

FRIENDS AND DESCENDANTS' PROJECT 2023-2024 DENTON'S COMMONS WATER PUMP

Situated on the north side of St George's Chapel on Denton's Commons you may have noticed an old-fashioned water pump. This pump covers a well, over 100 feet deep, that used to supply water to the Dean and Canons and others residing in the precincts of the Chapel.

Records in the Chapel Archives tell us that there used to be two deep wells; one in the Canons Cloisters, destroyed in 1738 after a fatal accident, and the other on the north side of the Chapel. The latter is presumed to be the well over which the cast iron pump, dating back to 1842 and pictured right, is currently placed. The waterspout, made of cast lead, is described as a "fabulous beast" (pictured below).

The pump itself has not been operational for many years, however the housing was redecorated just over 10 years ago at which time rust damage was treated and filled. Time and weather have, though, taken their toll and the pump and surrounding limestone plinth and cobble setts are now in urgent need of repair. The pump housing is again rusting seriously and the condition of the pump mechanism inside the casing is unknown. The cobble setts of the pump surround are open jointed and water percolating through the joints is washing away the bedding fines. Ideally drainage from the cobble setts should discharge into the surface water drainage system but the current drainage iron gulley needs clearing and the connection reinstated to the surface water drainage system.



The Dean and Canons would like to undertake these works in the next year. The works will cost £14,500 and we are inviting the Friends of St George's to help us with this work. A donation of any size will be greatly appreciated and will help to ensure that this historic water pump is repaired and retained.



If you would like to donate to this appeal, please either send a cheque, payable to The College of St George, to the Development Office, 8a The Cloisters, Windsor Castle, Windsor, SL4 1NJ or visit our website and make a donation online. The link you will need to do this is: <https://www.stgeorges-windsor.org/friends-and-support/support-us-now/> Please add the reference "Pump" to the comment box or reverse of your cheque.

Thank you.