

ROUNDWOOD PARK ALUMNI: Newsletter 10: February 2015

4www

www.roundwoodpark.co.uk/alumni

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

Page | 1

Most of you that read this newsletter are on the mailing list but as time goes on many of you may have changed career or contact details. For this reason I would ask if you could take the time to complete the 'new' registration form which also enables you to offer help and advice to our current students if you wish.

PLEASE click on the following link . <http://www.roundwoodpark.co.uk/alumni-registration-form/>

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.

Armistice day remembrance - Captain James Barringer revisits to take part.



Alan Henshall HT – George Berry – James Barringer – Heather Pantling – Rob Mercel HoSF

On Tues 11th November in a special Sixth Form assembly to mark Remembrance Day, **Captain James Barringer** [2002], of the Army Royal Logistics Corps, attended and gave an illustrated presentation about his role and experiences as a soldier that had seen conflict first hand. He had been stationed at Camp Bastion in Afghanistan for a period.



A number of poppy crucifixes were placed in a 'garden of remembrance' to mark the occasion.

Inspiration from an ex-student Ben Thomas [2012]



Ben Thomas gave up his free time to come into school on Friday 9th January to give a practical workshop for around twenty 6th form physics students.

He brought various gadgets with him and demonstrated how a mobile phone touch

screen works with a bit of tin foil and an LED.

The 6th formers were then set the challenge of finding out what the sampling rate of the human eye was. (i.e. if an image changes many times a second, how fast does it have to change before the eye can stop picking up the change.) They had to write the code for the software on a laptop and then ran the experiment to test their own eyesight. Phil Wilkinson (year 13) and Chris Kelly (year 12) were the first to succeed.

Ben left RPS in 2012 to go to UCL to study Electrical Engineering and is now one of their top performing students. He showed us some of the fascinating experiments he has set up in the university labs and explained the amazing opportunities that are available to electrical engineering students. There is a severe shortage of qualified engineers of all kinds, particularly in electrical engineering. Courses are undersubscribed and industry is so keen to get their hands on good students that they offer many incentives to students including work experience, free materials and funding for practical work. It's quite common for students who do summer work experience placements to get snapped up as permanent employees and some don't even go back and complete their degrees!

Thanks to Mrs Kathryn Robins (i/c Physics) for this .

Sarah McKenna [2007] attends Sports Person's Dinner.

The, now, annual Sports Person's Dinner took place on Wednesday, 10th December in the school hall.



Guests of Honour and Speakers were Alumna **Sarah McKenna** and two members of the Saracens Academy, Rory Teague and Titi Lamositele. Sarah is one of the first female Rugby players to gain a professional contract and is expected to be an England representative at the Rio Olympics.



Page | 3

Rory Teague was a professional Rugby player for 10 years and now a full time coach for the Saracens Academy. Titi Lamositele graduated from High School in the USA last year, has signed for Saracens and has already played for the USA Eagles, all at 18 years old

For more about the dinner, please read the write up, by Haley Everett, by [Clicking Here](#).

50th Anniversary - RPS on BBC Country File with Terry Holden [1965].

Terry & Mrs Holden 2015. Terry and his wife Anne (nee Hitchcock – class of 1966) seen here 'en vacance' recently. Terry has been in contact with the school as seen in the February 2014 edition of the Alumni Newsletter 07, concerning the 50th anniversary of walking the Pennine Way in 1965.



It had been hoped that students today might wish to follow their (250 mile) footsteps during this Jubilee year to mark what was, in that time, a considerable achievement for the 15 & 16 year olds. Terry has been liaising with the Pennine Way Association and they will be celebrating the Jubilee on 24th April with "Walk the Way in a Day".

As the Pennine Way was England's first long distance footpath, some say resulting from the Kinder Scout Mass Trespass of 1932, the BBC have shown great interest and will be featuring the Jubilee with four programmes on the Pennine Way during the period. It is possible that the 4 Roundwood Park boys, Terry plus Gareth Cade, John Anstee and Richard Elliott, may be featured in an edition soon?

Alumni in the media



Ashley Tomlins [2006]. Ashley is the Policy, Science & Public Affairs Officer at the British Consulate-General in Vancouver, where he has been since October 2014.

To mark the 50th anniversary of Churchill's death, Ashley has written about Churchill's Scientists on his FCO blog. Click on the link to read it.



Nick Collard speaks for Wm. Morrison supermarkets.

Nick Collard [1990] is the Group Marketing and Customer Director at Wm Morrison Supermarkets and based in Harrogate. He has recently, January 2015, published an article in the modern marketing journal 'The Drum' about how the supermarket war cannot be won on price alone.

To read the full article click on the link below

<http://www.thedrum.com/news/2015/01/09/supermarket-war-can-t-be-won-just-price-says-morrisons-marketing-chief-he-outlines>

Alumni Grapevine – some of those we have heard from recently.



Cheng He [2007]. Having 'bumped' in to Cheng and his friend one evening on the train it seems appropriate to mention Cheng who is now an assistant manager in corporate finance and transaction services at DeLoittes in Canary Wharf.



Lauren MacDonald [2005.] Lauren is currently working in West Sussex as a Senior Project Manager at Thermo Fisher Scientific. After leaving us Lauren went to the University of Exeter where she gained a Bachelor's Degree in Childhood and Youth Studies.

Sophie (Grant Cumberbatch) Mowat [2007]. Sophie is now a Senior Textile Designer at David Howard Group UK Ltd in London. Education. Sophie training at the London College of Fashion gaining a Foundation degree in Fashion before moving on to the Chelsea College of Art and Design to complete a Bachelor of Arts (BA) in Textile Design.



Greg Verghese [2008]. Greg is currently a Risk Associate at Solo Capital Partners LLP in London. After his A levels in the Sixth Form, Greg attended the University of Bristol where he gained a Master of Science (MSc) in Physics.

Tim Conway [1988]. Tim is a Senior Advisor in Social Protection at the Department for International Development, DFID, Ethiopia and based in London Education. After leaving us Tim went to the University of Cambridge to gain a BA (hons), Geography. Later on he gained an MA, Human Geography (political geography, development) at Syracuse University before returning to Cambridge to gain a PhD in Human Geography (development studies)



Emma Hopkinson [2005] Emma is a Lettings Manager at Eden Harper Ltd in London. Emma went to the University of Westminster and gained an honours B.A.in Commercial Law and Spanish spending a year in Alicante studying Law and Arabic.



Kathryn (nee Taylor) Long [1990]. Kathryn has been specialising in the recruitment for the areas of Drug Safety, Pharmacovigilance and Medical Information for many years and she is now the Team Manager for Drug Safety & Pharmacovigilance at Key People in St Albans.



Jordan Chaston [2010]. Assistant General Manager at Pario SPV Management Limited. Jordan gained a Bachelor of Science (BSc)in Construction Management from Southampton Solent University and then worked on many construction projects in the family constructioun business before moving to his current post.



Andrew Brown [2006]. Andrew, BSc (Hons), MSc, is an Engineer in HR Wallingford's International Team. He will be based in the UAE from April 2015 and responsible for project execution as well as business development across the Middle East region. He has experience working in Qatar, Oman and UAE.

Rupert Ting [2009]. Rupert completed his MChem degree at Warwick in the summer of 2014 and is now doing a Ph.D. at University College London. His current research area is in porous materials such as zeolites and their applications as catalysis in de-NOx reactions. The PhD is funded by Johnson Matthey. They have a large catalysis department and are very much invested in cleaning emission gases from automobiles and power stations.



James Hampson [1989/2000] As another of Roundwood's fine entrepreneurs, Jim now runs his own building company, Hampson Construction, based in Harpenden. His company specialises in extensions, loft conversions, kitchen and bathrooms and complete house refurbishment. He was seen recently working on his own house in Harpenden.

Staff changes & news

In remembrance : Pat Cole [1989 -2000]

Pat died on November 11th 2014 following illness/Parkinson's disease. She was a much loved dynamic and enthusiastic teacher of English who was always seen in a hurry. She always endeavoured to do the best for her students and continually sought out material and information that would stimulate and enthuse. Pat was an incredibly cheerful individual who will be dearly missed not only by her family but by all those that knew her.



Page | 6



Jackie Binnie [?-2015] Worked as PA to the Senior Leadership Team. A most helpful and cheerful member of the essential support team that keeps the school running efficiently. She will be sadly missed. Daughter Sarah, now Sarah Lawrence [2000], married to Ben Lawrence [2000], and also son Adam [2005] who is a reporter at the Watford observer.



Shirley O'Donovan[?-2015] Attendance Office who liaised with parents and staff over absence. Another highly efficient and cheerful individual who will be missed. Daughter Louise [2013] and son Liam [2010] both attended RPS.



Sharon Fleming [2006-15] Sharon worked initially as a language teacher then also taught psychology and latterly she was the Y8 Lead tutor . Having lived in Japan and India for a spell, Sharon and her husband have moved to Rio de Janeiro to take up positions in the British School there. A much adored teacher who will be missed by her students and staff.

ALUMNI OF THE MONTH

Each month in the school newsletter, Roundup,' we feature one of our alumni. This is a random selection process and if you would like to be an 'Alumni of the month' please let us know. Click on the following links and scroll down.

Jade Bultitude [2008] in December <http://235adq41x1na422mqmg7h0opti.wpengine.netdna-cdn.com/wp-content/uploads/2012/08/RUissue45.pdf>

Alex Barker [2008] in January http://235adq41x1na422mqmg7h0opti.wpengine.netdna-cdn.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/01/Roundup_047_20150116.pdf

Suzanne Ryan [2000] in February edition

...

STOP PRESS

Special Request – Guest speaker required!

The school is having its usual Awards evening, in the school hall, where Certificate and subject/special awards are given out to the Y13 students that left the previous summer. We would be very pleased to hear from any of our Alumni that would like to be our guest speaker on this occasion.

Page | 7

Illustrator required.

Mrs Kate (nee Lewis) Callaghan, is currently writing a series of short books for young children [ages 5-8]. She is keen to find someone to illustrate these books. If you feel you could help please let us know.

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