



# LANCASTRIANS IN LONDON

NEWSLETTER - No. 165 Summer 2023

[Lancastriansinlondon.uk](http://Lancastriansinlondon.uk)

## Events 2023 - 2024

Thur 14 September - Thames Walk

Tues 26 September - Visit to The Imperial War Museum

TBA - Deferred Annual Quiz in Autumn

Wed 13 December - Carol Service at Savoy Chapel and Christmas Dinner at National Liberal Club

Monday 15 January - AGM & Dinner at the Union Jack Club.



*Our president, Lord Lee, speaks at the House of Lords dinner and tells us how Mrs Thatcher slept in his bed*

**In this newsletter**

*Angela Waddingham leads the Thames walk and points out the statue of a famous Lancastrian*



## Thames Walk

On 22 March Angela Waddington led 14 Lancastrians and Nessie the Arnold dog on an informed walk along the Thames south bank between Vauxhall Bridge and Battersea Power Station. Her local knowledge delightfully enhanced our understanding of the many recent developments on this relatively short stretch of the river. The current bridge, opened in 1906, is the third to cross the Thames at this point replacing the first iron structure to span the river. It is adorned by eight bronze statues; the upstream piers are female figures representing Agriculture, Architecture, Engineering and Pottery, whilst the downstream piers are more unnamed women representing Science, Fine Arts, Local Government and Education.

I didn't know this before but.....In the early 13th century mercenary Falkes de Breauté built a manor house in the then empty marshlands of South Lambeth. He moved to France after falling out with Henry III but the land continued to be known as Falkes Hall, later Vauxhall.

In Nine Elms, where you can find one of London's newest tube stations we also found the new American embassy. Angela led us through the thoughtfully planted gardens where you are able to get really close to this cubic fortress among other blocks of residential development. On the front page of this newsletter the American embassy is in the centre of the picture. Until 2017 the embassy was in Grosvenor Square and the official line from America is that the move was for security reasons. Angela informed us of the alternative story – that the lease of 24 Grosvenor Square was not going to be renewed by the owner unless the USA considered returning his ancestral land taken off him in America. This turned out to be a significant chunk of Florida and consequently the embassy was relocated to an unexpected part of London not favoured by Donald Trump. The press reaction to the new building was, at best, rude. The exception was in the Guardian newspaper which reported *'London's new US embassy may be just a glass cube with disguised fortifications, but it is also restrained, efficient and green... the antithesis of Donald Trump'*

Our walk revealed a link to Lancashire in the form of a statue just visible on the opposite north bank of the river. The MP for Liverpool, not as well-known for his deeds in life as much as the nature of his death, George Huskisson had a residence in Westminster where his statue now stands. It's a Lancashire story so I'll include a bit more detail than Angela told us on the day; He was an unlucky man as there were only two trains on the world's first passenger railway line between Manchester and Liverpool and when he stepped off one of them the other one ran him over. Thus he became the world's first railway fatality. The accident occurred somewhere near Newton-Le -Willows but he was transported to Eccles where he died on the vicar's kitchen table as you may have been told by Michael Portillo if you watch the same daytime television as I do.

Moving on, we arrived at the re-engineered Battersea Power Station which also has a new tube station. The six million bricks used in the original construction have been joined by almost two million more to create the retail/office/residential development which boasts Apple London headquarters as its largest business tenant. The site now provides 15 Acres of new public park and just above Angela's head in the picture is a ledge especially provided for the nest of a pair of peregrine falcons. There are relics of the buildings previous use in the walls, bars and lofty

space, all explained in the lower ground-floor museum. Control Room B is an example where the dials and wall-hung equipment are now a backdrop to a cocktail bar. We concluded the tour in one of the many coffee shops and look forward to the next one on 14 September  
Jim Collier



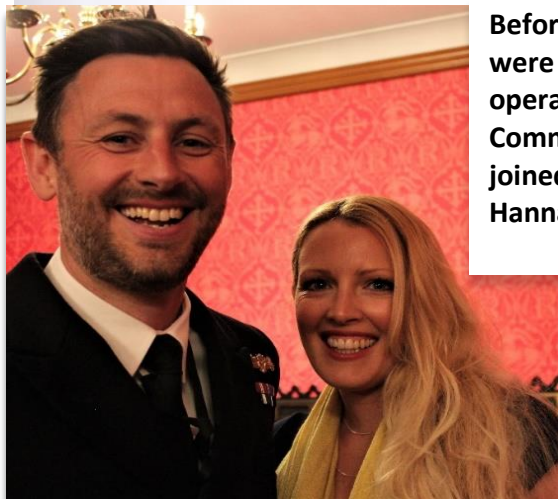
The City Dinner is a highlight in our Calander and to return to the Cholmondeley Terrace at the House of Lords was a treat for those of us who don't get the chance that often. Unlike last year, heavy rain prevented the one hundred guests from enjoying drinks by the river but we're from Lancashire we love the rain. Or maybe we don't and that is why we are Lancastrians in London.

## City Dinner

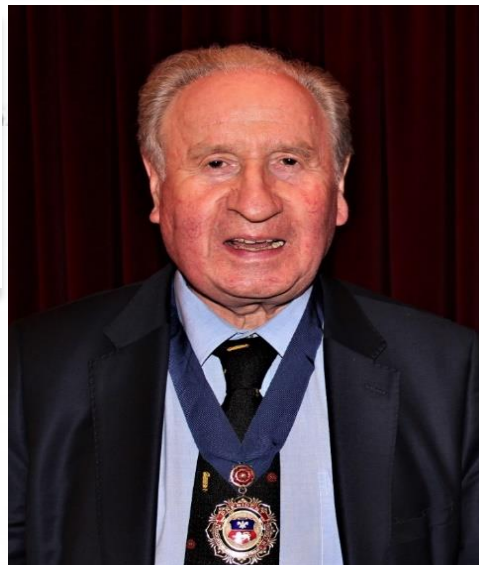


Last year we walked through Westminster Hall and the corridors of power but we missed out on that as well this year as Parliament was in session. Instead we had an escorted hop over a linking quadrangle to the Cholmondeley room and a welcoming Pimm's. There was also a welcome from our president Lord Lee of Trafford, wearing the Lancastrians badge of office, below.

## Lord Lee of Trafford DL FCA

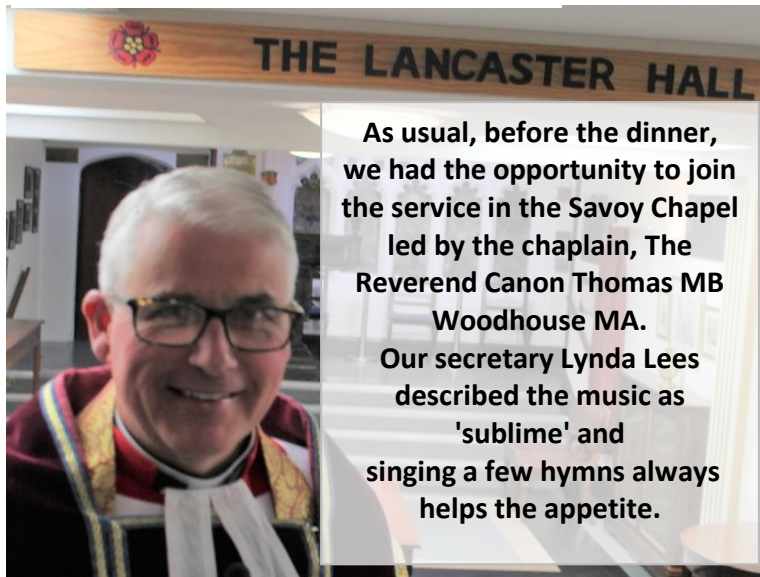


Before Lord Lee's main address we were given an insight to the operations of HMS Lancaster from Commander Chris Sharp who joined us as a guest with his wife Hannah.



In the last newsletter William Arnold wrote about his visit to Portsmouth Naval Base for the HMS Lancaster Affiliates day and advised us that although the ship is in the Gulf there are two crews so that one can relieve the other. This allowed Commander Sharp, captain of the Port crew, to join us before he rejoins the Lancaster and the Starboard crew come home.

Lord Lee entertained us with anecdotes of his career before, during and after politics. We learnt that whilst a government minister he was recorded as being the first to use the term 'North, South divide', and he was offered the chance (declined) to be the first to jump from the Red Devil's new parachute aircraft when at the MoD. That wasn't however, as dangerous as riding in a taxi with Cyril Smith. Winning the seat of Nelson and Colne in 1979 was a story of selection and election. The sitting MP was Douglas Hoyle, father of current Lancastrians honorary member and Speaker of the House, Lindsay Hoyle.



As usual, before the dinner, we had the opportunity to join the service in the Savoy Chapel led by the chaplain, The Reverend Canon Thomas MB Woodhouse MA. Our secretary Lynda Lees described the music as 'sublime' and singing a few hymns always helps the appetite.

When John Lee was interviewed for selection he didn't make the same mistake as a candidate from London to the question "What y' gonna do about Doug 'oyle?" The wrong answer was "I didn't know there was any oil in Lancashire". And on to the mischievous comment on the front page of this newsletter - Mrs Thatcher stayed at the Lee's residence when visiting the North West bringing with her the full security detail of a Prime Minister. Lord Lee's children returned home for a special breakfast with their guest and a good excuse for being late to school.



Congratulations to Martin Clarke, left, the Government Actuary and member of our Association, on the award of a major honour in recognition of his public service, in the King's Birthday Honours. He received a CB, the Order of the Bath. Martin has been the Government Actuary and head of the actuarial profession in government since 2014.

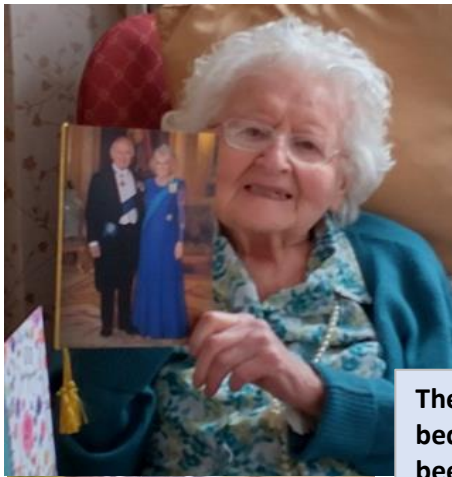
Former Lancastrians member Helen Woan, below, celebrated her 100th birthday in May and is pictured below with her card from the King (Duke of Lancaster) Congratulations Helen.

**A message from Bob Dobson**  
I have been dealing in secondhand Lancashire-interest (mostly local & family history) books for over 50 years. I am now 'selling up' and offering my stock at half the catalogued price. Drop me a line if you would like to receive my catalogue by email. Please tell me which townships interest you, if there are any books you are seeking and if you have any for sale.... Bob Dobson, Blackpool. Tel 01253 886103....email [landypublishing@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:landypublishing@yahoo.co.uk) (I no longer publish) - *landy* stands for Lancashire & Yorkshire. PS. I was born and bred in Accrington - you can't BUY class!!!



Lynda Lees, above, has been doing a fantastic job, two jobs actually, on the committee but her term of service is coming to an end and we will need a Secretary and/or a Minutes Secretary for the Association.

The main duties of the Secretary are to work with other members of the Committee to run the Association. The Secretary is responsible for organising the AGM and for ensuring that minutes of that and committee meetings are written. A simpler role is to act as Minutes Secretary for which the committee would be very grateful. Please email [lynda.lees@virginmedia.com](mailto:lynda.lees@virginmedia.com) if you have any questions.



The trustees were pleased to receive a bequest from Dorothy Field which has been applied to good causes in Lancashire. We will of course similarly use any funds likewise received in future.

Member Mave Turner sent me some lovely pictures of our late Queen from that time two years ago when we didn't get out much and when Her Majesty, Duke of Lancaster, visited Manchester Cathedral to mark the 600th anniversary of the Royal Charter to establish what became Manchester Cathedral the Collegiate Church of St Mary, St Denys and St George.



ON  
8 JULY 2021  
HER MAJESTY  
QUEEN  
ELIZABETH II  
VISITED  
THIS CATHEDRAL  
TO CELEBRATE THE  
600th  
ANNIVERSARY  
of the  
COLLEGIATE  
CHURCH

We welcome five new members to Lancastrians in London. Jordan Diamond, Margaret Schofield, David Stringer-Lamar, Simon Walsh and Ann Worsley. Sadly, we announce the death of three members Glynn Davies, Arthur Gardner and Bernard Marder.

You may have noticed a slight change in presentation of the newsletter and I hope you can enjoy my preference for bigger pictures. I'm aware that there are fewer Lancashire anecdotes in this edition, compared to Jenny Murray's tireless collection, but I welcome your contributions and will strive to include as much as I can. If you have anything of Lancashire interest that you would like to share please send it to [j.collier@ntlworld.com](mailto:j.collier@ntlworld.com)

*Jim Collier*