

Welcome to the eighth edition

## A personal note from the Editor!

On a personal note I would have to add that since retiring in 2011 from 'teaching' I have missed the contact and enjoyment of working with and interacting with the Sixth formers [ and not only those in 6Sm or 12/13BSm ]. Now I am permitted the luxury of renewing contact with so many of our ex-students /alumni and it is a real pleasure to find out how they have made their way in the world and in life.



Most recently in a trip to Valencia [ not on expenses!] I met up with alumnus and former colleague **David Peck** [1981]. Since graduating, the multitasking Mr Peck has worked in engineering, computing and teaching and it was he that introduced Sociology to the RPS curriculum; first at GCSE and then A level. His interest in travel and language has taken him to Valencia for the last 10 years where he is in adult education teaching the Valencians the intricacies of the English Language. He has advised many high ranking figures in commerce and industry and also helped the footballer Juan Mata in his move to Chelsea FC [ now at MUFC]. *David is quite keen to hear from his RPS student so please contact this office to do so.*



In the past the Carpenters Arms has been a regular meeting place where **Jordan Giddings**, **James McMillin**, **James Brooke** , **Brian Love** , **Karen [Perryment] McHale** and a few others have all been seen.

Many of you will remember **Mrs Judy Munton**, Geography teacher and former Head of Sixth Form. I can report that she is well and since retiring from her position as a Justice of the Peace [JP] she keeps busy and recently returned from Bahrain where her daughter , **Anne [nee Munton] Quinlan** [1992 lives with her husband and 4 children. Her son **David** [1990] and his family are still local.

I can also report that the former Head of Science, Physics teacher enthusiast, **Jack Passmore** is alive and well. We spent a couple of together on the kent coastline near Hythe at Easter.



and rugby days

## The three Harpenden school logos on display



As you walk under the railway line on Station road through the pedestrian underpass you can now see the art work by the three school in Harpenden and clearly show the three school logos. You will also see the modern corporate logo of RPS as opposed to the traditional school logos.

## Alumni judge the inaugural House Music event



On Monday 10th March from 7-9 p.m. in the school hall, Roundwood Park held its first ever 'Music House' event. It was the brainchild of Elia Tuck and Harry Croft [both Y13] who acted as the event's MCs. The event consisted of a series of individual or group musical performances from each of the seven houses and after a short break this was followed by a choir performance from each house and included members of staff as well

as students from each house. This was a 'sell out' ticket event for a capacity of 150. The evening's performances were judged, appropriately by 3 of our alumni, **Katie Brennan, Sophie Gledhill and David Jenkinson** each of whom were quite impressively musically talented. Dr Smith, of no musical talent/ability whatsoever, made up the judging quartet.

It was a most enjoyable and successful event/evening and much appreciation should go to Michelle Rooney and her staff supporting team. Many parents emailed or telephoned to express their appreciation for a wonderful evening's entertainment.

## Can you remember? We need your help here!

Before we can put up a roll of Honour board in the hall we need to fill in all the gaps on the list of Head Boy/Head Girl that is currently on the alumni pages of the web site. Please click on this link and help us fill in the gaps or tell us when we are wrong.

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

## Alumni Fund



We are delighted to have been able to purchase one of the two outdoor all weather table tennis tables. These have been enormously popular with the students and enable them to earn valuable relaxation from the high pressure of academic and other extracurricular endeavours including House events.

We would be delighted if all our alumni would make a contribution to the fund to enable us to send out regular copies of the Alumni Newsletter but also to help fund the various initiatives for the benefit of our students as outlined on the link.

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

## Interview with NICK DAYMOND [Head Teacher from 2004 to 2010]

### **You studied French and Italian - what was it that made you interested in languages?**

I started learning Latin and French when I was about seven or eight years old, and I was fortunate enough at secondary school to have some very good languages teachers. I suppose it was them who gave me the inspiration - I studied French, Italian and German.

### **After secondary school, you attended Cambridge University — what are your fondest memories?**

Probably summer terms, when exams were over! When we had nice weather, we'd go out punting and generally have a good time - I made many good friends, some of whom I've kept in touch with.

### **What made you come to Roundwood Park?**

I had done five years as deputy head at Beaumont School, and had heard about Roundwood's reputation at various courses and events in Hertfordshire. When the headship came up it seemed like a good opportunity as I lived in St. Albans - I was fortunate, as it was the first headship I'd applied for?

### **What do you like about Roundwood Park's sixth form?**

I used to be the head of sixth form at a previous school and have always enjoyed working with sixth formers. I think that, here at Roundwood, the sixth form are very friendly and motivated. During my time they've been well led by the head girl/boy and their deputies, as well as Mr. Saunders and Dr. Smith - an excellent duo with complimentary gifts and skills.

### **What is your most prominent memory at Roundwood Park School?**

I'll remember the Golden Jubilee celebrations a couple of years ago where I got the chance to meet former students - including some who were here when the school first opened! In terms of achievements, the outstanding OFSTED report last year will stick in my mind - especially hearing feedback from the examiner, which was extremely complimentary and very rewarding after we'd all worked so hard.

### **What do you get up to in your spare time?**

I'm a keen watcher of sport, in particular cricket, rugby and football (in that order). I really enjoy reading and I belong to a book group who meet once a month, choose a book to read and then talk about it afterwards over food and wine. I enjoy travelling, but I have probably done less than I would have liked to over the last few years. However, I did visit Kenya last year, which was beautiful. I also enjoy visiting the cinema and theatre - when I get the time!

### **Rumour has it you're a bit of a biscuit man - is this true?**

It is, hence the huge biscuit tin in my office. If you asked my mother she'd say there were never any biscuits in the house, because I'd eaten them all - chocolate biscuits are definitely my favourite.

### **How do you balance the pressure of being a successful headmaster with family life?**

By trying not to take too much work home with me so that when I'm home I can spend time with my family and enjoy it. As I've done more years as a head, I've found it easier to switch off and forget school when I'm at home. My dad used to bring work home, eat dinner and then go off to his desk



to work -1 didn't want to have to do that, so I make sure I get it all done here (even if it means coming in very early).

**What have you enjoyed most about your time here?**

The interaction with staff, students, governors and parents, and the fact that no two days are ever the same - the job is extremely varied!

**How have you left your mark on Roundwood Park School?**

I hope that the school is in a generally better state than when I arrived -meaning that its reputation and standards are better, as well as the buildings, fabric and look of the place. We've gotten [sic] rid of the mobile classrooms, overseen the building of the new maths and music block and will soon be seeing our new sports hall.

**What are your plans for the future?**

In September, I shall be taking over as head at Parmiters in Watford, which will be a new challenge. I'm planning to go to America next year to visit some relatives in Baltimore, so I can hopefully visit New York, Washington and maybe Boston. Now my children are in secondary school it will allow us to do more of that sort of travelling. Otherwise, my resolution is to do more exercise! I do a lot of sitting down in meetings and I need to get out more, in one way or another.

**Why are you moving on now?**

Because I think I've seen through more or less one full cycle of students, and I felt that I wanted to do at least one more job before I retired - it felt like good timing.

**What do you think is next for Roundwood?**

I think it's going to be challenging times for all schools because money will be quite scarce -1 think it will be important to be imaginative and creative about consulting these challenges. The 'trust school' status the governors have been discussing will be important and good for the school, and better links with the primary school would be beneficial - we'll hopefully be catering for them come September, and hopefully getting them involved in concerts, drama etc.

**And finally... will you miss us?**

I will! I've really enjoyed working with the staff and students here, it's been great. There's a friendly and familial atmosphere which I'm sure will continue once I've gone.

**From all of us here at Roundwood, thank you for everything - and the best of luck at your new school !**

**i/v by Bob Palmer & Sophie Swietochowski [both Sixth Formers]**

*First published in the school magazine 'Park Life' in 2010*

## Global Alumni: Where in the world are they – current postings.

RPS Alumni have found that the world literally is their oyster and over the years we have had reports of temporary and permanent postings. Here are some of the 'latest' locations we know of.

**Australia [10]** Emily Blueberry, Kit Best, Phil Cook, Paul Davison, Daniel Toyer, Jeff Rosser, Neil Favager, Laura Hay, Rebecca Fine, Alice Schofield]

**Canada** Breacan Nasen, Verity Woods, Gareth King, Ashley Tomlins.

**China** Patrick Whalen

**Dubai** Anne Munton

**Egypt** Tom Dinham



**If you are working/living out of the UK and not on this list please let us know.**

**Hungary** Stephen Woodhams

**Israel** Matthew (Williams) Adar

**Netherlands** Mark Verweij, Andrew Tingey

**New Zealand**[6] Tom Bliss, Mark Baddeley, Rachel Duk, Joanne Robinson, Laura Hannagan, Jemma [Pentecost] Stark

**Sicily** Charlotte Smith

**Singapore** Desmond Poon, Anna Fourie

**Spain** David Peck

**Switzerland** [6] George Brown, Chris Masters, Daniel Carnell, Matt Horn ,Stephanie Cunningham, Gemma Kirke.

**Thailand** Jeremy Streeton [1990]; Group Head of Development in construction Co.

**UAE** Matt Trenchard, Vicky Peacock, Daniel Abraham.

**USA** [11] Simon Curtis, Sian (Lloyd) Slade , Peter Barker, Katherine Hazelton, Lingerr Senghor, Claire Crews, Charlotte Hannagan, Charlotte Maudave, Richie Michaels, Robert Wise, Gwynneth Towers –

## **Alumni Grapevine – The following are some of the alumni that have made contact**



**Matthew [Williams] Adar [1988].** Matthew studied Biology at Plymouth University but switched to pursue a career in the hospitality side of hotel management.. He returned to Israel in 1993, completed national service in the IDF, and now lives and works as a Food & Beverage Manager in the city of Eliat in the dead sea region.



**Martin Alderton [1992].** After studying for a degree in Geography & Economics at the University of Portsmouth, Martin gained further qualifications in Service Management before working in IT management. He currently is a group IT manager for a leading provider of staffing solutions, human capital management and outsourced people-related services in Luton.



**Jemma Benson [1999].** Jemma attended the University of Leeds and gained a BSc [hons] in Environmental Science and an MA in Environment and Business. She has developed a career in Investment in renewable energy projects across the UK. Jemma is currently an Associate Director at CO2Sense [a not-for-profit low-carbon expert company that specialises in renewable energy investment].



**Claire Burnyeat [1988].** After completing her BEd (hons) in Home Economics from Worcester College Of Higher Education, Claire embarked on a career in teaching. She is currently the Head of Food and Textiles at Hadleigh High School in Colchester.



**Samantha Bufton [1991].** Sam completed a BSc in computer science and then an MBA from the Said Business school at the University of Oxford. Her career has

involved data, programme and product management at a number of well known companies and ISPs. She is currently the Director of Producta at Survey Monkey.



**David Currie [1994].** David studied at Oxford University and gained an MEng (engineering & computer science) and an MSc (software engineering). From there he joined IBM and has worked in a number of roles and is currently a Senior Software Engineer working on Websphere applications Service Development.



**Aleksandar Cvetkovic [2010].** Aleks is a final year undergraduate at Oxford University studying for a BA(hons) in English language and literature. At the same time he has set up his own online retail outlet selling designer tailoring and also has a sartorial menswear blog. He also writes articles for a sartorial elegance column in mensflair.com. Unsurprisingly Aleks won the RPS award for 'sartorial elegance' in his final year.



**Julie Cziborra [1996].** Julie attended the Anglia Ruskin University in Cambridge where she gained a BA(hons) in Sociology. From there she moved into events management working for the Royal Bank of Scotland and Post Protocol before moving to her current position as Events Manager at HSBC Global Assets Management.



**Rebeca Delaney [2003].** After gaining a 1<sup>st</sup> class honours degree in English from Sheffield, Rebecca went to the College of Law to gain an LLB and currently is an associate at Osborne Clarke in their real estate office. However perhaps the chemistry had some impact(!) as she is also studying Forensic Science at the OU.



**Felicity Dynes [2003].** Felicity gained a BA,MA(1<sup>st</sup> class with distinction) in Modern Languages (French & German) from Oxford University. She then studied Law at City University and the BPP Law School. After working as a paralegal, Felicity trained as a barrister and is now working in one of the London Chambers.



**Paul Farris [1986].** Paul gained a BSc(hons) in Sports Science from Nottingham Trent University. He was HIV national sales director at GSK then formed his own company Paul Ferris Entertainment. He is also the Managing Director of Juice Live Communications.



**Meryl Green [2009]** After completing her studies in the Sixth Form, Meryl attended Kings College, London to train as a nurse. Following extensive training and practice, Meryl is currently a Staff Nurse at the Guys and St Thomas' hospital in London.



**Michael Gross [2008].** Michael gained a 1<sup>st</sup> class honours BSc in Business Economics from the University of Leicester. He then joined the Graduate Scheme Risk Analysis at Nationwide Building Society and is currently a Risk Analyst there.



**Ben Hazell [1999?]** After leaving RPS, Ben went into sports sales and management. He joined Coca-Cola Enterprises as a sales development representative, then moved into accounts and now currently as the Business Development Manager.



**Laura Howard [2004]** Laura studied at the University of Bedfordshire and Institute of Education in London. She is currently a teacher of Psychology and Sociology at the Whitefields school .



at Just Eat.

**Mark Jenkins [2000].** Mark gained a BA(hons) in Graphic Design & Illustration from the University of Hertfordshire. From there he embarked on a successful career in web design and also tutored blogging at The Guardian. He has extensive experience in web design and technical direction and is currently the UX Web Lead



**Peter Russell [1976?]** Peter has established a successful career in Accounts management. He is currently is an Account Director for a fully integrated IT services company in London. He has taken part in a triathlon this month with 4 other alumni to raise money for charity.



**Jessica Shaw [1999].** Jess went to the University of Edinburgh where she gained a BSc [Ecology(wildlife management)] and an MSc in conservation Biology before moving to the University of Cape Town to gain a Ph.D. in zoology. She has returned to the UK and is now an Ornithology Advisor at the Scottish Natural Heritage.



**Carol Shufflebotham [1988].** After A levels, Carol attended De Montfort University where she gained a BSc in Industrial & Business Systems and then a post graduate diploma in Human Resources from Napier University in Edinburgh. Carol is currently the HR manager at DHL Global in London.



**Jemma [ nee Pentecost] Stark [1990].** Jemma attended the Leeds Met University where she gained a foundation degree in Leisure Studies . She emigrated to New Zealand and worked as a Project Manager for telecom NZ and Basilica Computing. She has recently moved to the IT consultancy, Theta Systems in Wellington.



**Andrew Tingey[1988].** Andrew gained a BSc in Biochemistry from York University and stayed on to complete a Ph.D. in Molecular Biology. He also qualified as a certified licensing professional and also gained an MBA from the Open University. He is currently the Director of Licensing at DSM where he is concerned with the licensing of intellectual property.



**Sunny Thakkar [1989]**.After leaving us, Sunny gained a degree in Business & Finance from the University of Luton (now U of Beds). He embarked on a career in business development and is currently the Client Relationship Manager at Payment Gateway in London.



**Francesca Wallis [?]**. After gaining a 1<sup>st</sup> class honours degree in Dance from De Montfort University, Francesca went on to work within the events market and then into the marketing arena at Affinity Water where she is currently a Business Relationship Executive.



**Geoffrey Wilkinson [2000]**. Geoffrey gained a BSc(hons) in Computer Science from the university of Brighton. He worked in IT operations and technical services and currently is Team Leader in IT operations at Belfair.

**Apologies to those that have not been mentioned this month.**

## Staff changes & news

This summer term sees a number of long serving staff moving on to new positions but also the arrival of another alumni to the teaching staff..



**Chris Ockenden [2002 -2014]** Head of Learning Support is becoming an Ofsted inspector,



**Paul Radford [2001-14]**, Head of Design & Technology is moving to Weymouth to take up a similar position,

**Gulcin Juleff [ 2003-2014]**, Physics, is taking time off from teaching.



**Greg Heald [? -2014]** P.E. and lead tutor at KS4,



**Bryan Saunders [2004-2014]** Psychology and Head of Sixth Form is taking up an Assistant Headship at Hemel Hempstead school.



**Rupa Shah [?-2014]** Head of Biology is moving to the High School for girls in St Albans to teach Biology.

**David Keenleyside [ 2009]** will be *joining* the PE dept as a PE teacher. After leaving the sixth form, David gained a BA in Sports Coaching from the University of Worcestershire. As a keen sportsman and footballer he has been part of a successful promotion season for St Albans city F.C.



John Buckley [Chemistry] and Dan Sabato [History] are moving after a year or so.

## Visit your old school – Wednesday’s Guided tours

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**Jo Mepham** [2002] and **David Moritz** [2001] returned to their old school in April, fired with curiosity about how the school had changed since they were both students here and also which teachers were still teaching and what had happened to those that had left. They both were impressed with the new buildings and all the structural changes that were apparent as they enjoyed a 90 minute leisurely walk throughout the entire grounds.

We are always pleased to welcome our alumni back to visit and share memories of ‘o;d times’.

Please contact us by email or phone the school to arrange for a visit. Wednesdays are preferred but if you can only make another day we can arrange for a Sixth Former to show you around.

**Making a contribution to help our students** If you would like to offer any professional advice or opportunities for our pupils/students please let us know.

**We would really like to hear any comment or views you have regarding the Alumni.**



Also we are keen to publish your views or reminiscences and/or old school photos.

Many thanks to **Matthew [Williams] Adar** for this class photo, many of whom left in 1988.

We would truly like to receive more photos like this. Please email them in to this desk.

[B.smith@roundwoodpark.co.uk](mailto:B.smith@roundwoodpark.co.uk)

If you would like to be ‘listed’ on the Alumni listings please make contact. You can email in your ‘synopsis (see current listings for ideas) with a photo or indicate if you have a LinkedIn photo.

*No material/data will be published without your permission.*

## **Find out what others have been doing?**

Please go to [www.roundwoodpark.co.uk/alumni](http://www.roundwoodpark.co.uk/alumni) to look at the alumni News and Alumni Listings as these are regularly updated. You can also look at back issues of the Newsletters.

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## **Getting in touch?**

We continue to have requests from Alumni to make contact with their 'old' teachers. Please email this office with your request and we will make contact with staff to ask their permission to pass on their contact details to you.

If you wish to appear on the alumni listings or have an item of news that you think would be of interest PLEASE email with attached photos if possible to [alumnioffice@roundwoodpark.co.uk](mailto:alumnioffice@roundwoodpark.co.uk)

Alternatively you can contact this office -

By the school web site [www.roundwoodpark.co.uk](http://www.roundwoodpark.co.uk)

By email – alumnioffice@roundwoodpark.co.uk

By LinkedIn – Roundwood Park

By post - to Alumni Office or Dr BML Smith,

Roundwood Park School,

Roundwood Park, Harpenden, Herts. AL5 3AE

By telephone – 01582 765344 or ext. 208 on Wednesday only.