

THE
Lanchester
TRUST
Founded 2010

Registered Charity No: 1143535

~ promoting the inspirational work of Dr Frederick, Frank and George Lanchester ~

Newsletter No. 46

March 2020

“One of the best displays in the show” commented visitors to the Lanchester stand at the National Exhibition Centre’s ‘Classic Car Show’ in Birmingham. Sponsored by both the Lanchester Trust and the Lanchester Interactive Archive, the display highlighted everything Lanchester: videos played onto a large screen, visual augmented-reality, banners, photographs, books, printed mugs and, of course, a Lanchester car.



This was a 113-year-old 20hp Lanchester, currently under restoration, which hasn't been on the road since 1950. With the between-the-seats engine and gearbox removed, a flat floor was temporarily installed so that visitors could step easily across the car to sit in either front seat, behind the leather, folding dashboard.

During the 3-day event, the public were eager to sample this car, which was designed by Frederick Lanchester. All in all, the Trust and LIA amply fulfilled their desire to promote Lanchester by creating a special display for the 72,000 visitors; it seemed that most of them sat in the car!

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Away from the NEC, one person benefitting from Lanchester initiatives was a University final-year student, Huw Arnold. He had studied mechanical engineering and, in particular, the development of vehicle disc brake calipers, the original invention was, of course, by Frederick Lanchester in 1902. Huw beat all challengers to win the 2019 Lanchester Trust Student Prize, and he duly received a special certificate and also a cheque to help him in his career. His letter of thanks is shown here:

“ I'd like to give massive thanks to the Lanchester Trust for the prize I was awarded at my graduation from Coventry University. It made a special day even more special by having my hard work recognised by a group such as yourselves. I learnt a lot about the Lanchester brothers, both from the exhibition in the Lanchester Library and events such as the rallies around the city, and so to be awarded a prize from a Trust with the Lanchester name is a massive honour. The certificate is up in my front room and I will put the prize money towards something that will help me in my engineering profession. Thanks again.”

The Trust later awarded a bursary to a student studying Frederick Lanchester's profound aeronautical work, concentrating on the flying machine inventions of 1897, six years before the Wright brothers' famous flight. Jordan Perrett received the first of three instalments to assist him with his studies. He wrote in thanks:

“Please pass on my thanks to the Lanchester Trust for the student bursary. I am extremely grateful as this will be a significant benefit to my project and will allow for extra support in completing the objective. This money will make it possible for me to access a couple of key resources that I would not be able to access otherwise. Once again, thank you for your support.”

To complement these student awards, the Trustees have now initiated a similar scheme in Birmingham, and also hope to expand into other suitable universities as time goes on and finances allow (please do let the Trustees know if you can support their aims to ensure that today's young engineers adopt Lanchester principles of invention, enterprise and creativity).

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Three Lanchester Trust members are to be heartily thanked for their kind support in volunteering to work on the unique 1932 15-18 Abbott-bodied limousine, which Coventry University purchased in 2019. This splendid car, which had been owned by Bob and Ann Goodall of Farnham for decades, has been laid up for a few years and needed refurbishing to get it back on the road. The intrepid trio of Chris Hubbard, Paul Turner and Andy Shurbourne travelled down from Leicestershire during a three-week period to work on the car and it is now ready to visit schools, adult groups and car rallies, helping to promote Lanchester.



This rather distorted photo shows Lanchester Trust members from LtoR: Chris Clark, Andy Shurbourne, Paul Turner, Paul Henderson and Chris Hubbard, (plus James Carter from Coventry University), posing alongside the refurbished 1932 Lanchester limousine.

This car previously won the Lanchester Trust Restoration Award. If you would like to enter your car for this year's award, for full or part restoration, contact the Trustees on www.LanchesterTrust.org

Similarly, the Trustees would like to hear your own Lanchester-inspired stories; we look forward to hearing from you. Finally, we wish good health to all UK and overseas Trust Members, regarding the current pandemic.

With best wishes from your Trustees: Cathryn Thompson, Chris Clark, Gary Collins, Ian Pogson, Paul Henderson.