



## The Old School Gate

### **Welcome to the “preparatory” issue of our Old Foremarkian newsletter!**

*Still fresh in our minds here at school are the memories made at our wonderful 75th Anniversary weekend back in September. The love and passion for Foremarke was palpable in all who made the return visit to their childhood. Certainly the comments and plaudits we received after the event were most complimentary and we have been riding on a high since!*

*As you will see from the photographs published in this issue, the children revelled in the opportunity to experience a school day from the 1940s and took great delight in dressing up for the occasion. The Lower School children even encountered an air raid, with accompanying special sound and visual effects which made for a most realistic experience!*

*We are not able to vie with Repton’s “Arch” but I am sure you will remember arriving at school having travelled under the distinctive iron gates leading on to the school site. Unfortunately, as you might have noticed, these are no longer in situ having been severely damaged by our local council’s refuse collection lorry! Made, we believe, by local wrought ironsmith, Robert Bakewell (1682-1752), we are ever hopeful that the gates will eventually be reinstated to their original position.*

*With every good wish, until the next time ...*



**Richard Merriman, Headmaster**





# 75<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY - 1940'S DAY



**Friday, 25<sup>th</sup> September 2015**  
**A day to remember!**

*"Gas masks at the ready - and get those knees up ... we're taking a trip back to the 1940s to when Repton Preparatory School first opened."*

We dug for victory, danced to Glenn Miller music, enjoyed a VE style street party, painted wartime posters and dressed up in our gran's clothes ... brilliant fun!







# 75th Anniversary Weekend

*“What a truly memorable day you organised for us last Saturday! Every area of the school looked stunning, and it was almost unbelievable to see the transformation in the buildings and the grounds and to witness all the wonderful facilities on offer now to the pupils. You must feel justifiably proud of the school and what you have been able to achieve - I certainly felt proud to be an Old Foremarkian as did all the others of my generation who were present on Saturday. I enjoyed enormously meeting again after so many years those whom I literally had not seen since the day I left Foremarke in 1950!”* Roger Gillard [OF '47-'50]







## Foremarke on the telly!

Richard Merriman joined BBC journalist Frank Gardner in this episode of last season's "Who Do You Think You Are?".

At the beginning of the programme, it was revealed that Frank said his mother had always told him the family arrived in Britain with the Normans - and he was keen to discover if there was any truth in the family rumour. After finding out about his grandparents, Frank was pointed further back by a family member to a connection with the Burdett family, who lived at Foremarke. As a result, Frank visited Foremarke Hall where Richard explained the Burdett's had lived in a former grand house on the site.

Mr Merriman went on to advise Frank to find out more about his family member, Sir Michael Stanhope. Having taken the advice and researched several steps further back, security correspondent Frank ultimately discovered he is a direct descendant of William the Conqueror!

You may have also caught a swift glimpse of Foremarke Hall in an episode of the BBC's mini-series "The Stuarts" which explained that in 1745 Swarkestone Bridge was the southernmost point of Bonnie Prince Charlie's march on London in his attempt to claim the British throne. Finding no support from the local landed gentry in the south, which included Foremarke Hall, his army turned back and retreated to Scotland and their final defeat at the Battle of Culloden.

## Foremarke Flyers!

Some of you will no doubt remember the angst of preparing and undertaking the variety of Scholarships offered to Foremarkians going on to Repton! This year we were delighted with a fine crop of Creative Arts and Sports Scholarships awarded at 13+ and we are now fast approaching the time of year when our next cohort ready themselves for the Academic Scholarship process and Common Entrance exams.



It is wonderful to hear again this year of Old Foremarkians who have continued with their successes through Repton to achieve places at Oxbridge to read subjects in Modern & Medieval Languages, Veterinary Medicine, Philosophy, Politics & Economics and Economics & Management.

## Sport Stars

Sport at Foremarke, as you will remember, has always been an important part of the curriculum. Today it is no different and last term our U13 Girls' Hockey squad claimed the IAPS National trophy. Boys' Football (not to be outdone!) also shone. This term continues with Boys' Hockey and Girls' Netball, along with highly successful coaching in tennis and swimming, and next term will change over to Boys' Cricket and Girls' Rounders. Fencing and golf, which are taken as Activities, also have their fair share of successes so all is set fair for another great sporting year at Foremarke!

## Foremarke into the Future

If you have visited us in the past couple of years, you will have seen our new Music Department, Art and DT building and a new block of classrooms. Although it was sad to see the old Nissen huts demolished, their "best by" date had truly been reached!

Since the completion of these new buildings, work has continued on a pace: our Science Labs have been refurbished, Lakeside sports pitches have been levelled after a huge amount of work, the Library has had a complete facelift and the boarding houses continue to be upgraded with new decoration, flooring, furniture and accessories. The Headmaster's Garden at the rear of the Hall has been replanted endeavouring to return this area to its original size and design circa 1912.

Sadly, we recently had to fell two of the large trees on the grass outside the main Hall due to disease and the danger of falling branches. These have already been replaced for future generations to enjoy!

And the future looks busy, too, with permission currently being sought for the development of a new Dining Hall. It is hoped that work may commence on this project during Summer 2017.



*We are always interested to hear YOUR news, too! If you have any interesting news (or memories) which you might like to share in our next issue, then please forward to Deborah Inman via email: [office@foremarke.org.uk](mailto:office@foremarke.org.uk) or post to the school address.*