



ROUNDWOOD PARK ALUMNI Newsletter 17: December 2016

4www

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.



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/>

In Memorial Mr Roy Patterson [1966-93].

Former Deputy Head in his last few years at RPS and renowned Maths teacher for always wearing a lab coat to protect his suits from chalk dust! Retired in 1993 and emigrated to Australia with his family.

It is with deep regret that I must inform all those that had the pleasure of this great man's wisdom, ability and wit that Roy passed away on 7th November 2016 at his home in Perth, Australia.



The following Obituary appeared in the Herts Advertiser on Thursday 17th November.

PATTERSON (Roy Allan)

Passed away peacefully on Monday 7th November 2016, aged 85, in JOG Hospice, Perth, Western Australia, surrounded by his family.

Loving husband to Marjorie and father to Mark. Much loved by his daughter in law, Kath and grandchildren, Joshua and Adam.
Formerly a teacher for 33 years, and deputy head master at Roundwood Park School, Harpenden. Funeral to be held Monday 21st November.
No flowers please, but enquiries to Bowra & O'Dea, Funeral Directors, 312 South Street, Hilton, WA, 6163. Donations if desired to Alzheimer's UK.
He will forever be in our hearts.

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Recollections



Thanks to Keith Hill and Andy Davis for their recollections from the early days of 1957-62. Paul Simmon (class of 1964) and Harry Banfather (class of 1971) also gives their views.



My (KH) memory was that there was a four form intake, about 30 pupils per class. So in the early years there were around 480 pupils. From 1960 there was a single firm fifth year with less than 30 pupils.

Miss Ainsworth was the first music teacher, followed by Pauline Prideaux in about 1960, the website refers to Miss Prideaux as 1970s, but she was definitely there when we were there.

Mr Boxall was the woodwork teacher for most of those years.
Mrs Merrett was the stalwart teacher of French for those years.
Mr Burns was the first science teacher, preceding Mr Davies.
We think there was an Australian geography teacher called Miss Giddings .
The first PE teacher was Mr Jones. Mr Jenkins followed him. There might have been another in those years too, but we are not sure.

Christopher Woof was the first head boy, preceding Andrew Davis.

I had the privilege of being appointed Head Boy by Mr Foxwell in 1962/3. My predecessor was Christopher Woof and my Head Girl - Jane Giddings.



I (AD) was studying in class 5A and I did well at Maths under Mr Lucas.

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I recall some of the staff and fellow pupils and have 2 photos which might be of interest to you. I recall the trips to Kimpton in Fosters appalling coaches for swimming and the extreme coldness of the **water**.

Now 2 photos of Keith and Andy and two school chums.



Left to right, both photos.

Bobby Howell. Prefect, Captain school football team, member school cricket team.

Phil Browning. Prefect. Member school football team, member school cricket team.

Keith Hill. Prefect. Member school football team. Captain school cricket team.

Andy Davis. Head boy. Social organizer in chief.



Harry Banfather writes.

Mr Davies was indeed a science teacher and I was in his chemistry class and mainly thanks to him I got top grade marks on the GCSE exam. His, and Mr Gordon (Physics) influenced me a great deal and pretty much put me where I am today.

Sheila Wheeler married Mr Wheeler during my time at the school, and he was a woodwork teacher who, together with metalwork teacher Mr Fells also influenced my career.



The headmaster during my period was Mr Foxwell and some teachers I remember are: Mr Knightly, Mr Davies, Mr Gordon, Mrs Merit (spelling may be incorrect) Mr Lucas, Mr Giles, Mr Griffiths, Mr Clayton, Mr Hoppé, Mr & Mrs Wheeler.

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I am in touch with: Geoff Smith, Andrew Williams and via them also have some contact with: Nick Pinder, Christine Bricknell (now Smith), Jeremy Andrews.

We have collectively tried to remember further teacher and student names of those years and wonder if there is a list of such names?

Note we do not want any contact information, just being able to put names to remembered faces is enough. If there are any photos from this period we would like to see them.

I suppose it may be due to my soon coming retirement that I am beginning to look back and wonder what happened to those whom I knew and reflect on the choices made in life.



Paul Simmons writes

Not certain if this is of any interest, came across it whilst sorting through a lot of old papers that travelled across with me when I migrated to Australia in 1974. It has been cut out of the Herts Advertiser in (I think) 1963 hence the quality, as the paper has now gone that nice shade of yellow. (see [article reproduced below](#)) The chap on the left is (again I think) David Smith, I am in

the middle and Michael Wheeler (now deceased) is on the right; the gentleman hiding in the rear is Anthony Golds. At that time Miss Prideaux was the music teacher and Mr. Griffiths (Producer) taught physics; our Head Master was Mr. Foxwell and I can remember going to an information night whilst still at Batford Primary and Mr. Foxwell announcing that “he (I) believe in canning so don’t send your child here if you don’t want them to be canned as if you come me to complain about your child being canned I’ll be tempted to cane you”. Oh how times have changed ☹ (Got close once but never actually received a caning – the threat was enough for me).

P.S. Still don’t think anybody found out who or how the car got on the roof of the two storey school building during the “rag day” that happened in 1963 by those who were leaving that year (perhaps I should add that I was there from Approximately 1959 – 1964 (had to leave Roundwood after O levels in those days.

“The Parker Plan” At Roundwood

THE reputation of Roundwood Park Secondary School for its music and drama, now well established, was further enhanced on Wednesday when the first night of **THE PARKER PLAN**, a musical for schools, was staged. The musical continued yesterday (Thursday) and there is another performance tonight.

The success of the production can be traced to the extremely suitable choice, “The Parker Plan” being the credible story of an academic “failure” proving his worth and ability by other activities. The characterisation of people ranges from the respectable Mr and Mrs. Parker and the village ancients to the village’s Teddy boys and children.

The score gives ample scope for solos, duets, trios and some good part-singing by a large chorus.

Casting is good and the attention to detail shown in the pro-

duction makes it smooth and sensitive.

Those taking part are as follow:

Hilary Melville, Anthony Golds, Sharnan Draper, Colin Kevey, Catherine Lincoln, David Smith, Paul Simmons, Michael Wheeler, Clive Bennett, David Tims, Nicholas Hannam, Raymond O’Dell, Paul Woodsmith, Susan Baird, Ann Stratton, Alan Oxley, Godfrey Jones, Clifford Piper, Kenneth Gladwin, S. Burnett, R. Bracey, J. Davis, J. Gibbons, J. Green, W. Owens, P. Matthews, J. Porter, S. Ansall, M. Boyle, A. Broomfield, A. Baker, P. Battershill, S. Carey, H. Cull, J. Cochran, P. Crawley, D. Carpenter, C. Davis, V. Draper, L. Elliott, P. Hallam, P. Hyde, J. Hawley, P. Jeffries, R. King, J. Elliott, H. Mason, L. Matthews, B. Macleod, P. Nolan, J. Padgison, J. Palmer, Z. Pugli, S. Spicer, C. Slough, S. Taheri, J. Waller, H. Weaver, D. Westwood, B. Wrightson and M. Wilson.

Musical direction, Miss Pauline Prideaux; Producer, Mr. B. Griffiths; orchestral accompaniment, Norman Leighton, George Sanders, Kenneth Sheed, Gerald Hooper, Brian Knightly and Pauline Prideaux.



“Tom, Dick, and Harry,” three of the characters in the Roundwood Secondary Modern School’s production of “The Parker Plan,” a musical specially written for schools.—BH2665A.

If you have any recollection or photos you would like to share or inform of staff not mentioned on the staff page please let us know.

Remembrance Day 2016



Army Major Nick McGinley (class of 2001) returned to his old school to give an illustrated talk about his experiences to mark Remembrance Day. The last Post was played by a sixth former and two minutes silence was observed. Nick's talk was both informative and moving with much that exemplified the human experiences of combat. Following his talk he fielded many searching and heartfelt questions from the audience. Later outside, Head Teacher, Alan Henshall, recited Wilfred Owens 1920 poem 'dulce et decorum est pro patria mori' followed by poems recited by many other students who 'planted' poppies in a garden of remembrance.

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Nick was then shown around the school by Deputy Head Boy, Joe McNeil, who also organized the Remembrance Day event. Major Nick then had the opportunity, at a buffet lunch in the Head's office, to talk with the Sixth Form Leadership Team and some of his 'old' teachers. For more picture slick on the following link
<http://www.roundwoodpark.co.uk/portfolio-item/2016-remembrance-day/>

Alumni in the news

Victoria Smith [class of 2012, below RHS], of Harpenden, has won the **2016 British Society for Soil Science Award**.



How the worm was turned by Colman's Mustard, in Harpenden woman's research project.



A popular spicy condiment has been used in a Harpenden woman's research project – to gauge the number of earthworms in ploughed soil.

Read more. [http://www.hertsad.co.uk/herts-life/countryphile/how the worm was turned by colman s mustard in harpenden woman s research project 1 4745518](http://www.hertsad.co.uk/herts-life/countryphile/how_the_worm_was_turned_by_colman_s_mustard_in_harpenden_woman_s_research_project_1_4745518)

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Sarah McKenna [class of 2007] selected for England Rugby series.

England Women's head coach Simon Middleton has announced his 32-player squad for the Old Mutual Wealth Series against France, New Zealand and Canada with an away fixture against Ireland in November.

<http://www.englandrugby.com/news/england-women-name-old-mutual-wealth-series-squad/>

Women's' rugby at RPS!

The very first girls' rugby match will take place on 28th November. A y9/10 girl's team will play Kings Langley under the guidance of PE teacher, Mr Chris Wilson.

Irina Raileanu (class of 2005) write from near Pestera, Romania

After 3 months (and almost a lifetime) I'm finally doing exactly what I'm supposed to do, being exactly where I'm supposed to be and the best part being stupendously happy about it.

I'm extremely excited to let you all know we're opening a permanent



Yoga & Wellness Centre here in Transylvania and it's Ahhhmazzzzing! I'd appreciate if you can spare 5 seconds and help me spread the word. I'd love to see you all here soooooooo.... get yourself together and message me! Get booked in and hit three birds at once. 1. Relax & Unwind 2. Visit me! 3. Travel to Romania! I'd

love to see you all here one day at AKASHA WELLNESS RETREAT

ANGELA CLARKE (1998) says 'Watch me' as her follow up book to 'Follow me'

There will be food, drink, and a prize for the best yellow outfit or accessory - we'll be kicking the New Year off in style! Do please RSVP to

Phoebe.Morgan@harpercollins.co.uk to make sure your name is on the guest list.

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Poster should say 2017 (not 2016!)

YOU ARE INVITED

to celebrate the publication of
Angela Clarke's
Watch Me

Prize for the Best
Yellow outfit or
accessory

11/01/16, 6:30 pm - midnight
Waterstones Piccadilly
5th Floor Restaurant
203/206 Piccadilly
W1J 9HD

RSVP to
phoebe.morgan@harpercollins.co.uk
by 24/12/16

YOU SHARE EVERYTHING. YOU'RE ALWAYS AT RISK.
WATCH ME
'Disturbing' INDEPENDENT
'Slick and clever' SUN
'Chilling' HELLO
ANGELA CLARKE
'A fast-paced, unpredictable ride'
KATERINA DIAMOND, author of THE TEACHER

Alumnus of the Month: November, 2016

HARRY BANFATHER [1971]: Our man in Sweden

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Harry was born in London in 1954, attended Batford Primary school and then Roundwood Park School from 1965 -1971. He then undertook an apprenticeship at General Motor (Vauxhall) in Luton and studied Mechanical Engineering at Luton Technical College. After six years working as an engineer, Harry emigrated to Sweden where he was to marry his Swedish wife, Ann-Mari. He learned Swedish and spent the rest of his working career

initially as an engineer/technician for Saab and Volvo. He set up his own company, Tekmo Services, with a friend for a few years until he was offered, and took up, a position as manager for the product development laboratory at Parker Hannifin AB.



He remains married to Ann-Mari and they have three children. He is a committed member of the local dog club and his family, at one stage, became a foster home for the Swedish state dog school. He has a passion for German Shepherd dogs and has a successful track record for breeding them.

The Long serving staff interview 2016.

Mrs Pauline (nee Sharp) Moxham. 1984 – present.

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Geography teacher (Former Head of Dept. and Year Head & trampoline teacher).

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

I studied geography with geology and economics in my 1st year at Swansea University. I went for geography as it was the one I was best at.

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

Yes I loved furthering my subject knowledge and I made lots of life long friends.

3. What made you go into teaching?

I wanted to do something that would allow me to continue with my love of Geography.

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

Yes if I hadn't been accepted at Cambridge to do my PGCE I would have gone and completed an MSc at Birmingham in applied meteorology and hopefully worked for the Met Office

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

Roundwood seemed to offer lots of potential at the time when I started, it was developing and growing. I worked in Australia for a year on a teacher exchange. I'm sure past students will remember Miss Carriage who came to do my job!

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 have met lots of amazing students over the years as well as fantastic teaching staff. I have particularly been proud of all the success we get at GCSE and A level in Geography.

7. Do you have any hobbies or keen interests that you currently pursue?

I am a gymnastics and trampoline coach at Roundwood and also in a couple of other



places, I also love all kinds of sport including dance. I go to the cinema and theatre a lot and like reading.

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

There are so many over the years it is impossible to pick one. I love meeting up with past students and finding out about their lives and laughing about the past.

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

I have had a lot of success as a trampoline coach taking many teams and individuals to National Finals over the years, but I have also been a netball coach as well as a high jump coach also with lots of success. I have been on lots of field trips including to Wales, Portugal, USA and Iceland

10. How do you feel you made an impact in your roles at RPS?

I hope I have helped students achieve their full potential.

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

Yes I think I would go into teaching again as I have really enjoyed it, even through the hard parts.

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

As having worked hard to give students the best education, to reach their potential and to have inspired some students along the way.

The ex-staff interview 2016 was scheduled to be Ken Jones, Head of English for many years but he is currently unwell.



Alumni Grapevine



Juliet Watkin-Rees [2014]

Currently in New York as part of her 3 year undergraduate American Studies course at the University of Birmingham.



Lauren Hunter [2012] Lauren gained a degree in Geography from the University of Sussex. After gaining extensive experience in a number of administrative and organisational roles, Lauren is currently a HR Advisor at Tesco Ltd in Herts.

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Tom Attfield [2011]. Tom Attfield left Roundwood Park and went straight into the building industry. After several years of all aspects of house and buildings construction, Tom has utilised his managerial skills with his craftsmanship prowess and now runs his own business: Little Joinery Company. For more information on Tom's company go to thelittlejoinerycompany@gmail.com



Jacob George-Samuels [2010] Jacob gained a Bachelor's degree in Mechanical Engineering from the University of Liverpool. He is currently a graduate Engineer at Renishaw in Herts.



Sophie Holmes [2007]

After gaining a BSc in Psychology from the University of Nottingham, Sophie went on to work in the music and audio industry as a project manager. From there she moved into information management and currently she works for The Futures Laboratory as an Event Coordinator/Junior Journalist writing concise 150 – 250 word assignments targeted at brands and experts across five key sectors; Beauty, Food and Drink, Tech, Luxury and Retail. Sophie is also Editor for feminist heartbreak zine 'Achey Breaky Heart'.



Joe London [2006] Joe is heavily involved in the music world running several projects and companies concurrently. He is a music producer and DJ, a sound engineer and music tutor and the co-director of FlexoutAudio in London.



James Keenleside [2006] James gained a BSc in Computing & Management, Business, Management, Marketing, and Related Support Services from Loughborough University. He worked for a number of companies on annuities and accounts. He is currently a Senior Account Manager at OLIVER UK in London.

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Chris Benson [2005]. Chris gained a BSc (hons) in psychology from the University of Bangor. From there he has acquired many further qualifications in Paramedic Science, Leadership and Business Continuity and currently taking an MSc in Leadership & Management in Health. At the same time he is a Staff Officer (Central Operations) at the London Ambulance Service.



Richard Harris [2004]. After gaining a BSc in Product Design at Sussex University, Richard joined Oyster Partnership as a Recruitment Consultant specialising in Town Planning & Building Control within the Public & Private Sectors. Promotion within the company took him to Divisional Manager to his current position as Associate Director.



Matthew Ebejer [2003]. Matthew gained a degree in Business Studies at the University of the West of England and then qualifications in Business Analysis. Matthew worked as a Business Analyst at a number of major companies before moving on to project manage at Tesco and currently as a Project Manager dealing with fraud at Santander UK. Corporate & Commercial.

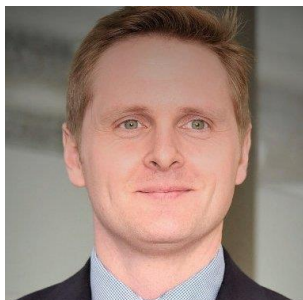


Jaymie Kiff [2002]. Jayme is the Director of the Bronzing Shop in Hitchin. Jaymie gained a degree in 'Make up arts' from the University of Bedfordshire.

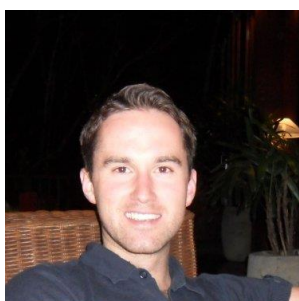


Felissity Francis [2001.]After a BSc (hons) in Exercise with Sports and Coaching from the Manchester Metropolitan University, Felissity moved into the world of property and facilities management. She is currently the Facilities Manager at Kimberley-Clark in Surrey.

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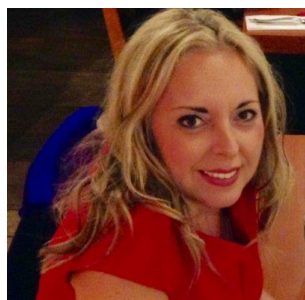
David Evans [2000]. David gained a degree in Politics from Southampton University. He went into Sales At Lloyds TSB before working in the British Army on Project and Change Management and also gaining a PGCE in Adult Learning, Learning Behaviour in Adults, Masters Level. David then moved again to be Business Change Project Manager at an Insurance firm and now is he is working at Boeing, initially as Chief of Staff and currently as a Business Consultant.



Chris Gregory [1999] Chris gained a Bachelor of Science, Sport & Exercise Science. Chris has pursued his enthusiasm and interest in this field and has made a career of Sports & Health Management, initially in Herts and now in Bucks. He is currently the Senior Development Manager at Leap (Buckinghamshire & Milton Keynes Sport & Activity Partnership)



Sid Desai [1996] Sid gained a Bachelor of Science (BSc) in Mathematics and Computer Science Technology from King's College London. After many years of experience in technology and architecture consultancy, Sid switched to consultancy in IT services and ultimately as Senior Director at Oracle before moving to his current position as Solutions - Commercial and Stadium Development at Tottenham Hotspur Football Club.



Tracy (Jones) Doughty [1992]. After gaining a degree in Business & Finance from the University of Bedfordshire, Tracy went straight into the world of banking. She joined Barclays and after a number of varied positions became Senior Project Manager & Internal Lean Consultant. However Tracy has joined Banco Santander Management team and is currently .she is Project Manager ATMs and is responsible for the business change and project management of ATM installs and upgrades across Santander UK



Vitina Guagenti [1991]. Vitina left us after 2 years to take her A levels at Sandringham School. From there she went to Solent University in Southampton and gained a BA (hons) in Maritime Leisure Management. After a varied challenging career path, Vitina has settled into recruitment and HR management. She is currently a Resourcing and Business Partner at Premier Inns (part of the Whitbread company).

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Joanna Bracey [1988] Joanna is currently the Head of Operations at Tate Entertaining at the Tate Gallery in London.



Rory Meldrum [1983]. Rory graduated from the University of Liverpool with a BEng(Hons) in Civil Engineering. He instigated Wind Power around the World in 1986, stopped the Mersey Tidal Barrage which lead to the stopping of the Severn Tidal Barrage as it would flood the Eastern Irish Coast with a sea level rise of 30cm. He has also worked abroad in Nepal on the Sunsari Morang Irrigation Project.

Offers of help from Alumni

We welcome offers to come in and help our current students with any form of advice. Career guidance and advice of specialist subject matters are welcomed. The school has a number of careers sessions and ad hoc meetings can easily be arranged to suit.

Alumni funding



Science clears the fields for technology to build on.

Currently the **Science dept.** are hoping to increase their stock of scientific and technical equipment for essential

experimental demonstration and class practical use for their examination classes. If you feel you or your company could assist in sponsoring a piece of specialist equipment please click on the link below.

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

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Wednesday visits

Many of you have said, on your registration forms that you would like to look around the school again. Take a nostalgia trip and email b.smith@roundwoodpark.co.uk to arrange a visit.

The RPS Roll of Honour – **HELP** - missing bodies!

From 1960 – 2016 we have tried to record the names of all those that were appointed Head Girl & Head Boy. You can access this Roll of Honour list on the alumni site. http://www.roundwoodpark.co.uk/head_boy_girl/

Can you please take a look and let us know where there are errors or, especially omissions. The list is especially sparse around the 60s to 90s!

1990/91 – Catherine Gibbons/David Craigen

1982/83 – Mary Norcross/Stephen Reynolds

1971/72 – Val Hudson/Chris Spring

If you can fill in the gaps please let us know.

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

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

STOP PRESS

Megan Whewel (2007) has just submitted her PhD thesis (Analysis of high resolution X-ray spectroscopy from Active Galactic Nuclei) and will have her viva just before Christmas. We wish her all the best for this.

