



ROUNDWOOD PARK ALUMNI Newsletter 21: December 2017

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www.roundwoodpark.co.uk/alumni



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

Memory Lane: Send us your photos and we can share some memories.



AN award-winning theatre production from Hertfordshire's road safety unit is visiting schools and colleges across the county until November for the sixth year running.

As young drivers make up ten per cent of all motorists but are involved in 20 per cent of all road accidents, 'The Buzz' aims to bring home to them the dangers of speeding by using theatre to make them consider the consequences of their actions. The most common reasons for people being killed or

injured on the road last year was because they either misjudged the speed and distance of another vehicle, drove too close or drove too fast.

The Buzz is just one of a number of education programmes designed to make youngsters more aware of the importance of road safety and focuses on the thrills, dangers and peer pressure often experienced by new drivers. Actors from the production are pictured above with pupils from Roundwood Park School in Harpenden.

This article appeared in the Herts Advertiser and was taken one Wednesday afternoon. Can you identify any of these Sixth Formers and the year it was taken?

The presentation involving some of the students was centred around a young man who had just passed his driving test and wanted to impress his girlfriend in his mum's mauve mini.

It did not end well!



Above: Wind band in 1985 – courtesy of Chris van Lottum.

Below: 1991/2. Claire Howgego, Dominic Kiernander, Rupert Hughes & David Curry et al? How many can you recognise and where are they all now?





1992/3 Upstairs outside Physics 3 (or more usually known as Mr Passmore's office!).

Millins, Chilcott, Pearson, Chow, Wright, Applestone et al.

Some of these/you are looking at this picture now but can you remember/name ALL of these individuals? Where are they now?

The 'staff' interview; William (Bill) Whitmore (2002 – present).

Bill came to RPS or was he poached from a school in Hemel Hempstead where previous Head Teacher, Andy Cunningham, worked.

Bill has been a year Head for many years and a long standing chemistry and science teacher of great popularity.

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

Zoology with Marine Zoology

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

LOTS – mainly moving to North Wales, which was so far removed, from the environment in Luton I came from – both in distance and in surroundings, people etc. I knew that I'd stay there for a long time. I still go there a lot.

3. **What did you want to do when you finished your education?**

Travel and work in marine sciences in some way.



4. Rumour has it that you had a varied professional career before taking up teaching.

Yes – I worked:

- In a greengrocer/flowerist (as a part time job)
- in construction (labourer on several building sites),
- as a refuse collector (bin-man, best job I ever had!),
- working for a holiday villa company in the Greek Islands,
- working in a Land Rover rebuild/resale business,
- working in a marine aquarium as assistant site manager, I also handled all the school tours as a guide for the students and teachers, explaining to them about the marine life along our coasts.

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5. Why did you take up teaching and why chemistry?

Teaching - I enjoyed doing the school tours, I was the only one any good at it at the aquarium I worked at.

Chemistry? I spent time working in the biological sciences and felt like a change.

6. Have you worked at many other schools?

Some in North Wales, both primary and secondary, private and state, then in Watford followed by RP.

7. Is it true you were ‘head hunted’ by the head teacher at your previous school when he took over at RPS? Why did you then move to RPS?

Head-hunted is a strong word, mainly he was desperate for a teacher and I was in the position of being able to move around (maybe I was all he could get!). I knew RPS was very different from the school we both came from.

8. How has your role at RPS changed over the years and do you prefer your current position as a Year Head?

Being a Year Head is a very different role to teaching. I enjoy it very much even though it is extremely demanding and getting more so with each year.

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

There cannot be one thing over such a period of time. The main thing is the students, seeing so many arrive in Y7 then eventually leave the way they do in either Y11 or 6th Form, this is a real privilege.

However, that alone could not keep me doing this. I would say the colleagues I work with and the students we get really make the school what it is.

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

Both Leavers days and Prom Nights when I was Lead tutor for KS4. This is a great moment for any Year Head, seeing all the students you have cared for so happy and going on to the next stages in their lives.

So many individual moments, like Ralph Adams-Hale on our last GCSE Chemistry lesson saying, "Thanks for the good banter!" – classic.

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

The opportunities to travel with the students have been fantastic. Taking them to such varied and different places around the world is such an experience.

Some of the project work we have done on the Expeditions, building the house for an elderly lady in a remote village in Zambia or replanting areas of rainforest. Seeing RP students in such a different and difficult environment doing really hard manual labour in the hot sun to make a real difference to someone's life – you can't beat that.

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12. How do you feel you made an impact at RPS as a teacher and as a Year Head?

Really difficult, I'm not the person to judge this, that's up to others to decide.

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

I have no regrets about taking up teaching but I am glad I experienced other things first. Given the time again I would do this exactly the same way.

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

Mostly as, "Mr Whitmore?Who????.....?"

Alumna of the month: October 2017



KATHERINE SEGAL

(1996-2003)

After gaining top A level grades, Katherine went up to Oxford University to study Politics, Philosophy and Economics (PPE) and graduating in 2006.

Katherine's career developed in the field of accounts and digital innovation. She has also been a Senior Campaigner for [Change.org](https://www.change.org) and was involved in supporting the digital campaigning for US Senator Elizabeth Warren in 2012.

She was the Lead Organiser at FutureGov which dealt with digital innovation and change.

She then became the Digital Director for [The Labour Party](https://www.labour.gov.uk) for over 2 years before working as a [freelance Strategy Consultant](#) in London, providing consultancy around growth (holistically looking at business strategy, marketing, product and operations) to a range of startups and support with digital transformation to NGOs.

Currently Katherine is the Campaign Director for the Great Get Together at the Jo Cox Foundation.

Alumni Grapevine



Kate Vale [1983]

Kate studied at St Paul and St Mary College in Cheltenham, gaining a BSc in Geography & Geology. Kate has worked with students on the autistic spectrum for many years before working at a local Foodbank as a coordinator and currently a Project Leader.

James Scott [1984]

James is the CFO and Company Secretary at The Open Group, an information technology and services company in Reading. James studied economics, French and Law at Birmingham University.



Simon Stearn [1988]

Simon studied Computing & Informatics at the University of Plymouth. Experience gained at a high level in a number of companies dealing with information and analytical software solutions as led Simon to his current position where he is Executive Director of Global Big Data and Digital Experience Analytics at Avon Cosmetics.

Jemma (nee Pentecost) Stark [1990].

Jemma is the Lead Project Manager at Provoke Solutions in Wellington, New Zealand. After studying Leisure studies at West Herts College and Leeds Met University, Jemma's career moved into Information Technology project management at a number of such companies, including Telecom New Zealand.



Helen (nee Pearson) Sheehan [1999].

Helen career started in Human resources and after gaining extensive experience in a number of different and varied organisations, she is currently Head of Human resources at the London Executive Offices (Real estate).

Kieran Nunn [2002]

Kieran is currently an Intensive Care Medicine & Anaesthetic trainee within the NHS. Prior to this Kieran's career in medicine began with BSc in Pharmacology and then his MBBS at Kings College, London. He then spent two years at the University of Glasgow before working as a registrar in NHS Scotland.



Sophie Newlan [2007]

Sophie gained a BSc in Chemistry from the University of Leeds but has carved out a career in Merchandising! She is currently a Merchandiser for the House of Fraser in central London.

Nathan Minneghan [2008]

Nathan is a Social Housing Consultant at Berwick Partners in London.

Nathan gained a joint honours BA in Politics & Philosophy from the University of Liverpool.



Alex Mayall [2009]

After his BA in Physics from Oxford, Alex gained an MSc in Cybernetics from the University of Reading. Alex then worked for a computer software company before moving to the financial services sector where he is currently an Advisory Associate at Anthemis Group in London.

Alex Rollings [2010]

Alex studied Illustration & Visual Communication at Westminster University before going on to develop his entrepreneurial and creative skills in a range of enterprises. He is currently the CEO and co-founder of Creative Debuts based in London.



Thomas Toyer [2011]

Thomas is currently a Talent Consultant at Finlay James, staffing & Recruitment, in St Albans.

Megan Steinberg [2012]

Megan studied Music composition at Brunel University and currently works as a waitress/barista in London, whilst at the same time, working as a freelance composer.



Annabelle Usher [2013].

Annabelle studied Ancient History at the University of Nottingham. During that time, she was a review writer and blogger at the International Office before working as a content writer for Secret London and then as Content Editor at Trinity Mirror plc. Annabelle is currently working as a Social Media & Content Executive at Hostelworld group.

Emma Gibbs (2009) gets married!

Emma Gibbs and Matt Sharman were married in July 2017. Emma worked as a temporary Science teacher at Plymouth High School for girls before they go off travelling for 2 months in October.



Emma and her new husband are flanked by her father (L) and mother (Lynne; who was the senior technician in the science dept.) and brother Matt (class of 2012).



Letters to the editor

We are always pleased to hear from you and hope to publish and respond to all comments.

1. I receive a monthly newsletter about the previous peers of Roundwood Park. I feel really upset about the fact I feel the profiles of the peers you select are predominantly people who have taken a more “academic” route and now work for very large companies. This is fantastic of course but what about people like myself who haven’t taken this route? C.M.

It can and often looks this way but it is difficult to obtain information from alumni unless they send in or make information available. We would always wish to hear from all alumni and would publish details (and a photo) when we can.

2. I do not like these coloured high light strips on the titles. C.H.

Alternative methods of illustration are constantly sought in order to highlight various topics. We have endeavoured to use less of this in future

3. In response to the recent ‘Plea for help from Mike Garbutt (Expressive Arts dept.) There were a large number of positive and supportive responses and some snippets are below.

- *This makes me FURIOUS. And why Music isn't among the top most important subjects I shall never know. I shall think how I can help. JL-K*
- *I did art CSE. There were no A levels in Sport or drama 'in my day!' SA*
- *I was deeply saddened to hear that courses in arts are being reduced. It's even more concerning to hear that it's due to a lack of places being taken up by students. To be honest, I always felt that the arts were considered somehow 'less important' than other subjects and anyone seeking a career in these areas have always done so in spite of the general rhetoric being that it wasn't a route to a reliable or stable career.PN*
- *I travel the world talking and lecturing about creativity. Any visit to a country where expressive arts are not embraced in n education is a depressing experience. In my industry, in particular all developing economies are making the expressive arts a focus. JG*
- *Oh, my goodness this is AWFUL!!! JB*

New opportunities at the School!



Go-Kart Parties at Roundwood Park Sports Centre.

It's official... Roundwood Park Sports Centre has agreed terms with Go Kart Party Ltd to host Go - Kart Parties in Harpenden and the surrounding postcodes of AL1 - AL10.

We take delivery of the karts on Wednesday 1st November 2017 and we very excited to get the show on the road or in this case the track. Not only will these be a great addition to our party packages we already deliver, but can also be combined with our Bouncy Castle Parties. Visit: www.roundwoodparksportscentre.co.uk or ring 01582 714019 for more information.

Click here to see what this fantastic experience is like: <https://youtu.be/g7pSyJ581s0>

Roundwood Park Community Pitch

Let's make history together

This is your opportunity to make a donation and be part of the biggest ever development in youth sport and physical education in Harpenden. We are creating a state-of-the-art, full-size, artificial pitch at Roundwood Park School, which will allow us to deliver the physical educational needs of our students, all year round. The artificial pitch is not just for football, and will allow girls and boys of all ages and abilities to enjoy a wide range of sports such as touch rugby, athletics and soft ball. You can support this exciting new facility in Harpenden by making a donation for a paving stone which will be laid within the viewing gallery in the new facility (see diagram below). We will acknowledge your donation by adding your personalised inscription to your paving stone. By donating, you can make a lasting and personal contribution to this much needed facility within the school and our wider community.

Why we need your donations

The Football Foundation will provide the bulk of the funding for the new pitch and we are very grateful for the donation of £10,000 from the Harpenden Society. Roundwood Park School and Harpenden Colts will provide the balance of the financing. We are now beginning a major, joint fundraising drive, seeking to raise £200,000 from individual, family and company donations.

Gift Aid

Not only will your donation make a big difference, we will also be seeking to claim gift aid on personal donations which qualify and invite you to complete a gift aid donation on checkout. By selecting gift aid we receive an extra 25% of your donation. You can also donate on behalf of a family member or a friend and download a gift certificate when you check out.

It's not just football

Roundwood Park School is committed to using the pitch for multiple sports. This will help us to fulfil a creative space not only in terms of educational needs but by promoting a healthy lifestyle and encouraging a wider demographic to take full advantage of this fantastic facility including; female, disability and over 55's participation.

It is anticipated that building work will start before Christmas and that the Roundwood Park Community Pitch will be ready for school, Colts and community use by Easter 2018.



If you, as a member of our alumni community, wish to contribute to this, or if you are also a parent whose children are nearly finishing at the school, or a parent for many years to come, we hope that you will help raise the necessary funds. You can also read more detailed information by clicking on the following link. Thank you.

www.roundwoodparksportscentre.co.uk

CAN YOU HELP – 'old' teacher photos!



You may recognise some or all of the above but we have teachers listed on the 'staff news' page but without a photo. Please take a look at the following pages and see if you have any photos of those staff that are missing a photo. <https://roundwoodpark.co.uk/alumni-staff-news/>



Many of these staff/teachers have long since left the school and way before photo ID was introduced. We have obtained many photos from current long serving staff but now I would ask if you have any photos of any of these 'missing' teachers?

If you do and can email any photos to us – please identify/name the member of staff, as we may not recognise them!

ALUMNUS ON THE BOX!

Island Medics, Series 1 Episode 3 of 10.

Starring Dr Saul Wilson (2004) in 'Junior Doctors' - BBC1 Documentary 9.45 -10.00am on December 6th.

"The islands' new crop of junior doctors arrives in Shetland - this episode follows their first days and sees how they adjust to a very different type of medicine from what they are used to.



Junior and newcomer Dr Wilson is thrown in at the deep end with two serious cases that arrive simultaneously into Accident and Emergency. Dr Wilson must use all his skills and rely on the vast experience of Shetland's native nursing staff if he is to provide the care the NHS expects.

Away from the hospital, a doctor is working on Unst - the most northerly practice in the United Kingdom. And two of the new junior doctors take to the water to try out a popular Shetland hobby”.

If you miss it watch it on BBC iplayer.

RPS Head, Alan Henshall, before the Public Accounts Committee on 15th November.

“I have been asked to give testimony to the public accounts committee of the houses of parliament next week. I will give evidence on the recruitment and retention of teachers in my experience as a head”.

You can view this session here.

<http://www.parliamentlive.tv/Event/Index/3535c947-42f8-4c4e-ac26-da8fa118203c>



STOP PRESS

Mrs Jessica Bennett (2013-17) Psychology (replaced Mrs June Bird) and Deputy Head of Sixth form (replacing Mrs Joy Gupta) is leaving and moving to Somerset.



Daryl Jones, History teacher who joined in September 2017 is also leaving already at Christmas 2017!

Mrs Sue Armstrong, (97-17). Senior dinner lady who has worked tirelessly to maintain order throughout the lunch queues has finally decided to call it a day. A strict disciplinarian who had high standards and expected the same from ‘all students; firm but always fair.



Debbie Flynn, (00-17). Another long standing stalwart of the school who worked as a Midday supervisor along with other administrative roles.



Dr Frances Hawkesford (1998-00) who taught chemistry & science here for a short period ios still going strong teaching chemistry to senior pupils at Sheredes school in Hoddesdon, Herts.

Rumour(?) has it that RPS's longest serving teacher, Paul Barnett of Biology teaching fame, is considering (!) 'retiring' for good following his last few years of part time teaching.



A message from Justine – our artist in residence (Harpenden).

Just wondered if you could all help me?
I've been shortlisted in Artists & illustrator of the year 2018 for the final 50!

There is voting to WIN so wondered if you could put this on social media for people to VOTE for their local artist !! Roundwood park artist!

Here is the link to vote now open.

<http://awards.artistsandillustrators.co.uk/vote-now/>

Hope you can help.- thanks - Justine Lois Thorpe

Let's vote for Justine!



CONTACT – We would like to hear from you.

Please contact us to BE ADDED to our/your Alumni Listings or to UPDATE your existing profile.

PLEASE email us with a synopsis of what you would like to appear along with a photo (linkedin?)

For feedback, photos or information regarding your contact details or any other information regarding your listing on the Alumni site please email b.smith@roundwoodpark.co.