



The Old School Gate

Welcome ...

In our busy lives, time for reflection is a rare and valuable thing, something we should treasure and attempt to do as often as we can. The immediacy and all too often superficial engagement associated with modern living means we regularly forget the people, places and things which have been so formative and influential in our lives. You will all hold memories of your school days and especially those happy days spent here at Foremarke. It is so good to reflect upon the people; your peers, your teachers and all who made life here so special.

Foremarke continues to flourish and thrive in a multitude of different ways. Although the estate has changed markedly over the past few years and continues to change with the completion of our new dining room, the school remains a most happy, purposeful and successful place.

Academically, musically, artistically and in sports this has been a good year - more about which can be read by visiting our website.



Foremarke's name and reputation sits happily amongst the finest Prep Schools in the land. Constantly we try to secure the very best of the past but very much keep our eye on the future. You are the school's past and it is to you, in reflection, that I extend my heartfelt greetings and appreciation.



Handwritten signature of Richard Merriman.

Richard Merriman, Headmaster

A Fitting Entrance



Our original wrought iron gates are now restored and returned to their rightful place at the entrance to the school drive. These were sadly damaged by a refuse truck a few years ago. We believe the gates were fitted in 1913 and the 'FB' initials for Francis Burdett can clearly be seen along with the 'Cleve Fast' Burdett family motto. This is possibly a reference to either Tory or Whig politics. 'Cleave' is an odd word which can mean two opposed things: to split or slice something in two, or to hold fast on to something.



The NEXT Big Thing! *A report from Foremarke's Bursar, Richard Fletcher*

I am delighted to share with you the design of the new dining room and kitchen facility being built at Foremarke. This is a very exciting project for the School, which we believe will enhance the pupils' dining experience, allowing for a much calmer, pleasant meal time. It will also ease some time-tabling pressures on both pupils and staff and provide the whole School with a much needed large, light, airy multi-purpose space. Work started last summer, with an estimated completion date of summer 2018. Whilst I am under pressure from the Headmaster to have the new facility ready for Speech Day 2018, I do not think that will be the case!

Over the summer, the current boarders' games room was moved onto the sports hall balcony and what was the boarders' games room was converted into a temporary dining facility. Minor adjustments needed to be made and keeping our current kitchens running throughout is keeping any disruption to an absolute minimum.

Whilst there is much to be done, it is an exciting, School enhancing project and a design most suitable for such close proximity to an important Grade I listed building.



OF LETTERS . . .

Thank you for sending me the magazine about Formarke. It was a most enjoyable read.

*One of my acquaintances in Derby where we both live and whom I have known for nearly forty years is a chap called **David William Guy Smith**. He was born in 1932 and is now 86 years of age.*



If you look at the school's first photograph taken in 1940 he is standing third from right in the back row. He was one of the first eight boys in the school when it was opened in April 1940 at The Cross House and I attach a photo that I took of him recently so that you can see the likeness.



David's father thought the Germans were going to flatten Derby in the war so he

sent him on to Shrewsbury School when he was twelve or thirteen.

David has told me of one or two things he can remember from his time at Repton such as the Head Teacher and his wife Mr & Mrs Thomas had a daughter who had a terrier dog called 'Bones'. O'Sullivan in the picture was a bird expert and kept a pet Jackdaw. Wilson was an Orthodox Jew. The matron's name (not in the photo) was 'Bower'. And Miss S Todd had a 'tick'. David says he learnt a great deal at the school especially from Mr Thomas, so much so, that when he eventually arrived at Shrewsbury he learnt nothing new for two years. Quite a testament.

I don't think any of this will fit in or be fit for a future publication but I thought you would like to know that someone from when it all started is still around and thinking about it still. Wonderful. David is a charming person.

*Kind regards,
Duncan S Marshall [OF: 1957/62]*

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

All Aboard the

FOREMARKE HALL



A railway journey in carriages pulled by a fully restored steam engine that shares its name with the school provided a valuable experience for Foremarke's DT scholars.

A visit to Gloucestershire Warwickshire Railway (GWR), where the engine is stationed, was organised which allowed them to enjoy a trip on the train and to spend time with GWR staff in the yard and shed.

The visit was made even more memorable for everyone at the station in Toddington by a brass sextet made up of Foremarke pupils who welcomed the engine into the station with a stirring performance of Elgar's 'Land of Hope and Glory'. It worked particularly well because the music was in time with the sound of the approaching train.

Pupils travelled from Toddington Station to Cheltenham Racecourse with driver, John Cruxon, the Locomotive Manager of the 7903 Foremarke Hall locomotive owners' group.

Now the only surviving member of the Hall Class, the Foremarke Hall engine was given its name because at the time it was built, one of the directors of the railway was a direct descendant of the Burdett family that built and owned Foremarke Hall.

Still holder of the record for steam traction from Paddington to Plymouth, the engine was discovered as a pile of scrap in an engine graveyard in South Wales. It was purchased in 1981 by the Foremarke Hall Transport Group.

During its restoration parents and staff at Foremarke Hall helped to support the project with fund-raising events such as a sponsored run, donations of coupons used to buy raffle prizes and the buying of shares.

Commenting on the visit, Foremarke Hall's Head of DT John Davies said: "It was wonderful to be able to see the engine in action and for our pupils to learn about it and other aspects of railway engineering in the past.



"Many of the pupils on the visit have a keen interest in engineering and are involved with the school's Greenpower race cars. However, to see engineering on a much larger scale was certainly awe-inspiring and will do much to inspire our potential engineers of the future.

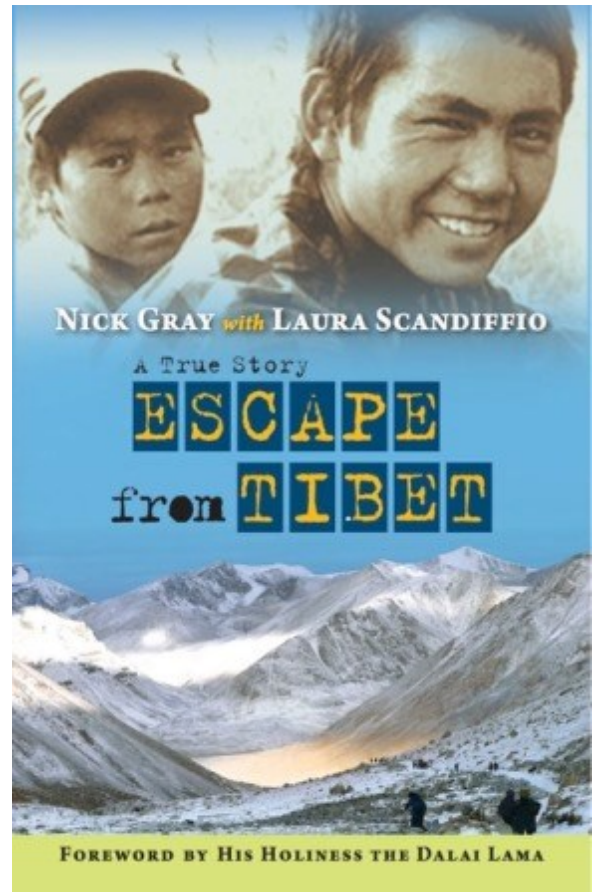
"Our musicians did a wonderful job of welcoming 7903 Foremarke Hall into the station and were very well received by everyone visiting the heritage railway.

"The day was both enjoyable and a valuable learning experience and we thank GWR for helping to organise it."

OF in print

Nick Gray (FH 1955-1960), a TV Producer/ Director for over 40 years, has now retired to Leamington Spa. His self-published book *Escape from Tibet*, based on his acclaimed documentary about Tibetan refugees climbing the Himalayas, to escape Chinese repression, has been published in a new edition for a Young Adult readership by Annick Press in Canada and the USA, where it is enjoying some success.

In 2015 the book was recognized with a Skipping Stones Honor Award. It was one of the year's "outstanding books that promote an understanding of cultures, cultivate cooperation and encourage a deeper understanding of the world's diversity." The book was also selected for the Canadian Children's Book Centre's Best Books for Kids & Teens. It was commended with the South Asia Book Award; and is a Finalist for both Red Cedar and Golden Oak Awards, in Canada.



Nick has returned several times to Tibet, Nepal and India where the events he filmed for the documentary and described in the book took place. Recently he trekked from Nepal into Tibet to the Holy Mountain, Mount Kailash. At 6,700 metres, Kailash is a sacred place of pilgrimage for a quarter of the world, to Buddhists, Hindus and Jains. The highest pass on the 30-mile pilgrim's route around the peak stands at 5,600 metres. Nick considers it quite an achievement to complete the journey.

The new edition of *Escape from Tibet* written by Nick Gray with Laura Scandiffio is now available in the UK.

*Nick is bottom row, 2nd from L.
"Wish I could bend my knees like that now."*



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.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Full stories can be read by visiting our website www.foremarke.org.uk and following the link:

<https://www.foremarke.org.uk/news-events/latest-news/>



National Arboretum
Remembrance Service (Nov 17)



U13 Boys' Hockey National IAPS Champions (March 18):
first time in Foremarke history!



Burton & District Cup Winners (Nov 17)



Workshop with Sculptor Denis O'Connor (Feb 17)



Air Ambulance Concert (Dec 17)



Drama (March 18) - Romeo & Juliet (Bollywood-style)



U12 IAPS Netball Regionals (March 18)



Wavell Win House Music (March 18)

Foremarke's 75th Reunites

Foremarke's 75th celebrations in September 2015 brought together four 1962 entrants who had not seen or spoken to one another since leaving Repton some 10 years later. Pictured (left to right) John Linton, Jeremy Hobson, John Greaves and Simon Jones vowed not to wait so long for their next get together and they now meet annually to play for their very own Foremarke Golf Trophy.

Of the memorabilia they have unearthed is a photo of the 1966/67 1st XI football team.

Jeremy Hobson [OF: 1962-67] is the goal keeper and John Linton and John Greaves are back row 5th and 6th from the left, respectively.



STAFF LEAVERS

Mrs Maria Nixon joined Foremarke 32 years ago starting off her life here as Catering Assistant, soon rising to Assistant Head Cook. In 2003 she “crossed over” to the Domestic team, ultimately becoming the School’s Housekeeper in 2008. Maria’s efficiency and attention to detail, looking after pupils and staff alike, with care, thought and consideration will be missed. She’s not gone too far, though, just up the road to Repton School!



Alan Hawkins arrived at Foremarke in 1995 teaching pupils from tots to teens the joys of swimming. Quite simply a legend in the pool, the children he has taught must be in the hundreds, possibly thousands. He left Foremarke last summer to “fully” retire to enjoy a less damp lifestyle.

Mrs Jane Rushton, our long serving School Nurse, left us last summer after 18 years at Foremarke having been appointed in 1999 by the then Headmaster, Mr Theobald. Mindful of the modern day demands and regulatory requirements, Jane always ensured that the medical provision at school kept abreast of all changes. Calm in a crisis, supportive of all and always willing to help, Jane offered care and advice to not only the pupils but also to the whole Foremarke community and her departure to Abbots Bromley is very much their gain.



*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.*

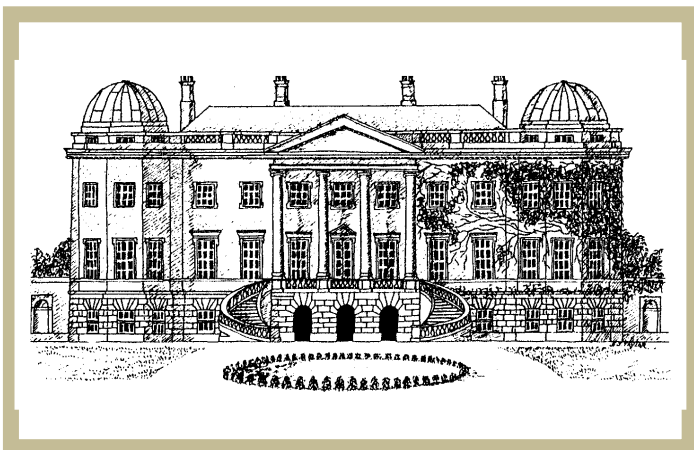
FOREMARKE HALL MEMORABILIA



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*