

The Datchet Local List – Non-Designated Heritage Asset Information Sheet

Name, address, location of asset	Number	
<p>Montagu House (currently Datchet Library) 8 Horton Road Datchet SL3 9ER</p>	<p>Is the asset</p>	<p>✓ <u>In the Conservation Area</u> ✓ <u>In Datchet Parish</u></p>
OS Map and coordinates		
<p>Grid Reference : 992768</p> 		
Significance of asset (NPPF)		
<p>✓ <u>Historic</u> ✓ <u>In the setting of a heritage asset</u></p>		
Type of Asset Please tick relevant category		
<p>✓ Individual building</p>		
Description/History of asset		
 <p>including the Duchess of Buccleuch, for another room to be added at the back of the building. Completed in 1889, this room became the village hall and this played a central role in the life of the village until recent times.</p> <p>The ground floor has now been successfully converted to a branch library, with a police outpost upstairs, giving the original building a new community purpose in this prominent village location.</p> <p>*For more information on Lady Needham, see appendix.</p>	<p>Brief history <i>(See appendices for detailed history.)</i></p> <p>Montagu House, formerly known as the Datchet Working Men’s Club was built on land provided by the Duke of Buccleuch in 1881 on a long lease and at a nominal rent. It was designed by the architect Stephen Mogg Wyborn of Windsor and funded by public subscription at an estimated cost of £450 including furnishings. It was intended to contribute to the welfare of the working classes; in particular to provide a place where educational and improving leisure activities were available.</p> <p>To celebrate Queen Victoria’s Jubilee in 1887, Lady Needham* provided the funding for the porch. She also gave generously, with a group of benefactors</p>	



Description

Located at the eastern end of The Green, and in close proximity to the village school, this two-storey yellow brick building is a significant link with Datchet's Victorian social history.

The west façade, painted pale pink and white, has a central red front door framed within an elaborate black and white porch. Projecting from the slate roof of the porch is a steep gable which has a prominent end finial and decorated red ridge tiles. The inner porch has black timber beams, side windows and decorated wooden roof buttresses. There is a ramp with handrails, and to either side of the porch are two narrow sash windows.

The upper storey of the west façade forms into a simple gable with three sash windows, the central one being taller than the others. Compared with its later porch, the original west façade is richly decorated with idiosyncratic blocks of stepped brickwork on a small scale. These blocks, in various architectural situations, appear across all the visible outer walls of the building.

On this western gable, they function as capitals and bases of shallow pilasters running down the wall-faces, but where the new porch roof abutted the original wall decoration, a broken-up version of the stepped pattern was devised to suit the new situation. Below the eaves, where the front wall turns along to the side of the building, a variation using small stepped blocks continues. A related version of these small blocks, separated by equally-sized spaces, was used beneath the gable slopes and above the window embrasures.

A walk around the building will reveal other variations and developments to suit different architectural locations. These features do not seem to be found in other local buildings but investigation will continue.



At the south side of the building, *far left*, is a yellow brick single-storey extension which has an added storey to the rear. The north side of the building, *left*, is plain brick, with two 'panels' each having four sash windows, and topped by gables. The lower-storey windows are taller and have decorated lintels..



To the rear of the building is the single-storey 'village hall' extension of matching brick, windows with a gable and stepped-block decoration, *far left*. Where this extension joins the original building, there is another entrance with red door, ramp and hand rail, *left*.

Present condition and originality (See also RBWM planning history and give details where relevant)	
Very good condition with recent interior decoration. A DPC councillor has reported that the slate roof is in need of repair, but the exact problem has not yet been made clear. Ask DPC for copies of refurbishment plans and recent exterior works and any articles on the opening of Montagu House. There is a plaque inside with a date and details of previous renovation work.	
Is site in use?	Give details of use
✓YES	Library and police post. Temporary closure for the Coronavirus pandemic 2020-21.
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	3 The original building features high-quality decoration for a working man's club, reflecting perhaps the influence of Lady Needham and local benefactors. The elaborate porch is imposing and reflects the importance given to the commemoration of Queen Victoria's Golden Jubilee.
2. Is a landmark feature	2 Montagu House occupies a prominent position on the edge of The Green.
3. Has a relationship with adjacent designated heritage assets in age, materials, or in any other historically significant way	2 It is to the east of the village green, in proximity to another important building in Datchet's Victorian social history, St Mary's School. Together the two buildings form the eastern boundary of Datchet's historic core, in the setting of the designated heritage assets around Memorial and Gossip Greens. These include the listed WWI memorial, parish church, Manor Houses, Old Council Buildings, Royal Stag, and The Bridge café.
	
4. Individually, or as part of group, illustrates the development of the local area	3 The Working Men's Club was part of the Victorian development of the village. Individually it was an important milestone in Datchet's social history as it reflected the interest of local benefactors and welfare and education of working men. This has continued to modern times.
5. Has significant historic associations with features such as a historic road layout, a park or a landscape feature (designed or natural)	2 Montagu House is situated to the west of The Cut (an important open space of grass and trees located behind the library, alongside Horton Road). Originally this land was gifted to the village by the Duke of Buccleuch as a

		recreation area for village children. To the west of the main entrance is Gossip Green which is part of the historic village green.
6. Has historic associations with important people or past events	3	It has strong associations with Lady Needham of Datchet House and other local benefactors who were WMC trustees (see appendices). The social standing of the trustees gave the Trust the important ability to raise money. In 2021, the building is still in the hands of local people, Datchet Parish Council, which is dependent on RBWM funding to run the Library. Therefore some local autonomy has been lost.
7. Reflects the traditional functional character or former uses of the area	1	The Library function parallels the original function as a reading room and library for community use. The loss of the village hall facility is not significant today as there are several halls including a village hall on Allen Way.
8. Contributes positively to the character or appearance of the area	3	The Library is in a significant position at the eastern end of the village Green where it blends in with and enhances the Victorian and heritage buildings of the Conservation Area.
9. Other. Is there another reason it has special local value?	3	In addition to the library facilities, the local police occupy a first-floor room as a police point.
Have owners been notified? (Give details of date, method, eg letter/email, response and comments)		
The Datchet Parish clerk notified by email 11.03.21. Copies of the draft research sent to DPC for circulation to councillors in June 2021. Lord Montagu was also sent a copy. His archivist responded: "Lord Montagu passed me your e-mail to see if there was anything we could contribute to your Plan. I've read through it and don't think we have anything in the Archive which would further support your case. I note that Janet Kennish's work is one of your sources and she has carried out much research on the Datchet records in the Beaulieu Archive. I wish you every success with the plan."		
General feedback from members of the public		
In a recent public survey, Montagu House/Library was among the buildings around The Green most frequently proposed for inclusion in a local listing. See www.datchetneighbourhoodplan.org/local-list-heritage.html		
Appendices Give details of any supporting documents or sources, eg background history and websites		
History Datchet Working Men's Club: The Datchet Library building used to be the Datchet Working Men's Club (WMC). It was opened in 1881 by Queen Victoria's daughter, Princess Christian, to provide a library and reading room for working men to continue their education as well as providing a social alternative to public houses. Since 1863, Lady Georgina Needham, an important benefactress to Datchet, and others, had provided rooms for working men to meet. The cause was taken up by the vicar, Rev J M Thompson, who set up a Building Committee to raise funds to provide a purpose-built club house. This was achieved when the Lord of the Manor, the Duke of Buccleuch, donated a village central site at a peppercorn rent and local dignitaries gave generous contributions for the building and furnishings. It was ready by November 1881.		

The WMC was a two-storey block, approximately 46 feet by 42 feet. The ground floor was one large room, with a bar and outside toilet and the upper floor had 2 small rooms and one larger. Initially there was no running water and little heating, although these were added in the 1890s, with electric lighting in 1919.

A single-storey 30-foot extension was added to the east end and completed in 1889. This became known as the Village Hall as it allowed usage to extend to public meetings and entertainments. The newly-formed parish council met there as well as the Temperance Association, Bible class and many Datchet organisations. With the exception of a small Green Room, a Jubilee porch, improvements to the toilets, and extensions to the south side all built before 1911, there was little further building activity, although the Club's central role in village life continued well into the 20th century.

The Working Men's Club closed in 1998 when the licence was revoked by the police because of drinking out of hours. By the end of the century, the only function of the building was for an After-School Club, used by St Mary's School. The building was becoming quite dilapidated and when the After-School Club closed, Datchet Parish Council, who had taken over the responsibility for the building in 2001, had to find a new tenant.

Montagu House. After much determined work by the Datchet Parish Council and a grant from the local Barker Bridge House Trust, the entire building was refurbished by local architects Edgington Spink Hyne, and let to the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead (RBWM) to become Datchet Library. **A first-floor side extension was added on the south side.** The lawyers of the Lord of the Manor, descendent of the 5th Duke of Buccleuch, were consulted again and permission was given for the change of use. In the summer of 2005, Lord Montagu, having arrived in one of his vintage cars, carried out the opening ceremony for the Library. This was an entirely appropriate purpose for a building originally intended as a reading room. About the same time, one of the upstairs rooms was let to the Thames Valley Police as a police post. In 2020, the Library was closed during the pandemic and in early 2021, RBWM set up a public consultation on the possibility of making this closure permanent.

The Needham family, Earls of Kilmorey

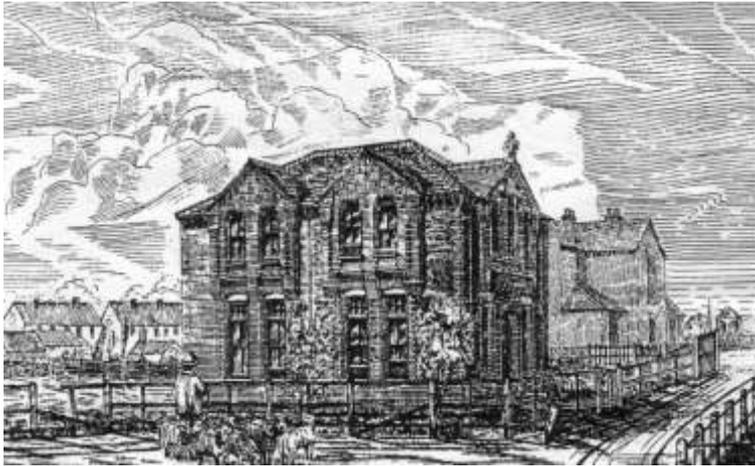
Lady Georgina Needham was the daughter of the Earl of Kilmorey. Although their chief property was in Ireland, the Needhams owned an estate in Shropshire and occupied a house in Iver before arriving in Datchet. It was principally Anne, the wife of John Needham the 10th Viscount who lived in Datchet, having moved here from Iver. John and Anne's son General Francis Needham, created First Earl Kilmorey in 1822, was Aide-de-Camp to George III in the 1790s and fought in the American War of Independence. He and his wife, also Anne, had two sons and seven daughters and it was several of these Needham daughters, as spinsters and widows, who continued to live in Datchet House with a full battery of servants and at the very pinnacle of Datchet society.

Sources:

- *Datchet Past and The Datchet Link Collection* by Janet Kennish.
- *A Millennium View* by Rob Gordon
- Datchet History website: https://datchethistory.org.uk/streetshouses/south-greens/village_school/
- Datchet Village Society website: www.datchetvillagesociety.org.uk/our-projects/datchets-working-mens-club/
- History of the Trust by Captain Crease: www.datchetvillagesociety.org.uk/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/History-1881-to-1932-HCv1.pdf
- Lady Georgiana Needham: <https://datchethistory.org.uk/streetshouses/london-road/datchet-house/>
- 2005 Refurbishment: <http://www.designinglibraries.org.uk/index.asp?PageID=844>
- Minutes of WMC trustees meetings 1881-1895, 1924-52, see image below



Images Please caption images and credit source where relevant.



1881 First Working Men's Club building
Source: Datchet History website



1891
Source: Datchet History website
From left to right: WMC, Farmhouse, St Mary's School



2005

Edward, 3rd Lord Montagu of Beaulieu (1926-2015) drove to Datchet in a vintage car to open the library in the former Working Men's Club, re-named Montagu House.

Source: Datchet History website

See overleaf

2021: Photographs Marjorie Clasper



Date form completed	By whom
13/03/21	Marjorie Clasper