



ROUNDWOOD PARK ALUMNI Newsletter 14: March 2016

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www.roundwoodpark.co.uk/alumni



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

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.



[Do please forward this newsletter to ex-Roundwood friends and encourage them to make contact to be added to the mailing list.](#)

Changed your job, email address or name (married ladies?).



In order for us to maintain contact PLEASE inform us if any of the above have changed or if you would prefer us to use a personal rather than a work email. Please email us or use the link to update details and also to indicate any preferences.

<http://www.roundwoodpark.co.uk/alumni-registration-form/>

RPS will be 60 years old in the Autumn Term 2016

The 6th form leadership team will be making a video of the time line from 1956 - 2016. A number of other events are planned. The school will celebrate its 60th year in the Autumn Term 2016

The 6th form leadership team will be making a video of the time line from 1956 - 2016. They hope to interview a number of staff that worked during those 60 years . A number of other events are planned.



The Halcyon days have returned at Roundwood hits top 10 ranked schools in the East of England for GCSE results and narrowly tops the Harpenden schools for GCSE results A* - C. <http://www.theguardian.com/teacher-network/datablog/2016/jan/21/gcse-league-tables-top-10-non-selective-schools-by-region>

On 18th February 2016, Mr Alan Henshall, Head teacher, received this letter from Nick Gibbs MP, Minister of State for Schools.



Dear Mr Henshall,
I am writing to convey my warmest congratulations to you, your staff and your pupils for your school's very high standard of achievement in the GCSE exams in 2015.

The percentage of pupils achieving five or more GCSEs at grades A*-C, including English and mathematics, shows that your school is one of the top 100 non-selective state-funded schools in England.

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Ensuring your pupils are achieving at least this benchmark standard of attainment at key stage 4 provides a strong basis for their further education and employment.

Thank you for your work in this important area of a young person's education and congratulations again to you and your staff for your hard work and professionalism.

With best wishes.

Yours sincerely, Nick Gibb MP

School receives massive grant to replace windows.



A massive overhaul to the school aging glazing has been underway since June and soon to be completed. As the school seeks ways to reduce costs and energy use there are already significant and noticeable changes with students and staff already 'feeling warmer'.

Another rugby star – Ralph Adams Hale [2015]

Ralph was selected for the U20 Six Nations rugby championships in February. He was on the bench against Italy but came on after 60 minutes to win his U20 cap.



The ex-staff interview; Mrs Judy Munton; Head of 6th Form & Geography teacher (1982 - 99).

1. **What did you study at University – why that subject in particular?**

I studied geography at University, chosen because I had enjoyed it at A level and it was my best subject.



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

Memories from University – friends, a group of still meet up occasionally, independence, coming from a farming family in South Shropshire, life both at home and in the community was very conservative, few girls went to University, sport was good and I played both hockey and cricket and bridge in the evening. I met my husband there, on the same course as did 3 of our friends, all still happily married!

3. **What made you go into teaching?**

Teaching – having been offered a job in a bank in Nigeria, I got engaged. I therefore decided that teaching was a good job for a married woman. Jobs were very easy to get then, we could choose what we did!

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

No, teaching fitted my lifestyle very well.

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

RPS was handy for home and young children. I worked in several schools before having a family and was a tutor at the Open University for several years.

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?**

I especially enjoyed working with colleagues in the Geography Department we helped and supported each other, had fun but were keenly competitive. The Staff room was friendly and welcoming. I most enjoyed the Sixth Form, both teaching and Head of the Sixth Form.

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

Standing out are results days, sharing the joy and supporting those who hadn't quite made what they hoped for. Meeting parents and pupils was always a good experience both in school and in the town.

8. **Rumour has it you were involved with a local sports club?**

I was involved with hockey, both playing, umpiring and Chairman of Harpenden Ladies' Hockey Club. Mrs Favager and I helped Mr Beard and Mr Figg with the boys' hockey taking practices and

Saturday matches. The boys were good and Monday mornings were always special when we could report results, invariably good!

9. Did you also take part in extra-curricular activities such as visits or sporting events with the students?

School trips, both Geography field trips to North Wales with the GSE groups and to Yorkshire, Cornwall and Dorset with the A Level groups. I went on a music trip to Switzerland, Russia with the historians and Iceland with the Sixth Form and Mr Cole.

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10. How do you feel you made an impact at RPS as Head of Sixth Form?

Difficult one, I like to think that students felt that they could come to me with problems, academic, social or home. I would listen try to help and be discreet.

11. Was it an easy decision to leave the teaching profession when you did?

Yes, it was an easy decision. I was tired, felt that I had run out of steam.

12. How have you enjoyed your time since retiring from teaching?

Fantastically and still do, I'm busier than ever! I became a JP when I retired, a most interesting and worthwhile "job" and didn't see too many RPS pupils in the dock! I also became a Samaritan, a harrowing job but, I hope worthwhile. I have been doing School Appeals in the County for the last 15 years a very necessary role to help parents feel they are doing all that they can to get their child into the school they most want both at 5 and 11 as well as in year. On a lighter note I joined HADFAS – Harpenden Association of Design and Fine Arts, a completely different and unknown area which has opened my eyes to another world and I am now Membership Secretary. Finally, family, son in Harpenden with 2 children, daughter in Dubai with 4 What a joy they all are.

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

I would probably not go into teaching knowing the profession as I did and as it is now, plus the ability of women to work in other professions and the acceptability of nannies or child minding. It is a different world.

14. When students look back on their time at RPS how would you like to be remembered?

I would like to be looked back on as someone who had their interests at heart and would do my very best to help them realise their potential.

Ed's note. Judy was seen recently and is perhaps still in Dubai visiting her daughter and her family.



It is with great sadness that we must report the death of one of our alumna; Liana Hoyland. Click on the link for details.

<http://www.roundwoodpark.co.uk/tragic-death-of-a-much-loved-student-liana-hoyland-2015/>

The school magazine 'ROUNDUP' (*nothing to do with Monsanto or weedkillers!*) usually features 'Alumni of the Month'.

**MEGAN WHEWELL [2000 - 7] is February's
Alumna of the month.**

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Ph.D. student (3rd year) at the Mullard Science Laboratory, University College, London. Her research work involves 'the analysis of high resolution X-ray spectroscopy from Active Galactic Nuclei'.

After her A levels and a week at the Oxfords

Summer school, Megan attended **University College**

London, gaining an **MSci in Natural Sciences** (Major:

Astrophysics; Minor: History & Philosophy of Science and Science Communication).

During this time she joined the Education team at the **Royal Observatory** in Greenwich.



Megan then joined the **National Space Centre** in Leicester where she was employed as a Presenter concerned with Space Communications. Her role included delivery of education programmes including workshops, planetarium shows and Challenger Learning Centre experiences at the National Space Centre, and outreach programmes on school premises. Development of new planetarium programmes for both school and public audiences. Communication of up to date astronomy and space science news through online writing, public talks and media appearances.

From there she returned to London to study for a Ph.D. at **University College**.

During this time she was an **Astronomer** at the **Royal Museums in Greenwich**

where she gave Study Day Master Classes to school groups (ages 11-18) and

planetarium shows to both school groups and the general public. She was

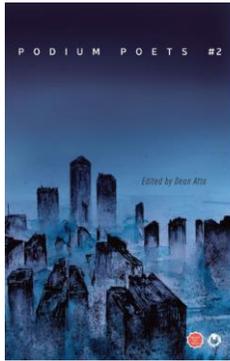
responsible for incorporating the latest astrophysics research results into the schools programme.

Synopsis of Megan's research

Every galaxy, including our Milky Way, has a supermassive black hole (SMBH) at its centre. Active Galactic Nuclei, or AGN, are galaxies whose central regions emit more light than all stars in the galaxy combined. In these galaxies, gas and dust surrounding their SMBH emits light as it falls towards the SMBH and heats up. This is the why central regions of AGN shine so brightly. Gas can also be pushed outwards from the central SMBH in the form of winds, and absorb some of the light emitted closer in. Such light is analysed by X-ray spectroscopy.

If you would like us to promote or publicise any productions or issues that you are involved in please let us know.

Alumni in the media, in print and on the stage.



Jack Caithness has had some of his poetry published in 'Podium Poets:spread the word London'.

Podium Poets brought together fine, experimental new poetry voices as part of the London Laureates scheme.

Jack kindly donated a copy to the school library.

More details here

<http://spread-the-word-london.myshopify.com/products/podium-poets>

Katie Brennan's new show in London

Katie [class of 2005] is an accomplished actress, blogger, teacher and playwright. Her latest and upcoming production is a one-woman show 'Twentysomething – The Quarter-Life Crisis' at the St James theatre in Victoria on 29th January & 19th March 2016. Running Time: 1 hour 50 minutes including interval



Are you crippled by student debt? Working an unpaid internship? Trying to find Prince Charming on Tinder? Spending the majority of your time watching Netflix or doing essential quizzes on BuzzFeed? Welcome to the life of a modern day Twentysomething!

Join actress and blogger Katie Brennan for a new show, packed with music, comedy and cabaret all about living that Quarter Life Crisis life! From facebook to flatshares, weddings to woeful bank accounts, career conundrums to chronically crap sex, come and raise a big glass of gin to all those twentysomethings struggling to find their place in the world!

For more information go to

<https://www.stjamestheatre.co.uk/studio/twentysomething-the-quarter-life-crisis-cabaret-2/> and there's also a youtube link here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VE1gqigwVC0>

Some reviews

'A superb and sensitive pianist' Charles Isherwood, The New York Times

'Katie Brennan's impeccable delivery is hysterical and the perfect recipe for a comic dream.' West End Frame

'Both completely loveable AND completely ridiculous!' Musical Theatre Review

Angela Clarke's new thriller 'Follow me' is out now!

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The 'Hashtag Murderer' posts chilling cryptic clues online, pointing to their next target. Taunting the police. Enthralling the press. Capturing the public's imagination. But this is no virtual threat.

As the number of his followers rises, so does the body count. Eight years ago two young girls did something unforgivable. Now ambitious police officer Nasreen and investigative journalist Freddie are thrown together again in a desperate struggle to catch this cunning, fame-crazed killer. But can they stay one step ahead of him? And can they escape their own past? Time's running out. Everyone is following the #Murderer. But what if he is following you?

<http://www.amazon.co.uk/Follow-Me-Angela-Clarke/dp/0008165432>

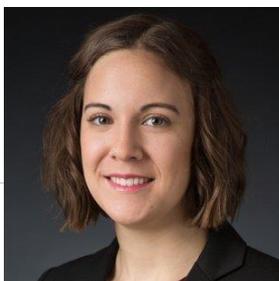
Local bookstore, Waterstones, in St Albans hosted a 'Book Launch of 'Follow Me' on Saturday 30th January. The packed audience in the upstairs café area witnessed a stunning and most entertaining session where Angela talked about her life as an author, playwright and discussed and answered questions on a range of topics relating to her current book, the impact of modern technology and issues relating to feminism and human behaviour in general. People travelled for far and wide to see and support Angela and it was good to see Dr Hayley (Evans) King with her youngest son, Theo, all the way from Birmingham/Bristol!.



Alumni Grapevine

Richard Marsden [1990]

Richard is currently an Economic Consultant and Senior Vice President at NERA based in New York, USA. Following his A levels, he went to the University of Warwick where he gained a BA in Economic & International Studies and then an MA in International Political Economics.



Stephanie Cunningham [2007]

Now an Associate lawyer at Sidley Austin LLP in Geneva. Stephanie graduated in Law from Sheffield University.

Ian Lynch [1978]

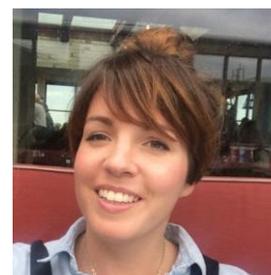
After an impressive career in business, Ian has in recent years founded a new venture called 'Rites of Man'. He is also the co-founder at Woby; an app that will "connect people through events and experiences. Ian has degrees in Psychology and Social Sciences and awards in Neuro-linguistic programming.



Keith Hutchison [1997]

Partner at Clyde & Co LLP. Dubai, United Arab Emirates. Keith studied law (LLB) at the University of East Anglia and then at Nottingham Trent University for his LPC.

Judy Cogan [2002] Judy gained a BA Hons in Journalism from John Moores University, Liverpool. She is currently Deputy Editor, Shortlist UEA, at ITP Publishing in Dubai, United Arab Emirates. Prior to that she was the Lifestyle Editor at Gulf News.



Richard Marsden [1990]

After leaving the sixth form, Richard went to Warwick University gaining a BA in Economics & International Studies and then an MA in International Political Economy. He currently works as a Senior Vice President at NERA Economic Consulting in New York, USA.

Trish Hall (nee Lamb) [2005]

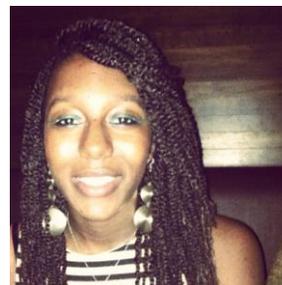
Trish gained a BA in English from the University of Leeds and then went on to study for an MRes in Climate change, impacts and feedback from the University of Exeter. Trish has worked for the Met Office in a few positions and she is now the Customer Experience Manager. (*Please do not write to complain about the weather!*)



Lee Atkinson [1988]

Lee gained degrees in Building Studies and Building Management from the Universities of Coventry and Nottingham Trent. He is currently the Contracts Manager for Whistlers Ltd, London.

Maya Mercury [2008]. After her A levels Maya attended the Nottingham Business school to gain a BA honours in International business and during which she spent a year on the Erasmus exchange to Euromed Management in Marseilles. She is currently International Stock & Distribution Coordinator at Lipsy in London.



Jessica Kemp [2003]

Jessica went to Kings Langley school to take her A levels and after that gained a 1st class Honours degree in Fashion Marketing from the University of Northampton. After roles as a Publication Manager and Fashion Blogger, Jessica is currently the Store Manager at Alannah Hill in the county.

Matthew Midwinter [1985]

Matthew gained a BSc (honours) in Urban Land Economics from Sheffield Hallam. He is currently a Chartered Surveyor and Property Consultant at Sanderson Weatherall in London



Emma Healey [2012]

Emma joined in the Sixth Form and then went to the University of Leeds to study for a BA honours in International Politics, Political Science and governments. She studied in Utrecht for her out and will finish this summer (2016).

Sunil Lagah [2007] Sunil is an NHS doctor in Luton, Beds. He trained at the Universities of Nottingham, University College London and St Georges Medical school.

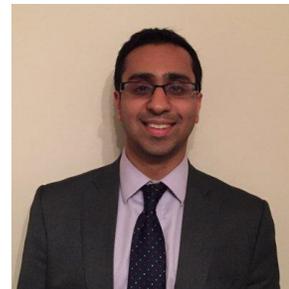


Liz Davies [2009]

Liz is currently an Education Programmes Coordinator Royal College of Physicians in London. She gained a BA in French and Italian from the University of Warwick.

Saurabh Karbal [2004]

He gained a BA in Accounting and Finance from the University of Leeds then chartered accountancy qualifications from Kaplan Financial. After a number of financial accountancy positions, Saurabh is now Audit Senior at Price Bailey LLP in London



Hayley Milne [1989]

Hayley is the founder of Jeunesse Global which is a global organization that deals with Health, Wellness and Fitness. It is based in Milton Keynes. Prior to founding Jeunesse, Hayley had gained considerable experience in marketing, sales, recruitment and running her own business.

Jon Bowd [1993]

Jon graduated from the University of Birmingham. He has been in reporting and publishing since his time as Sub-editor of the Kentish Times. Since then he has held many positions at The Independent before moving to his current position as Managing Editor at Freshfields Bruckhaus Derings



Georgia Danso [2011]

After her A levels, Georgia studied Retail Marketing at the University of Stirling. She is currently indulging in her passion for dance as a Teaching Assistant at Nicola Kane Street Beatz Dance Studio in North Ayrshire, Scotland.

Stefan Lewandowski [1994]

Stefan left to study and gain the international Baccalaureate at Oaklands College and from there gained a BSC in Computer Science and Software Engineering. Stefan's list of achievements are long and impressive. He is a technologist, designer, startup founder and artist. Until recently he was the technical founder of Makeshift, a London startup studio. Now he is the Entrepreneur in Residence in a new startup studio/venture.



Alumni celebrations



Niall & Mrs Blackwell



Imran & Mrs Shahryar

Careers Convention helpers

The school was delighted to be able to call on some of our alumni that offered to come in last term and speak to our younger students about work and career opportunities. Thanks especially to Sergeant Steve Alison (Herts police), Angela Clarke (author, playwright, journalist) and Joe Wilkes (Ashtons Estate Agency).



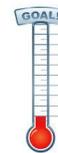
Alumni funding

Many Thanks to Mark Chesher for his recent donation.

We currently have over 1150 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.

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.**



A trip down memory lane - Wednesday visits

Your old school is continually changing and building work is still in progress. The place is the same but different. Take a nostalgia trip and email b.smith@roundwoodpark.co.uk to arrange a visit.

ID parade! There are a few individuals in this 13Sm form photo below that we would like to make contact with. Can you identify/confirm, preferably with contact details, some of the 12 shown. From

L to R, Nos 1(Claire Buchanan), 3(James Aegerter?), 4(?). 5(Lisa Shufflebotham), 7(Mandy Twomey), 9(Wendy Veron?), 10(Ian?) &11(?).



Reunion 2017 – You will be 50! Yes & No!

Unfortunately as interest in this has been disappointing it has been shelved! Many thanks to Jane Waller (jwaller@live.co.uk) who has worked tirelessly, setting up a facebook page, Roundwood Reunion 2017, to try to get this off the ground.

STOP PRESS



Mr Paul Woodhouse, Maths teacher, Form tutor, Year Head & Senior tutor is leaving Roundwoodpark School in May 2016. The Maths dept would like to produce a 'book of comments ' from all those students & staff that knew him or have memories of being taught by him.

We would ask all alumni to email in any comments that you may wish to have transcribed into this book of comments for 'Mr Woodhouse'. I am sure many of you will have fond memories as will he of you.

News & Views, comments and photos, welcomed from all Alumni. Please email alumnioffice@roundwoodpark.co.uk