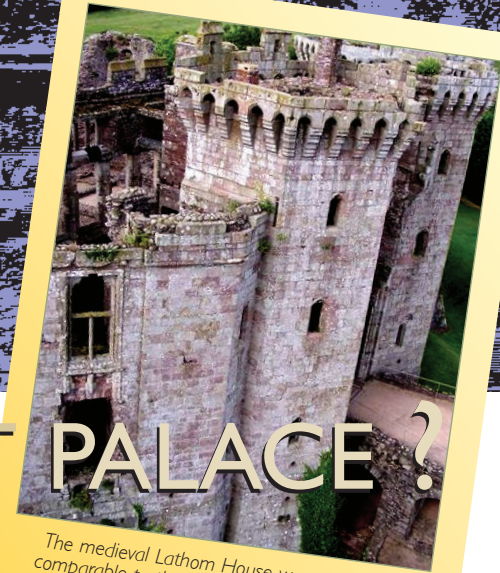


# NEWSLETTER

## LATHOM'S LONG LOST PALACE?

Major archaeological excavations planned by Lathom Park Trust this year



The medieval Lathom House was on a scale comparable to that of royal palaces elsewhere



Lady Margaret Beaufort



In January last year Lathom Park Trust started work on a grant application to fund the third stage of our long term historic landscape and village survey, the "Historic Lathom" project.

If funded, our proposals would include an archaeological evaluation of the Pleasure Garden and parkland adjacent to the 18th century Lathom House.

Results from past and present surveys indicate that the remains of the late-medieval Lathom House (twice besieged during the Civil War) underlie the 18th century mansion block and possibly extend into the garden to the east.

The house was of great importance, being the home of Lady Margaret Beaufort, mother of King Henry VII and grandmother of Henry VIII.

There is a surviving description of the house written in the mid -17th century, but unfortunately no contemporary illustration or plan. As a private residence, the house was on a scale comparable to that of royal palaces elsewhere.

In real terms, very little is known with regard to the archaeological potential of the late-medieval house, its defences and associated buildings within the park.

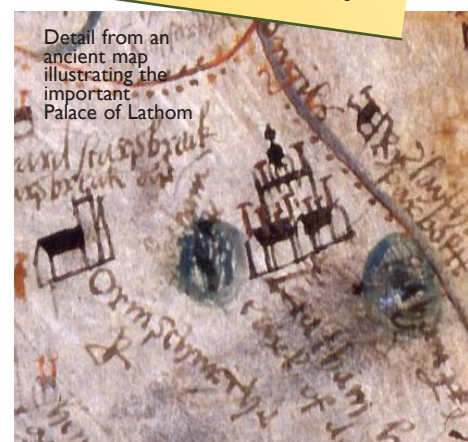
Nothing is known of the potential for evidence with regard to the Civil War defences and opposing siege works, famously involving Charlotte de la Tremouille during the the Siege of Lathom.

A co-ordinated long term research programme, potentially comprising geophysical investigation and evaluation trial trenching is proposed and a grant application to the Heritage Lottery Fund "Your Heritage" scheme was submitted by the Trust at the end of last year.

If you would like to participate in this exciting project please register your interest by contacting the Trust's Secretary on 01695-422550



Charlotte de la Tremouille



Detail from an ancient map illustrating the important Palace of Lathom



A 14th century misericord in Manchester Cathedral which could be depicting the early Lathom House

## Landowners' co-operation and support imperative

### Whatever happened to our previously planned project ?

An enormous amount of work, mostly unseen but time consuming and delicate, goes into applications for project funding. Fortunately the Trust has been successful in most cases over the years and 2006 saw us awarded a further substantial grant.

This was based upon exploratory fieldwalking and geophysics work carried out by members of the Trust and professional archaeologists who discovered significant evidence of a Roman presence in Lathom.

Everything was in place to commence the project when the ownership of the land changed and despite marathon efforts by the Trust, we were unable to get agreement for access to the site from the new owners. After the mountain of preparatory work and involvement, we had to abort the project in 2007 and forego the valuable award, much to everyone's disappointment.

It highlights the crucial importance to our work that we have the co-operation of landowners. The vast majority of land in Lathom is privately owned and we can only reiterate how grateful we have been over the years for the support of both landowners and the community in allowing our efforts to proceed.

Perhaps the only consolation we can draw from our endeavours is that the site we were not allowed to access, has now been formally recognised by the appropriate bodies as 'potentially containing important underground archaeological remains and as such, care needs to be taken to protect these artifacts'.

Appropriate conditions have now been placed on the location.

IMPORTANT NOTE FOR YOUR DIARY  
**LATHOM PARK TRUST AGM**  
Monday 7.30pm, March 30th, 2009  
The Ellerbrook Suite, Briars Hall Hotel, Briars Lane, Lathom

After the AGM ~ Starting at approx. 8.00 p.m.  
David Brazendale will give a presentation about  
**The Siege of Lathom**  
David, who lives in Crosby, is an historical consultant  
and researcher and the author of two books.  
David is particularly interested in the history of Lancashire  
during the years 1580 - 1780.



# THE TRUST'S DECADE OF PROGRESS

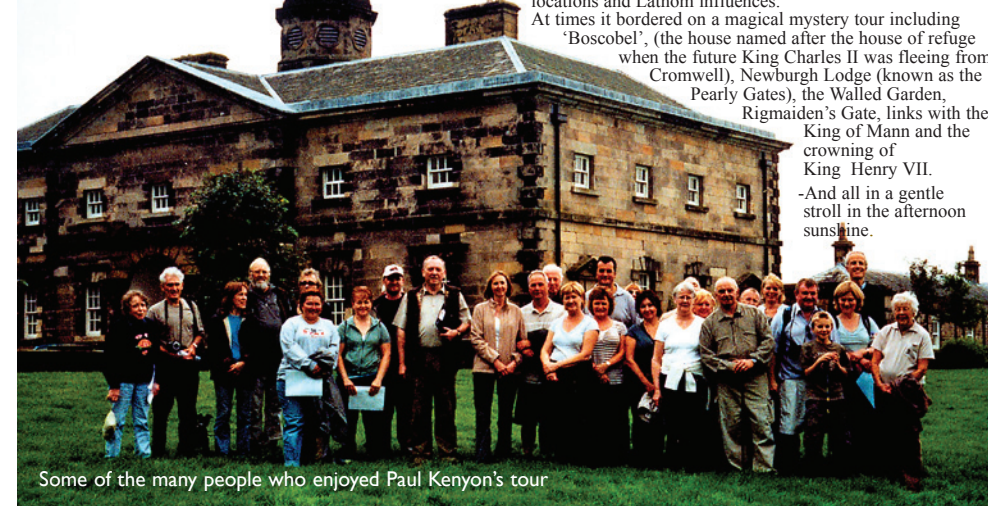


□ Coun. Bob Pendleton, Chairman of West Lancashire District Council, lays the foundation stone to mark the start of the restoration of the West Wing of Lathom House. With him are Bill Kenyon, owner of the property; the council's Head of Planning Andrew Middlemiss; stonemason Ken Hughes for contractors TruMasonry; the council's Conservation Officer John Hinchcliffe; and Director of Development and Amenities Les Abernethy. BK756



**Continuing support from WLDC with £500 Grant towards Remount booklet**  
The Remount booklet, with the help from many sources, is currently being compiled for publication

## FASCINATING HERITAGE DAY WALK FROM LATHOM HOUSE TO THE CROWNING OF KING HENRY VII



Some of the many people who enjoyed Paul Kenyon's tour

Many people found themselves totally engrossed in our Heritage Day walk led by Trustee, Paul Kenyon. What was essentially a gentle stroll through the Lathom Parklands, Pleasure Gardens and Tawd Vale turned out to be an experience laced with a wealth of local knowledge, little known anecdotes and historic topics relating to the various locations and Lathom influences. At times it bordered on a magical mystery tour including 'Boscobel', (the house named after the house of refuge when the future King Charles II was fleeing from Cromwell), Newburgh Lodge (known as the Pearly Gates), the Walled Garden, Rigmaiden's Gate, links with the King of Mann and the crowning of King Henry VII. -And all in a gentle stroll in the afternoon sunshine.

*This beautiful tapestry depicts the scene on the field of the Battle of Bosworth in 1485 - with the kneeling Sir Thomas Stanley II who was King of Mann, presenting his stepson Henry Tudor with the crown of England that he had retrieved from the dead Richard III. For his support and loyalty he was created Earl of Derby by the new King Henry VII*



Since its formal launch in September 2000, the work and discoveries of Lathom Park Trust have been recognised both nationally and internationally by academics and historians alike.

We have seen some astonishing facts unearthed, highlighting Roman, Ironage and Medieval presences, previously unimagined in Lathom, now one of the most important archaeological areas in the North West of England.

The formation of the Trust did not just happen overnight. It was a culmination of years of earnest endeavours by various and diverse groups of enthusiastic volunteers and academics who all had a gut feeling about what Lathom 'may have been'.

Included in these were the Lathom and District Archaeological Society, British Trust for Conservation Volunteers, Lancaster University, Liverpool University & National Museums Liverpool, Ormskirk and District Historical Society, West Lancashire Civic Trust, West Lancashire Archaeological Society, Lathom Conservation Trust, The Noel Coward Society and the Lathom Parish Council.

But it was in 1998 when the first idea to harness all these efforts emerged, initially to oversee the restoration work on the Lathom House West Wing which had been under threat for many years.

Chairman of West Lancashire District Council, Bob Pendleton, along with tremendous support from Conservation Officer John Hinchliffe and Director of Development and Amenities, Les Abernethy, initiated a grant of £5000 being made available to launch a Lathom Park Preservation Trust in 1998 (later to be formally titled Lathom Park Trust).

The Trust's influence and support has seen Lathom's historical findings escalate into many other sites and topics of interest.

However, being mindful of the Trust's own relatively short history, we should not forget the commitment and enthusiasm of the organisations and individuals during the last twenty years who made this all possible.



## Lathom's Sir Thomas Bootle - the man who 'built' Lathom House



**T**HE history of the Bootles as landowners in Maghull, Lancashire (now in Merseyside) stretches back to 1317 and the family rose to the aristocracy in the 17th century. Thomas Bootle of Melling in Halsall (as it was then known) was born in 1685. His purchases of local estates included Lathom in 1724 and Skelmersdale in 1751. The Stanley family had left Lathom and made Knowsley Hall their main residence and decided to sell the site of the earlier Lathom House to Henry Furnesse of London in 1721, who then sold it to Thomas Bootle in 1724. Thomas completed the re-building of Lathom House in about 1734 to designs by the architect Giacomo Leoni (1686-1746) in the Palladian style. He also improved the surrounding deer park at Lathom, including the building of a Ha-ha; ice houses; and pleasure gardens, together with the planting of woodlands. Possibly Thomas Bootle may have been introduced to the architect Leoni by Peter Legh of Lyme Hall in Cheshire; who also employed Leoni.



As a status conscious and successful gentleman, Thomas followed the fashion of his aristocratic contemporaries and in about 1730 he commissioned an armorial Chinese porcelain service, decorated with his coat-of-arms (a chevron between three combs, probably to acknowledge the Lancashire textile trade) and his initials in cypher 'T.B.' (Parts of this service are in the ceramic collection at Rode Hall, seat of the Baker Wilbraham family).

Thomas Bootle, or 'Bright' Bootle as his contemporary Horace Walpole nick-named him, was a highly successful barrister and parliamentarian. He was appointed King's Counsel by 1726 and charged twelve guineas a day as a Chancery lawyer, and represented many aristocratic families. He was elected to represent the Tories as Member of Parliament for Liverpool in 1724, and was also Mayor of Liverpool in 1726. In 1734 he became MP for Midhurst in Sussex.

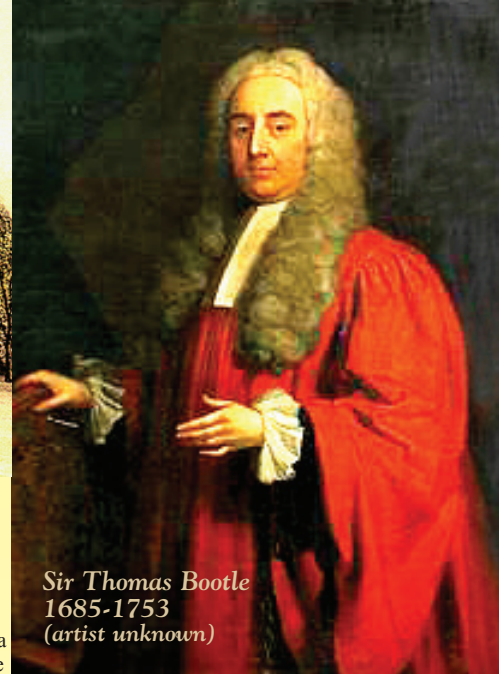
*This beautiful delftware bowl and cover was made in Liverpool to celebrate Sir Thomas's election as MP in 1724. It comprises a footed bowl and a three-part lid incorporating two smaller bowls, possibly used for spices and fruit. The bowl includes the arms and motto of Liverpool and the words 'THOMAS BOOTLE ESQUIRE MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT FOR LIVERPOOLE 1724'*



*It is not known if he commissioned the bowl himself or whether it was given to him, perhaps by wealthy Lancashire landowners. The bowl remained in the possession of the Earls of Lathom and was kept at Lathom House until the sale of the contents in 1920 when it was sold for £280. It is now in the Fitzwilliam Museum, Cambridge.*

### Sources / Acknowledgements

'The Medieval Deer Parks of Lathom' by Lathom Park Trust  
'Liverpool 800' - 'Civic Liverpool' by Jane Longmore  
'English Ceramics' by Julie McKeown  
(Book commissioned by Sir Richard Baker Wilbraham to record the ceramics collection at Rode Hall)  
c The Fitzwilliam Museum, Cambridge - picture of delftware bowl  
Melling photographs by Paul Kenyon by arrangement with the Church Warden, Melling Church  
Sir Richard Baker Wilbraham for additional material  
Written and researched - Susan Dunn



Sir Thomas Bootle  
1685-1753  
(artist unknown)

To the Memory of,  
The Hon.<sup>ble</sup> SIR THOMAS BOOTLE Kn:  
Chancellor to His Royal Highness FREDERICK  
late Prince of Wales, and Attorney General of the  
County Palatine of Durham and Member of Parliament.  
He departed this Life at Oxroad  
the 24<sup>th</sup> day of December 1753.  
Æ:68.  
This Monument and the Vault Underneath  
where his remains are Deposited, was Erected  
by order of his Brother ROB<sup>t</sup> BOOTLE Esq<sup>r</sup>.

Memorial in Melling Parish Church

Thomas was knighted on 23rd November 1745 and served as Chancellor to both Frederick Louis, Prince of Wales (eldest son of King George II and father of George III), from 1740-1751, and also to George, the next Prince of Wales.

Thomas was also associated with 'The Boy Patriots', a political group loyal to the Prince of Wales, formed by Lord Cobham of Stowe. The group consisted of Tories, such as William Pitt, and discontented Whigs opposed to Walpole's government. In the 1730's they added poets, novelists, painters and architects to the group.

The circumstances of Thomas's election as MP for Liverpool were partly brought about by the serious political and commercial challenges in the early 1700's. The financial and technical problems involved in the construction of the first dock ('The Old Dock') had been overcome but the Liverpool tobacco merchants, in particular, did not immediately begin to benefit from an increase in trade. The Act of Union of 1707 had made it possible for their rivals in Scotland to operate under the Navigation Acts of 1660 and 1671 and Glasgow became the major supplier of tobacco for Northern England, Scotland and Ireland. The structure of the corporation of Liverpool had been kept relatively stable by the various merchant entrepreneurs who, by 1719 when The Old Dock was completed, had managed almost ten years of business and monetary pressures.

Then in the late 1720s, disputes over the management of the council took place between this controlling clique of merchants and the general body of freemen in the city. Tensions and resentment grew. The out -of -power Tory element (which included Thomas Bootle) used this to further its own political power, culminating with his election as MP and subsequently as Mayor.

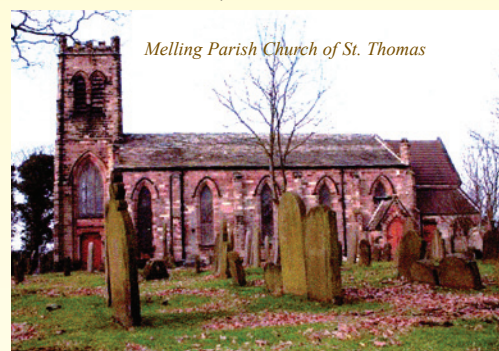
Thomas Bootle then went on to set up a series of Tory replacements as Mayor to ensure Tory stability in Liverpool for several years.

His impressive country seat at Lathom House must have been a welcome retreat from the machinations of politics and business in Liverpool.

Sir Thomas died unmarried in 1753 and is buried at the Parish Church of St Thomas at Melling with Halsall There is a memorial in the church.

His estate at Lathom passed to his brother Robert. Robert, a director of the East India Company, only out-lived his brother by five years and when he died in 1758 Lathom was inherited by Robert's only daughter Mary Bootle (niece of Thomas). Mary had married Richard Wilbraham of Rode Hall, Cheshire, in 1755 and, in accordance with one of the conditions of her uncle's will when she inherited, the name 'Bootle' was added to the Wilbraham family name.

Mary had two sons; the elder, Edward, inherited Lathom and assumed the surname of Bootle Wilbraham and her younger son, Randle, inherited Rode but dropped Bootle from his surname.



Melling Parish Church of St. Thomas



## SOCIAL EVENTS

The Social Events Committee continue to generate valuable support and enjoyable events throughout the years. A popular 'Lancashire Night' and delicious Hotpot attracted a packed house in the Scout Hall. The show featuring the folk group 'T'Others' was full of Lancashire songs and humour to everyone's delight.

June brought us a lovely Hog Roast event in the beautiful garden settings, kindly provided by the Rev. Peter and Mrs Sewell.

In September we organised a marquee Wine and Cheese buffet which was held in the grounds of Lathom Park Chapel following a presentation by Jamie Quartermaine about his recent discovery of The Old Dock, Liverpool.

And just this month we have enjoyed another play at the Wigan Little Theatre, Abigail's Party, followed by supper and refreshments.

Our thanks go to all our committee members and their friends who give much added and appreciated support,



**Hog Roast**  
- enjoyed in beautiful garden surroundings and marquees

### IN MEMORY OF JANET

Family and friends of Janet Pope, Founding Member and Treasurer of the Trust's Social Events Committee, attended a commemorative tree planting which we hope in a small way will serve as a gentle reminder of Janet in years to come, - a lovely friend and working inspiration to us all.



### 'Lord Lathom's little theatre' - a new beginning !

The history of the Lathom Club is well documented - where 'Ned' Lathom and his friends wove a small part of England's theatrical heritage - but our thoughts must now be to the future.



The Trust has worked hard to highlight the architectural and historical merits of this important community facility.

Planning permission was granted in December to demolish the existing buildings and replace them with more modern facilities.

The new building will be of a similar size and capacity and will incorporate the existing, carefully restored stage and proscenium arch.

A plaque and a permanent display of photographs will commemorate the 'life and times' of this unique building.

The demolition process will be subject to a planning condition to 'ensure and safeguard the recording and inspection of matters of archaeological / historical importance associated with the building'.

We hope to be working closely with the Lathom Parish Council and the present owners (Ormskirk and District Scouts Association) to further this important historical development and conservation area.

### PRESTIGIOUS AWARD FOR TRUSTEE

Founder Trustee, Ken Vincent has been awarded the title of Honorary Alderman of West Lancashire for his dedication and service to the community for over 30 continuous years.

Ken was a past Chairman of the District Council and Ward Councillor for Lathom and Newburgh as well as being a long serving member of the Lathom Parish Council.

Ken is seen here being presented with a scroll, a cut glass decanter and an heraldic shield by the Chairman of WLDC, Cyril Ainscough, at a special ceremony in December.



The historical building soon to be demolished



The 3rd Earl's famous theatrical friends on stage at Lathom



The 'theatre' on its original site in the Remount WWI Depot, in Lathom Park



Recent theatrical productions by the Trust have featured plays written by the 3rd Earl of Lathom