



# DUCHY of LANCASTER

1 Lancaster Place, Strand, London WC2E 7ED

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## Welcome



As custodian of 18,454 hectares of land across England and Wales, the Duchy is in the unique position of being able to take a long-term approach and is committed to

protecting the lands under its stewardship.

We have worked alongside many generations of tenants since the 13th century and it is important that we continue to work in partnership to preserve the land and its natural assets for generations to come.

We have recently announced a student bursary scheme to support the future of Britain's farming industry, making a career in agriculture more accessible to a wider group of young people. Our new Beekeeping Grant, launched in April, aims to tackle the country's rapidly declining bee population, important for both the farming industry and the environment as a whole.

In recent months we have completed a £2million residential development in Harrogate and in Blackburn we have acquired two distribution warehouses as part of our commercial property investment strategy. Wellington House, a commercial property holding in London and Crewe Hall Farm Buildings are now fully let following significant restoration. We are delighted to welcome over thirty new tenants to the Duchy in the recent past.

Finally, we have introduced some new faces to the Duchy in recent months to strengthen our team and help us achieve our vision for the future. I am delighted to formally welcome them into the fold.

It is an honour to work for the Duchy and I have taken great pleasure in meeting some of you since my appointment last year. I very much look forward to meeting more of you in the months ahead.

**Nathan Thompson, chief executive of the Duchy of Lancaster**

## Duke of Lancaster attends Maundy service at Blackburn Cathedral



'Picture courtesy Church of England in Lancashire'

The Queen made her first ever visit to Blackburn Cathedral in April to hand out Maundy money to 176 pensioners in recognition of their service to the local community and the church.

Accompanied by His Royal Highness, the Duke of Edinburgh, Her Majesty was greeted at Blackburn railway station by Lord Shuttleworth, the Lord Lieutenant of Lancashire and Chairman of the Council of the Duchy of Lancaster, before being driven down Church Street to the Cathedral for the service.

The 176 pensioners, consisting of 88 men and 88 women – the figure reflecting Her Majesty's age – were each presented with a red purse of money and a white purse of silver Maundy coins.

This year the red purse contained a £5 coin commemorating the 300th anniversary

of Queen Anne's reign and a 50p coin commemorating the 20th Commonwealth Games in Glasgow this summer.

Historically, the red purse contains a modest allowance for clothing, provisions and the redemption of the Sovereign's gown, while the white purse contains uniquely minted Maundy money.

Members of the royal family have taken part in Maundy ceremonies since the 13th Century, handing out money and gifts to celebrate the Last Supper and recall Christ's simple act of humility, by washing the feet of His disciples. However, Maundy money as we know it today was first handed out during the reign of Charles II in 1662.

After the ceremony Her Majesty spent time with religious and civic dignitaries at Ewood Park, the home of Blackburn Rovers Football Club, before attending a civic lunch.

## High speed internet connection at Crewe Hall Farm Buildings



> Crewe Hall Farm Buildings

Commercial tenants at Crewe Hall Farm Buildings are now able to access high speed broadband thanks to the Duchy of Lancaster.

The Duchy has invested in a new system to give tenants excellent connection to the internet, in an area where it was traditionally hard to access. Following this investment the Duchy has let all the available space.

Paul Hutchinson, the Duchy's representative in Crewe, said: "In making a significant investment in broadband infrastructure the Duchy has recognised the importance of, and current lack of, broadband provision in the countryside. Crewe Hall Farm Buildings offers an exceptional working environment and we have offered flexible terms in response to the needs of our tenants."

Set within self-contained, landscaped grounds, the historic development was originally built over 120 years ago as a model farm to serve nearby Crewe Hall.

## Mark is Cream of the crop

Duchy of Lancaster farm tenant Mark Verity celebrated winning an award at the 2013 Farm Business Cream Awards.

Mark, who with his family manages a herd of 300 cows at Radholme Laund Farm, near Clitheroe in Lancashire, was named as the winner of the Health and Welfare Award, sponsored by DairyCo.

The Cream Awards celebrate excellence and innovation across the UK dairy industry.

# The Duchy of Lancaster appoints first ever female Constable of Lancaster Castle

Lancaster Castle has a female Constable for the first time since records began.

Former headteacher of Lancaster Girls Grammar School, Mrs Pam Barker, has been appointed as the new Constable of Lancaster Castle by Her Majesty the Queen as Duke of Lancaster.

The Constable of Lancaster Castle is an ancient appointment dating back to the 13th Century and Mrs Barker, who succeeds Mr Gordon Johnson is, as far as can be ascertained, the first woman to hold the position.

The Constable is required to formally offer the keys of the castle to Her Majesty on the occasion of a royal visit.

Mr Johnson's last significant function as Constable was to officiate at the opening of the gates of the castle to the public in spring 2013, following the departure of HM Prison Service.

The Constable is appointed by Her Majesty as Duke of Lancaster for a term of five years and may be reappointed once for a further term of five years.



> Pam Barker, Constable of Lancaster Castle

Mrs Barker said: "I am looking forward to getting out into the community, including working with schools around the district to let them know about the castle, its history and its exciting future."

Lancaster Castle is open daily with guided tours and special events held throughout the year.

## Strong first year for Root Farm

Root Farm Holiday Cottage in the Duchy of Lancaster's Lancashire Survey has enjoyed a strong first year of trading.

The Duchy has made a significant investment in developing the detached holiday cottage, which is set in the Forest of Bowland and forms part of the Duchy's Whitewell Estate in Lancashire.

The eco-friendly cottage, built with timber frames and traditional stone cladding, lies within walking distance of Dunsop Bridge, which is recognised as the geographic centre of Great Britain.

Simon Waller, the Duchy's representative in Lancashire, said: "We have had excellent occupancy rates since opening in June 2013 and the cottage is proving to be very popular with families and couples. This should really be no surprise as it has been built to the highest specifications and is set in one of the UK's most scenic areas."

➔ For booking enquiries visit [www.english-country-cottages.co.uk](http://www.english-country-cottages.co.uk)

## Four appointments at Duchy

The Duchy of Lancaster has welcomed four new senior appointments to the staff at its office in London.

Mike Andrews joins as head of commercial property, Graeme Chalk as head of project management, Neil Hall as a development planning consultant and John Whitehurst as consultant for commercial property investments in the North West.

Nathan Thompson said: "The Duchy of Lancaster comprises a diverse portfolio of properties and it is important they are managed responsibly, sustainably and in accordance with the organisation's unique cultural heritage. Mike, Graeme, Neil and John will bring extensive experience which will both complement the existing management and help support the Duchy's future plans."



## Duchy unveils Harrogate apartments



> *The Duchy's new residential development in Harrogate*

Apartments at the Duchy's new residential development in Harrogate have been placed on the market to let.

The Duchy of Lancaster has invested £2million in a sustainable development at 11 Ripon Road, which comprises 13 one and two bedroom apartments in two buildings.

Granville House is a Victorian building which has been converted from its former use as offices, while Villiers House is a three-storey new build complex.

Prospective tenants are now able to register their interest with letting agents Linley & Simpson, with the apartments available to let from September.

Each apartment will be finished to a very high standard and tenants will also benefit from landscaped communal areas and allocated parking spaces.

Both buildings have strong green credentials, with high performance double glazing, high efficiency and low emission boilers, and LED lighting.

The buildings have been named in honour of 19th century Duchy Chancellors, Sir Granville George Leveson-Gower and George Villiers, who strongly championed the growth of Harrogate as an upmarket spa town.

## Beekeeping grant launched

The Duchy of Lancaster has launched a new Beekeeping Grant to encourage its farm tenants to support the country's rapidly declining bee population.

The Duchy is offering start-up support for tenants or interested parties who wish to take up beekeeping on its land. The grant will provide aid for the equipment required to begin keeping bees as well as to cover the cost of training courses delivered by the network of local beekeeping associations and the British Beekeeping Association.

In recent years the number of beekeepers in the UK has declined and bees are reducing in number. Bees are very important to the agriculture industry and the wider environment.

Nathan Thompson, chief executive of the Duchy of Lancaster, said: "As custodian of the land with significant interest in the long-term viability of the countryside, we are seeking means to help promote bees and beekeeping within our Surveys."

## Supporting farming families

The Duchy continues to support farming families, with the re-letting of Hodder Bank Farm in Whitewell.

Several very good proposals were received following a closed tender exercise, undertaken by managing agent Smiths Gore, with existing farm tenants on the Whitewell Estate being invited to tender for the holding.

After careful consideration, the successful applicants were the Coar family, who also hold the tenancy of 190-acre Higher Lees Farm.

Frank and Ruth Coar and their sons Stephen and Richard will use Hodder Bank Farm for additional capacity, particularly for dairy followers and replacements coming into the main herd at Higher Lees.

Hodder Bank Farm, which had previously been run as a dairy holding, comprises of 323 acres of grassland with a farmhouse and a good range of buildings. Stephen Coar and his fiancé will live at Hodder Bank when the current house refurbishment is complete.

We wish the Coar family the very best for success in their new expanded business.



> *The Duchy is keen to help the country's declining bee population*

"As one of the main hindrances for aspiring beekeepers is the associated start-up cost, we are proposing to offer a grant to cover the initial cost should any of the Duchy's tenants wish to keep bees. The Beekeeping Grant will cover a beginners course officiated by a beekeeping association, essential equipment including a hive, safety wear and honey extractor, as well as the first swarm of bees which will be used to begin honey production."

This year's Beekeeping Grant has been oversubscribed and funds are now allocated for the first wave of interested parties.

➔ **Any tenants of the Duchy of Lancaster interested in finding out more about future Beekeeping Grants can contact Ann Farrell by writing to: Ann Farrell, The Duchy of Lancaster, 1 Lancaster Place, Strand, London WC2E 7ED**

## Students set for agriculture award scheme

A new award scheme offered by the Duchy of Lancaster is supporting the next generation of farmers.

The bursary scheme – which provides grants of up to £2,500 – is available for students taking degree courses in agriculture at Harper Adams University, Shropshire, or Myerscough College in Lancashire.

The awards have been set up as part of our commitment to the future of the farming industry. The Duchy of Lancaster is committed to protecting the viability of our agricultural land holdings and one of the key ways we can do this is by supporting the next generation of farmers.

In addition to the bursary scheme, the Duchy of Lancaster Benevolent Fund will continue to provide annual grants to Myerscough College, to be distributed to students, as a reflection of their academic achievements, who are in need of additional financial support. The Duchy of Lancaster will also continue to sponsor two attendees at the Oxford Farming Conference every year.



## Getting to know...

Jayne and John Pickup,  
Scalby Lodge Holiday Cottages

**Q: What is your role within the Duchy of Lancaster?**

Jayne: I manage and run the 15 holiday cottages here at Scalby Lodge, while John looks after the gardens and does a variety of maintenance work.

**Q: What does a typical day entail?**

John: Gardening, gardening and more gardening for me! Jayne looks after all the management aspects, so taking bookings, doing administration and meeting and greeting guests is all part of a day's work.

**Q: What do you love about your job?**

Jayne: We both have our dream jobs. It is a privilege to work for the Duchy of Lancaster in such a stunning area of the country and John and I are very happy. We both enjoy meeting

the guests and making sure they have a fantastic holiday.

**Q: What do you do to relax?**

John: I enjoy fishing and watching Scarborough Cricket Club and Scarborough Rugby Club in the winter. Jayne loves going on walks as this area has so many beautiful trails.

**Q: Who would be your ideal dinner guest and what would you cook for them?**

Jayne: John's would be Clare Balding as he's sport mad and she's so knowledgeable. I would chose my late father – he was a World War Two veteran and I only knew him for a couple of years of my adult life. I think all veterans are inspiring. I would cook home-made pâté to start, beef bourguignon with home-grown vegetables for main and rhubarb pie with custard for dessert.



**Q: What would you do if you won the lottery?**

John: Buy Leeds United Football Club.  
Jayne: He'll have to get a separate ticket then! I think we'd look after family and friends and buy a traditional farmhouse with a large kitchen and stables as I'd love to have a donkey.

# HMS Lancaster

*Pride of the Royal Navy*

HMS Lancaster reported an extremely busy calendar in 2013, which culminated in HMS Lancaster being presented with the Frigate Effectiveness Trophy by Rear Admiral Duncan Potts (ACNS Capability) for continuing to perform to the highest standards.

This year also got off to a flying start with HMS Lancaster spending several weeks taking part in warfare and navigation training exercises in the English Channel. The operations have helped to train the next generation of

Principal Warfare Officers and Navigators who will soon join ships throughout the Royal Navy.

HMS Lancaster was honoured with a special visit from The Duke of Lancaster. Her Majesty the Queen visited the ship during its recent docking in Portsmouth in May and met members of the ship's company before having a private lunch on board. The Duke of Lancaster is the ship's sponsor and takes a keen interest in her operations around the globe.



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