

# The History of Duchess Green

The field adjacent to the new churchyard (Duchess Green) originally included the new church yard and was part of the Landulph Church Glebe lands. In 1841 it was known as Church Meadow and the Rector of Landulph was Rev Francis Vivienne Jago Arundel. This land was leased by the Church to my grandfather (Frank Barrett) between 1937 and 1943 when Dan du Plessis took on the lease until he and brother Peter retired. During Dan's time the freehold of this land was sold by the Church to the Duchy. *Andrew Barrett*

## Du Plessis Family and Daffodils

The family business began as A L du Plessis and sons. Adrian du Plessis was a South African soldier who fought in WW1. After 1918 he stayed in the UK and married Mary Spear, the daughter of John Spear, a merchant in Cargreen. His two eldest sons, Dan and Peter, joined him in the business. During WW2 they operated as a mixed farm to help feed the nation.

After the war they traded as du Plessis Brothers and concentrated on flowers, daffodils, anemones and polyanthas together with tulips that were grown in a hot house for the London Christmas market.

From the 1950s they specialised in growing daffodils. They gradually developed many new varieties bearing local names, including Colloggett, St Dilpe, Haye, Tinnell, Tamar Snow, Pentillie and Tamar Fire. Cut flowers were transported to Covent Garden in London as well as Plymouth and elsewhere locally. Their main business was selling daffodil bulbs. They eventually grew 700-800 different strains of daffodil with prices, varying from £5 for 14lbs of mixed bulbs to £20 for one specialist bulb (1989 prices).

Dan was an active member of The Daffodil Society (founded 1898). He was an accredited judge of daffodils, and was elected vice president of the society. In 1994 the RHS awarded Dan the Peter Barr Memorial Cup in recognition of his work with daffodils.

Du Plessis farmed 20 acres either side of the road to Cargreen. The west side was Duchy of Cornwall land and the east side was Glebe land of Landulph church until 1969 when the Duchy bought it. King Charles, when he was Duke of Cornwall, visited the du Plessis farm twice and much admired the wonderful vista of daffodils. They filled in the pond that we have re-instated as wild mink used to follow the stream and cause havoc in the fields.

Dan and Peter retired from the business in 1990. Their family is still connected though: Dan's daughter Marie Bersey has judged at many local flower shows and been president of Liskeard Show. Ron Scamp, Dan's nephew, has a flourishing daffodil business based near Falmouth. *Marie Bersey as told to Jenny Turnage*

## The Birth of Duchess Green

In November 2022, the Duchy of Cornwall and the current tenants, Marsh Farm Partnership, agreed that Landulph Parish Council could develop the field as a wild green space for nature and people to enjoy. The Landulph Orchard Green working group, led by Councillor Martin Worth, was awarded a grant to restore the pond, build a tiered green meeting space and plant trees, hedging and bulbs.

Over 2500 daffodils were planted in late 2024 by volunteers. Some named varieties were purchased from Ron Scamp and planted alongside the eastern hedge as shown on this board (darker yellow label indicates later flowering). Bulbs were also donated by Tony Channings and Valerie Taplin. February 2025  
*Clare Tagg*



Mrs Langtry 10

Gulliver 10

Actaea 10

Bernardino 10

Sir Watkin 10

Damson 10

Albatross 10

Tamar Fire 50

St. Petroc 35

White Lady 60

John Lanyon 31

Cargreen 50

Bere Ferrers 50

Dan du Plessis 50

