



ROUNDWOOD PARK ALUMNI Newsletter 16: September 2016

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www.roundwoodpark.co.uk/alumni



Page | 1

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.



Please forward this newsletter to ex-Roundwood friends and encourage them to make contact to be added to the mailing list.



Keeping in touch – tracing new alumni / contact details?

PLEASE inform us if your contact details (email) change also 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/>

Searching for friends on the RPS Alumni site

Many alumni are featured on 'Alumni Listings' with a photo and a brief outline of what they have done since leaving RPS. Increasingly alumni are sending in words and information they would like published along with preferred photos. This is an opportunity for individuals to give links or contact details (*we will never do this without your permission*) if preferred.

You can search by **year of leaving**; we have yet to set up surname search!

Reunions & Celebrations

The school celebrated its 60th anniversary with a 'shindig' that was attended mainly by staff.



Rob Kirk (1989-96) also emailed in to say that the leavers of 1996 were having a second reunion on the same night at the Skew Bridge in Harpenden. Hope it all went well.

Do let us know if you are organizing events/reunions and let us know if you would prefer us to organize a reunion in a local pub or at the school. So far the school seems a popular venue!

Katie Brennan appears at the Edinburgh Fringe, August 2016.

Harpenden actress and blogger Katie Brennan features in her comedy show, Katie Brennan's Quarter-Life Crisis.

The former Roundwood Park School pupil was performing her show in London, when "it got picked up by a producer, who loved it, and we are now up here for a month.



Page | 2

"It is amazing – there is nothing like this festival."

Katie described her performance as a "kind of comedy/cabaret show; it's about being in your 20s, feeling a bit lost in life and about not knowing how to be a grown-up."

She admitted to feeling nervous about appearing on Sky News tomorrow (Saturday) for an interview about her show as, "I'm terrified I'm going to swear on live TV!"

Katie went on: "This is the fourth time I've performed here, but I've been coming to Edinburgh since 2006, as a reveller or a spectator – I'm obsessed with the festival.

"It's a great way to be creative, and I've made some lovely friends through it."

The 29 year old, who has a BA (Hons) in English literature and drama, praised her former school for helping to set her on her current path, particularly as she was helped by "lovely and supportive drama and music teachers".

Asked about her stay in Edinburgh, Katie joked, "I'm yet to have a deep-fried haggis".

The Edinburgh Fringe is the largest arts festival in the world and takes place every August for three weeks in Scotland's capital city.

Dating back to 1947, this year's Fringe will see 50,266 performances of 3,269 shows, from 48 countries, at 294 venues across Edinburgh.

These range from big names in the world of entertainment to unknown artists looking to build their careers, with the festival including theatre, comedy, dance, physical theatre, circus, cabaret, children's shows, musicals, opera, music, spoken word, exhibitions and events.

• Katie Brennan's Quarter-Life Crisis is at the Underbelly, George Square, between August 5-14 and 16-29. To read her blog go to <http://bloodyhellbrennan.com/>

• BLUSH is also at the Underbelly, August 5-15 and 17-28.

Courtesy of the Herts Advertiser 17th August 2016

Scott Baxter questions way banks do business with customers in publication.

Scott (class of 2006) is a Principal Recruitment Consultant at Huxley Banking & Financial Services, a Staffing & recruitment specialist company, and he has published an article discussing digital transformation v digital enablement in banks.



https://www.linkedin.com/pulse/digital-transformation-vs-enablement-banks-really-looking-baxter?trk=hb_ntf MEGAPHONE ARTICLE POST

Alumnus of the Month: July 2016 Stuart Keith [1989-96] Business Development/Management

After his A'levels Stuart gained a BA in Business & Economics from the Leicester University.

Initially, Stuart worked as a Client Account Manager at Verizon before moving to take up a series of positions at The Independent. Working as a Business Development Manager, he moved on to a number of key positions within the company as Magazine Manager, Group Head – Independent Industry & Education Publications, Senior Online Account Manager to Commercial Partnership Manager.

After a brief spell at ESI as Digital Partnership Manager, he took up new positions with Microsoft as Commercial Partnership Manager and then Business development & Strategy Manager. He has since joined BT as Commercial Manager-Digital and is currently Head of Advertising Sales & Partnership – Digital at BT.



The ex-staff interview 2016, Margaret Tylour [1986-2016]. Head of English.

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

I came to Roundwood Park in 1986 after working at London Colney School when there was a secondary school there. The school closed and all the staff and pupils were 'relocated'. I visited a number of schools and have always said that there was just something about this school that felt right when I came for interview. Just a few staff who were there when I came, are still in school and apart from a short time when I worked part time when my daughter was little (27 years ago) I have been full time here since.

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

I attended teacher training college (near Liverpool), which was much more common in those days, and got my combined BEd. Hons. degree in English and Education and then started teaching. The St Albans area at that time was a mark on a map but it is now the place I have lived the longest. The course was a four year combined course with school placements, and professional studies alongside the main English Literature degree and secondary subjects such as History of Education. I studied French as a subsidiary subject. My college no longer exists as higher education has changed and my secondary school from the seventies was also knocked down (and rebuilt) which I hope isn't an omen.



Page | 4

Did you or have you ever considered any other career path?

I had always been most interested in English Literature and this was really the only thing that I had wanted to do once I had taken my A levels in Preston. Although I did toy with the idea of A level Maths I took languages alongside English at A level. As I took a teaching degree my career was pretty much planned out from the start. Now is my opportunity for a "gap year".

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

Teacher training over four years was very varied. We travelled over to The Isle of Man and stayed in a vast rambling boarding house with a landlady who provided endless biscuits (and hot water bottles). We were all trainee teachers together and planned all our lessons to the 70s music of Rod Stewart and 10CC. Some of us still keep in touch 40 years later.

You are now leaving after many years at the helm of the English Dept. What will you miss most?

People. I'll miss all the students, teachers and other members of staff I work with now and share so much time with. It sounds possibly unlikely but we do talk "literature" a lot of the time. We talk a lot about "life", laugh a lot and eat too much. Although I won't be there in the office I will definitely be meeting up with the English teachers and catching up, possibly even in a reading group where we can talk but not have to prepare a book for teaching. I've lost count of the number of teachers I've worked with over the last 32 years.

I enjoyed many years as a sixth form tutor as well and had some great tutor groups.

What will you not miss?

I'll not miss the stresses and strains of organising teachers, the curriculum and classes and marking thousands of hours' worth of exams and assessments followed by target setting, analysing results, reporting on results and revisiting the tasks. The planning of lessons changes every time the government decides to change the spec. and I've seen plenty of changes from 100% exam to 100% coursework and back. Although the students can be challenging they are still what keeps us in teaching.

Did you take part in extra-curricular activities with the students?

We went to the theatre quite often. Some of the productions in Stratford and London were outstanding and it was great to see students realising how exciting theatre was. Other smaller performances were slightly less enthralling and I remember having to do a whispered running commentary to explain who the characters were as there were only four actors for the whole play. We used to go to an open air theatre in Stamford and have a picnic before the performance. The audience were just about under cover but the cast were exposed to the elements and in summer that was at times rain and howling wind, which kind of added to the atmosphere of 'Macbeth'. The sound of sheep and pigeons made hearing the lines difficult but there was a great atmosphere. When I first started I taught some French and went on the French Encounters trip. I also enjoyed joining the History department on Ironbridge trips.

Is this now the time to do all the things you never had time for before?

I'm going to take time to explore my options and see what's possible. I may do some exam marking or tutoring but not for a while. I'll spend more time visiting family and going on short breaks out of school holiday time. We go to the Lake District each year and it'll be nice to see it at a different time. I want to get out walking more round here too. I hope to get the chance to see more plays when tickets are available mid-week and read more books without feeling I should be reading a set of essays.

The house and garden need a thorough sort-out after many years and I do a lot of different crafts. I hope to develop my flower arranging.

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

I can't imagine having done anything else.

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

I think I'm seen as the 'scary' one but hopefully the many students I've taught realise that I did and do appreciate my students and have always wanted to get the best from them. I'm not as strict when you get to know me.

Staff news – Departures!



Lesley Walker (1995-2016) Art teacher moving 'up north somewhere' to start a new life! We wish our artistic friend well.

Margaret Taylour (1986 – 2016). English teacher and Head of Department . Retiring.

Tersia Zondagh (2012-16) Science teacher.

Jane Day (2013-16). Economics teacher then Head of Inclusion. Moved to take up a post at Queenswood School teaching Business Studies?

Matt Warren (2012- 16). Music teacher and Deputy Head moved to become Head Teacher at Presdales in Ware.



Peter Yule (2009-16) Technology teacher and 6th Form tutor. Moving to another post in Beds?

Sarah Hobbs (2014-16) Economics teacher moving to JFK School in Hemel.

Sheba George (2013-16) Head of Economics & Business Studies.

Fleur Baikie 2013-16). Head of French, former Head Girl, moving to Dubai.

Miranda Johnson (2013-16) MFL/German teacher.

Jo John (2007-16) English teacher moved to become 2nd in Dept. at Townsend school.



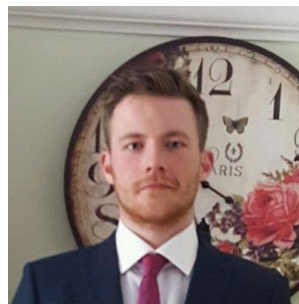
Ben Tidman (2007-16) Teacher of Sociology and also Government & politics. Moving to a school in Milton Keynes.

Alumni Grapevine



Momtaz Rahman [2011]. Momtaz gained a First Class Honours Bachelor's Degree in Business and Management from Aston University. After graduating, Momtaz gained experience in the marketing field with a Visual Merchandising Internship at L'Oréal and as a marketing & customer relations assistant at total Group International, Momtaz is currently a Marketing & Sales graduate trainee at KPMG in London.

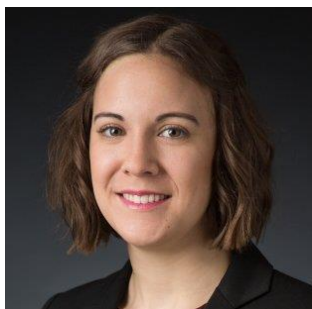
Benedict Macintyre [2010]. Ben gained a BSc in Biochemistry from Kings College, London and then an MSc in Human Molecular Genetics from Imperial; College, London. He is currently a Research Assistant at Kings College, London.



Deanna Grindrod [2009]

Deanna gained an honours BA in Digital Design from Leeds Metropolitan University. She joined Rank Interactive in London and has steadily gained a wide variety of experience within the company. She is currently a UI Designer.

Tanisha Shah [2008]. Tanisha gained a BSc in Buildings Surveying at Leeds Metropolitan University. After gaining experience in a number of varied organisations, Tanisha is currently Assistant Project Manager at Grafton Group, an independent, profit growth oriented company.



Stephanie Cunningham [2007]. Steph gained an LLB from the University of Sheffield. She is currently writing up her Master's Thesis whilst currently working as an Associate at Sidley Austin LLP in Geneva, Switzerland.

Steve Easterbrook [2006]. Steve gained a BA in Business Information Systems from Nottingham Trent University. Steve gained experience in the retail sector as a business and technical analyst and as a software engineer. He is currently a Technical Project Manager for Marks & Spencer in London.



Caroline Wilson [2005]. Caroline gained a 1st class Hons BSc in Business Information Systems from the University of Hertfordshire. Caroline has worked for a variety of organisations and specialises in digital marketing and management. She is currently Head of Digital Growth at DIZZBY-app your service.

Christopher Jones [2004]. After his A levels, Chris



gained a degree in Human and Physical Geography from the University of Reading. Chris gained experience in Marketing at Allianz and then as a graduate transport planner before working as a marketing executive at Computer 2000. He continued to gain experience as a Marketing Development Manager in a number of companies before his current position as Demand Generation Manager at Signal Media Ltd in Guildford.



Rob Gaskell [2002]. Rob graduated from Bristol University with a degree in Economics. He has established a career in Corporate Finance. He is a qualified chartered accountant and spent a year in Barcelona at the University of Navarra on an advanced management programme. He is currently General Manager - Finance at Anglo American NNP in Brazil.

Luke Firmin [2001]. Luke gained a BSc in Geography from the University of Birmingham. He later qualified as a Chartered Accountant and also as a Certified Fraud Examiner. He has experience as a forensic investigator in the financial services. He is currently an Associate Director, Forensic & Investigation Services at Grant Thornton LLP in London.



Jude King [2000]. Since leaving Roundwood, Jude has undertaken a wide variety of occupations ranging from utilities manager, housing officer in a London borough council to project coordinator for the London Olympic Games (LOCOG). Since 2012, Jude co-founded Hannibal Brown Wines, an online wine retail business launched in November 2012. We specialise in artisan wine and bespoke label design.

Jamie Chafer [1999]. After gaining a degree in International relations & Politics at De Montfort University, Jamie moved into business management and later joined Barclaycard, moving up the ranks to his current position where he is Senior Partner Manager (VP) - Barclaycard Payment Solutions in St Albans.



Sarah Brown (nee McNamara) [1996]. Sarah gained a joint BA honours in American Studies & History from Hull University. Sarah held a number of senior marketing and communications positions in major companies before setting up her own company, McNamara Brown Marketing, and working as a Marketing Consultant for Dreams in Buckinghamshire.

Emily Cottenham (nee Chilcott) [1993]. Emily gained a combined honours degree in Biology & Psychology from Aston University and then a Post Graduate Diploma in



HR Management from Coventry University. Emily has gained extensive experience in HR Business Consultancy and Employee relations over the years. Emily is currently HR Consultant to the Keir Construction Company and Director of Cottenham Consultancy Ltd.



James Brooke [1991]. James studied medicine (MBBS0 at Sheffield University. Since 2000, James has been working as a General Practitioner (GP) in the Stevenage area.

Gareth King [1990]. Gareth gained a 1st class honours BSc in Mechanical and manufacturing Engineering from Aston University with a Scholarship at British Aerospace, Dynamics Group, UK. Gareth undertook a number of varied positions at key aerospace and aeronautical organisations. He is currently the Programs Manager at UTC Aerospace Systems in Montreal, Canada Area. Gareth is fluent in French.



Andrew Long [1989]. Andrew gained a degree in Management Science from the University of Manchester. He gained directorships at Proctor & Gambol and Boots before joining Speedo International (Pentland Brand plc) as Chief Finance Director. He is currently Chief Executive Officer at Pentland Brand plc in London.



Max Clark [1988]. Max gained a BSc honours in Building Surveying from Sheffield Hallam University. Since then Max has been heavily involved in the construction industry as Contracts Manager, Buildings Surveyor to Project Director. Max is currently Head of Operations at Headoffice3, an architecture & planning company in Harrogate.

Philip Cook [1987]. Phil gained a BSc honours in Sports & Exercise Science from the University of Bedfordshire. He worked as a sports scientist for Plymouth Argyle FC before



moving into customer support and moving to Australia to work for Fujifilm in Sydney. Phil is currently a Remote Support Technician with Qbt Consulting in Sydney.



Paul Clements [1986]. Paul gained a BSc in Statistics from Swansea University. After working as an Audit Manager at KPMG, Paul moved on to develop his career in financial planning, analysis and management. He is currently the Finance Director for Madison (the leading distribution company within the UK bicycle industry).

Offers of help from Alumni



Deborah South (2009) has offered to come into school on a careers convention in November to talk to Y9 /11 about a career in Radiology/Radiography. Deborah works as a Clinic Lecturer at Addenbrookes hospital in Cambridge.

Alumni celebrations – new addition to the family

Toby and Sami Mooney (nee Reader [2012]) are really happy to announce that our little man arrived on 13/9/16, at 18:59, weighing 9lb 5oz



Alumni funding

<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.

If you would like us to promote or publicise any Alumni productions please send us details.

STOP PRESS



Byron MacKenzie [2009]

After leaving us to study Chemical Engineering at Sheffield University, Byron, after spells at Dixons, Aldi and Amey, his career is now starting to taking off!

A certain little bird says that Byron is to become a commercial pilot!

Maybe too many rumours flying about?

Page | 11

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