



*Neville Cormack OBE is Chairman of Cormar Carpets, one of the leading manufacturers of tufted carpet in the UK for over 50 years. Despite huge competition from overseas, Cormar has maintained its position at the forefront of manufacturing technology. Since September 2003, Cormar Carpets, together with the Ogden Trust, has sponsored two pupils in our Schools. We were delighted when Neville Cormack agreed to be a Patron of our Appeal.*

**In February, Helen Butterworth, visited the Head Office at Tottington to interview Neville Cormack. Helen Writes:**

Neville Cormack OBE, Chairman of Cormar Carpets, is undoubtedly a valuable asset to the 'Way Forward Appeal'. Celebrating their Golden Year in 2006, Cormar Carpets is one of the few success stories of the British carpet industry. From the company's first 5000 sq ft manufacturing mill in the Rossendale Valley to their current position as the UK's leading manufacturer of tufted carpet, Mr Cormack has witnessed his business transform, however his commitment to the area of Lancashire is unchanged. Despite fierce competition from overseas, all of Cormar's carpets are produced in Bury, and with 230 employees, Cormar ranks as one of Bury's largest employers.

Neville Cormack's daughter, Helen, was Deputy Head Girl and therefore he has a good knowledge of the School. On the question of what Bury Grammar School offered his daughter, Neville Cormack stressed that it was the unique academic environment it provided. "Most of all it gave my daughter confidence and self-belief. The School has a very special atmosphere and a staff which is exceptionally good."

Mr Cormack believes that a vital component of success lies in putting the right people in the workforce. These "right people" are loyal, hardworking and bright; attributes that he feels Helen gained at Bury Grammar School. He has a keen interest in educational matters, not only as a Patron of our Appeal but also as a Governor at Bacup and Rawtenstall Grammar School.

As a pillar of the local community and with his established connections to the School, we were thrilled when Mr Cormack agreed to become a Patron of the 'Way Forward Appeal'. He feels it is important for entrepreneurs to be socially responsible, "If you are within a district, you should try and involve yourself, helping institutions and people within that area." Mr Cormack relates his business practice to the way he acts outside the business arena. "You shouldn't isolate yourself from the community in the same way that you shouldn't isolate yourself from your employees". This is an ethos Mr Cormack duly follows.

Mr Cormack places importance upon great relationships between employees and management at Cormar. In the past three years emphasis has been placed upon cultivating team spirit. "We have set up teams responsible for social activities, human resources, quality processes, labour saving and other interdependent groups". This innovative restructuring in the organisation of the business has been tremendously effective, with employees expressing their satisfaction personally to Mr Cormack during his frequent "walkabouts" on the factory floor.

Mr Cormack was initially attracted to the Appeal due to the creation of a new Sixth Form Centre. "The sixth form environment is highly important and the development will improve the facilities immensely". He also stressed his support of the new Kindergarten, explaining his belief that it is important to "mould" children from an early age.

In addition to helping the School with its Appeal, Cormar Carpets, along with co-sponsors The Ogden Trust, has supported two students through the Bursary Scheme. Mr Cormack believes, "it is highly important for those of all backgrounds to have the chance to come to a school like Bury. There should be a wide social mix". It is this commitment to helping the community combined with his extensive knowledge of education, which makes Mr Cormack an ideal Appeal Patron.