



LANCASTRIANS IN LONDON

Patron: His Majesty THE KING, Duke of Lancaster
President: Rt. Hon. Alistair Burt

NEWSLETTER - No. 173 Summer 2025

Lancastriansinlondon.uk

Events 2025 / 26

Thursday 11 September - Royal Parks Walk.

Monday 15 September Quiz Doggett's Coat & Badge.

Thursday 18 December - Savoy Chapel Carol Service & Athenaeum Club Christmas Dinner.

Monday 12 January 2026 - AGM. Union Jack Club.

Friday 17 April 2026 Annual Dinner. Lincoln's Inn.

Annual Dinner 2025 28 April, RAF Club, Piccadilly.

Our guest speaker was next year's Lancastrian's president Lady Mary Arden of Heswall who served as a Justice of the UK Supreme Court from 2018 to 2022. Her career also took in the High Court of Justice, the Court of Appeal of England and Wales, the Law Commission, the DTI's Company Law Review and she was Chair of the Judges' Working Party on Constitutional Reform.

Lady Arden advised us that she was "born in the rubble of Liverpool at the right time and place if you wanted to change the world".

Another successful occasion for The Association of Lancastrians in London, a splendid meal and good company with Lancashire cheer for eighty members and guests.



President Alistair Burt and wife, Eve



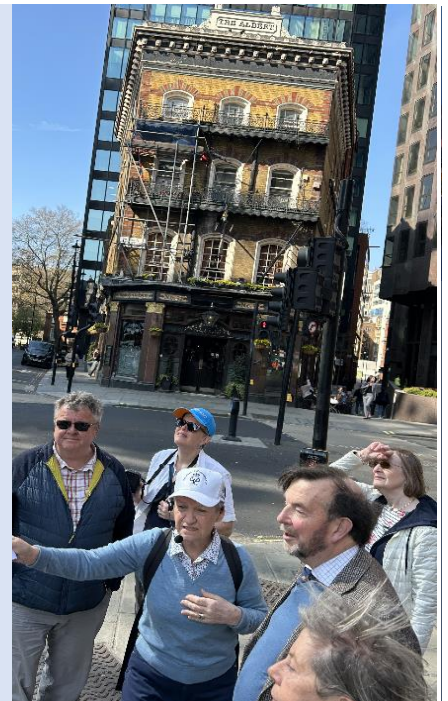
Five former presidents joined us for the dinner. Lady Arden is pictured far left.



Westminster Walk Thursday 3rd April.



Another excellent fact-filled walk organised by Angela Waddingham for the limited group of fifteen Lancastrians. We met by the Henry Moore bronze in Abingdon Gardens, gifted to the nation in 1967, and we ended at the Albert pub on Victoria Street, right. Behind our group on the left is Parliament's Victoria Tower. The better known Elizabeth Tower that houses the bell 'Big Ben' was designed by Augustus Pugin. He copied it from one he had built previously in Lancashire at Scarisbrick Hall.



On the way to Westminster Abbey we crossed Parliament Square, where the first traffic signals were installed. This was after the first roundabout experiment in 1926. (Letchworth Garden City had a roundabout in 1909 but they took 20 years to get the traffic to go one way). Westminster's first abbey was built on the instructions of Edward the Confessor in 1042. The current abbey was built by Henry III and the Hawksmore Towers were added in 1745. The abbey was spared damage during the 1546 Reformation because Henry VIII declared it to be a cathedral not an abbey. During this time the Bishop of London took the opportunity to divert a portion of the revenues from Westminster Abbey - The collegiate church of St Peter - to his beloved Saint Paul's. Hence the expression 'robbing Peter to pay Paul'.



After landmarks including Greycoat School, Christchurch Gardens with its links to Suffragettes and Cardinal Place, the site of the Stag Brewery (producing monastery beer since 1487 and eventually Watney's Red Barrel in 1931) we came to Westminster Cathedral, Mother church of the Roman Catholic Church in the UK. Designed by John Francis Bentley in a neo-Byzantine style and finished for use in 1903. Finally, to The Albert, a Victorian gem of a pub built in 1865 and a great place to conclude and chat. It was discussed that in future we should identify somewhere similar to enable non-walking members to join us for good Lancashire cheer.



At Strutton Ground we came to the Grafton Arms where the landlord, post war, was a script writer called Jimmy Grafton. He allowed a group of ex-army men, Bentine, Secombe and Milligan to use his upper room on a Sunday evening and one Sunday they were joined by Sellers. They called themselves 'The Crazy People' and later 'The Goons'. With help from their landlord they eventually got a spot on radio and The Goon Show was born. This comedy history is marked with a plaque.





Eden Project Morecambe

Around forty members and guests signed up to the Eden Morecambe presentation that was to be delivered in London at the end of June. Unfortunately, this had to be postponed until the autumn. Email communication of this event was necessary due to the short time available for organisation and this may happen again if a new date before the next newsletter is chosen. If you do not receive emails but are interested in attending the presentation (with a £20 contribution towards the refreshment) please contact William Arnold at the address given on the other event forms that accompany this newsletter. Alternatively, if possible, you can contact me (Jim Collier, j.collier@ntlworld.com) through somebody else's email.

This welcome visitor attraction, funded by a mix of government and private funds, will be a sister site to the original Eden project in Cornwall. It will be built on the central promenade and feature three shell-shaped pavilions overlooking Morecambe Bay.



Our Website

Information about other Lancastrian organisations

The Duchy of Lancaster

The Duchy of Lancaster is a unique portfolio of land, property and assets held in trust for the Sovereign.

The King's Chapel of the Savoy

A private royal chapel of His Majesty The King.

The Lancashire Society

The Lancashire Society: formed to help preserve

Friends of Real Lancashire

Friends of Real Lancashire: are concerned to pro

Lancashire Cricket

The latest news, results and fixtures for Lancashir

HMS Lancaster

Stories of the lives of the crew on board our very

THE HISTORIC COUNTY OF LANCASHIRE

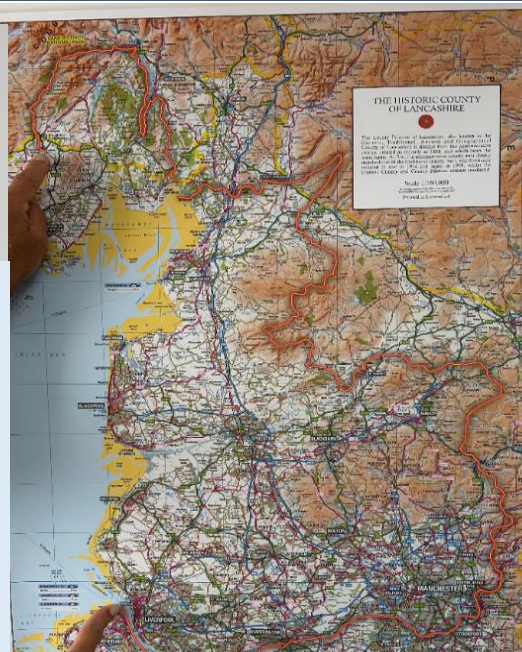


The County Palatine of Lancashire, also known as the Historic, Traditional, Ancient and Geographical County of Lancashire is distinct from the administrative county, created as recently as 1888, and which bears the same name. At first, the administrative county area closely matched that of the traditional county, but it was drastically reduced in size in 1974 and again in 1998, whilst the Historic County and County Palatine remain unaltered.

Have you visited our website?

It lists the forthcoming events (if you mislay your newsletter) and contains the association's history within the 1992 publication 'Our first 100 years'.

On the left is an image of the page with links to other Lancastrian organisations and I am delighted with my palatine-boundary map of Lancashire (right) purchased from the *Friends of Real Lancashire* website.



On our website page *About Us* → *Benevolent Fund*, you will learn that the Association's second president, the Earl of Lathom (1894-98), insisted that there should be a benevolent aim. Ever since, the trustees of the Association's charity have principally focused on supporting education for children in Lancashire. In the last newsletter the most recent beneficiaries were named and this year the sum of £10,000 will be distributed from the trust fund. The Association's charity trustees are grateful for suggestions of organisations where grants can further educate and develop young people in the old county palatine and the next round of allocations will be from 1 October. All trustees are open to any questions you may have so please contact Lord John Lee, Peter Murray, Erica Stary, Simon Harris, William Arnold or the Chairman of the Trustees, Andy Lees.

The trust is not short of funds, donations are always welcome and some members have chosen to leave a legacy in their will. This can be a tax efficient for your estate but professional advice should be sought from your solicitor. If the income increases so will the number of grants we can make. If you do want to consider leaving a donation by Will such as a specific legacy or a proportion of residue to our Trust Fund the following wording may be of assistance:

I GIVE DEVISE AND BEQUEATH [a specific sum] [a percentage of my estate] [a specifically described item of property, such as shares in a plc, or a house, etc] to the Trustees of the Association of Lancastrians in London Trust Fund (Charity number 1060501) to be used for its general purposes AND I DECLARE that the receipt of the Treasurer or other proper officer for the same shall be a good discharge for my Trustees therefor. [Your solicitor will advise on the specific wording, depending on the jurisdiction in which you live]



Lancashire v Middlesex. 4th April

The Association of Lancastrians in London has a long-standing relationship with Lancashire Cricket Club. Formal dinners, stretching way back from the last century and into this one were organised when they came south for the fixture at Lord's with Middlesex. More recently the reception has been infrequent and less formal. We last met in 2018 at The Warrington Hotel in St John's Wood. Pictured, right, is Andy Lees, on that occasion, with the former player and team manager Glen Chapple.



Andy organised the social evening on April 4th this year in the Lord's Tavern and fourteen members took up the invitation to join the occasion. Andy said *"Lancs were delighted to meet up after the day's play for a get together. Nothing fancy, just an informal evening for a couple of drinks and a bite to eat for those who wanted it. We didn't imagine the ten or twelve representatives from Lancs CCC would hang around long, but they were there for a couple of hours! We are hoping to be able to arrange something similar next season"*.

Staying with the cricket; you may have seen Andrew 'Freddie' Flintoff's 'Field of Dreams', a TV documentary following Freddie back to his hometown of Preston hoping to inspire a new generation to play cricket and prove that anyone can play the sport regardless of their background. Among the mixed-bag of raw talent was Afghan refugee Adnan Miakhel.

On April 30th this year Adnan made his debut for Lancashire's Second XI. He batted at number ten, scoring 25 not-out and also took two wickets. However, he had to miss the last day of that match because of an exam back at school. As he is now 18 we might see him in the Tavener's bar next year.



Sheila Darzi 1937-

A strong spirit

Listen to Sheila tell her migration story in this short video and scroll down to trace her journey on the interactive map.



And staying with the topic of migration; Lancastrians member Sheila Darzi shared with me some time ago her involvement with 'Migration Stories Northwest (2021–24)'. This project involves a partnership of five organisations across Northwest England, supported by historians in heritage organisations from around the region. It documents histories of migration from the Roman period to the present day and demonstrates how the north-west has always been a place of migration, with people moving to and from other parts of the British Isles as well as other parts of the world. Below are extracts from Sheila's story, from which you can see that we get a mention. Thank you Sheila.

If you want to visit the Migration Stories website, or go straight to Sheila's specific story, the links are included in the newsletter email. For reference the main page address is also pasted below. You will find Sheila's story on Page 2.

Sheila was born and grew up in Blackburn in Lancashire. As a child, she holidayed every year in Morecambe Bay.

In 1955, aged 18, Sheila moved to Bristol in South West England to start university. She never returned to live permanently in the North West.



After a couple of years in Bristol Sheila moved to London to finish her university studies. She joined the [Association of Lancastrians in London](#), a society founded in 1892 with the aim of promoting 'friendship and good cheer among Lancastrians living in and around London'.

www.migrationstoriesnw.uk

Have you unearthed a Lancashire story on holiday?

Beneath this modernist tomb are the remains of Ensign Charles Ewart, who famously captured a French regimental eagle during the Battle of Waterloo in 1815.

CAPTURING AN EAGLE

Ewart cut down a standard bearer, lancer and infantryman to seize the gilded eagle as The Royal North British Dragoons – known as the Scots Greys – fought the French 45th Regiment. In the wake of the famous military victory over Napoleon Bonaparte's army, Ewart became a national hero.

A HERO'S GRAVE

After a 12-year search, a former Scots Greys sergeant-major rediscovered Ewart's lost grave. It was under a factory that had been built over a Salford churchyard. In 1938, the soldier's remains were reburied here on the Esplanade. The top of his original headstone is set into the paving behind the tomb.

I did! That's me below, at the Edinburgh Castle Esplanade on a cool February day. Here lies Scotland's great hero Ensign Ewart 1769-1846. He fought at Waterloo but died in Lancashire. The plaque pictured left has the details.

ER, AUGUST 21, 1936.

TOMB OF A HERO

Found in Former Salford Churchyard

ENSIGN WHO WON EAGLE CREST FOR SCOTS GREYS

Hemmed in by a world of commercial enterprise, in Irwell-street, Salford, is a plot of land which officers and men of the Royal Scots Greys have been searching for during the last ten years.

Throughout the changing times the Scots Greys have revered the memory of Ensign Charles Ewart whose

HERE LIES ENSIGN EWART ROYAL NORTH BRITISH DRAGOONS

AT WATERLOO AS SERGEANT IN THE ROYAL NORTH BRITISH DRAGOONS HE CAPTURED THE STANDARD OF THE FRENCH 45TH REGIMENT FROM WHICH THE EAGLE BADGE NOW WORN BY THE ROYAL SCOTS GREYS IS DERIVED
ERECTED TO HIS MEMORY IN APRIL 1938 BY THE OFFICERS WARRANT OFFICERS
AND MEN (ASTLAND PRESENT)

Duncan McCormick of Salford and District historical Society was extremely helpful in my search for more information, providing me with Salford City Reporter articles from August 1936 when the grave was discovered and April 1938 when a 'motor hearse' was provided by Ardwick undertakers to drive the remains of Charles Ewart's body to Edinburgh.

For those of you familiar with the Salford/Manchester River Irwell border, the graveyard appears to have been just over the river if you are travelling from the direction of Manchester Opera House on Quay Street. In 1936 Mr A Thompson of Bexley Square Salford told the City Reporter that he remembered when soldiers used to pay homage to Ensign Ewart at the little Swedenborgian church on Irwell Street. *"Royal Scots Greys would arrive mounted on white chargers in picturesque uniform, a practice that ceased around 1900 probably because of the South African war."* The graveyard was paved over when the LMS Railway Co. acquired the land and by 1938 this was beneath the premises of Dawson and Thompson printers where the exhumation took place at 6am on Friday 8 April 1938. The gravestone was split but the part pictured above lies behind the tombstone in Edinburgh.

Charles Ewart was born in Kilmarnock. Family mentioned in 1936 appear to be related to his widow so I can only guess that he fell for a Lancashire lass and moved there. He retired to Davyhulme with his Ensign rank pension of 5s 10d a day and then caused as much trouble in death as he did in life.



In May, member Chrissie Newfield from Burnley and husband Philip made their annual visit to Lancashire to catch up with cousins and visit favourite places including the Forest of Bowland, Pendle Hill and the Ribble. Chrissie's late parents retired to St Annes and overlooked the Memorial Gardens where, in May, the roses were just coming into bloom including a magnificent 'Lancashire' red one which had the loveliest scent. *"Whilst accepting that this is not by any means the official Lancashire red rose it seemed a good second to it to us"* said Philip.

Chrissie's favourite viewing of the River Ribble is in the evening sunshine as it flows by the village of Ribchester and they were not disappointed on this visit.

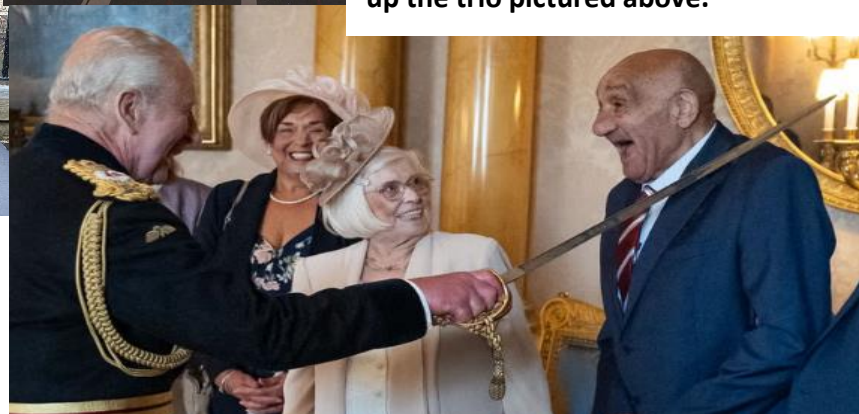


Congratulations Oldham Athletic and Bury Football Club

By beating Southend United at Wembley on 1st June (Match Programme pictured left) Oldham were promoted back into the English Football League, League 2 - in 'old money' The 4th Division.



Meanwhile Bury Football Club, after being expelled from the EFL in 2019, continue their ascent back up the pyramid of English football after promotion to the Northern Premier League West Division after winning the North West Counties League Premier Division. To save you from thinking too hard, let's just say Bury are now in the English 6th division. The oldest Bury season-ticket holder is 103 year-old Jimmy Burt, father of Lancastrians President Alistair. Alistair's brother David makes up the trio pictured above.



Lancashire interest in other sports include the heart-warming story of 90 year-old Billy Boston, left, when he received a knighthood from HM The King, Duke of Lancaster, for his achievements with Wigan Rugby League Club. Billy scored 478 tries between 1953 and 1968 and this long-awaited recognition makes him Rugby League's first knight. In Cycling, Simon Yates the Bury-born rider, 32, won the 'Giro d'Italia', Italy's top professional cycle race.



After a rich vein of new membership there have been no new members in the last three months and, happily, we have not lost anyone either. Membership currently exceeds 300 and in the last 12 months we have named 29 new members in the newsletters and mourned just nine.



Date for your diary
17 April 2026

The annual dinner 2026 will be hosted by Lady Mary Arden at the Lincoln's Inn. Guest speaker will be Dame Karen Pierce, former British Ambassador to the United States.

Former President Johnny Ball launched his book in March at London's Museum of Comedy. Five Lancastrians members were there to enjoy the occasion. Picture provided by Lynda Lees.

To get in touch with Jim Collier, Newsletter editor, use email: j.collier@ntlworld.com or go to the Lancastrians in London website