

THE JAMES DREDGE PLANTER

This planter was designed by the members of Redwood Class at Chapmanslade Church of England Primary School during 2015/16 to recognise the achievements of James Dredge (1794-1863), Maltster, Brewer and renowned Bridge Builder born in Chapmanslade. The Dredge family has lived in the area for over two hundred and fifty years with descendants still living locally.



Victoria Bridge, Bath in 1849

HISTORY

Victoria Bridge was the first bridge built by James Dredge in 1836 as a quick and easy way to get his beer across the River Avon to the Great Western Railway and the new industrial area. The central column of the planter is an original part of the bridge donated to the village following its refurbishment in 2014.

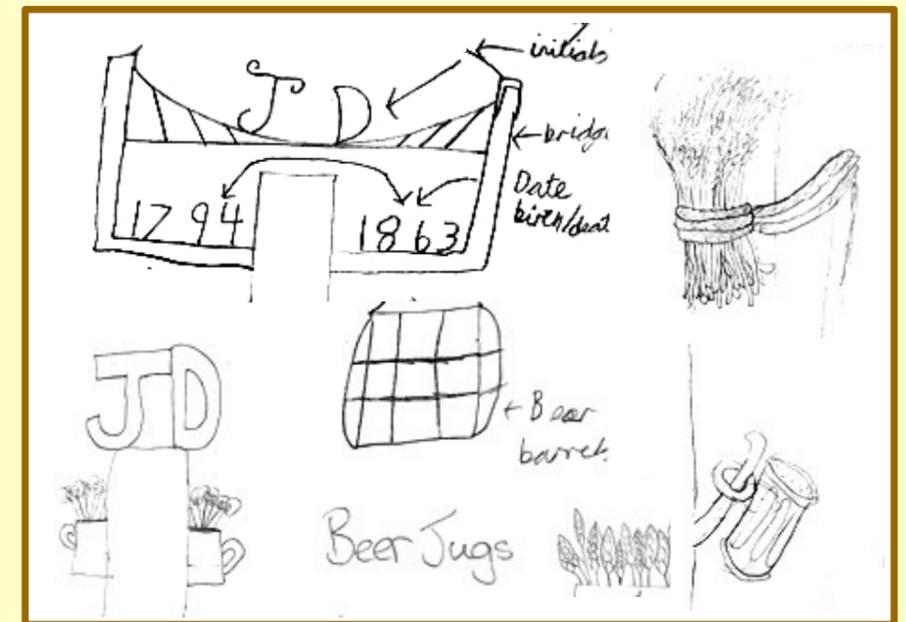
James built over fifty wrought iron suspension bridges to his patented design throughout Great Britain and the Commonwealth during the Victorian age of the Industrial Revolution.



This piece of the Planter was part of the bridge balustrade replaced during restoration

THE PLANTER PROJECT

A grant from the Corsley Elizabethan Society to the School for a community project coincided with the availability of parts removed from the Victoria Bridge. It was decided to make a Flower Planter from one of these parts, and the Chapmanslade History Group presented the James Dredge story to Redwood Class. Their class teacher then worked with them to create design ideas which featured a Beer Barrel, Beer Mugs, Bridge Silhouette, ears of Malting Barley, and Dredge's dates and initials. These ideas were turned into four working designs and the class chose the one they liked best. The Planter here is the end result. This project has provided a rich source of learning for the school children involving History, Design, Technology and Planting.



Some of the Redwood Class Design Sketches

With thanks to these members of the local community who have provided great support:

The Corsley Elizabethan Society.

The Chapmanslade History Group, especially Nigel Brideswell, descendant of James Dredge.

The Head Teacher, Governors, Staff and Children of Chapmanslade Primary School.

Ian Buick for Design Interpretation, Steelwork Construction and Project Management.

Frank Lake, Terry Rose, Mark Foster and Nigel Brideswell for Foundations and Final Assembly.

Barbers Farm Nursery and Plant Centre for supplying the plants for the Flower Baskets.

Corsley and Chapmanslade PCC for providing a site for the Planter.

Bath & North East Somerset Council for donating the parts from the Victoria Bridge.



Dedicated by the Bishop of Ramsbury

Rt Rev Edward Condry on 27th June 2016