

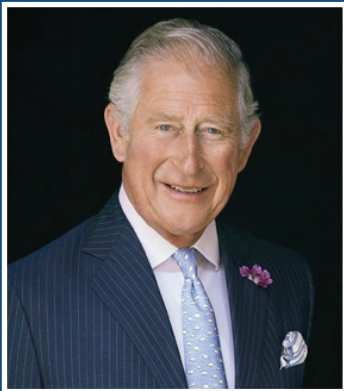


DUCHY of LANCASTER

Tenant Newsletter - Cheshire Survey

Welcome to the 2024 edition of our newsletter for tenants across the Cheshire Survey. We hope that you will find this a useful and informative read, and an opportunity to learn more about members of the wider Duchy family and community. Recent years have proved challenging for many, with first the Covid-19 pandemic and attendant lockdowns, then the extreme weather brought about as a result of climate change and now ongoing concerns around the spiralling cost of essentials such as food, fuel and fertiliser. However, by working together and supporting each other, we believe that can continue to make positive progress in critical areas such as our physical and mental health, emotional wellbeing and personal productivity.

HIS MAJESTY THE KING, DUKE OF LANCASTER



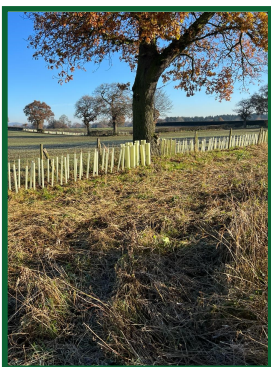
In September 2022, on His accession to the throne, His Majesty King Charles III also became Duke of Lancaster. As a lifelong advocate of environmental sustainability and caring for the land, the Duke is not only hugely knowledgeable about the theory of sustainability, but also has practical, first-hand experience of regenerative farming methodologies. He believes wholeheartedly that we have a duty of care both towards both the preservation of the planet and to the generations of people who will succeed us.

In June last year, on His first estate visit since the coronation, His Majesty met a number of His Duchy farming tenants from across The Duchy's Yorkshire estates. During the visit, He toured a number of farms and explored the surrounding

woodland. The Duke takes an active interest in the lives of His Duchy tenants and receives regular reports of your activities, ambitions and achievements. You will all be aware of His lifelong commitment to preserving and enhancing the natural world for future generations and you will be delighted to hear that He continues to care passionately about the environment. As The Duke of Lancaster, he will continue to actively encourage the introduction of sustainable farming practices to protect and improve the land for the long-term benefit of us all.



Hedge Restoration in Cheshire



We continue on our sustainability journey and, as part of this process, have been auditing our woodlands and hedgerows across the rural estates to identify any gaps. One of our first areas of focus has been the Crewe Estate, where we worked used the data generated by the biodiversity audit carried out in 2016 in partnership with Natural England and the Game and Wildlife Conservation Trust (GWCT) to identify eighteen hedges as requiring attention. We then shared this data with our tenants, who identified an additional ten areas which required new planting. As a result, almost four kilometres of hedgerow have been improved, newly planted or replaced, using a mix of hawthorn, field maple, hazel, holly, crab apple, dog rose and guelder rose.



As many of you know, Nathan Thompson CVO, has decided to stand down as CEO of the Duchy of Lancaster after 11 years at the helm. Nathan will hand over the reins to Alastair Martin, CVO in July 2024. Alastair is extremely knowledgeable, having served as Secretary and Keeper of the Records for the Duchy of Cornwall since 2013. In 2023, he joined the Duchy Council and currently chairs our Rural Committee. He is looking forward to meeting you all!





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Tenant Newsletter - Cheshire Survey

Meet the Team: We have appointed a new Senior Estates Surveyor, Peter Meadows, to lead the management of our Cheshire Survey. Peter, who joins us on 15th April 2024, will be supported by Robert Noblet-Stone and Dara Hunter Blair. Peter and Lydia Richards will work closely to ensure a smooth transition and handover of responsibilities. Please contact any member of the team if you have any queries or concerns regarding your tenancy or your property.



The Duchy Farming Family: Making Farming More Sustainable



As part of our ongoing drive to encourage knowledge-sharing and awareness of regenerative farming methodologies, we are organising a series of 'A Pie and A Pint' nights across our estates. These evenings are designed to provide tenants with a relaxed and convivial atmosphere where they can spend an evening among friends and listen to some first-hand experience from invited speakers on subjects relevant to their business. We have also introduced a regular email group 'The Duchy Farming Family' and invited our farmers to submit any suggestions on topic they would like to see included. We continue to offer membership of the BASE UK information network free of charge and encourage our farming tenants to partner with organisations such as Pastures for Life (Pfli) and Linking

Environment And Farming (LEAF) to co-host events of mutual interest on their farms. This is all part of sharing both knowledge and first-hand experience of the practicalities of adopting more sustainable farming models.

In Cheshire, many of our farming families are also actively involved in fundraising for local good causes. For example, the family-friendly sunflower trail organised by the Lewises at Park Farm last summer which raised over £5,000 for Leighton Hospital's neo-natal unit and the already legendary Festive Light Display at Carters Green Farm organised by Graham Witter and his family, which raised an extraordinary £150,000 for the Donna Louise Children's Hospice between 2013 and 2022. Whatever charity you support, we salute you!



From Field To Form: Crewe Nature Kindergarten, Main Road, Weston



The building which originally housed Weston's village primary school closed its doors to pupils in 2018 when the school was relocated to a location nearer the centre of Crewe. Today, that same building is let to Thrive Childcare and is home to Crewe Nature Kindergarten, a nursery for babies and children from the ages of 3 months to 5 years. The nursery has been under new



management since 2020 and during that time has increased the number of children under its care from fewer than 20 to almost 80. In addition to a specially equipped and newly refurbished 'baby room', one of the nursery's big attractions for both children and their parents is the emphasis placed on outside learning. The children are taken on a walk around the adjacent playing field every morning, regardless of the weather, and are actively encouraged to learn and play outdoors. Last year, they started tending to their own allotments and the whole school is now raising funds to create a community allotment which can be linked to that of the children to enhance their overall learning experience and promote greater social interaction between age groups.

If you have a local good cause that you think deserves additional financial support, please consider making an application to the Duchy of Lancaster Benevolent Fund . You will find an application form on our website and your Duchy team can help and advise.