



LANCASTRIANS IN LONDON

Patron: His Majesty THE KING, Duke of Lancaster
President: Lord Lee of Trafford

NEWSLETTER - No. 169 Summer 2024

Lancastriansinlondon.uk

Events 2024

- Monday 13 September Lambeth Walk
- Monday 23 September Quiz Evening, Doggett's Coat & Badge
- Wednesday 23 October St Albans Walk
- Wednesday 18 December Carol Service, King's Chapel of The Savoy
- Thursday 9 January 2025 Christmas Dinner, The Athenaeum Club, Pall Mall
- AGM, The Union Jack Club



BUCKINGHAM PALACE

Private and Confidential

From: The Principal Private Secretary to The King and Queen
The Rt. Hon. Sir Clive Alderton K.C.V.O.

3rd

Dear Lord McNally,

I am writing to inform you that the review of the Patronages of Queen, The former Prince of Wales and The former Duchess of Cornwall is complete. Following the thorough analysis of over one thousand original Patronages I am pleased to confirm that His Majesty would be delighted to accept Patronage of The Association of Lancastrians in London. It is my pleasure to share this news with you, to mark the first anniversary of Their Majesties' Coronation.

Please find enclosed a document outlining the terms and conditions of Royal Patronage. I hope you will find the information useful but if you have any queries please do contact the Private Secretary's Office Secretariat at email address patronages@royal.uk

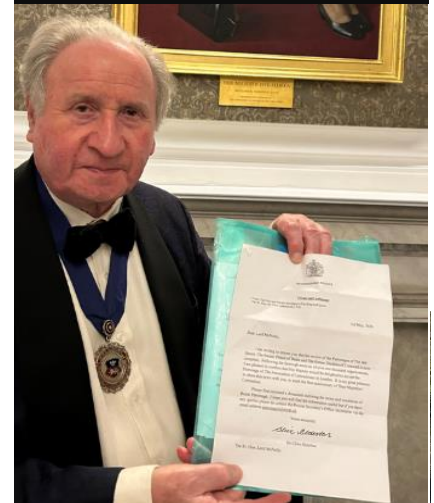
Yours sincerely,

Clive Alderton

Sir Clive Alderton

Our president, Lord Lee, holds a copy of the letter from Buckingham Palace, (right) at the annual dinner where we, of course, toasted The King, Duke of Lancaster! The letter is dated 3rd May 2024, the first anniversary of Their Majesties' Coronation. Sir Clive Alderton, Principal Private Secretary to the King and Queen, advises that His Majesty would be delighted to accept the Patronage of the Association of Lancastrians in London following an analysis of over 1000 Patronages held by The late Queen, The former Prince of Wales and The former Duchess of Cornwall.

Patronage from The King!



Dinner guests of the association (left) Alistair Burt and his wife Eve. Commander Chris Chew (captain of HMS Lancaster) and his partner Harriet Delbridge (right).



Our annual dinner, this year at the RAF club, was a great success attended by 81 diners. Alistair Burt, our president elect, was guest speaker and we learnt a lot about his home town Bury and its long list of grand Lancastrians and some of his famous neighbours before he moved South to join us lot. Tom McNally gave the toast to the county palatine, reminding us it is a term used since the middle ages to describe areas that were difficult to govern from London. Adrian Waddingham toasted our guests, those from Lancashire and those less fortunate. Commander Chew brought news from HMS Lancaster where success is measured by drug and weapons interceptions in the Gulf. The sad news is that the ship will be taken out of service next year after serving far longer than the 15 years it was expected to last in 1990.



**Belgravia Walk
Wednesday
10 April**



Angela Waddingham led another excellent walk through her part of London sharing her great knowledge of the area and its history with fifteen Lancastrians. We started in Eccleston yards and so did Mary Davies.

Mary Davies was a 17th century London heiress and a slice of the Manor of Ebury was her dowry. The lucky man in marriage was Sir Thomas Grosvenor. Eccleston yard was the first part of their/his estate to thrive. The land was further developed by their successors as Mayfair in the 18th century followed by Belgravia in the 19th century.

Most of what we admired throughout our afternoon exercise, through Ebury Street, Chester Square and all the Mews were created by the master builder Thomas Cubit over thirty-odd years into the 1850s. Thomas was one of the first builders to have a 'modern' system of employing all the trades under his own management. All the properties have basements visible from street level, actually standing on the original ground level as the streets were built up by using spoil from the concurrent creation of Saint Katharine's dock to the east.

Angela pointed out the residences of many famous people, Noel Coward and Mrs Thatcher to name but two and I'm sure that if the Lancastrians in London records had not been lost in time we could identify the homes of some former presidents as well. Angela also identified the property used in the old TV series 'Upstairs Downstairs' (right) not far from the infamous address where Lord Lucan murdered his nanny. Allegedly.



Throughout the walk, another delight was to identify so many quaint public houses such as The Grenadier (left), The Horse & Groom and to hear the stories of the Star Tavern (where the 'great train robbers' plotted their famous theft) and the Plumbers Arms, into which burst a blood-covered Lady Lucan on that fateful day in 1974.

The story of the poppy as an emblem is an international one. 'In Flanders Fields' was the poem written during WW1 by the Canadian Doctor Lt Col John McRae and it inspired many people around the world, including Anna Guérin who, along with war widows, made silk poppies in France. She persuaded Earl Haig, to adopt the poppy as an emblem when he founded The British Legion in 1921 (Royal was added in 1971 at the 50th anniversary). Nine million poppies were sold to support Armistice Day in November 1921 and this is where the poppy factory story starts.

**Welcome to
The Poppy Factory**



**Visit to the
poppy factory
Thursday 16 May**

The British WW1 veteran George Howson was motivated to find work for injured servicemen and set up the first production of poppies in an old 'collar factory' on the Old Kent Road. Larger premises were required and adaptation of a former brewery in Richmond took place in 1925 and a new factory built in 1932.

Continued.....



Cupcakes with the Lancastrians emblem were served with afternoon tea.

Lancastrians member Jeff Short is the Director of Production and Estate at The Poppy Factory and he led our tour around the facilities, still on the same site in Richmond. George Howson also built homes in Richmond for his workers, which now produce rental income to support the factory, and the main factory has undergone a recent transformation that joined three buildings together to provide easier access for all who work there. The Royal British Legion is the sole customer of the Poppy Factory, which still employs a good number of veterans in the Production Team, and over 2,000 wreaths leave the factory each week for distribution around the UK, long before sales start in October; Poppies are now made by machine at the RBL Village in Aylesford. Wreaths for the Royal Family and Politicians are also created at the Poppy Factory, along with the decoration around the tomb of the unknown warrior (behind Jeff in the photograph).

Since 2010 the Poppy Factory has been working with veterans around the country with the aim of assisting them into employment and the 'Veterans and Families Service', coordinated from Richmond, forms the main charitable objective. In 2023 over 300 veterans started jobs, 25 began volunteering, 43 undertook work placements, 148 completed work related training courses, 85 were directed towards cost of living support and 14 started full time education.

LANCASHIRE'S GLORIOUS ENGINEERING HISTORY

Roy Chadwick CBE FRSA FRAeS born in Farnworth Lancashire 3rd April 1893

During our recent and splendid annual dinner held at the RAF Club, some of you may have noticed in the reception area the bust of Lancastrian Roy Chadwick a world-famous aircraft design engineer and aerodynamicist.

In 1911, aged 18, he began work as Alliott Verdon-Roe's personal assistant and the firm's draughtsman at A.V. Roe and Company. The first aeroplane he designed at the tender age of 22 was the Avro Pike and he went on to design many more for Avro. In his later years he specialised in the design of large aircraft mainly suitable for bombing including the Avro Lancaster, the most successful bomber of the second world war. It was the only aircraft capable of carrying a 10-ton grand slam bomb and, most famously, it carried the Barnes Wallis bouncing bomb in which Squadron 617 destroyed some of the Ruhr dams. 617 Squadron, known as the Dam Busters, is now equipped with the very latest aircraft, the Lockheed Martin F35.



Throughout the 19th and early 20th century Lancashire was a powerhouse of engineering. Mills all over the world were fitted with machinery manufactured by Platt Bros of Oldham. Ferranti Bros manufactured huge electrical transformers in Hollinwood, many of which exceeded 30 tons, and shipped world-wide. It would take several paragraphs describing the many world-leading engineering companies based in Lancashire. In the early 20th century Trafford Park was reputedly the most intense industrial square mile in the world.

In 1954 I was awarded a prestigious sandwich apprenticeship at AVRO in Chadderton. As a young apprentice one of my tasks was to take tea to the office of Sir Roy Dobson, the Chief Executive of AVRO Company Limited. This was adjacent to the office which used to be occupied by the Chief Aerodynamicist Mr Roy Chadwick. It was with fear and trepidation that I trod those hallowed corridors, dreading that I might spill a drop. I didn't, but I remember it vividly, even now at the ripe old age of 85. In 1955 I left AVRO and completed my apprenticeship at the Royal Naval electrical engineering college in Gosport. I graduated as an electronics engineer specialising in airborne radar and weapons systems and was posted to the Fleet Air Arm. Ever since I have had a close interest in aviation matters. Today I am Vice President of the Fleet Air Arm Association.

Peter Murray

New Members. Three of our new members are pictured below at the annual dinner. Pamela Russell born in Liverpool, Gareth Robertson, brought up in Bury, right and Stephen Mulliner, Born in Manchester Royal Infirmary, left.

Other new members are Sheila Darzi, featured right, and Georgina Talbot a teacher, singer and actress. Brought up in Withington.



Sheila Darzi is a new member who applied to 'rejoin' The Lancastrians having been a member of the 'student branch' in the 1950s. Sheila, then known as Sheila Charnley, provided the photograph below with the following information; *The student branch must have started in the mid 1950's because I joined in 1957. I transferred to the 'grown ups' but then interest waned, I got married and we moved to Kent and then to Surrey. I expect the photo (below) was published in the Lancashire Evening Telegraph sometime in 1957/9. The lady on the right, Miss Grey-Ward, originally came from Lancaster. The man on the left is Mr Butler, liaison for the students and was head of the Burnley Building Society office in London. He was, however, President at one time later.*

Herbert Butler was president in 1979/80 and Sheila *nee* Charnley is stood next to him in the picture. Please get in touch if you remember Sheila or recognise anyone in the photograph.



If you have a Facebook profile, search for 'Lancastrians In London' to enjoy a collection of photographs from our events.



Thank you to those who have contributed to the newsletter. If you have anything of Lancashire interest that you would like to share please send it to me, Jim Collier, on: j.collier@ntlworld.com

Helen Woan

On behalf of my sister Jan, and me, I'm sorry to bring you the sad news that our Mum Helen Woan passed away over the weekend. Of course, when you have reached the age of more than 100 it's something of a bitter-sweet occasion: Mum had witnessed so much and touched so many lives in such a positive way that the memories she retained and cherished and the impact she made are probably more worthy of celebration than gloom. Mum's link with the Lancastrians was a source of much pleasure, highlighted by attending an event where Queen Elizabeth, as Patron, was the guest of honour. So transfixed was Mum by Her Majesty's presence, Mum was able to recount almost every detail of that memorable evening—especially how the organisers were told they could have the Queen for "one hour" and how after exactly one hour the Queen finished her tour of the room! - Peter Woan.

Martin Clarke CB FIA, former Government Actuary and member of the Lancastrians died on 5th June 2024 following a period in hospital. The Government Actuary Department (GAD) has an obituary on their website.

Other sad news is from Charles Bishop advising that his wife, Sheila Bishop, passed away on 29th June last year. Also, Mark Macnair advised us in April that his mother-in-law Enid Davis died in February.

The Lancastrians committee offer sincere condolences to all the friends and families of our members mentioned above.