



LANCASTRIANS IN LONDON

Patron: His Majesty THE KING, Duke of Lancaster
President: Lady Arden of Heswall

NEWSLETTER - No. 177 SUMMER 2026

Lancastriansinlondon.uk

Events 2026 / 2027

Wednesday 2nd September. Middlesex v Lancashire. County cricket match at Merchant Taylor's school

Monday 21st September (12:30pm) Fish & Chips Lunch with annual quiz, Doggetts Coat & Badge.

Monday 28th September (2:00pm) Walk. Blackfriars to Westminster.

Friday 18 December Carol Service at Savoy Chapel followed by Christmas Dinner at Athenaeum Club.

Monday 8 March 2027 AGM at Union Jack Club.



Annual Dinner Lincoln's Inn, Old Hall - 17th April 2026

A resounding success, Enjoyed by one hundred diners with a superb guest speaker, Dame Karen Pierce, former UK ambassador to the USA.

The evening also co-incided with Lord Hacking's 88th birthday. To mark this occasion, our president, Lady Arden of Heswall, presented our two-times former president with life membership of the Association. (Left)

Dame Karen, being welcomed in the picture below, spoke of attending Penwortham Girls Grammar School (south of Preston) which also nurtured Dame Sue Iron, engineer and nuclear power expert, and Dame Nancy Rothwell a neuro scientist. Dame Karen became a nuclear physicist although, she told us, her first ambition was to be a fighter pilot.



By the permission of King Charles II, there is a tradition at Lincoln's Inn that the loyal toast is made without standing. We toasted our patron Charles III as 'The King- Duke of Lancaster' swiftly followed by the toasts to the county palatine and to the Association and our guests. Sitting to do this was most welcome so soon after dinner. We did stand for grace at the commencement of our meal as, in the view of our treasurer William Arnold, God trumped King Charles II.





A recent publication *Britain Begins* by Sir Barry Cunliffe was gifted to Dame Karen at the dinner, chosen by Adrian Waddingham who added his own recent book *First Kings*. In *First Kings* Adrian was keen to point out that some of the action takes place in Lancashire/Cumbria. Indeed Athelstan became first king of England at Dacre Monastery, just south of Penrith on 12th July 927 - 1,100 years ago next year. Adrian added, "*One of the first things Athelstan did was to purchase the Amounderness estate (the Fylde) which he then donated to the Archbishop of York to show who was boss and as a way of increasing his acceptance in York. To this day I don't think York ever appreciated it.*"



Pauline Bown, left, was mentioned in the last newsletter as the nurse from Blackburn who trained at St Bart's hospital and was married at St Bartholomew's the Great. She also owned two plates created in 1981 to commemorate the presence of HM The Queen at a reception organised by the Association of Lancastrians in London. Pictured with Pauline (and the conversation piece on the top table at Lincoln's Inn above) is the plate that belonged to her mother-in-law. Pauline told me that Mrs Bown Senior was overjoyed at the opportunity to meet the Queen and continued; "*For the occasion my mother-in-law bought some long gloves from the best shop she could find and kept them unused until the special day. Upon arriving at the Middle Temple Hall the gloves were put on, only to find there were two left hands. The rest of the evening was spent with her right hand behind her back and dreading that Her Majesty The Queen would offer her a handshake.*"

Coniston Water



Lancashire Post

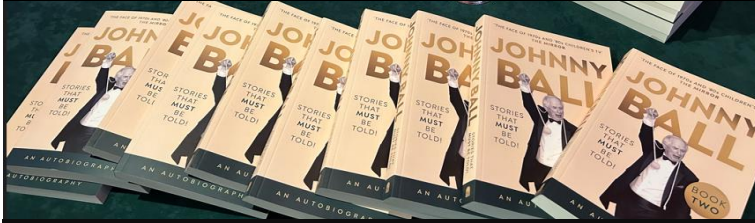
13 May •

Today's big picture is of the restored Bluebird K7, which crashed killing Donald Campbell in 1967, taking to the water in Coniston during the Bluebird K7 Festival, which marks the 70th anniversary of Campbell's water speed successes on Coniston.

Photo: Owen Humphreys/PA



Another Book Launch



Former Association president Johnny Ball launched his thirteenth publication at the Magic Circle on 2nd April and a few of our members were able to join him and get their copy signed.

On page 49 of *Stories That Must Be Told, Book Two*, Johnny tells us of a former boss he had from Lancashire. Edward Barnes was Head of BBC Children's Television when his proud father introduced him to his friends at Wigan Conservative Club "Here's my lad. He's done well in London. He's now Head of BBC Children's Television!" As they shuffled their dominoes, one chap muttered, "Aye, well, anyone can make it in London. Tha's only up against bloody idiots!"

Right, Johnny signs a copy for Adrian Waddingham who gets a mention at the end of the book as he introduced Johnny to the Lancastrians in London to succeed him as president in 2019.



Morecambe Bay

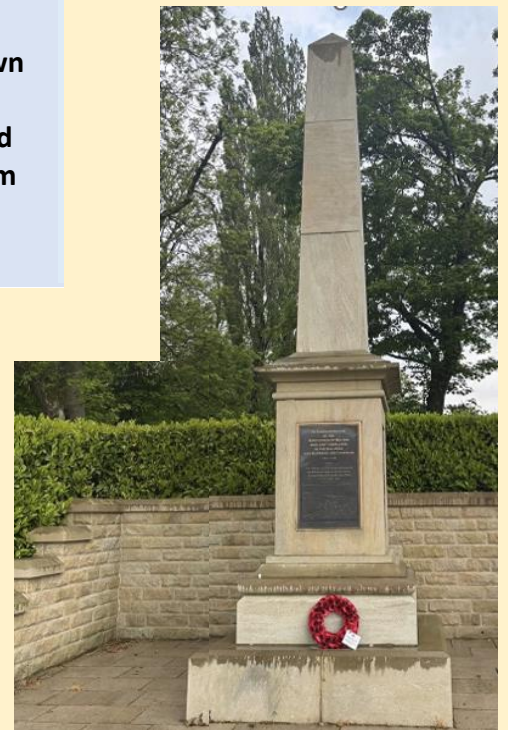


A novel way to celebrate the 100th birthday of Sir David Attenborough in May was a sand sculpture on Morecambe Beach. The image of Sir David's face is supported by the quote 'We often talk of saving the planet, but the truth is that we must do these things to save ourselves'.

This 60-metre tribute was created by an artistic team called *Sand In Your Eye*, known for creating large-scale sand sculptures, sand drawings and ice art. That should keep them busy all year round in Morecambe.

Bolton, Queen's Park

2026 marks 110 years since The Battle of Gallipoli in World War One. During the battle The Lancashire Fusiliers lost 1,060 soldiers. On the 100th anniversary of Gallipoli the 20-foot sandstone obelisk, pictured right, was donated by the Armstrongs Group, headquartered at Pilkinton's Quarry in Horwich, to commemorate the 236 men from Bolton that the council identified as having lost their lives during the battle. Their names are listed on the central brass plaque. Whilst this large Gallipoli memorial is in Bolton, the main regimental war memorial for the Lancashire Fusiliers is in Gallipoli Gardens, next to the Fusilier Museum in Bury. More about that on the next page.

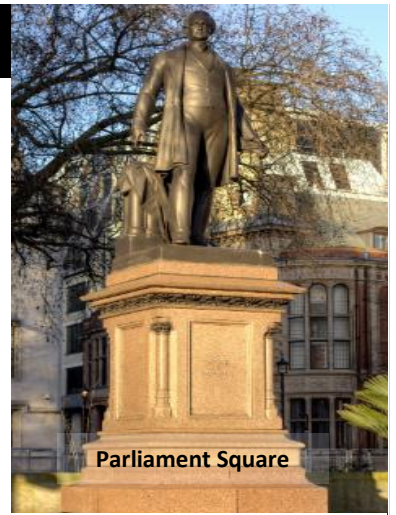




Bury, Market Place

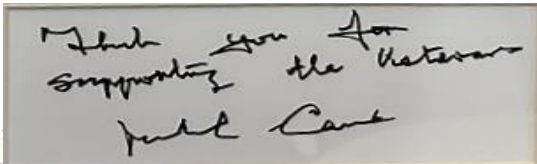
Bury

Our Winter newsletter featured Emaline Pankhurst as a Lancastrian with statues in Lancashire and London and the next such Lancastrian has been identified by member Mave Turner. Sir Robert Peel, twice the UK Prime Minister and regarded as the father of modern British policing. He stands proudly in Parliament Square and also Market Place, Bury, his birth town.



Parliament Square

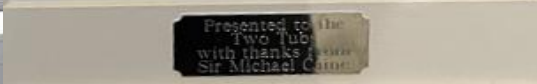
To the right of Peel (above left, in Bury) is a pub called The Two Tubs. This Grade II listed gem is also listed in the Good Beer Guide. It is located next to the Fusiliers' barracks and it's support for military veterans created a great London/Lancashire story on the BBC News last year, Sir Michael Caine being the connection. The Hollywood A-listed star with the cockney accent became famous with *Zulu* in 1964 playing a Fusilier captain fighting the Zulus in the Boer War. His own military service was also with the Fusiliers in the 1950's. When he heard of the pub's support for veterans he sent the signed pictures from *Zulu* that you can see on the left of the picture below in the military room at the pub.



'Thank you for supporting the veterans'

The plate below the hand writing reads:

Presented to the Two Tubs with thanks from Sir Michael Caine



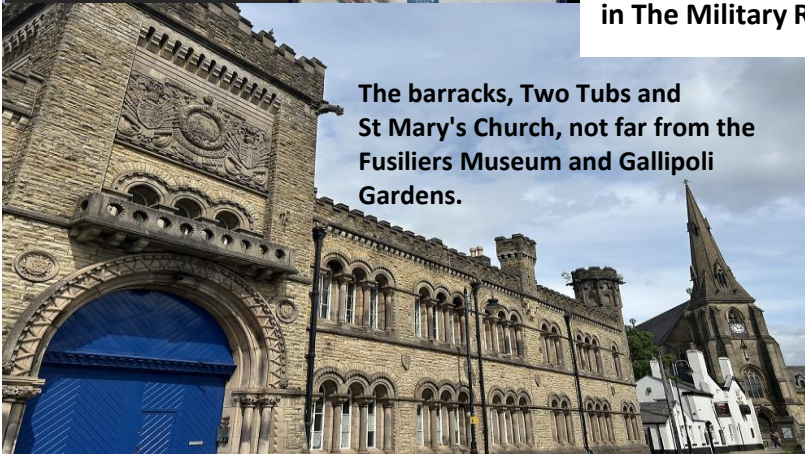
The Military Room at The Two Tubs



Donna Haslam
Landlady, The Two Tubs

Donna Haslam, Asst. Hon. Secretary of Fusiliers' Association XX the Lancashire Fusiliers, and Landlady, told the BBC she was "absolutely blown away" when she received the signed pictures. (She told me that she wasn't expecting the BBC to arrive and had just dropped mayonnaise on her top - hence the position of the gift in the BBC coverage, pictured left.)

Sir Michael, now 93, looks happy (below) with the picture he received of the Bury veterans. The veterans meet every Monday in The Military Room. *Not a lot of people know that.*



The barracks, Two Tubs and St Mary's Church, not far from the Fusiliers Museum and Gallipoli Gardens.





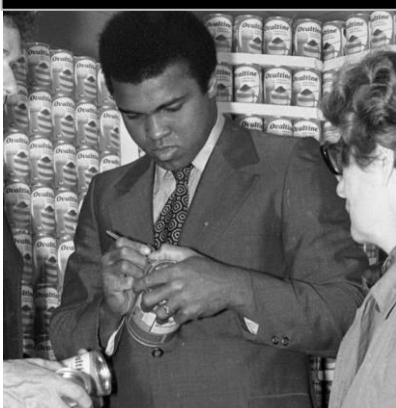
Asgill House, Richmond, is a Grade I listed 18th-century villa. The house is on the former site of the Tudor Richmond Palace and was built in 1757–58 by Sir Robert Taylor as a weekend villa beside the Thames for the merchant banker Sir Charles Asgill, Lord Mayor of London (1758). Until 1500 there was a palace on this site in the town of Sheen. King Henry VIII replaced it with a new palace and as he was the Earl of Richmond (Yorkshire) he used Richmond as the name for it. The town of East Sheen remains as well as an area known as North Sheen, both in the London Borough of Richmond upon Thames.



The House was returned to its original appearance in a restoration that started in 1970 by the then-leaseholder Fred Hauptfuhrer, including the removal of the Victorian extensions. The Hauptfuhrers have been long-term occupiers of the house but, in the 1980's, Crown Estates advised that the house could be preserved best by the set up of a trust. Our former president, Lord Lee, is an Asgill House trustee and committee member Geoff Acton is a 'Friend' of Asgill House. This connection with the Lancastrians enabled us to tour the house and gardens, led by Pettina Hauptfuhrer, to whom we are grateful, pictured at the centre of our party.

We lunched in Tide Tables cafe under the trees by Richmond Bridge (highly recommended) and some of us finished the day at the riverside White Cross pub where the 16:30 high-tide flooded the tow-path and kept us in there against our will. Or maybe not.

Stretford



Mohammed Ali visited Lancashire in 1971 but why Stretford? Did he open the Arndale Centre? What was he doing in Tesco? The answer is that he was promoting his favourite drink - Ovaltine! After his tin-signing session he travelled south to the Ovaltine factory in King's Langley, Hertfordshire.





The Earl of Lathom was the Association's 2nd president, from 1894 to 1898. He was the first to propose a benevolent aim and suggested a fund 'to cement the bond of fellowship between members'. His first idea was to fund a boy for a scholarship at a Lancashire school. Since then we have continued to send the fruits of our investment fund to Lancashire charities benefiting children. This year we have donated £1,000 to each of six organisations. Here are three of them.



Delph Side Primary School Skelmersdale

Nominated by member Cerys Smye-Rumsby. *'Skelmersdale, West Lancashire, is my home town. The life-expectancy here is seven years less than other parts of the borough. It has, however, always been rich in happy successful primary schools and also has a thriving arts and community scene.'*

'My husband taught in a variety of Lancashire primary schools and in retirement is a governor at Delph Side in one of the 'rougher' estates. This turned out to be a very fruitful time, as the school is an amazing oasis for the children and staff of that community.'

More info at: www.delphside.lancs.sch.uk

'Lancastrians in London have been kind enough to provide £1,000 to purchase a swing at the brand new twenty-place SEN unit funded by Lancashire County Council who are aware of the added benefits the school provides. Headteacher Liz Ormerod said that the swing would help towards emotional regulation for children with Autism.' (As shown above and also enjoyed by the Deputy Head).



Manchester Grammar School

Nominated by Lancastrians committee member Geoff Acton. The Hibbitt Centre is named after a former pupil who contributed most of the £10m cost. It is a sixth-form centre with a cafeteria, known as the Butty Bar. Geoff attended the official opening on Friday 12th June hosted by Headmaster Martin Boulton and attended by many of the donors including Geoff, representing The Lancastrians in London.

Lea Community Primary School

Nominated by committee member Simon Moyle. The school's Business Manager, Sophie Inman, wrote: *'The generous donation to purchase bicycles for our primary school, located in an area of high deprivation, has had a significant and positive impact on our children and has helped remove barriers to accessing our cycling curriculum. Now every child can benefit regardless of their socioeconomic background.'*



We are sad to learn of the death of member John Beveridge who worked at the BBC and was a devotee of Morecambe Winter Gardens.

Newsletter editor Jim Collier, email: j.collier@ntlworld.com

New Members

Jane Voirrey. Retired teacher from Liverpool. **Bret Dixon.** Incoming president of the Law Society. Born in Burnley. **Linda Taylor.** Retired Chief Executive. Born in Blackpool, schooled in Lytham St Annes and worked in Chorley. **Simon Brickles.** Regulatory Adviser, Lawyer. **Alan Dodd** from Bolton. Retired Charity Chief Executive Officer and Master WCO Tylers & Bricklayers. **Stephen Bolton** from Urmston, Retired Operations Director.