



LANCASTRIANS IN LONDON

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

NEWSLETTER - No. 175 Winter 2025

Lancastriansinlondon.uk

Events 2026

- Monday 12 January - AGM. Union Jack Club. 6:30 start.
- Monday 16 February - Walking Tour. Smithfield and St Bartholomew's.
- Monday 23rd March 2026 - Royal Parks Walk.
- Friday 17 April 2026 Annual Dinner. Lincoln's Inn.

Carol Service and Christmas Dinner Thursday 18 December 2025

The last event of the year for the Association is the annual carol service in the King's Chapel of the Savoy and we followed the tradition this year with dinner at the Athenaeum Club, 107 Pall Mall. Around seventy-five different people attended the events with fifty-seven sitting down for the dinner. Chaplain Reverend Canon Thomas Woodhouse again led the service and the choir maintained the outstanding quality that we have enjoyed in previous years.



Treasurer William Arnold said The Lancastrians Grace, another tradition of our Association.

*O Lord we ask your blessing pray
On all who gather here today
As Duke of Lancaster we claim our King
Our love and duty clearly bring
God bless our friendships far and near
London Lancastrians full of cheer
God bless our food and bless our wine
And all who serve us as we dine.*



A Lancastrian Limited Edition

This Fine Bone China Plate was produced by Caverswall English China Company in 1981 in a limited edition of two hundred. As illustrated right, the underside of this plate (number 141 of 200) commemorates the 1981 reception when Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II, met with the Lancastrians in London at Middle Temple Hall.

This remarkable piece of the Association's history turned up when Andrea Kenyon of Chorley found it in the house of former Lancastrians members Marie and Denys Gillett who were good friends of our former social organiser John Dixon. Marie died 7 years ago & Denys is now in a residential care home. Andrea is a good friend of the Gillett family.

Some members of the current Lancastrians committee are aware of (or own) the identical plate that was commissioned to commemorate the 1992 reception with The Queen and it is planned to display both plates at the top table during the AGM on 12th January.

The 1981 plate was introduced to diners at our Christmas event at the Athenaeum Club and can be (just about) seen on table 1 in the picture, right. (On the front page of this newsletter as well.) Also in the picture is member Ann Beresford (talking to chairman Erica Stary). Ann remembers the event in 1981 as her father took her and her sister Sue, (talking to Lord Hacking in the picture) to Lancastrians events when they were teenagers.

Lord Hacking, our President in 1972, remembers the reception in 1981 and the commissioning of the plate, of course.



Statues of great Lancastrians in London. Emmeline Pankhurst

If you are great enough to be celebrated with a statue in London you will probably have a statue in the place you came from. Emmeline Pankhurst's statue (left) was unveiled in Victoria Tower Gardens, in 1930 by Prime Minister Stanley Baldwin and funded by the suffragettes. However, we had to wait until 2018 and the 100th anniversary of the first women's vote before the statue pictured right appeared in St Peter's Square, Manchester.

It was worth the wait. This magnificent piece of art was created in bronze by sculptor Hazel Reeves and, thoughtfully, includes a hat to keep off the rain. And who needs a plinth when you can use a chair? I'm looking for more Lancastrians with two statues so please send me your suggestions for future newsletters. (email on last page.)





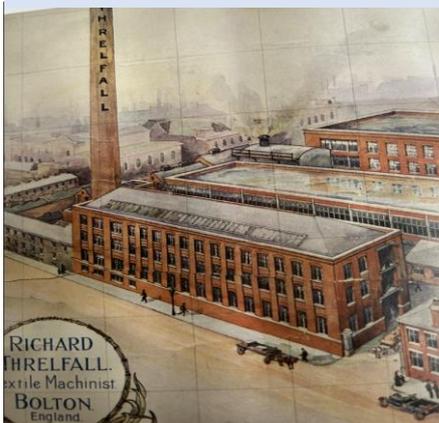
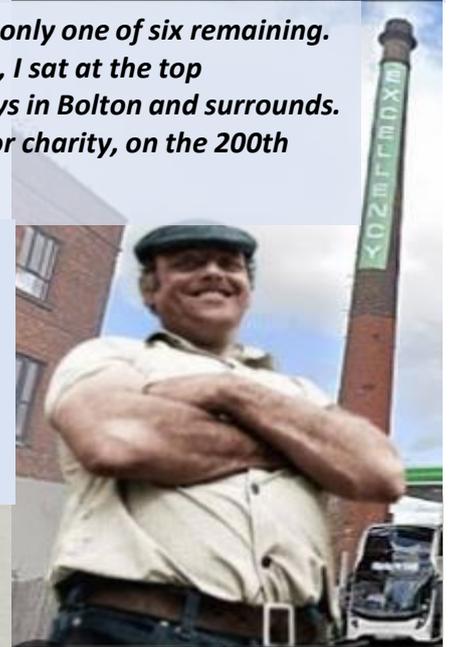
Member David Hurst, pictured above (left) encouraging his team at the recent Lancastrians quiz, belongs to the Threlfall (now Hurst) family, owners of the Bolton foundry and landmark chimney that has survived over 100 years.

The family business, Richard Threlfall Engineering, commenced in 1834 and David continues; *"It is still owned and managed by three members of my family: my younger sister, Jane, and two nephews, Simon Speak and Matthew Hurst both non-exec directors. To ensure continuity of the family Anglo Saxon name, Threlfall ('thrall' and 'fold' meaning 'peasant in a field'), it is/was the surname of the founder, my great, great grandfather Richard Threlfall, the middle name of my father Richard, me, my nephew Matthew, and his son Ben.*

The works chimney, re-built after a devastating fire on new year's eve, 31 December 1910, still stands and bears the name 'R'd Threlfall'. My grandfather, Gus Hurst, who had it built told us that the name faces towards Trinity Street railway station as an advertisement to be read by disembarking passengers.

The chimney was maintained (NOT knocked down) by Fred Dibnah MBE and is only one of six remaining. I know this as, when I climbed the chimney for charity in 2011, at the age of 59, I sat at the top and counted before abseiling back down. There were originally 42 mill chimneys in Bolton and surrounds. If it is still standing, my son has committed to repeat the chimney climb, also for charity, on the 200th anniversary of Richard Threlfall Engineering Ltd in 2034."

On the 175th anniversary in 2011 the company published a booklet entitled 'Richard Threlfall Group Ltd - 175 years of Engineering' and it includes the picture of the chimney (above) adorned with a red nose for the BBC's 1989 Children In Need appeal. *'We asked Fred to place a red nose right at the top of the chimney; officially the highest one in Britain. Obliging, Fred fulfilled this astonishing task, without even the use of a safety rope!'*



Among the family's treasures is a letter from Buckingham Palace acknowledging the 175th anniversary. David is currently working on an updated version of the company's history, now one of the oldest in the industrial North West still owned and run by the fifth and recently joined by the sixth- generation of the same family. More from David when his new publication is ready in 2026.

HMS Lancaster

In the last newsletter it was reported that the sixth and last HMS Lancaster would be back in UK Waters in October, prior to decommissioning ceremonies in November. On 14th October Lieutenant Commander Phil Warner sent the following email to the Lancastrians in London: *The Ship has been delayed in the Gulf conducting operations and essential engineering repairs. As a result our programme is significantly delayed and unfortunately our October homecoming is now looking more like December. Given our operational status and that we are still in the Gulf and have a long way yet to travel home, planning an exact date remains very fluid at this range. We will look to push out some wider engagement shortly, to update everyone. Please do be assured that as soon as we have a more firm date to plan around we will be in touch, we do appreciate that you, as well as our other affiliates will be keen to attend, as we will likewise be keen to host you.*



On 5th December, the Royal Navy website published the picture above with the message: HMS Lancaster arrived in Bahrain for the final time today – ending one of the busiest and longest careers of any major British warship. Flying her paying-off pennant – a ribbon-like White Ensign whose length reflects her 34 years of service – as she sailed into harbour, she was greeted by a 34-gun salute and the Band of His Majesty's Royal Marines from HMS Collingwood in Fareham providing the appropriate musical accompaniment. The 4,500-tonne warship powered down her engines after completing 4,097 days at sea and travelling 816,000 nautical miles – equivalent to 37½ times around the world or almost two return trips to the Moon.

Launched by Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II on the Clyde in 1990 and named after the Duke of Lancaster – a title held by the monarch – HMS Lancaster was commissioned into the Royal Navy in May 1992. The late Queen remained a frequent visitor throughout the ship's service, attending key milestones and private visits. Her Majesty's sponsorship helped ensure Lancaster regularly made headlines, most notably in 2014 when she posed with nearly 200 sailors in a famous photograph on the ship's bow.

Bringing Lancaster into Bahrain was Commander Sam Stephens. "A proud moment as the last Commanding Officer, putting HMS Lancaster alongside for the final time, marking an end to a long and illustrious history of operational success and links to the late Queen Elizabeth II," he said. "This final period at sea has proved the ship continues to perform at the same exceptional standard as when she first commissioned, which stands as a testament, not only to this crew, but to every crew who have served in her over the past 34 years of distinguished service."

For her final arrival at the UK Naval Support Facility, Lancaster was greeted by Fleet Commander Vice Admiral Steve Moorhouse, who commanded the ship between 2011 and 2013, and the Royal Navy's senior officer in the Middle East, UK Maritime Component Commander Commodore Ben Aldous.

"Having had the privilege of commanding Lancaster myself, it is deeply poignant to be onboard for her final port entry after 34 years of outstanding service – almost double her original 18-year lifespan. Her operational output has been exceptional, particularly during her final three years in the Middle East supporting allies and partners," Admiral Moorhouse said. "I pay particular tribute to the ship's company for their professionalism and their families for their unwavering support as we prepare the ship for disposal and look to return personnel to the UK for Christmas."

Lancashire Day 27th November

November 27th 1295 was the historic day when Lancashire's first elected representatives were summoned by King Edward I to Westminster to attend what later became known as 'The Model Parliament'. The official day has been celebrated since 1996, the year after the 700th anniversary when the MP for Bolton, Peter Thurnham, mooted the idea in Parliament. Our Association member Sir Lindsay Hoyle celebrated the day on his Facebook page (right) with the Lancashire MPs, many of whom our committee met last year in The Speaker's Chambers.



Lindsay Hoyle · Follow

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🌹 Happy Lancashire Day ~ the red rose county, the greatest county!... See more



Pictured left is the Town Crier of Darwen who, surely, did not miss the opportunity to declare the Lancashire Day proclamation: *To the people of the city and county palatine of Lancaster, greetings! Know ye that this day, November 27th in the year of our Lord Two Thousand and twenty five, the third year of the reign of His Majesty King Charles III, Duke of Lancaster, is Lancashire Day! Know ye also, and rejoice, that by virtue of His Majesty's County Palatine of Lancaster, the citizens of the Hundreds of Lonsdale, North and South of the Sands, Amounderness, Leyland, Blackburn, Salford and West Derby are forever entitled to style themselves Lancastrians. Throughout the County Palatine, from the Furness Fells to the River Mersey, from the Irish Sea to the Pennines, this day shall ever mark the people's pleasure in that excellent distinction - true Lancastrians, proud of the Red Rose and loyal to our Sovereign Duke. GOD BLESS LANCASHIRE AND GOD SAVE THE KING, DUKE OF LANCASTER.*

And, wow, did you manage to read that without shouting in your head?



Thanks to Association committee member Adrian Waddingham, some of us had the opportunity to celebrate Lancashire Day at The Guild Hall. Adrian is also Master of The Guild of Freeman of The City of London this year and presided over a fish & chip supper and Lancashire Day quiz, with the prize being a Lancashire Bomb. If you didn't know, this is a spherical cheese coated in black wax, making it visually distinctive. Guild Hall security had never heard of it.

L to R; Simon Harris, Andy Lees, Angela and Adrian Waddingham, Janet Hails. Front row; Jim Collier, David Roberts and Erica Stary. Most of us will be standing for re-election to the committee at the AGM on 12th January so please come along and vote, details on the back page. The Lancastrians team failed to win the quiz by one point but Janet had been co-opted by the Actuaries, who did win and Janet took home the cheese.



Guild of
Freemen

Lancashire Day Quiz



New Members



Justin Van Wijngaarden. Born in Lancashire.

Lynda Almond. Retired midwife, born in St Helens.

Prof. John Schofield. Educated at Manchester Grammer School, mother born in Bury.

The 134th Annual General Meeting, Monday 12th January 2026 will start at 6:30 pm in the Gascoigne room at the Union Jack Club, Sandell Street London SE1 8UJ. There is no cost to join us but if you make a late decision to attend it would be helpful if you could advise us, then your name will added to the guest list held by the reception desk. You can use the email address at the foot of this page. It is, However, too late to join the meal after the AGM as the deadline to book it has passed.

This quarterly newsletter is sent to 214 email addresses at little cost. However, we spend over £1000 annually to print and distribute to members receiving it by post. Your annual subscription of £20 keeps the Association afloat but please consider raising it to £25 if you wish to continue receiving a printed copy through your letterbox. As your subscription is paid by Standing Order, the committee do not have the ability to amend it.



The agenda for the AGM and accompanying papers are issued with this newsletter.

The Association lost a good servant and friend when Elizabeth Stanton Jones died after a long illness on 5th November 2025. She had married David Jones in 1995 who was a member and proud Lancastrian. Elizabeth's son Nicholas kindly let us have his memories of her connection with the Association of Lancastrians in London: *My mother, I think, declared herself to be a Lancastrian by marriage although she would also have known that her mother trained as a nurse at Pendlebury Children's Hospital in Manchester in the 1930s and she might well have thought that also counted as a connection. The various events organised by the Lancastrians were a very important part of her and David's social calendar for many years and she made real and lasting friendships through the Association. The last formal social event which my mother attended was a dinner organised by the Lancastrians at Armourers Hall in the City. I think this must have been in 2022. She took my wife and me along with her. The guest of honour was Sir Lindsey Hoyle, the Speaker of the House of Commons. But as a steady stream of Lancastrians came and sat and talked with my mother at various points during the meal I did slightly worry that Mr Speaker might think he'd been supplanted.*

Elizabeth's funeral was held at St Pancras Church on 10th December in the ward where she stood as a candidate in the 2014 and 2018 elections. Former Lancastrians committee member and newsletter editor Jenny Murray said "We gave her a right good send off".

ELIZABETH STANTON JONES

23rd March 1944 – 5th November 2025



David & Elizabeth Stanton Jones welcoming us to the The Queen's Chapel of the Savoy

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