



ROUNDWOOD PARK ALUMNI Newsletter 23: June 2018

4www

www.roundwoodpark.co.uk/alumni



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

Correct details?

PLEASE inform us to ensure we are using your correct/preferred contact details. Changing jobs often means a change in email address. Please email us or use the link to update details.

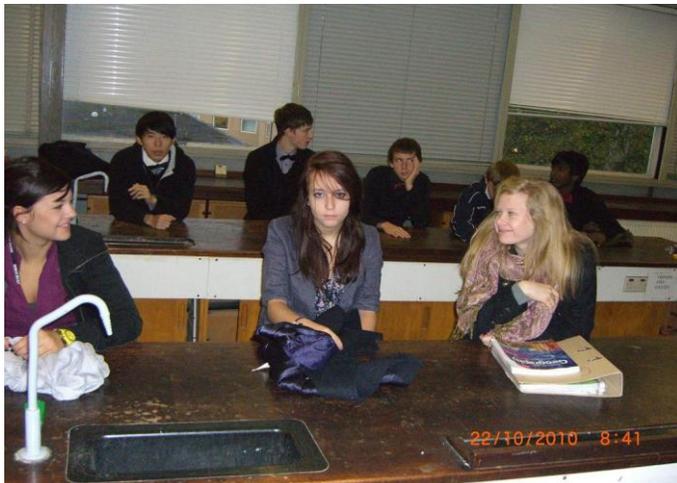
<http://www.roundwoodpark.co.uk/alumni-registration-form/>



GDPR

We have sent an email out to all alumni on our mailing list to explain the potential changes in the regulation surrounding data protection. There is no need to respond unless you wish to have your data held by the RPS Alumni office restricted or removed.

Memory Lane:



Before and after in 2010.

Clearly a less than exciting start to the day followed by 'it's clearly going home time'.

All of these students have since moved on to bigger and better times.



Mrs Judy Munton (Geographer and Head of 6th Form) with a youthful looking Mr Phil Nichols (Head of History) and some happy (leavers' day 1988??) students.



Can you identify the students in this picture?

What are they doing?

Rumour has it this was a scene from an RPS production of Joseph & his technicolour dreamcoat and in the days of/and starring Haydon Luke. Mike Harpham (English) and Kirk Dumpleton (History) bringing up the rear!

Can anyone remember what year this was? 1980-85

The 'staff' interview

David Williams (1985-2011)



1. What did you study at University?

I studied Theology and Philosophy at King's College London in the early 1970s. I chose this course because it gave me the opportunity to study the Christian religion in depth and to learn about the other major world religions. The philosophy helped in understanding the grounds for belief and ethics. My interest in this area stemmed from my own personal faith and because I had found Religious Studies A Level particularly stimulating in the sixth form.

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

I really enjoyed my student years both academically and socially. I am still in close contact with a number of friends from those days and always enjoy meeting up with them and reminiscing.

3. What made you go into teaching?

I wanted to pursue a career which made use of my degree subject so teaching seemed an obvious choice.

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

I did consider other options before beginning my post-graduate teacher training but I soon realised I had made the right choice for me. I enjoyed the stimulus of working with young people in the classroom from the start and never experienced a dull moment. I found it challenging to try and engage students with a subject which many of them saw as irrelevant but I thought key to fully understanding our modern world.

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

I have never worked in any other industry but I did work in two other schools before arriving at Roundwood. The first school I worked in was very formal and traditional. Masters wore gowns and addressed boys by their surnames which did not really help the learning partnership. The second school was in quite a tough part of London where the students were seen by many of the staff as being very difficult and resulted in a harsh discipline code which created barriers. It was therefore hugely refreshing to arrive at Roundwood Park where there was a strong culture of mutual respect and staff and students worked together to achieve common goals. It has felt a real privilege to have worked in such a wonderful school as Roundwood Park where good relationships between staff, students and parents are at the core.

6. During your time at RPS has your role changed much over the years?

I arrived at RPS in September 1985 as Head of RE. There was no real examination RE at this time so my role was to teach the general core RE across the school assisted by several staff who offered it as their second subject. This meant that I taught the vast majority of students in the school although just for one lesson a week. It was a great opportunity to get to know so many children and to feel an integral part of the school but it was frustrating not to have the time to explore topics in depth. I was keen to grow examination work and fortunately good numbers chose the subject in subsequent years so GCSE and A level became established.

In the 1990s I became Head of Humanities and as a consequence taught less general RE. In 2000 my teaching role was further reduced when I was Appointed an Assistant Head.

7. What aspects of your job at RPS did you especially enjoy?

Although I really enjoyed my senior role with leadership and whole school responsibilities I did miss losing some of my classroom time. There is nothing quite like the rewards of class teaching and helping students understand and achieve in their learning. Although I have now retired from full-time work I still return to Roundwood for the odd supply teaching day and feel very much at home back in the classroom.

8. You have been a key figure in assemblies for the entire school. How have you enjoyed this opportunity/exposure to so many individuals?

In my early years at Roundwood my role was to organise the assembly rota and I delivered the reflective section frequently. This was a challenge but it was also a great opportunity to encourage all students to consider and evaluate moral and philosophical issues. A key goal for me was helping students develop their own moral perspective while having an understanding and tolerance of different views. It also allowed me promote the work of various charities and develop student support. As the years went by my exposure was reduced as more and more staff became involved and a higher percentage of assemblies were given over to the celebration of student success.

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

My single stand out memory is the day we heard that our application for a Sports Hall had been successful. I also have lots of special memories from the examination results days in August when the students opened their envelopes and enthusiastically celebrated the rewards of all their hard work.

My most embarrassing memories all relate to talking to an audience from the front of the school hall. On a number of occasions when I was leading assembly I noticed an undercurrent of laughter and was never sure whether they were laughing at me or whether it was something completely unrelated. However, I was in no doubt that I was the subject of amusement when I was acting as question master at a PTA Quiz. My lack of knowledge about popular culture was apparent to all

when I read out and completely mispronounced two very famous names from the world of modern entertainment.

10. Apart from your teaching responsibilities what other activities /hobbies did you take part in whilst at RPS?

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My main interest throughout my life has been in sport. I played football, cricket and rugby in my youth and have been a keen spectator ever since. I always enjoyed the banter with the students over the years about my allegiance to Luton Town Football Club. It was never easy to support a small club but it did make the winning moments extra special when just occasionally they happened.

Music has also played a big part in my life. Although I enjoy popular music I have a particular interest in classical and jazz.

I was fortunate to be linked to the Expressive Arts Faculty when I was Assistant Head. This enabled me to watch numerous Roundwood sporting fixtures over the years and to attend student music concerts, drama productions and art exhibitions. It was great to be able to combine my personal interest with my work role.

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

In my first fifteen years at RPS I coached a cricket team each summer term. This involved lots of practices in the nets and regular Saturday morning fixtures. I really enjoyed my involvement although I did find that umpiring cricket in April was sometimes unpleasantly cold.

I also went on various residential trips over the years. In my view the vast majority of Roundwood students are fantastic well behaved young people and therefore great company on school visits. I particularly enjoyed ski trips to France and Austria and the Year 8 French Encounters to Normandy. My favourite memory from French Encounters was the disco on the last evening when the girls were all dressed up and looked 16 plus, while the boys looked so young and seemed to be more interested in playing tag!

I also led the Christian Union group at Roundwood for many years. It was a real privilege to get to know some really inspirational students outside the classroom context.

12. How do you feel you made an impact at RPS?

I hope my impact has been to encourage students to develop their own ethical values, to understand the role and nature of religion in the modern world and develop and support their own views through respectful discussion and critical analysis.

I think my impact has been enhanced by being at the school for such a long time and teaching so many students. Living in Harpenden has also been a factor in helping me to feel a key part of the Roundwood community. The fact that my daughter Anna was a student at Roundwood from 1988-

95 has also helped me understand the school from a different perspective and increased my loyalty and allegiance to the school. The links with the school were strengthened again when in 2003 Anna was married to Jonathan Benson who was in the same year group at Roundwood. In 2008 I married Sandra whose two daughters – Clare and Laura Dias were also students at Roundwood. Through Anna, Jonathan, Clare and Laura I now have a lot of social contact with their special friends from school. Roundwood has and continues to play a huge part in my life and it is a real privilege to meet old Roundwood students on an almost daily basis and share memories.

13. After 26 years of service in an almost unique role you decided to ‘retire’. Why then and has this given you a new lease on life?

I decided to retire in 2011 because Sandra was due to retire then and we thought it would be a good idea to finish full-time work at the same time and develop shared interests and activities. We both enjoy walking and travelling so it is great to have time to do these together. In addition, we spend a lot of time together looking after our respective grandchildren. It is very rewarding to have the opportunity to look after the children on a regular basis and develop positive relationships rather than just fleetingly visit.

Retirement also gives the time for various voluntary work in the local community which we both enjoy. We have also benefitted from undertaking various keep fit activities which were never really possible alongside full-time work.

14. Given the challenges in education over the years would you, given your time again, go into teaching or another profession?

I have thoroughly enjoyed my teaching career and found it hugely rewarding. I feel particularly privileged to have taught for such a long time at such a fantastic school as RPS. For me, as I said earlier, the real strength of the school is the quality of the relationships between staff, students and parents which has enabled a shared purpose and has achieved outstanding pupil results both academically and socially. I have also benefitted from knowing so many students over the years and feeling such an integral part of the Roundwood community. It is true of course that teaching has become more challenging in recent years with increased planning requirements administrative tasks. However, this would not put me off going into teaching again if I had my time over and I would commend it to anyone with a willingness and capacity for hard work.

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

I would like to be remembered as someone who made RE a little more interesting and meaningful than they thought it was going to be!

Ed. Thank you Anna.



If you **do not** wish to appear on our randomly selected GRAPEVINE section, please let us know.



Samantha Liles (2017)

Sammy gained a degree in Psychology from Nottingham Trent University. After undertaking many activities and responsibilities at the University, she is currently a Clothing Allocator at Mothercare Head Office.



Holly George-Samuels (2015).

Holly is studying Mechanical Engineering at Bristol University.



George Booth (2014).

Having graduated from Coventry University with a degree in Business Management, George is now in Operations at 4Ways HealthCare Ltd.



Abby Woodward (2014)

Following her degree in Philosophy from the University of Cardiff, Abby went into recruitment and works for Quanta consultancy services on reception.



Darius Osslaw (2014)

Darius gained a degree in Psychology from Nottingham Trent University. He is currently a Consultant at Pioneer Consulting.



Anna Cooke (2013)

Anna gained a degree in Geography from Cambridge University. She is now a worldwide travel consultant with Trailfinders in London.



Tashfin Shahid (2009)

Tashfin is currently completing his MSc in Computer Science at the University of Hertfordshire, following his BA in mass communication/media studies. Prior to this he gained a BTEC National Diploma in Media Production at Oaklands College.,



Pat Buckler (2009).

Pat gained a degree in Biology and an MSc in Zoology from the University of Nottingham before moving into science & technology recruitment.

Pat is currently a recruiter for HMRC and RCDTS (Revenue & customs Digital Technology Service)



Nick Van Pooss (1994)

Nick trained with the Hertfordshire Police in Risk Management, Conflict Resolution, Emergency Planning and Counter Terrorism. From that point he has undertaken a number of key roles in security and risk management. He is currently Head of Security and

Emergency Management at QUT (Queensland University of Technology).



Eric Gee (1985)

Eric gained a BEng in aerospace engineering from Kingston University. He is now the Managing Director of Per River Consulting in Herts.

RPS Alumni in the news



Rory Meldrum the artist & photographer.

As well as being a freelance environmentalist, Rory (class of 1983) is a regular contributor and his work is regularly displayed at exhibitions. Apart from the annual photography exhibition in Harpenden his work has recently been displayed in a special 6 week exhibition at the New Maynard Gallery in Welwyn Garden City. He is seen below (5th from Left) with the other contributors and the local Mayor.



This exhibition was covered in a number of local newspapers.

Rachel Meyrick's latest documentary film is having its premier at the St Albans Film festival on June 28th.



Rachel (class of 1985) is an accomplished freelance director and film editor.

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Rachel directed/produced and edited her latest feature documentary premiering at the St Albans Film Festival on June 28th.

“The film is set in America so it was a difficult sell to any of the UK festivals but St Albans are liking the ‘Harpenden girl’ aspect to it!

To find out more about the film and to buy tickets please click on the link below.

[What Doesn't Kill Me / UK Premiere / Documentary and Q&A Tickets, Thu, 28](#)

[Jun 2018 at 19:00 | Eventbrite](#)



Rachel with Charlotta, aged 82, one of the lead characters from her documentary film.

For more on Rachel go to the alumni listings section on the alumni site on <https://roundwoodpark.co.uk/rachel-meyrick-1985/>

Ewington [2008] in five big steps for golden boot

Harpenden Town's James Ewington took a massive stride towards being named the Spartan South Midlands League Premier Division top goal scorer after bagging five in their huge 9-0 win away to Stotfold.

The impressive haul takes him up to 41 for the season in all competitions – with 33 of them in the league – and has moved him five clear of his biggest rival, Welwyn Garden City's Jon Clements.

And it is a sign of just how good a season he has been having that this haul is not his highest of the year, that is still the six goals he notched in Harpenden's 7-3 win over Wembley in January.



For full coverage of the final go to www.hertsad.co.uk/sport.

Ellie Sidone Bultitude is exhibiting her ART WORK

Ellie will be exhibiting her work at some upcoming art fairs and shows this summer.

On 9th - 10th June will be exhibiting at 'Art on the Common' in Harpenden

6th - 8th July will be exhibiting at the Childwickbury Arts Festival.

PLEASE go along to support Ellie and see her work.



Letters to the editors

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

1. **We received a letter addressed to previous occupants whose children attended RPS. Can you contact these alumni and ask them to make contact? –AI.** Yes, we are always willing to act as a conduit to make contact with alumni and help out.
2. **A group of us .. would like a reunion .. is someone willing to organize this? –HP.** Many alumni organize reunions and we are always willing to help if we can but alumni tend to do the organizing themselves.
3. **You have an amazing memory if you can recall students from 20 plus years ago! - MWS.** It is always lovely to receive emails when alumni make contact. Perhaps when you have a lot of regular contact with so many individuals you will always remember many that have made an impact in one way or another.
4. **Being an alumni of Roundwood Park with fond memories of my time there I thought it might be nice to make the school aware of this opportunity offered to year 7 pupils at my current place of work, the Met Office. -TL** This was a wonderful opportunity for our Y7 students to take part in a (free) Met Office Science camp. Thank you for this opportunity.

FUND RAISING for the All Weather pitch continues.

The Roundwood Community pitch is now up and running and in use for the school, Harpenden Colts and the Community. It was officially opened on Monday 5th June for school use and will be available for external/community use from the end of July.

Contact Myles Hamilton (Lettings Manager) on 01582 714019



The pitch as of June 6th 2018.

www.rpcp.co.uk - [Roundwood Park Community Pitch](#)

If you were, or your children are, keen Harpenden Colt's footballers then please HELP us – select a personalised tile for your family or simply make a donation.

[Click on the link above.](#) Thank you.

Staff changes



Mrs Nicky Adkins (2006-18)
school librarian.

Mrs Joy Gupta (2005-18)
MFL teacher and former
deputy Head of 6th form.



18)

Ms Abi Lewis (2016-8) Head of English faculty.

STOP PRESS

Dr Kathryn Bailey is alive and well and last seen at the Dental surgery in Harpenden in April. She has retired from her last teaching post at St Albans Boys school and is enjoying travelling with her husband; last trip to Sicily.

Sheila Wheeler (Head of music) and Judy Williamson Art teacher) are both alive and well and seen in Southdown, Harpenden in April.

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.

Happy Summer reading

Ed; BMLS

