



The Old School Gate

Welcome ... *When one looks back over the past twelve months in a rare quiet reflective moment, it is immensely gratifying to see how the school has progressed. We have had a phenomenal year, with many purposeful and successful events and occasions, both collective and individual.*

Last summer saw OF, Georgie Twigg, win her second Olympic medal, this time a Gold with the victorious GB Ladies' Hockey team at the Rio Olympics. As if this wasn't glory enough, Georgie and her teammates were later named in the New Year's Honours List each being awarded an MBE for their magnificent achievement at the 2016 Games! What an inspiration to our current pupils who continue to achieve success across the many and varied regional and national team competitions and individual sports in which they participate at Foremarke.

In September last, Foremarke joined with Repton to celebrate the 100th birthday of one of their old boys, Roald Dahl. At Foremarke, we relish any excuse to dress up and this was no exception! A "splendiferous" day was had by all with the children (and staff!) dressing up in their favourite Dahl characters, pulling out all the stops in a truly "glorumpitious" bake-off, the results of which were truly "dahlicious"!

Foremarke once again brought out the buns and bunting to celebrate our Queen's 90th birthday on 21st April. A rather tenuous link is made with Her Majesty with a previous Headmaster of Repton some 103 years ago, Geoffrey Fisher, who later became Archbishop of Canterbury. He presided over the marriage of HRH Princess Elizabeth to Lt Philip Mountbatten, RN, and later crowned the young Princess as she became Queen Elizabeth II at her coronation in 1953. A right royal picnic lunch fit for a Queen was enjoyed by the children in the early summer sunshine sitting out on Front Green - lovely!

Our pupils remain very happy, on task, aiming to be their very best and achieving so much across the board. Foremarke's name and reputation continues to grow on the back of the fine groundings you all gave the school.

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



Richard Merriman, Headmaster

Long Serving Staff Leavers



SUE TUCKER (née Taylor) retired at the end of the summer term 2016 after 33 years of dedicated and loyal service to the school. Sue worked for six out of the seven headmasters that have been appointed to Foremarke Hall.

On joining the staff she was one of the few employees to have lived exclusively on the grounds since her arrival as Miss Taylor, in September 1983 – living firstly in the old Theatre Flat (now Burdett), before moving into Sycamore Cottage when it was first built in 1987 (now the school surgery). From there she moved to Rose Cottage for 13 years before finally moving next door to Ash Cottage from 2002 onwards.

Sue held the position of Head of Art for her entire career and this always culminated in first class results for the school in terms of Art scholarship awards.

Based for most years in the Art room in Old Block with its resident pot plants Horace & Boris, not to mention the famous 'Cherub', she spent one extraordinary year in a Porta-Kabin next to the dining room before moving into her brand new state-of-the-art Art Room in the new Quad development for her final years. This was a room flooded with light which Sue helped design herself.

Sue very much embraced all areas of the curriculum over her time here: she was Head of Wavell for several years and remained a staunch supporter of the House ever since; she was also Head of Year 7 for three years. Lesser known facts include her umpiring cricket matches, refereeing football and supervising sailing, canoeing and free swim sessions. She even managed to once organise the annual Bonfire event. She published several 'Art' based magazines: 'Wavell's Whacky Wheezer', also several copies of the successful 'Smax Attack' as well as two acclaimed editions of the school magazine 'The Preptonian' in the late 1980s that very much captured the spirit of the school. She provided the set painting and stage design for possibly 50 drama productions overall.

After estimating that over the years she had written around 34,650 individual reports she deserves a long and very happy retirement as she, Martin & Hugo (the dog) relocate to Anglesey for the next exciting chapter of their lives. Sue stresses that she is only retiring from teaching and will be returning to her commercial art roots and intends to start a small freelance business where she will be the boss!

CHRIS CANAVAN joined Foremarke Hall as Head of D&T in 1997.

Chris's room is magic for children – they love it because *Chris* loves it – they're interested because *he* is interested. He has knowledge, experience and passion and that is why the standard of work that the children produce is so high and that is why he was presented with the 'Excellence in the Teaching of Design and Technology' award a few years ago and this is why he has had so many scholarship successes.

Of course it's not only Design and Technology that Chris is renowned for. He has established 'Greenpower' at Foremarke and has worked SO hard to build it into the hugely successful team that it now is. All those weekends of standing in the freezing cold, the rain and the wind and wrapping the batteries in duvets to, he insists, gain extra capacity!

Chris and his wife Carmel plan to live in New Zealand where they will join their daughter and their grandchildren and we hear Chris is already planning another big project with Greenpower links.



ROSEMARY PATTINSON joined the Foremarke team in September 1990 and has managed to cover most of the positions within the kitchen in the past 26 years. Transferring from in house catering, to contract catering and back again, Rose is ever the professional, taking all changes in her stride and offering invaluable support to the pupil and School throughout.

For the past 13 years Rose has been responsible for the weekday breakfast, with her now legendary porridge enjoyed every morning by both boarders and staff alike. With her standard reply to all questions being “very busy” Rose will be greatly missed by all, not only for her enormous contribution to both the boarding and broader school community, but also for her cheerful and caring nature to all who she encounters through her working day. A cheerfulness that touches all.



We wish Rose and Ulf a long and very happy retirement together and are pleased to report that Paul has secured the rights to her famous porridge recipe!

Peter Waters joined Foremarke Hall as a teacher in 1974 – when the Three Degrees were top of the charts with *When Will I See You Again?*, Germany had beaten the great team from the Netherlands 2-1 in the World Cup final and the average price of a house in the UK was less than £10,000.

At the end of the Michaelmas term 2016, 42 years and one term later, Peter retired from his post.

Over the years, Peter has taught French to hundreds of young people, but will probably be remembered best by many of his former pupils for his outward bound and outdoor activities and for his involvement in outstanding theatrical productions, both in school and with Derby Youth Theatre.

When he arrived at Foremarke in the 1970s Peter initially lived on the top floor of the Main Hall - halcyon days where time was shared with other long-standing members of staff such as now Head of Lower School Pauline Christodoulou. There are reports that a modern record deck boomed out sounds from The Shadows and ABBA in Peter’s accommodation.

When he arrived Tom Davies was Headmaster. A graduate of Queen's University Belfast, he has had a variety of roles during his time at Foremarke. He was a stalwart of early Outward Bound trips and his Cooking in the Woods activity as part of the Year 7 OB programme has become legendary. He has taken groups of pupils to visit Paris each year and has also served as Director of Studies. A more recent role has been Master in Charge of Golf, which saw him accompany those taking part to Branston Golf Club on a



Wednesday afternoon. Theatre has always been one of Peter’s loves and he has acted as Director for many school productions including, in recent years, *Oliver!*, *Bugsy Malone* and *Grease*.

Outside of Foremarke, Peter is widely acclaimed for his work with Derby Youth Theatre where productions of *Our House*, *Phantom of the Opera* and *Guys and Dolls* have wowed local audiences and showcased the youth talent that exists in Derby.

Following his retirement Peter is planning to travel.

In an attempt to archive a complete history of the school we are

SEEKING PREPTONIAN MAGAZINES!

from 1957 through to 1965 and 1971, or any spare copies from 1949 to 1977.

Please contact Nick Wells via: office@foremarke.org.uk



Music at Foremarke

Naming Ceremony of Charles Jennens Music School



When the BBC broadcast the Frank Gardner episode of 'Who Do You Think You Are?' last Autumn, none of us anticipated the interest which would be generated into the Burdett family of Foremarke Hall.

One correspondent was Dr Ruth Smith, a leading British authority on Handel's oratorios and sought after writer, lecturer and broadcaster on his oratorios and operas. Over the ensuing weeks, Dr Smith revealed the Burdett link to one Charles Jennens (1700-1773). He was the son of Elizabeth Burdett, daughter of Sir Robert, the 3rd Baronet of Foremarke and Charles Jennens of Gopsall Hall, Leicestershire. His parents were married in St Saviour's Church, Foremark in 1689. We owe to this man one of the world's most famous, best loved and often performed compositions: Handel's 'Messiah'. Jennens became Handel's librettist.

On Friday, 7th October 2016 at an auspicious musical evening, we named our Music School the "Charles Jennens Music School". We were joined by Dr Ruth Smith for a concert with Mary Nelson, renowned London based soprano and professor at the Royal Academy of Music, as she, alongside other music professionals, performed selected Handel works including 'Gloria in Excelsis Deo HWV deest'. A small number of our pupils also performed Handel music and for them to be playing alongside internationally renowned performers was once again a great credit to Mrs Bloor and our music department.

At the end of the evening, Dr Smith unveiled a copy of the famed Thomas Hudson, Gopsall portrait of Charles Jennens, so agreeably permitted by the Handel and Hendrix House Museum, London, and the National Portrait Gallery.

OF receives Top Organ Scholarship to Cambridge

Concerts at home and abroad, playing for Radio 3 broadcasts and making CD recordings are to become regular activities for a young Repton School musician who has been awarded a prestigious Organ Scholarship at Cambridge University.

Repton School sixth former and Old Foremarkian ['02-'12] Kyoko Canaway took part in a four-day selection exercise during which she had three academic interviews and several organ auditions before being offered a place and the scholarship at Gonville and Caius College.

The academic tests included 17 year-old Kyoko having to analyse and annotate passages in French and German, discuss the passages in the respective languages as well as taking part in general conversation in both French and German. She will read Modern and Medieval languages, taking her place in October 2018.

Caius has no more than two Organ Scholars at any time. They play a vital role in the activities of Caius choir, accompanying and playing solo pieces for the regular services as well as concerts, recordings and broadcasts.

The Organ Scholars also have opportunities to develop their conducting skills, both with the main choir and with the college Voluntary Choir. The Scholars take a leading role in the musical life of the College in general, often conducting a large-scale choral and orchestral work in the termly College Concert.

Asked how she feels about the scholarship, Kyoko says: "I am excited and feel honoured. It is amazing that my hours of practice have achieved this result and I will make the most of the opportunities it offers."

After sitting her A-levels in English, French, German and Latin at Repton School, Kyoko plans to take a gap year and hopes to complete a Cathedral Organ Scholarship to prepare for Cambridge by regularly playing at services. She also wants to spend time teaching



younger pupils Music, French and German and fitting in some travel to practise her language skills.

Peter Siepmann, Repton's Head of Academic Music and who has been Kyoko's organ teacher for the past three years says: "We are absolutely delighted that Kyoko has been offered the organ scholarship at a college as musically-renowned as Gonville & Caius. The rigours of the Cambridge audition process require a huge amount of preparation and practice; that Kyoko's hard work and talent have been rewarded in this way is cause for great celebration, satisfaction and pride!"

OF inspires in School Assembly

Old Foremarkian, **Blair Dunlop**, singer-songwriter, guitarist and inevitable star of the future, joined Foremarke in 2003 aged 11 as a boarder and continued on to Repton in 2005 at the end of Year 8.



Blair hails from Chesterfield and a talented musical family: his father is folk-rock musician Ashley Hutchings (formerly a member of *Fairport Convention*) and his mother is singer Judy Dunlop.

Whilst at Foremarke Blair, as a young talented actor, made his film debut, adopting an American accent, to play the young “Willy Wonka” in *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory* (2005 - directed by Tim Burton and starring Johnny Depp), a part written for Blair after his unsuccessful audition for the part of Charlie!

He originally started singing in a band called The Albion Band but later decided to focus on a solo career. To date he has released two EPs and three albums. His first full-length solo album entitled *Blight and Blossom* was released in 2013. He won the Horizon Award at the 2013 BBC Radio 2 Folk Awards. His second solo album, *House of Jacks*, was released in May 2014. His third album, *Gilded*, was released last year on his own record label, Gilded Wings Records, and he has recently performed Live on Radio 2 on Mark Radcliffe’s show ... and interest in his music is growing.

Blair and his band performed in the 400 Hall (Repton) on Saturday 28th January before starting a 12-date UK tour to promote the *Gilded* album. Ahead of this performance, Blair took time out on Friday morning to play before his old prep school in morning assembly, giving a few musical tips to our pupils. His fee was a well-deserved bacon cob (very rock’n’roll!) followed by a stroll down memory lane. He is pictured here looking bashful in front of our “Hall of Fame” *homage* and then really excited to have found his old bed in Francis House.



Hall of Fame

We are continually striving to learn of successes and achievements of our Old Foremarkians. If there is anyone you feel should be nominated for our Hall of Fame, please do let us know.



Mr MONOPOLY visits Foremarke

How we love the joy of board games and we got so excited when our school was approached to be included in the Derby Edition of Monopoly when it was launched this year. A wonderful picture of the school and a group of our children appear on the front of the box, and we have a prestigious green square on the board. In addition, the game also includes a Community Chest card that tells the player lucky enough to pick it up: **“Congratulations! You have been awarded a scholarship to Foremarke Hall, Repton’s preparatory school. Collect**

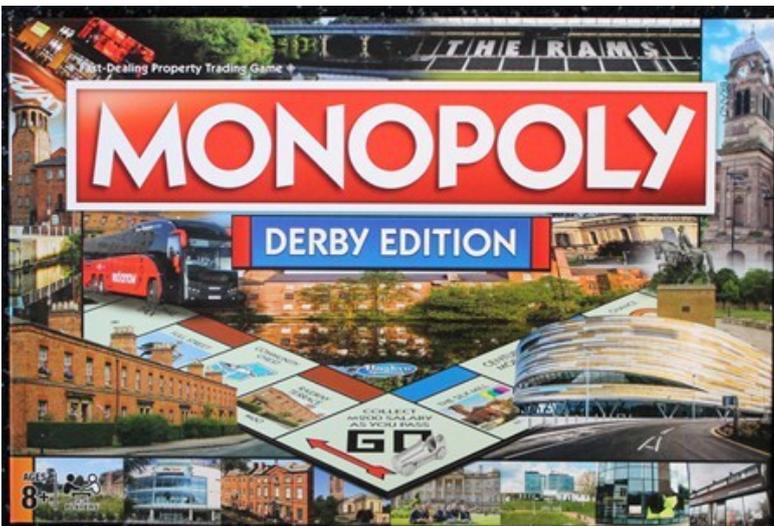
£10” (that’s Monopoly money in case you’re not in the know). This caused

great excitement at our weekly “Board Games” club!



To officially launch the game at Foremarke, Mr Monopoly himself arrived with his team to hand over one of the first boxes to a group of pupil Monopoly enthusiasts. To prevent Mr Monopoly being mobbed for autographs, Headmaster Mr Merriman had to select a group of pupils by asking them to convince him of their knowledge of the game, and boy they knew a lot!

We are very proud to think that in this age of computer technology our pupils are still excited about board games, and Foremarke will be part of continuing the Monopoly tradition in households all over Derbyshire.



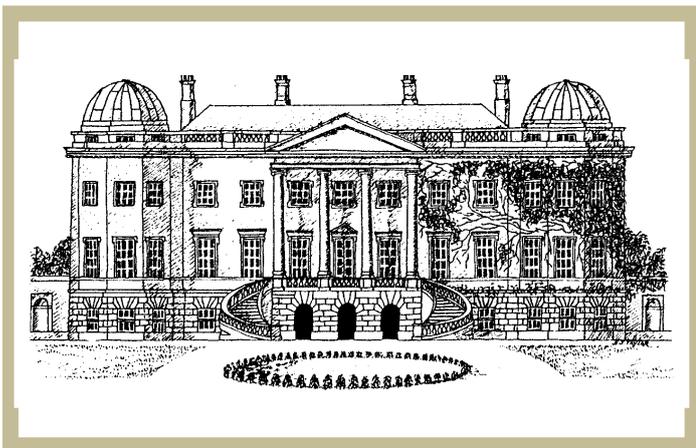
FOREMARKE HALL MEMORABILIA



N Duncan Mills was at Foremarke from 1980 to 1986 when he won an Art Exhibition to Repton. This was upgraded to a Scholarship during his time there. He then went to Edinburgh College of Art where he won an award for Outstanding Merit and a BA(Hons).

Print size: 14 x 9.5" Cost: £20.00

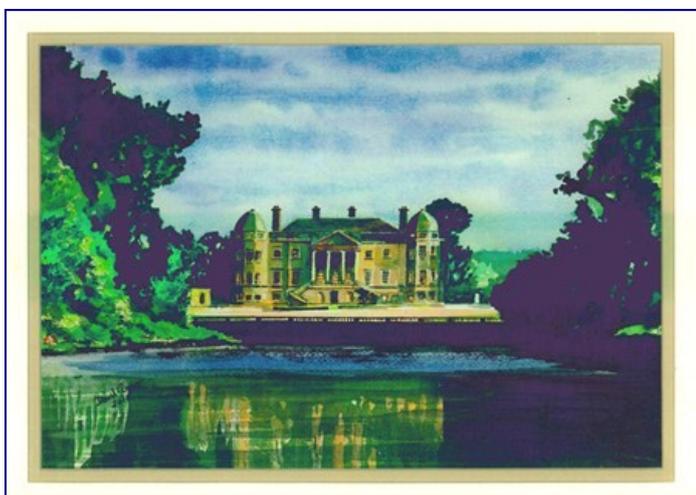
*Prints are available from the School Office
Cheques made payable to: N Duncan Mills*



The original drawing of this print was produced by Sue Tucker, née Taylor, who was Head of Art at Foremarke from 1983 until 2016.

Framed & Mounted Print £35.00
Mounted Print £25.00

*Prints are available from the School Office
Cheques made payable to: S Tucker*



The original watercolour of this print was painted by our former pupil, David Corser (1953-57).

The prints may be purchased in the following sizes:

	<u>Small</u> (6 x 13cms)	<u>Large</u> (36 x 28cms)
Mounted print	£15.00	£35.00
Mounted print + framed	£25.00	£45.00

*Prints are available from the School Office
Cheques made payable to: D Corser*

Foremarke Focus on ...

Tom Sanders [OF: 1984-89]

Tom returned to Foremarke during Michaelmas half-term as a stonemason assisting in the reparations to the Hall's grand staircase on Front Square.

"I have very fond memories of Foremarke and clearly remember the headmasters Mr Davies and Mr Theobald. I particularly enjoyed geography and cross-country running, both with Mr Mills and I am very grateful for the patience of Mrs Mills who helped me so much with my hand writing. I also enjoyed Latin with Miss Potter, French with Mr Wynne and Mrs Christodoulou, History with Mr Hawtree, Maths with Mr & Mrs Macartney, CDT with Mr Salt, Art with Miss Taylor and Biology with Mrs Stanton. My sister, Isabel Sanders, was in the year below me and our father also attended in the late 1940's, early 1950's.



Many of my favourite memories relate to the adventures that we had in the woods at break times; building dens, playing tig and generally trying to escape from brambles without damaging oneself too much! There was also the legend of 'Bomb-pit' and the mystery surrounding its creation. It was often a challenge to make it to bomb-pit by the end of break (as a child, bomb-pit appeared to be a huge crater at the very furthest end of the woods) and on hearing the end of break bell and the shouts of "BellLLL" we would have to make the split-second decision to either leg-it down 'Pig's Way' with the risk of being knee deep in mud or take the winding trails through the woods with the chance of being late and getting a black mark. Bearing in mind that break time could well have been followed by Geography with Mr Mills or French with Mr Wynne ... two of my favourite teachers but ones that you most definitely did not want to upset!

I enjoyed swimming but dreaded the swimming lessons at Foremarke. The thought of entering the inflated plastic bubble that covered the pool was a challenge in itself and if you did manage to get to the pool without trapping anything in the rather crude revolving door or getting frost bite, you were then greeted with the lifeless bodies of many unfortunate frogs. I very quickly learnt to swim with my mouth closed!

End of week Maths tests with Mr Macartney were something to look forward to. These were incentivised by the lure of Mrs Macartney's famous and amazingly delicious home made fudge (the recipe was a closely guarded secret and only given out on our last day of school). The desks were pushed to one side and the chairs positioned in a semi-circle. Mr Macartney (aka MacMan) would then go around the class testing each one of us on our arithmetic and the pupil with the most correct answers would receive a bag of the scrumptious fudge.

English, however, was never my strong point, nothing to do with the capers during 'Ricky' Richmond's lessons, I'm sure.

From Foremarke I moved on to Repton School and since 2009 I have run my own small business specialising in the repair of historic buildings and in particular the conservation of stone and brickwork. "

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 or post to the school address.