

Welcome to new readers: Alumni update information and opportunities to help.

*Most of you that read this newsletter are on the mailing list but as time goes on many of you may have changed career or contact details. For this reason I would ask if you could take the time to complete the 'new' registration form which also enables you to offer help and advice to our current students if you wish.*

PLEASE click on the following link. <http://www.roundwoodpark.co.uk/alumni-registration-form/>

**Many alumni contact this office for advice on various professional areas and with your permission we are keen to enable alumni to link up to help each other.**

## Alumni networking



Chris Benson [2001] is associate Director of Advent International and came in to talk to sixth form economic students a few years ago and one of those, Louise O'Donovan, now at university studying .....has requested help from

## Two-pronged campaign for floodlit 3G football pitch in Harpenden

Roundwood Park School is applying for planning permission to build the pitch which is expected to be backed by Harpenden Colts at a meeting on June 1 and would be used by the club.



The school is also hoping it will address the inability of its 1,250 students to use their playing field throughout the year.

Ten years ago the school applied for planning permission for an all-weather playing surface which generated many objections and was turned down primarily due to perceived noise and light pollution issues,.

The new pitch will be in a different location and with technological advances in directional floodlighting and the removal of the requirement for the pitch to be dual use - hard and soft ball - the school is hoping concerns have been addressed.

To get the ball rolling, Roundwood Park and the Colts approached the FA for potential financial support. They then conducted extensive exploratory surveying to determine the feasibility of the project, addressing noise, light and traffic issues as well as topography.

The school and the club now intend to embark on an extensive fundraising campaign to raise the balance of funding - likely to be in the region of £150,000 - which they anticipate will take up to two years.

As well as seeking support from local councillors, businesses and other sporting organisations they will also be enlisting the help of the parents and young people of both Roundwood Park and Colts.

Bridging financing is expected to be in place within the next six months so construction could begin as early as Christmas with a proposed opening date of summer 2016.

Roundwood head teacher Alan Henshall said: "This is a very exciting proposition. The students of Roundwood Park School deserve the very best and this will give us a fantastic facility to be enjoyed, not just by our students but by the whole community.

And Ian Holden, chair of Harpenden Colts, added: "Harpenden Colts were delighted to be approached by the Herts FA about the potential for a 3G facility in our area.

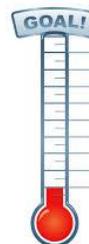
"Members of senior school age currently have to travel as far afield as Luton and Welwyn to train, putting a great strain on coaches and parents alike."

He added: "We feel that this is a great opportunity to be involved in a facility that will benefit a broad spectrum of the local community."

*Article by Madeleine Burton – Herts Advertiser 23 May 2015*

## Alumni funding

We currently have over 1100 alumni on our mailing list. We hope to raise £1000 to help students who are less fortunate and whose families are unable to afford to pay for some additional trips and equipment.



Having the appropriate sports attire and equipment has been shown to translate into improved academic drive and achievement; pupil premium



and additional funding has helped a significant number of children from less well off families. However there are still many that do not qualify for such help and we hope that the Alumni funding can provide this valuable support.

Please help us to help those less fortunate by making a donation on the following page.

<http://www.roundwoodpark.co.uk/alumni/alumni-funding-2> **Thank you.**

## Alumni donations

We would like to thank **Nicola Davey** [Bursary] and **Robert Annetts** for their kind donations.

## Alumni in the media



**Greg Dickinson's cycle route in France** Greg Dickinson [Class of 2008 & Ex Head Boy] is currently the Travel Editor at Rough Guides. He has most recently published an article on his exploits on a bike in France wending his way from the Normandy coast of Caen to the Atlantic coast of La Rochelle.

To read the full article as it appeared in The Independent on Saturday 11th July 2015 click on the following link. <http://www.independent.co.uk/travel/europe/frances-newest-cycling-route-la-vlo-francette-10380192.html>



**Angela Clarke [1998]. The Legacy – critical acclaim.** Angela’s debut play, ‘The Legacy’ was performed at the Hope theatre in Islington in early June as was a fabulous success. Both my wife and I went along to see the play and were captivated by a powerful dialogue and some outstanding acting from the cast. Angela wished to thank all the alumni that made contact and visited, thanks to the news through the RPS Alumni network.

### Some reviews

‘Witty, insightful and powerful’ ‘strong cast’ ‘Intense and thought-provoking’  
★★★★★’ Mail Online

‘Clever, thought-provoking script’ ‘A fantastic debut piece’. ‘The script is excellent – well-observed and current’ ‘★★★★★’ West End Wilma

‘a memorable play that signposts a bright new talent’ ‘an intelligent script’ ‘Comedy gives way to stunning pathos’.

way to stunning pathos’ ‘★★★★★’ London Theatre 1

‘honest, compelling performances’ ‘interesting dialogue and great chemistry’  
★★★★★’ Female Arts



**Angela Clarke**, of Normandy Terrace, St Albans, author of *Confessions of a Fashionista* and writer of *The Legacy*, her debut play loosely based on Harpenden, won the **Young Stationers’ Award for accomplishment and promise** last Monday (20).

The writer was up against tough competition, including national journalists and publishers, and was very surprised to hear she was the winner.

Angela said: “I was really surprised. I didn’t expect to win it. I was really, really delighted, and really, really honoured.”

The award comes as part of a busy year for Angela, who hopes now to write ‘a play and a book a year’.

Angela joked: “If anyone sees me walking round town looking tired, give me coffee.”

She recently moved away from her comedic roots to write a crime novel which she is currently editing.

*From The Herts Advertiser, Harpenden Edition; 30 the July 2015*

**Jimmy Hartley [ ] scored both of Harpenden Town’s goals in normal time against Hoddesdon Town in the Charity Shield.**



Harpenden Town won a thrilling first match of the season, beating Hoddesdon Town after a dramatic penalty shootout. The teams were level after 90 minutes in the Herts FA Charity Shield tie, Harpenden scored six straight penalties to win the shootout.

Manager Danny Plumb said: "I was really pleased with the players' endeavour because we have had a lot of injuries

already and people playing out of position. Sheer desire got us a result, especially when it came down to penalties." Hoddesdon, from the division above Harpenden, the SSML Premier Division, opened the scoring with a thumping shot from 30 yards from left back Kevin Metivier who pounced on a goalmouth clearance. In the second half, Town went ahead with two magnificent goals from Jimmy Hartley. The first was a curling free-kick from 30 yards into the side netting. His second was another gem. He beat two defenders on the left and, with nothing on, fired a shot into the corner of the net from the edge of the box. Hoddesdon levelled to take the game to penalties but Town held their nerve.

*From The Herts Advertiser August 6 2015*



### Women's Football World Cup commentary

The 2015 Women's world cup is currently being played in several venues across Canada. The matches are broadcast on BBC tv and Radio 5 live.

**Natasha Dowie** [Liverpool WFC and England] is joined by others to preview and give comments and match analysis during the England Women's campaign.



### Sarah McKenna misses France but gets call up for Canada tour.

Sarah McKenna has been selected for England Women's Super Series tour in Canada.

Harpenden's Sarah McKenna has missed out on selection for the England Women's Sevens trip to France this weekend [June 20/21], and will instead be heading to Canada with the first XV for the Super Series.

McKenna will join the first XV in Canada for their first action since the

fourth-placed finish at the Six Nations.

England women's new coach, Scott Bemand, got off to a winning start when his side scored seven tries to beat the United States 39-13 in the Rugby Super Sevens in Calgary. Emily Scott, Kaye Wilson, Rowena Burnfield and **Sarah McKenna** scored in the first half before a second from **McKenna** and tries from Marlie Packer and Rachel Lund completed the rout.



### Steven Allison [2006] – Police Cadet Recruitment.



Steven recently sent out a message to all neighbourhood watch member to promote and recruit for The St Albans & Harpenden Volunteer Police Cadets.

The St Albans & Harpenden Volunteer Police Cadets are a uniformed voluntary youth organisation, supported by Hertfordshire Constabulary. We are open to young people aged between 14 -18 from diverse communities, irrespective of their background or financial circumstances and including those vulnerable to crime or social exclusion within the St Albans District.

Armed Forces day was held on Harpenden Common in June and Steven and his team were on hand with an information tent. Steven also announced the winners of the best Cadet categories.

### Alumni Grapevine

#### Ruth Carter [2011] Graduate entomologist.

Ruth graduated this summer [2015] with a BSc in Biology from Royal Holloway, University of London. She is currently on a 12 week secondment working on aphids and ants at the Austrian Institute. In September she will start an MSc at Harper Adams University which has recently opened a new entomology building and will run a new post graduate course set up by Professor Simon Leather (President of the Royal Entomology Society).



#### Laura Pollock [2007] – General Practitioner

Following her A levels, Laura went up to Manchester University to study medicine gaining an MBChB in 2012. Laura has since moved south and is undertaking further training in Kingston to become a GP.



#### Jade Bultitude [2008] and the Pente Ensemble

The Pente Ensemble is a recently established wind quintet based in London, consisting of five postgraduate scholarship students, at [Trinity Laban Conservatoire of Music and Dance](#). Having formed in September



2014, notable performances already include recitals and concerts at venues such as [St James' Church, Piccadilly](#), [the National Maritime Museum](#) and [Southwark Cathedral](#).

Individually, members of the group are forging successful freelance careers, winning many awards between them including the Sir James Galway's Rising Star Award, June Emerson Launchpad Prize, and both Wilfred Hambleton Chamber Music and Clarinet prizes. Collectively, members of the ensemble have performed with orchestras such as the Royal, [London Festival Sinfonia](#) and the English Festival Orchestra.

Future performing highlights include a collaborative, side-by-side project with the New London Chamber Ensemble on a work by [Philip Cashian](#), Head of Composition at the Royal Academy of Music. In June, the ensemble will also be opening the annual All Hallows' Music Festival in Twickenham with a full evening recital of 20th century



**Nicola Swindon [2005] marries Mark Whippy**

On June 6th 2015, Alumna Nicola Swinden married Mark Whippy at a church in Stratford. The couple honeymooned in Thailand and will return to live in Hertfordshire.

Casandra and Patrick tied the knot at St John's church in Harpenden on Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> May 2015.

**Casandra Tyler [2001] marries Patrick Gaughan**



**Anna James [2003] marries Charlie Howard on 11<sup>th</sup> July 2015.**

**Georgina Calle [2011] elected Town Councillor**

Georgie was elected on 7th May 2015 as a Conservative Councillor for Harpenden North and serve on the Planning B and the Policy and Finance Committees.

Georgie joined Roundwood Park in 2009 in the Sixth Form, having studied for her GCSEs at Wellingborough School. She has just completed a BA in Politics & Modern History at Manchester University.

However from an early age Georgie has shown great interest in caring for others and for politics. She was a Harpenden Youth Town Councillor and had numerous roles working for charities. She undertook work experience with the local MP, the Rt Hon Peter Lilley, and later as a parliamentary intern for Dominic Raab MP. Whilst studying in Manchester she also stood as the



Conservative candidate for Rusholme and, despite increased the share of voting, was unsuccessful.

**Lucy Barratt [2010]**

Lucy gained a 1st class honours BA in English Language with Creative Writing at Bangor University and stayed on to complete an MA [with distinction] in Cognitive Linguistics. From September, Lucy will be starting an MSc in Psychology at the University of Hertfordshire. Ultimately Lucy hopes to do research into Dyslexia.



**Tess Corscaden [2012]**

Tess is currently training at a dance school near Manchester which is a change from her previous school in Scotland. She is training to become a classical ballet dancer or to explore a contemporary dance based company.

**Jainaba Jeng 2011]** has recently graduated with a Bachelor's Degree, Psychology and Criminology from the Anglia Ruskin University in Cambridge.



**Laura Gray [2009]** Graduated summer 2013 from the University of Leeds in BSc. Medical Sciences (International) after an exchange spell at Queens University in Canada. Currently working for Mars Incorporated on their Research and Development Graduate programme.

**Mark Chesher [1997].** Mark is a commercial litigator with over 10years experience. He studied Law at Exeter University gaining his LLB and then took a Legal; Practice Course at the London school of Law. He is currently a legal Director at Addleshaw Goddard.



**Amy Selwood (nee Hollis) [2004]** A former Head Girl, Amy went on the study Events Management from the University of Derby. After a number of key Events Management roles, Amy is currently in Educational management as a Pre-school administrator in Hertfordshire.

**David Westwood [2004]** Dave studies at Loughborough University gaining a BSc in Computer Science and then an MSc in Finance & Management. Having worked for Lehman Brothers, Santander and Deutsche Bank, David is now Product Controller at London Capital Group. He was also a successful badminton player for both county and university.



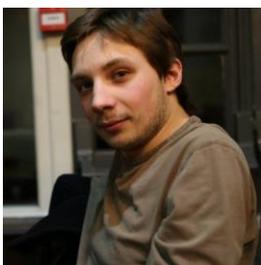
**Hannah Meller nee Lewis [2000].** After leaving Roundwood, Hannah went on to study and gain qualifications in Leisure & Travel. She is currently a Trade Relations Executive at TUI travel in Bedfordshire.

**Tom Slater [2004]** Tom studied Construction Management at Coventry University and has since worked for many of the major building construction companies. He is currently a project coordinator for Barratt Developments.



**Bethany Cawthorpe [2007]** Bethany went to the University of Oxford gaining a BA Hons. in Experimental Psychology. Following a brief spell at the BBC, Bethany is now an Account Director at The Red Consultancy in London.

**Karen Vincent [2011]** Recent Warwick Languages Graduate (1<sup>st</sup> Class honours with distinction in spoken German and qualifications from the University of Cologne for business German) about to embark on a Euromasters - MA Contemporary European Studies: Politics, polity and society - in Sep '15, with upcoming semesters at the University of Bath, Charles University in Prague and FU/Humboldt in Berlin



**Alex McKay [2007].** Alex studied Contemporary Theatre at the University of Bedfordshire. He is currently a presenter on Verulam Community Radio Ltd where he presents his own weekly specialist music show called 'The Music Lab'.

**Aimee Lennox [2009]** Aimee studied Midwifery at the University of Herts. She is currently working at Watford general hospital and recently assisted in the birth of another alumna's baby boy.



**Paul O'Gorman [2005]** Paul is currently SEO Manager at Blue 449 [Marketing & advertising] in London

**Katie Scotchett [2006]** Katie gained a Master's degree in Chartered Institute of Personnel and Development [CIPD] and has made a career out of Human Resources. She is currently HR, Recruitment & Training Manager at Churchill Contract Services.



**Paul Ramsay [1993].** After studying Business, Management, Marketing, and Related Support Services at University, Paul worked as a Telecoms Manager before setting up his own business; he is owner/director of Harpenden Computer Services Ltd.

**Melanie Cutler [1982.]** Melanie is an artist who specialises in the political and social arena. Her artistic skills were put on hold whilst bringing up her family. Mel went to university in her late 40's to get a degree in Fine Art.

Choosing performance art and installation more recently, this artist wanted to challenge and stretch her practice, likewise her audience. Her last exhibited work is controversial and tackles the issues of suicide and welfare reform, which polarises the opinions of those who see it.

Mel spent an extra year in 6th form at Roundwood, choosing to learn to type, alongside other administrative subjects. This path took her to London where she worked in an office environment for many years. Now this once frustrated artist is able to balance her creativity with her lifestyle, running a business and becoming a Director of a local charity. She continues to be an activist fighting inequality through her art.



You can see more of her work at [www.mel-cutler.co.uk](http://www.mel-cutler.co.uk).

## Alumni Wednesday visits

Many alumni have expressed a desire to visit the school for a guided tour. We welcome all alumni to visit the school on a Wednesday to have a guided tour around the ever changing premises with the chance to some of your 'old' teachers.

PLEASE email [b.smith@roundwoodpark.co.uk](mailto:b.smith@roundwoodpark.co.uk) to arrange this.

- Hon Si Lo [2012] on a break from his studies in Hong Kong visited on 3<sup>rd</sup> June from 1030 - 1200h.

## Reunion 2017

We are currently planning a reunion for all those that entered the school in 1978 and left in 1983(5<sup>th</sup>), 1984(L6<sup>th</sup>) and 1985(U6<sup>th</sup>). For most this will be their 50<sup>th</sup> birthday and this will follow a successful 30<sup>th</sup> organised then and now by Jane Waller (nee Knowles. [jwaller@live.co.uk](mailto:jwaller@live.co.uk))

If you belong to this year group please tell all your fellow classmates and

PLEASE sign up on Facebook at **Roundwood Reunion 2017** for more details.

## The Staff Interview – Valerie Pritchard [1988 - present]

1. Which university did you attend and what did you study there – why that subject in particular?

*Mathematics at Oxford*

2. Do you have any fond memories of your time at university?

*I'm on record for the slowest winning time for the Varsity Match 100m hurdles and once disrupted Maths Society lecture in the guise of a pensioner who disapproved of gambling. I met people from many backgrounds in both the town and gown areas of the city and got to spend a few years among inspiring surroundings and people.*

3. What made you go into teaching?

*I've always been interested in seeing others discover new skills and understand new ideas*

4. Did you, or have you, ever considered any other career path?

*I considered academic work in Physics.*

5. Why did you choose Roundwood Park School and have you ever worked in another school or any other industry?

*I was looking for a school in Hertfordshire which was on the Thameslink railway line and had a strong Maths department. I was also rejected by Sir John Lawes who chose Dr Tuck instead of me at interview.*

6. What aspects of your job at RPS did you especially enjoy and if you have to pick one thing that you most enjoyed what would it have been?

*It has been a pleasure to maintain variety with teaching across the age and ability range and to see changes come (and go). I've enjoyed being a sixth form tutor and seen the transition for many students as they prepare for the next stages in life. However there has always been a certain special link with further maths groups over the years.*



7. Rumour has it you do 'outreach' somewhere else as well as teaching part time at RPS? What exactly is this and why?

*Starting last September I have been working three days a week for the Further Maths Support Programme. This is a national organisation which helps schools and students access further maths A level. In addition it has an extensive role in giving enrichment opportunities for students from year nine upwards in developing mathematical awareness and interest. I have responsibility for schools in Hertfordshire and I am based at the University of Hertfordshire in Hatfield. I organise events, visit schools, coordinate support and help with training for staff.*

8. I believe you are a keen athlete. What is your speciality and do you have any athletic honours?

*Sadly athletics days are just about gone. In times past I had athletics blue, two Varsity match winners' medals and a bronze from British Universities. I made the top twenty in a few national veterans athletics events and may possibly still hold a club record for the over forties race walk.*

9. Do you have any moments that stand out that you are willing to share about your experiences at RPS?

*I recall many A level results days in seeing students gaining grades that helped them move on to the next stage of their education. I remember "teaching" James Keith when I set him Cambridge entrance paper questions, but then had to look at his answers to understand what the question was about. In form times and end of course parties I led students in various frivolous activities including space hopper racing, blindfold portrait sketches, cake baking competitions and origami challenges. While coordinating teaching and learning briefings I got staff to dance, sing, recite, dress up and do sketches.*

10. Students often said they especially enjoyed the strictness and high standards you demanded of them and they knew they could not 'hoodwink' you. Is this a fair assessment? Dr Smith's nickname of Field Marshall Pritchard seemed fair in dealings with members of my forms over the years. By comparison with my devious and competitive nature, many students seemed sweetly innocent of guile. I am sure that many got away with things I missed, but left me in happy ignorance. I hope I was at least impartial in my dealings with all, although I never was great at showing sympathy to those who had occasional days off when feeling slightly unwell since I still have not had a day off school for ill health in all the years at Roundwood.

11. Did you take part in or lead extra-curricular activities with the students?

*In the past I helped with athletics training, particularly in coaching relay teams and still notice with horror any right-hand to right-hand baton changes. Each year I'm allowed to take charge of track judging for the athletics match the school host and get to coordinate (i.e. order around) my team of volunteers.*

*When the Christian Union was on Friday after school I had the opportunity to support outstanding students like Caroline Black and Nina Langford as they led.*

12. Would you say faith has been an important factor in your career and life?

*Undoubtedly true, from praying for lessons while aiming to be of service to help students do the best for themselves, to having a purpose in life that goes beyond work, I am aware of God's presence and the love shown by his Son in dying for me.*

13. After more than 25 years of service to so many young and malleable minds how would you say that you have left your mark?

*Probably most true for those who have needed maths in further studies who have found their first university terms considerably eased by the preparation we gave them. There may be emotional scars for students from the gallery of portraits others drew of them in the form of the glaring*

*mathematical errors that were named after them. There are also areas around school where I have left my mark in the form of papers, practical equipment and old wall displays.*

14. Given the changes in education over the year would you, given your time again, go into teaching or another profession?

*The changes have given variety over the years, but not as much as the freshness of seeing new students each year with their individual needs and ways of understanding. I might not want to start my career again, but I have no regrets over my choice.*

15. When students look back on their time at RPS how would you like to be remembered?  
*I'd like to be remembered as one whose greatest desire was to see their success in each lesson, each topic, each course and in each exam as well as in seeing them become those who took responsibility for taking care of those around them.*

## **Staff News**

Nan Maxwell [History, geography and 6<sup>th</sup> form tutor] will be leaving Harpenden with her husband and returning to their native Scotland.

Staff turnover has been significant in recent years. To check if your 'old' teachers are still at RPs please check the school web site and then the staff news pages on the Alumni website. If you would like to find out about your 'old' teachers please email to the [alumnioffice@roundwoodpark.co.uk](mailto:alumnioffice@roundwoodpark.co.uk) .

## **Can you help?**

We are keen to update and validate the roll of honour and we would like your help to tell us of any errors or omissions on the list. Please follow the link

[http://www.roundwoodpark.co.uk/roll-of-honour/head\\_boy\\_girl/](http://www.roundwoodpark.co.uk/roll-of-honour/head_boy_girl/)

Please email us with corrections or additional names

**News & Views, comments and photos, welcomed from all Alumni. Please email [alumnioffice@roundwoodpark.co.uk](mailto:alumnioffice@roundwoodpark.co.uk)**

**Enjoy the summer**

**Kind regards**

**The editor**

*BML Smith*