Jubilee Party in Home Park, 1897

Former Datchet resident, Mrs Florence Rawlings, was 109 when she died in 2001. The photograph, left, was taken on her birthday. She still recalled going to this party in the Home Park when she was five years old. She remembered walking from Datchet along the road to Windsor to see the Queen and that she was very young and it seemed a long way. She also remembered other occasions when she had to get out of the way of Queen Victoria's coach driving through the village, even diving into a ditch if necessary, while the girls curtsyed and the boys bowed.

For more about Mrs Crake, see the Datchet History website:

<https://datchethistory.org.uk/streetshouses/horton-road/the-lawns-estate/>

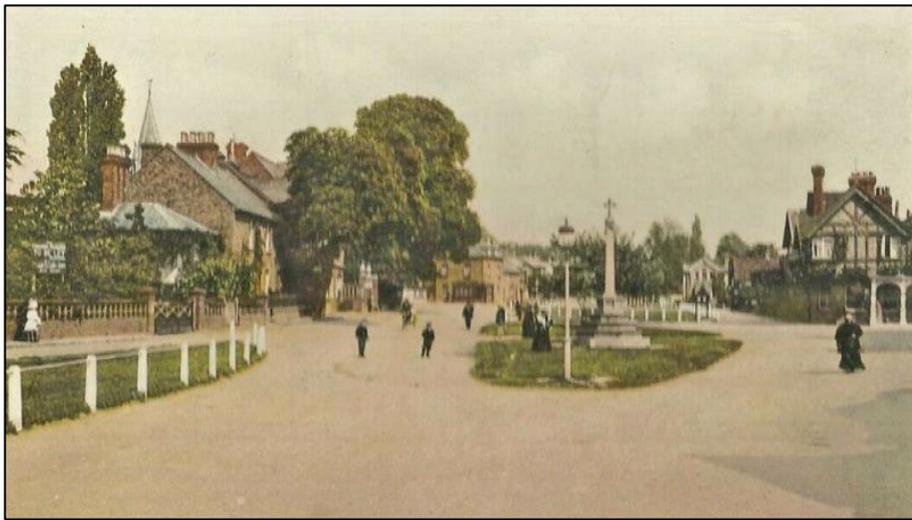
Images Please caption images, add date the image was taken, and credit source where relevant.



Jubilee Cross,
c1900 (from
Datchet History
website)



Jubilee Cross, c1905 (postcard image from Datchet History website). The image also shows the Drinking fountain and the Jubilee Oak. (There are also two large trees in front of the chemist's shop, since removed.)



Early 20th-century postcard. Note that the Jubilee Cross is much larger than the Jubilee Oak and dominates Jubilee Green. The reverse is now the case.



Early 20th century. Jubilee Cross in front of The Hall (on the right of the photograph) taken from the Datchet History website. The Hall, a large Victorian villa, was built between 1875 and 1880. It stood in the centre of the village until the 1950s and was replaced by the present houses of Hall Court.



Left and above, 24 January 2021. Photographs Adrian Giddins, Datchet Village Society.

Date form completed

27 January 2021

By whom

Alison Crampin