

Feltonfleet Weekly

Friday 13th January 2012



From the Headmaster

It didn't have quite the same gravitas as the poster produced during the Great War – "Daddy, what did you do in the war?" but the question posed of me by the small Year 3 boy at the end of a Headmaster's lesson in Cherry Tree House this week did leave me wondering. "Sir, what was it like at Feltonfleet when you first came here?" Good question, I thought until I realised this was probably a ruse to secure another half an hour in a snug corner of the school, the Headmaster just having finished reading Roald Dahl's "The Twits" to he and his classmates. Off they scurried, no fireman's pole exiting on this occasion, their hopes dashed of a languid and extended morning spent in the snuggest of classrooms in the school. Mind you, mine too – the thought of a cup of coffee and a bacon sandwich or two in this splendid hidey hole, unleashing a sequence of red herring responses to this eager audience was something I hadn't until then ever contemplated.

But I did wander off mulling the potted history of the Ward's tenure at Feltonfleet, and what better medium than this weekly newsletter to go a bit historic, wallow in some hazy nostalgia, and share with you a ramble of recollections of Feltonfleet life since the summer of 2000. I should mention that having trawled around the school archives this week I found rather less than I had hoped for which records those early days. In large measure this was because digital communication was in its infancy (at least at Feltonfleet it was) and we don't appear to have had the machinery or the systems then to record and archive in the way we do now. In other words I couldn't find much at all. So, prompted by some (very thin) termly calendars of the year **2000-2001**, and some rather rudimentary photos which I took over the year (not many sadly) which I have had scanned below, a quick potted history for you.



What did the school look Like? Well, on the face of it not a lot different, but look more closely and it was a very different place. Two prefabricated temporary classrooms (how temporary I asked in week 1!?) had arrived that summer and occupied the space we now call the Centenary Centre.

Continued over

From the Headmaster continued



The Junior Department still displayed some of the fixtures and fittings of its previous life as a boarding house, and the boarding house was stoically bunk-bedded throughout, and had the hue of a rather sombre place. Narrow paths dotted the campus, and a thicket of rhodis covered the ground where children have exerted themselves on the play area for the past eleven years. The sports centre was proudly and impressively new, and the two changing rooms were state of the art for the admiring children. A rather tired snooker table held centre stage in the Old Library, only then it was a library of sorts with a book case in each corner, and a Chesterfield sofa to provide comfort between frames! The PAC was the (old) gym and we wondered what to do with the ropes and the metal cages across the windows. The staff room complex was a mysterious honeycomb of changing rooms and a communal bath (believe it or not) and a tuck box room which was full, yes you've guessed it, of tuck boxes.

The HM's study was the smartest room in the school by Sept 1st, and many stopped in wonder and awe (well they stopped and looked anyhow). The playing fields were smaller in acreage, and the woods were ripe for opening up. Calvi field was the hallowed ground for the 1st XV, and Calvi was just six years old and a work in progress, but already the cry for bigger and better facilities there was loud and clear. The question was how and when? In fact, these two questions dominated the thinking that year, and funnily enough they still do. And in my leisure time (!) I forged a garden out of the space behind Leighton House, the headmaster's dwelling. And very proud of that design and build I am, too. I was a strapping chap by the time I had finished all that digging!

And what did we teach? The answer to that is easy, children! And they were taught many of the same things, though drama and music weren't curriculum subjects. Spanish was a distant dream, there was a scholarship set and if you were in it, scholarship for senior school you did, like it or lump it. Everyone slogged away in dimly lit classrooms until 5.30pm on Fridays, even the seven year olds, and back we came on Saturday mornings for activities of various descriptions unless you were amongst the minority playing in a school match. Saturdays had a distinctly historic and inert feel to them, and it wasn't long before the knife fell on that part of the week. Six boys (all boys boarding, then of course) spent their whole weekend here, and for the first month or so I spent every Sunday finding something for them to do. Hmm!

There were some wonderful colleagues on the staff, and quite a few who spent their working lives at Feltonfleet. Many were prep school teachers of the old school and taught several subjects, as subject specialism was slowly arriving by then.

Continued over

From the Headmaster continued

Design Technology had morphed out of craft teaching and ICT existed as a taught subject; but after the relative sophistication of ICT investment which I had experienced at Uppingham it was clear we needed to hatch a plan (potentially evolutionary and expensive) to harness the surge in IT which was enveloping schools at the time. We had a rudimentary network which connected some parts of the school but not the outlying corners such as Calvi and the sports centre, and the machinery was a motley arrangement of stuff. In truth hardly any of it was being used and the notion of an intranet and the use of email was some way off. Clarion – had it been invented then? And I was surprised to discover only four staff had a mobile phone, and I was one of them. No web site, of course, and a prospectus to write. To pull together the reality and the visionary dream of the young and excited Headmaster was another task awaiting me.

There were far fewer staff, because there were far fewer children (about 90 less in the main school alone). Mr Kendall was my Deputy, Mrs Smith my Senior Mistress. Of the current staff body, Nigel Baxter, Peter Breakwell, Dawn Hodgetts, Atti Idelji-Tehranai, Dave Williams, Karen Emery and, of course, Sue Ward remain, whilst our guitar teacher Martin Maunder is another link with the previous era. Jennie Turner was the HM's Secretary, and aside the Bursar's equivalent, the only secretary and who did everything in those days! The Wards looked twelve years younger – no surprises there – and PCW had brown hair! Hmmm! Emma Robson was the lone and courageous girl in Year 8. How different it all seemed then. In terms of the girl/boy thing we were very much at the early stage of what has been a fantastic and enriching journey to establish full co-education in our school. Our own daughter was one of eight girls in Form 2 that year. Form what? We used the old labelling in those days, and Form 2 soon became National Curriculum Year 4, Form 6 resurfaced as Year 8, and so on. There was one new entrant into Form 5 (Year 7), Tim, our son! He was warmly welcomed, but a reluctant refugee if ever there was one. A tricky first month I recall! The Friends of Feltonfleet was a relatively new innovation, and I notice with real pride that at least two of the committee that year are still Feltonfleet parents today. Hurrah, and thank you.

If the calendars were thinnish, the ambition certainly wasn't. Our footballers went on an October tour to the USA, and the senior choir sang at the new shopping centre at Brooklands! The Family Sunday Service at St Andrew's was still a feature, and mixed age teams for girls were common currency. One Christmas lunch for all, and we could squeeze the whole school into start of the day assembly in the Mem Hall. My first assembly was famous only because the music stand I placed my notes on duly collapsed. The school were a disciplined lot, and a kind boy helped me to rebuild it. I suspect it had happened before! The 2nd XI football side, with Tim Ward in it, ended their season undefeated, the first for many years, and David Gray was its proud and long serving coach. Soccer was played after rugby in those days, and often on heavy, muddy pitches, not a pretty sight. The Spring Term calendar looked thicker and fuller, and it is not a lie to say I had been beavering away to try and fill it! Trips, more matches, workshops, lectures, the first senior schools fair, and even a talk by the then new Headmaster of Brighton College, one Dr Anthony Seldon!

Continued over

From the Headmaster continued

The Summer Term was no less frantic, but immensely rewarding. I recall heading off to St Omer with a year group for a day of French speaking in a school there; we launched our new web site and prospectus (to great excitement from some, a frown or two from some others!); the Headmaster took a scholars' trip to London, and one of the boys lost his father's camera! Half-term was in mid-June after CE, and Prize Day took place then, too. We returned for a two week second half of term. It worked for some, not for others. I guess that phrase could aptly describe the year overall. But we got through it, and the roll had begun. Our first summer holiday was spent cultivating the new garden at Leighton House, and taking stock. The odd thing is, it seems like yesterday and it feels like such a long time ago!

Wishing you all a very happy 2012, and how good to see this current generation of Feltonfleetians surge back, full of gusto, and ready for all the challenges of the term ahead. Have a good weekend.



Lower School News

Happy New Year to everyone and I hope you all had a lovely time over the festive season.

Welcome to our new children in the Lower School: **Charlie Hennessey** in Nursery, **Lukas Gerhardt** in Reception, **Phoebe Wilson** in Year 1, **Maximilian Gerhardt** and **Beatrice Webster** in Year 3, **Liam Mott** and **Klara Lucas** in Year 4 and of course to two new staff, **Mrs Natalie Herbert** in Nursery and **Miss Georgina Wale** in Year 1. I hope they have all had a happy start at Feltonfleet.

Calvi children had a super treat this week with a visit from the Pied Piper Theatre Company and a production of 'Great Gran's Great Games'. This was a fantastic show and a great way to encourage an interest in the Olympics.



Year 3 experienced a visiting planetarium to excite interest in their study of the Solar System this term, as well as enjoying and participating in a Greek Myths Drama workshop to introduce their study of Ancient Greece.

Year 4 have started rehearsals for their play, Aesop's Fables, to be performed just before half term. Next week they are looking forward to their Art trip to Watt's Gallery.

Sue Ward, Assistant Head (Lower School)

Academic News

Positive Learning at Feltonfleet

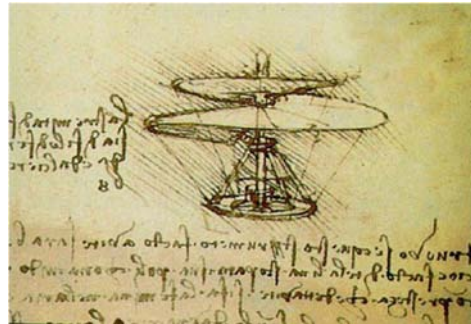
Positive Learning happens all around Feltonfleet, inside and outside classrooms.

One such example this week was a debate led by Mrs Beyer with Year 8 members of the Socrates Society. The debate centred around “Does Art imitate life - how do art and life interact, where does one begin and another end, and which one reflects or imitates the other?”

Pupils initiated a debate and discussed maturely the views of two of the greatest philosophers who disagreed on the topic. Plato believed art imitated life; and Aristotle believed that life imitated art.

At the end of the debate a few pupils believed that life imitated art, in that art has taught us to view and appreciate the world in a way we would not have previously seen it. The majority of pupils thought that art imitated life; believing that ‘art’ only exists because artists have allowed life to produce in them an emotional response.

Pupils were left with one last thought: Leonardo da Vinci didn't invent the helicopter, but he did draw a picture of one!



**Jane Ashfold, Assistant Head
(Teaching and Learning)**

• Notices • Notices • Notices •

I. HEADMASTER'S NOTICES

Year 7 Coffee Morning Friday 20th January

Parents of pupils in Year 7 are invited to a Coffee Morning with the Headmaster on Friday 20th January at 8.30am.

I warmly invite you to join Sue and me, together with a number of colleagues, in the Old Library. Please reply by email to my PA lucy.goodall@feltonfleet.co.uk

An evening with Martin Collier, Headmaster of St John's School Leatherhead, Tuesday 24th January 7pm

This will be a wonderfully informative evening. The presentation will start promptly at 7pm and will be followed by drinks and canapés in the PAC. If you have not already replied but would like to attend, please rsvp to lucy.goodall@feltonfleet.co.uk <http://www.stjohnsleatherhead.co.uk/>

*Yours sincerely
Phil Ward*

2. Year 6 Scholarship Assessments

Details have been circulated of the timetables for the Scholarship Assessments on Monday 16th Jan and Friday 20th January. Please contact me if there are any queries. Good luck to all the candidates!

Anne Turner, Head of Internal Scholarships

3. Geography Department Notice

Please take a look at the Geography Department page of the school website (click on Academic life, Subjects, Geography). You will find some Monitor Your Progress Sheets for each year group. These list questions that pupils will be covering for each topic (usually lasting a term) and provide a useful overview for parents and pupils. With a term of teaching completed, I thought it would be useful to put them online. In the Easter holidays, the Summer Term topics will be added.

For any further information or support regarding Geography, please do not hesitate to contact me: andrew.pilkington@feltonfleet.co.uk

*Kind regards,
Andrew Pilkington, Geography Subject Leader*

• Notices • Notices • Notices •

4. Art Notice for parents of all pupils in Years 3-8.

Please look for the permission form which has gone out in book bags for you to sign and return to me next week.

We are taking part in a nationwide Art project called FaceBritain for which all pupils will be creating a self portrait. The portraits will be photographed and uploaded onto a special online gallery developed for the project. They will subsequently be used as part of special events in 2012 during the Queen's Diamond Jubilee year and the London Olympic and Paralympic games.

We need a signed permission form for every pupil. Without this we will not be able to upload your child's artwork onto the website. Further details are given on the permission form itself or you can find out more about the project on

www.facebritain.org.uk

Thank you for your cooperation.

Yours sincerely

Carol Message, Art Subject Leader

5. Dance Notice

One of our Year 7 pupils, Sophie Sheridan will be appearing in the London Children's Ballet production of "A Little Princess" at the Peacock Theatre, London from 19-22 April. Tickets are on sale now and will sell quickly. Please go to the Sadler's Wells Theatre website for more details. www.sadlerswells.com.

<http://www.sadlerswells.com/show/London-Childrens-Ballet-A-Little-Princess>

Georgina Smith, Head of Dance

• Results • Results • Results •

Rugby

Sat 7 Jan

Feltonfleet 1st XV beat Lanesborough 1st XV 40-0
Feltonfleet 2nd XV beat Lanesborough 2nd XV 24-12
Feltonfleet U11A beat Lanesborough U11A 30-5

Wed 11 Jan

Feltonfleet 1st XV v Hawthorns 1st XV Lost 17-5
Feltonfleet 2nd XV v Homefield 1st XV Won 10-0
Feltonfleet 3rd XV v Hawthorns 2nd XV Lost 51-7
Feltonfleet U11A v Hawthorns U11A Won 14-0
Feltonfleet U10A v Hawthorns U10A Won 30-0
Feltonfleet U10B v Hawthorns U10B Won 50-0

Thurs 12 Jan

Feltonfleet U8 'A' v Hawthorns U8A won 9-4
Feltonfleet U8 'B' v Hawthorns U8B drew 8-8
Feltonfleet U8 'C' v Hawthorns U8C lost 8-7
Feltonfleet U8 'D' v Hawthorns U8D drew 6-6

Feltonfleet, Hawthorns and Reigate St Mary's Triangular
U9A

Feltonfleet v Reigate St.Mary's Won 4-1

Feltonfleet v Hawthorns Lost 3-1

U9B

Feltonfleet v Reigate St.Mary's Lost 4-1

Feltonfleet v Hawthorns Won 4-2

U9C

Feltonfleet v Reigate St.Mary's Lost 8-6

Feltonfleet v Hawthorns Drew 4-4

Girls' Results

Wed 11 Jan

Netball v St Edmunds

U10A won 11-5

U11A won 17-3

U12A won 26-6

Netball v Bishopsgate

U10B lost 4-2

U11B won 1-0

U13B won 18-4

Netball v Hazelwood

U12 won 11-9

Hockey v Edgeborough

U13A lost 8-2

U12A won 9-0



Matt Rochford & Amanda Wright

Next Menu

Week 3 (1): Monday 16th Jan to Friday 20th Jan

Boarding Breakfast

Full cooked English breakfast/cereals/toast/juices/tea served each morning

Lunch

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Main Meal: Chicken curry	Main Meal: Pork Stroganoff	Main Meal: Lamb Tagine	Main Meal: Roast Cajun Chicken	Main Meal: Cod fillet fish fingers
Vegetarian Meal: Spanish Tortilla	Vegetarian Meal: Tomato & Mozzarella Pasta bake	Vegetarian Meal: Roasted Vegetable Plait	Vegetarian Meal: Creamy Leek & Courgette Tart	Vegetarian Meal: wild mushroom quiche
Vegetable: Broccoli with Cherry Tomato	Vegetable: Mange Tout & French Fine Bean Mix	Vegetable: Garden Peas	Vegetable: Sautéed greens	Vegetable: Garden Peas
Vegetable: Sweet Corn & Peas	Vegetable: Cauliflower	Vegetable: sautéed Courgettes	Vegetable: Roasted Carrots	Vegetable: fresh Cauliflower
Potato: Long grain rice	Potato: Roasted new Potato	Potato: Mashed potato	Potato: Thyme Roasted	Potato: Wedges
Hot Dessert: Angel delight mousse	Hot Dessert: Lemon meringue pie	Hot Dessert: Poached Seasonal Fruit & Custard	Cold Dessert: Apple crumble with vanilla sauce	Cold Dessert: Fresh Fruit Salad

Available Daily: A selection of salads & Delicatessen sliced meats, fresh sliced breads, fresh Yogurts, Apple, Bananas, Oranges, Pears.

Supper

2-course hot meal served each evening with vegetarian option available, plus salad bar

Week 3

January 16 - 22

Monday 16

8.35am	Townsend Warner Paper I	
10.35am	Flute choir	<i>Memorial Hall</i>
1.30pm	Orchestra	<i>Leisure Centre</i>
4 - 5pm	Years 3 & 4 boys' cricket club	Astro
5.30 - 6.30pm	Years 5 & 6 boys' cricket club	Astro
6pm	Year 7 parents' and pupils' evening	<i>Sports Hall</i>

Tuesday 17

12.30pm	Recorder Group	<i>Memorial Hall</i>
3.30 - 6.30pm	Judo clubs Calvi 3.30-4.15, Juniors 4.15 -5.00,Seniors 5.30- 6.30	Calvi Hall
4pm (H)	UI3 - UI0 mixed swimming gala v St Edmund's	
6pm	Year 7 parents' and pupils' evening	<i>Sports Hall</i>

Wednesday 18

9am	Year 4 visit to Watts Gallery	
2.15pm (H)	UI0A & UI0B girls' hockey v Eagle House	
2.30pm (H)	IstXV, UI1A, & UI0A - C rugby v Hoe Bridge	
2.30pm (A)	2ndXV & UI1B rugby v Hoe Bridge	
2.30pm (A)	UI3A, UI3B, UI2A & UI2B netball v Eagle House	
3pm (H)	UI1A & UIB girls' hockey v Eagle House	
3.30pm (H)	3rdXV rugby v Homefield	

Thursday 19

12.30pm	Junior String Group	<i>Memorial Hall</i>
1.30pm	Senior String Group	<i>Memorial Hall</i>
2.15pm (A)	U9A - C rugby v Hoe Bridge	
2.15pm(A)	U8A - D rugby v Aldro and Hall Grove	Aldro School
2.15pm (H)	U8A & U8B girls' hockey v Eagle House	
3pm (H)	U9A & U9B girls' hockey v Eagle House	
3pm	Clubs	
4.30pm (A)	UI3 - UI0 mixed swimming gala v Highfield	

Friday 20

8.30am	Headmaster's coffee morning for Year 7 parents	<i>Old Library</i>
1.00pm	Junior Choir	<i>Leisure Centre</i>
2.00pm	Senior Choir	<i>Leisure Centre</i>
3pm	Years 3 - 8 assembly - Gareth Doodles, HM, Milton Abbey	<i>Sports Hall</i>
4.15 - 5.15pm	Years 7 & 8 cricket practice	Sports Hall
4.30pm	UI1A football v West Byfleet Junior School	Astro

Saturday 21

9.30am (A)	UI3A & UI3B girls' hockey v CLFS	
10am (A)	IstXV rugby v Chinthurst	Tadworth CC
10am (H)	UI0A - C rugby v Lanesborough	
10am (H)	UI0 Feltonfleet netball tournament	
10.15am (A)	UI2A & UI2B girls' hockey v CLFS	

Sunday 22
