



## PRESS RELEASE and INVITATION

EMBARGOED UNTIL 11 MARCH 2025

*Date TBC*

Dear Editor

### ROYAL ARTIST MAKES MARLBOROUGH HISTORY

On Tuesday, 11 March Dame Sarah Troughton DCVO, HM Lord Lieutenant of Wiltshire will unveil what is believed to be the first portrait of a fully robed Mayor of Marlborough wearing the full regalia since the town received its first charter in 1204.

The portrait of Councillor Nicholas Fogg MBE FRSA was painted by portrait artist Rupert Alexander and shows Councillor Fogg during his Mayoral year in 2023-2024.

Councillor Fogg is in esteemed company: previous sitters include Queen Elizabeth II, Prince Philip and King Charles III (when Prince of Wales).

Nicholas Fogg has been elected Town Mayor of Marlborough on a record three occasions although he confesses that this does not (yet!) match the record of Richard le Brai, who was four times Mayor of the Borough between 1312 and 1333.

As well as founding the town's jazz and literature festivals, Councillor Fogg appointed an artist-in-residence each time he served as Mayor. The first was noted wildlife artist Brian Hanlon; the second, legendary Scottish artist and mainstay of the Edinburgh Festival, Richard Demarco and the third, Rupert Alexander.

*'I regard Rupert as the outstanding portraitist of his generation', Councillor Fogg said. 'In accepting the position of artist-in-residence, he has played an important role in raising the profile of the arts in the town.'*

*'I was surprised to learn that I have created the first-known portrait of a Mayor of this historic borough in all his insignia', said Rupert Alexander. 'It was a particular pleasure to commemorate such a warm-hearted soul as Nick.'*

Councillor Fogg has asked me to invite you to the reception to mark the unveiling by Dame Sarah Rose Troughton at Marlborough Town Hall at 12 noon on Tuesday, 11 March.

I hope that you will be able to join us.

An indication of intention to attend would be helpful, please contact Andrea Millar to confirm. If you are unable to attend, please respect the embargo date. Photographs can be supplied after the event upon request by contacting Dawn Whitehall.

**This information is embargoed until 11 March**

*Richard Spencer-Williams*

Richard Spencer-Williams PSLCC  
Town Clerk

### **Contact information:**

Andrea Millar, Civic, Cemetery and Engagement Officer, can be contacted on 01672 512487 / [civic@marlborough-tc.gov.uk](mailto:civic@marlborough-tc.gov.uk).

Dawn Whitehall, Corporate Services Officer, can be contacted on the same number or [enquiries@marlborough-tc.gov.uk](mailto:enquiries@marlborough-tc.gov.uk)

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## Notes to editors

The portrait of Councillor Fogg is only the second portrait of a Marlborough Mayor that we know about in 820 years.

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## Artists in Residence

### Rupert Alexander

<https://www.rupertalexander.com/>

Rupert Alexander is one of the UK's foremost portrait painters. Born and raised in London, he studied at Chelsea College of Art, the Florence Academy of Art and Charles H. Cecil Studios.

He has painted the portraits of many prominent figures in Britain, and when, at the age of 23, he painted HRH The Duke of Edinburgh and HRH The Prince of Wales for the Royal Warrant Holders Association he became the youngest artist to paint the British Royal Family since the 18th Century. His portrait of the Queen, in particular, garnered widespread press attention and critical acclaim, as did his portrait of the eminent mathematician Sir Andrew Wiles, which was unveiled at the National Portrait Gallery, London, in 2015. His work hangs in public and private collections worldwide.

He maintains a studio in London and another in Wiltshire, where he lives with his daughter.

### Bryan Hanlon

<https://www.forestgallery.com/bryan-hanlon/>

Bryan Hanlon lives and works in rural Wiltshire, surrounded by the type of environment that has inspired his work.

Bryan is widely regarded as one of the UK's leading artists, having enjoyed many successful exhibitions around the world, including Nature in Art, Gloucester, The Tryon and Swann, London, and the prestigious 'Birds in Art' exhibition in Wisconsin, America.

### Richard Demarco

<https://www.demarcoarchive.com/richard-demarco>

Richard Demarco (born in Edinburgh, 1930) is an artist and promoter of the visual and performing arts.

He has been one of Scotland's most influential advocates for contemporary art through his work at the Richard Demarco Gallery and the Demarco European Art Foundation, as well as his professorship at Kingston University in London.

His contributions to contemporary art internationally have been recognised on numerous occasions, receiving the Polish Gold Order of Merit, the Cavaliere della Repubblica d'Italia, the Chevalier des Arts et Lettres de France and the Order of the British Empire.