

# DUCHY of LANCASTER

1 Lancaster Place, Strand, London WC2E 7ED

## NEWSLETTER

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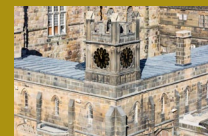
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## Welcome



> Nathan Thompson, CEO

Restoration and renewal has been the theme of much of the Duchy's activity over the last 12 months, with £2m of planned preventative maintenance completed and key historic buildings refurbished.

We take our guardianship of the historic properties in the Duchy portfolio very seriously and believe that the improvements made this year have helped to protect and preserve the Duchy's assets for future generations. I am delighted to report that the feedback from tenants has been extremely positive and we will continue with this programme of investment in the years ahead.

We have also been working with some of our farming tenants to look at new and innovative ways to grow their businesses. We have supported their endeavours to use new technologies and energy sources to improve sustainability. We have also responded to concerns regarding succession planning and ambitions for expansion, taking a creative approach to ensure viable long-term solutions that are acceptable to all parties.

Care of the countryside and the natural environment remains a key principle for the Duchy. We have commissioned a comprehensive bio-diversity audit across our estates to help us identify, classify and protect the diverse habitats that exist on Duchy land.

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## 'The Queen, Duke of Lancaster!'



> Torch relay from courtyard to rooftop



> Commemorative beacons at the Castle

While the country celebrated the 90th birthday of Her Majesty the Queen earlier this year, the Duchy of Lancaster had cause for a double celebration. The Queen is now the longest serving Duke of Lancaster in the Duchy's 750-year history. A commemorative beacon-lighting ceremony was held at Lancaster Castle to mark the occasion,

where the Lord-Lieutenant of Lancashire lit the beacon and proposed the Loyal Lancastrian Toast: 'The Queen, Duke of Lancaster'. The lit beacon was relayed to the roof of the Castle Gatehouse by the Lord-Lieutenant's Cadet Daniel Wade, flanked by members of the Queen's Own Regiment and cadets from Stonyhurst College.



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Our commercial portfolio continues to grow following further acquisitions this year. In addition, we are refurbishing warehouses and office buildings in London and the Midlands.

I hope that all Duchy tenants will feel that they have had more direct contact with the management team this year. First-class information systems are key to the success of any business and a direct dialogue with our tenants is key to informing those of us who are responsible for the day-to-day management of the Duchy estates

**Nathan Thompson, Chief Executive of the Duchy of Lancaster**

## Bio-diversity audit



> Jubilee Wood, Cheshire

The Duchy of Lancaster has commissioned a bio-diversity audit across all of its rural holdings in England and Wales. Working in partnership with Natural England and the Game and Wildlife Conservation Trust, the audit will take two years to complete and will culminate in an action plan for protection and conservation to be implemented in 2019. The Duchy's rural estates include an extraordinary breadth of habitats, including woodland, water courses, grassland, arable farmland, hedgerows, field margins, moorland, foreshore and more formal landscapes.

We are keen to support national ecological initiatives, particularly those which encourage the survival of natural pollinators and protected species. This audit will allow us to review existing habitats and accurately identify the wide variety of species that currently exist in these different environments.

We recognise that our farming tenants have good local knowledge of the Duchy land which they farm and we hope therefore that they will take an active role in this initiative to help ensure that a sound ecological balance is maintained at all times.



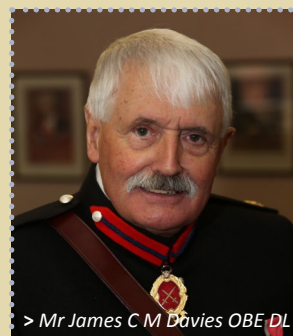
> Protecting pollinators



> Mr John M Barnett MBE DL



> Lady Joy Smith DL



> Mr James C M Davies OBE DL

## New High Sheriffs

In April three new High Sheriffs were appointed across the County Palatine by Her Majesty the Queen as Duke of Lancaster. Mr John M Barnett MBE DL is serving as High Sheriff of Lancashire, Lady Joy Smith DL as High Sheriff of Greater Manchester and Mr James C M Davies OBE DL is High Sheriff of Merseyside. Each will serve for a 12-month period until April 2017 and all three are supported by Mr David Cam DL, Under-Sheriff for the

County Palatine.

The office of High Sheriff is one of Britain's oldest, continuous secular appointments, dating back to Saxon times (circa 600 AD) when the 'Shire Reeve' was responsible to the King for the maintenance of law and order within a county, as well as the collection and return of taxes. Today the role is largely ceremonial and focused on support for local good causes through charitable work.

## Seashell Trust

In the North West, the Benevolent Fund is supporting the valuable work of the Seashell Trust and its bursary scheme for residential short breaks. Designed for families in crisis, the Trust is the first charity in the UK to offer this type of respite care. The scheme will provide short breaks for the families of profoundly disabled children and young people aged between 3 and 25 years.



> Seashell Trust offers residential breaks

## Taste of Honey



> Prize-winning honey

Following the receipt of a Duchy bee-keeping grant last year, tenant Debbie Green recently won her local beekeeper association's Cooper Cup for her honey, in the category of the best new exhibitor beekeeper. The nectar and pollen from which the honey was made was gathered from flowers grown specifically for bees and butterflies at Town Farm on the Duchy's Cloughton Estate in Yorkshire.

## Primus 104



> Primus 104, Birmingham

The Duchy of Lancaster has recently refurbished a purpose-built industrial/warehouse unit in one of the country's most central locations. Primus 104 is a large, premium quality warehouse, with associated offices and a large delivery yard, located just 1.5 miles from junctions 5 and 6 of the M6 to the north of Birmingham city centre. Formerly home to British heating systems and boiler manufacturer Baxi who occupied the site since 2002, the refurbished premises has been relaunched as Primus 104. The 104,000 sq ft warehouse sits alongside other distribution and logistics centres of global brands such as Amazon, Jaguar Land Rover, Hermes, Stapletons and XPO Logistics.

## Moot Point



> (left to right): Barmaster Eddie Tenant, Duchy Solicitor Tim Crow, Jury Foreman Jim Rieuwerts and Steward Michael Cockerton

Mr Jim Rieuwerts became the longest continuously serving juror of the 700 year-old Great Barmote Court in May this year, having completed 50 years of service as a member of the jury and 14 of those as the foreman. This ancient Court was originally established in the 13th century to deal with disputes and claims arising from lead mining in the Peak District. It consists of the Steward, the Barmaster and 12 jury members and sits in the Duchy's Moot Hall, Wirksworth, Derbyshire.

The Duchy is not involved in the actual

running of the Court, but the Chancellor of the Duchy is responsible for the appointment of the Steward and the Barmaster on behalf of The Queen in Right of Her Duchy. The current Steward is Mr Michael Cockerton, who has been in post since 1983. In line with tradition, beer, bread and cheese are provided before the jury is called and each member of the jury is given a clay pipe. A replica clay pipe, mounted and framed in a display case, was presented by the Duchy to Mr Rieuwerts in recognition of his exceptional record of service.



> Tom Gardiner, Hadley Farm, Staffordshire

## Young Farmers

One of the Duchy's younger tenants has been chosen by the National Federation of Young Farmers to represent the UK on a trip to Waikato, New Zealand this autumn.

Nineteen-year old Tom Gardiner, who has grown up at Hadley Farm on the Needwood Estate in Staffordshire, will spend three months working on one of New Zealand's largest sheep, dairy and beef stations.

The trip is designed to help the next generation of farmers learn about farming methods in other countries. Tom is one of just four young farmers representing the UK on the trip.



# Savoy Street



> New offices, Savoy Estate, London

The Duchy has appointed award-winning architectural firm Morrow+Lorraine to redesign one of its prestige office suites on the ground floor of 9 Savoy Street, London. This will include the creation of a new, self-contained entrance onto the Embankment and the remodelling of the interior floorplate to transform it into a fully refurbished open plan space.

This iconic five-storey building overlooking the Thames at Waterloo Bridge, has remained

largely unaltered in terms of its external design since it was built in the early 1930s. Drawings exhibited at the Royal Academy in 1933, together with photographs dating back to 1932, show the full extent of the Art Deco styling to both the interior and exterior of the original property, known as Brettenham House.

The building is currently occupied by a number of commercial organisations and companies, including the administrative headquarters of the Duchy of Lancaster.

## Leading The Field



> The Verity family, Radholme Laund Farm, Lancashire

Duchy tenant Mark Verity, who lives at Radholme Laund Farm on the Whitewell Estate in Lancashire, was named Dairy Innovator of the Year in this year's British Farming Awards and has been shortlisted for Dairy Farmer of the Year by Farmers Weekly. Mark's father, Stuart Verity, took over the 243-hectare farm in 1976 and Mark has been a full partner in the business since leaving college in 2010. Employing contemporary farming methods he experienced first-hand in New Zealand, Mark has made a great success of the business which is now held up as an exemplar to other dairy farmers across the UK.

# Back To Life

A Cheshire landmark has been brought back to life thanks to a comprehensive programme of repair, refurbishment and restoration works.

Amicia Tenement on the Crewe Estate in Cheshire was originally built by Lord Crewe in the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century and named after his daughter, the Honourable Amicia Henrietta Milnes. Used by Lord Crewe as a private retreat from his formal residence at Crewe Hall, the property was acquired by the Duchy in the 1930s. Since then, it has been used as a private residence, corporate headquarters and an equestrian centre

before falling vacant at the end of 2015.

After a comprehensive programme of refurbishment works to bring this period property up to the new Duchy Design Standard, the team was able to unveil the finished product to the general public. Set in three and a half acres of garden and parkland with a commanding view over open countryside, its magnificent façade is now matched by the quality of the interior finish, creating a home that is designed for modern family life and a new chapter in its long and illustrious history.



> Amicia Tenement, Cheshire



> Castle clock tower restored

## Lancaster Castle

The regeneration of Lancaster Castle continues, with the restoration of the historic clock tower and workshops around the Chapel courtyard and the opening of a standing exhibition detailing the history of the Duchy. A new 'Prison Life' exhibition has been installed in the cells of the Pentonville-style 'A-Wing' which has now been opened to the public for the first time as part of the guided tours of the Castle. Remedial and repair works to the fabric of the historic buildings, including roofs, floors and stonework is ongoing and due for completion at the end of the year.

➔ For further information, visit our website: [www.lancastercastle.com](http://www.lancastercastle.com)

## Mountain Rescue



> The new Land Rover Defender

With the support of the Duchy of Lancaster Benevolent Fund, the Bowland Pennine Mountain Rescue Team has been able to

purchase a Land Rover Defender, complete with roll bars, decals, "blues & twos", radios and a stretcher bed. The off-road

vehicle is registered as an ambulance and can be reconfigured to carry a casualty over rough terrain.



> Flood evacuations in Lancashire

## Tenants Garden Party

Each year, guests from the Duchy of Lancaster are invited to one of the Garden Parties held at Buckingham Palace and attended by Her Majesty The Queen. A small number of tenants are then formally presented to the Royal Party and introduced to The Queen as Duke of Lancaster. This year, our guests included tenants from the Duchy's Southern Survey.



> Duchy tenants meet Her Majesty The Queen





## Getting to know...

Graeme Chalk,  
Head of Project Management



> Graeme Chalk, Head of Project Management

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

My role as Head of Project Management is quite diverse. I work closely with the rural surveying teams on the maintenance and improvement of our property portfolio, including the historic monuments and castles owned by the Duchy. As well as overseeing construction and development work, I am also responsible for the Duchy's foreshore and minerals Surveys.

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

It is a bit of a cliché, but I do not really have a typical day. I spend around 50 per cent of my time on the Surveys visiting properties and looking at development opportunities. The other 50 per cent is spent in the London office. No two days are ever the same!

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

Away from work, I like to travel and spend time with my wife and two grown-up children. I am also a huge rugby fan and try to spend time at my local rugby club where I have been both a coach and a referee over the past 15 years.

**Q: Who would your ideal dinner guest be?**

I have always been sports mad, but never really liked boxing. However, one huge personality that transcended the sport was Mohammed Ali. I would invite both him and Michael Parkinson along, just to watch them sparring verbally again. And to balance the numbers, I could always invite my wife - she loves 'Parky'!

**Q: What super-power would you most like to have?**

That one is easy! I would like to have the power to make perfect powder snow on demand. I love skiing and to be able to

create the perfect conditions whenever and wherever I went would be fantastic.

**Q: What is the best piece of advice you have ever received?**

'We all make mistakes, but don't make the same one twice'. This was given to me when I was a young graduate after I made a very costly mistake on a construction project. The person who gave me the advice was the one who had to clear up the mess I had made, so I never forgot it!



> Luxury holiday homes, Scalby Lodge, Yorkshire

## Luxury Retreats

The Duchy of Lancaster holiday cottages at Scalby Lodge near Scarborough have once again received a five-star rating and a Certificate of Excellence from

leading industry experts, Visit England and TripAdvisor. A number of the luxury properties have been refurbished this year and additional play and leisure facilities added.

Certificates of Excellence are offered for

the quality of the visitor experience on the basis of reviews and testimonials posted online.

For further information, visit our website [www.duchyoflancasterholidaycottages.co.uk](http://www.duchyoflancasterholidaycottages.co.uk)