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May 2020

Lancashire

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In this Issue...



'Our' HMS Prince of Wales visits Liverpool

For as long as our lives are dominated by the coronavirus pandemic we hope that you and yours will stay safe and help to prevent others being infected by following government advice –

- Stay at home and only go outside for food, health reasons or essential work;
- Stay at least 2 metres (6ft) away from other people; and
- Wash your hands for at least 20 seconds as soon as you get home.

When at home we invite you to explore Lancashire and the North West safely through the pages of our May edition.

From the safety of your living room let Jessica Gregson take you around Chester, Stephen Roberts tell you all about Keswick and Duncan Hodgson give you a guided tour of Preston. Think about all the time, trouble and fuel you save when touring these lovely places our way!

Nearer home you can read about garden design which will give you ideas as spring becomes summer. You are allowed to go into your garden so don't miss the opportunities described. For more leisurely reading we offer Ken Webster's interview. Or hear about International Women's Day held on the 7th March.

In this stressful time we hear about the Buddy Scheme in Blackpool – bringing lonely people together. Two lonely people brought together aren't lonely anymore! Sadly, this doesn't solve everyone's problems so we include an article about mental health and the importance of sleep.

Andrew Harris reports on the first visit of the new and massive aircraft carrier HMS Prince of Wales to her adopted city Liverpool – two years after he was invited to tour the ship when fitting out in Rosyth. For Andrew's 75th article for the magazine he reviews the universities of the north west. Read about the role, rank, size and special features of each of them.

If you prefer history we hear how an Accrington art student recalls the horrors of the first World War. We also feature VE – Victory in Europe – Day which was 75 years ago on the 8th May 1945. Just imagine the relief of all when the massive killing in Europe stopped after six years. Bad things do come to an end.

But now to the future. We hear about efforts to save the Wildlife Oasis in Milnthorpe which is under threat. And read about a range of Days Out which you can't do yet but they are things to look forward to. Stay safe and start planning what you and yours can do when the current restrictions come to an end. They will.

Best Wishes from The Lancashire magazine



A Liverpool welcome for HMS Prince of Wales

‘Our’ HMS Prince of Wales Visits Liverpool

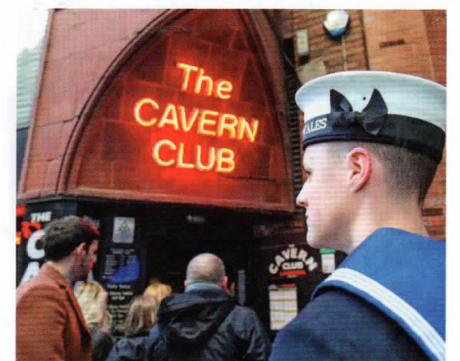
Reported by Andrew Harris

Two years ago your columnist was invited to tour the new aircraft carrier HMS Prince of Wales when she was fitting out at Rosyth in Scotland and we featured the resulting article in our May 2018 edition. It had been announced that this massive ship was being affiliated – or twinned – with Liverpool and would visit the City sometime in 2020. Well, she has!

In early March waving crowds packed Liverpool’s waterfront to welcome the new supercarrier HMS Prince of Wales to Liverpool for her

first historic visit to the city. The second of the Royal Navy’s giant new aircraft carriers sailed along the River Mersey for a week-long visit packed with celebrations and engagement with the local community.

The weather was wet and windy but it didn’t deter the massive crowd who lined the area around Liverpool’s cruise terminal from admiring the 65,000-tonne vessel as she came alongside. The Commanding Officer of HMS Prince of Wales – Captain Darren Hosten – said “The visit of HMS Prince of Wales to the





Ceremony despite the weather

great maritime city of Liverpool is an important step in forging enduring relationships with the city and her people." Before the ship left he added "I am deeply humbled by the incredibly warm welcome we have received and I was delighted to allow members of the public to visit the ship – the first time this has happened for the Queen Elizabeth class."

The Royal Navy is transforming into a force centred around carrier strike – which can involve strike missions by aircraft, enforcing no-fly zones, deploying Royal Marine Commandos, delivering humanitarian aid and building international partnerships with allies.

HMS Prince of Wales is at the heart of the British fleet as she is one of the most powerful surface warships ever constructed in the UK. She and her sister ship HMS Queen Elizabeth are the largest ships ever built for the Royal Navy.

The supercarrier has a ship's company of 700 sailors which will increase to 1,600 when a full complement of aircraft are on board. Petty Officer Joe Hornby is an aircraft engineer from Kirby in Liverpool. He has been in the Royal Navy for 17 years and commented "I joined up in the careers office in Liverpool and it seems like a long time ago. If someone told me then that I would be coming

back into the city on a supercarrier like HMS Prince of Wales I wouldn't have believed them."

HMS Prince of Wales departed Liverpool on Friday 6th March. We hope to see her again.

Images are courtesy of the Royal Navy/FotoWare. The May 2018 article by Andrew E. Harris can be seen at www.andreweharris.co.uk under Published Articles/Marine Topics.



Not adieu but au revoir to HMS Prince of Wales

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