



ROUNDWOOD PARK ALUMNI Newsletter 24: September 2018

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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 our mailing list.

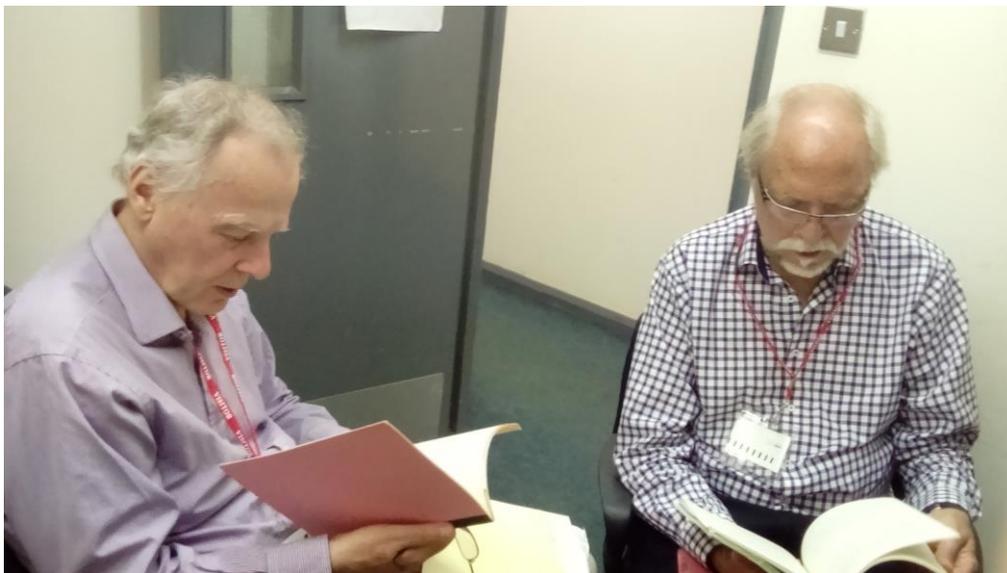
Help us to keep in touch with you.

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/>

Retracing the Past.

On Wednesday 11th July, Keith Hill and Andrew Davis, both Year of '64/65, returned to school to see how much they remembered and how much had changed. Fortunately some older (pre 2000) school records were recently unearthed in the library office.



Roundwood meeting with Dr Brian Smith, Wednesday 11/07/18

Andrew writes; Dr Smith invited Keith Hill and I to take a look at the changes which have been made since we were pupils between 1957 (the school's 2nd year) and 1962 when we left. In those days there was no 6th form and classes were limited meaning that we had to make a choice between studying Geography or History!!!

I was privileged to be appointed Head Boy in 1961/2 and enjoyed the role immensely, Keith was a prefect and we were a good team together, along with our friends Phil Brownin and Bobby Howell! The head Girl was Jane Giddings.

Rock n Roll was at it's height in those years and Elvis Presley had his first number one in 1957 with 'All Shook Up!' It's a love song and within my first month or so at Roundwood, I was in love with the school! Mixed memories include Scottish Dancing, British Bulldog in the gym, playground football (after lunch) and good classes, which for me included Maths, Geography, Art, Woodwork & French. I didn't enjoy English or Science/Chemistry so much but the lab was well equipped even in those days! Most of us stayed at Roundwood for the 5 years and when it was time to leave in 1962, we were in tears, we'd made some great friendships and were inspired by most of the teachers and headmaster Arthur Foxwell. The Big Hit in 1962 was 'Breaking Up is Hard to Do' by Neil Sedaka which was described by 'AllMusic' as "two minutes and sixteen seconds of pure pop magic". It was so appropriate for us on our last day, as we were all leaving our great school for pastures new!

Dr Smith was a fabulous host for our tour, ebullient, enthusiastic, patient and amusing, he was very generous with his time and even took us to lunch in the restaurant. The roast turkey was very good and the choice of meals that the school offer is very different from our day! We were able to distinguish the original buildings from the 1950s and the library seems to still be in the same place and the main Hall very much as it was!

Your new facilities are impressive and the new Sports Hall would be the envy of the majority of other schools. The science labs have expanded and the 'All Weather' football facilities are exceptional! I also sensed that there was aura of togetherness and creativeness about the School, with everyone appearing to be committed to their subject!

I suspect that the majority of current pupils have no idea that a railway track serving Harpenden, Redbourn & Hemel Hempstead used to run on the Nickey Line adjacent to the school. There was the odd occasion when I would look out of the window during class time and watch an impressive steam engine, pulling freight, go by and now that line is a footpath/cycle track!

Times change, progress is made but good memories are so important for the rest of your life.

Make the most of Roundwood – it's a great school (!) report from KH

Keith writes; 'Welcome' said Dr Smith - 'you are the first Alumni we have had visit who are actually older than the school'. Having introduced ourselves, Andrew Davis and Keith Hill, we chatted about our time here and the various teachers, and fellow pupils we remembered. We came to Roundwood in its second year of life as a new school in 1957. In those days there were four streams, four Houses, and only four years with each class having around 34 pupils, in 1960/1 a fifth year was added, so the school population then was only about 600. It was therefore no surprise to see that the building space is now more than doubled, and that facilities were much improved.

Even in the early Roundwood years it was very active in football, cricket, and athletics. Rugby was not played in our years there but tennis courts were added. Music and drama were encouraged and catered for, and each year a trip abroad was organised for those that wanted to go. UK and local field trips, and visits to various places, were also available and well organised.

Touring the new buildings we were impressed with classrooms, and the sports facilities. It was also good to hear that the school still offered a broad range of subjects and activities. Technology has of course moved on enormously in recent years in many ways. In those early Roundwood days tape recorders, and electronic musical instruments were the pinnacle of technology we had access to.

Dr Smith took us through some old school folders containing photos, the annual Roundwood Express School Magazine, and a whole host of other well-preserved school documents- it was fantastic to be reminded of old school friends, teachers, and events in our five years spent at Roundwood.

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School lunch has changed enormously- you get a choice now. I don't think 'Healthy Eating' was considered much in our days! Decisions like 'What shall we eat? What shall we drink? Are we eating inside or outdoors? A big improvement there from our time.

For former pupils who have not taken advantage of this wonderful school tour then we strongly recommend it. Dr Smith is an ideal guide through everything, and it's good to be able to exchange information and experiences with him. We spent around three hours but could happily have been there longer had time allowed.

I am grateful for the above reports, and kind words, from Andy and Keith respectively.

The 'staff' Interview: Terry Lansdowne (2003-2018)

1) What did you study at University or College – why that subject in particular?

At University I studied for a B.Ed(hons) degree in Education in a multicultural, multilingual, inner city environment. I chose that subject as I wished to work with disadvantaged children.

2) Do you have any fond memories of your time at university/college?

I didn't go to university until I was 24, so I felt it was more of a means to an end. I purposely went to an institute near to where I lived and so did not get that involved in Uni life as much as students who would have gone aged 18.

I did however make many friends at Uni and this is probably not the best place to disclose some of the funniest things that happened!

3) What made you go into teaching?

The school system that I went through consisted of Junior High and Senior High. My Junior High was the equivalent of years 7-9 and was a fantastic school with really good teachers. The Senior High was a dire school and in the bottom 5% of the country! The two



contrasts made me realise what a difference teachers can make and the affect they have on young lives.

4) Before going into teaching did you ever considered any other career path?

Before teaching I worked at the BBC. It was just a job I took because I was originally clueless as to what I wished to do after leaving school. I actually had a great time working there, but had no real interest in pursuing a career there.

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5) Rumour has it you lived and worked abroad?

In between working in inner city London I also taught in Egypt, Portugal and Zambia. All three places were great countries to live in, with the added bonus I now have a second team to support once England are knocked out of the early stages of any football competition. Zambia also gave me my great love of Africa

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

Before Roundwood Park I had previously taught in Primary schools and international schools. During my career I have taught every age group from Nursery to year 11. Occasionally the maturity scope did not seem that wide!

7) 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?

During my time at Roundwood park I have loved the pastoral side of my work. I have also loved working with students who struggle with their maths

8) Rumour has it you are a keen sportsman playing both hockey and golf. To what extent are you involved in these pursuits?

Before and during teaching I played Hockey at a decent level and then got to the stage where my knees were enjoying it less than I was! A few years back I took up golf and have now managed to get down to a single handicap. I still play with an ex teacher from Roundwood called Mr Wilkinson, which gives me an opportunity to see parts of the golf course rarely visited by other golfers!

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

The main stand out is working with some really good teachers, making some good friends while at Roundwood and some amazing students.

I have loved working with students who have found maths either a struggle and/or unenjoyable and given them the confidence to go on and gain their qualification.

My all time favourite moment, was when an unnamed maths teacher (Miss Levy), went off to do a cover lesson. When she returned she asked, is Ben West related to Sam East! Nothing more to be said really!

10) You have been involved in the World Challenge events – why did you get involved in this?

While teaching abroad in international schools I enjoyed their different ethos and community spirit.

I feel there is more to Education than just teaching. I think it is important that students are exposed to different cultures, experiences and test their character in different ways.

I loved seeing students blossom in a different environment and seeing their eyes opened to new experiences.

I am most proud that we have grown to send more students on expeditions than any school in the country and even prouder that many of our students have returned back to the countries they visited or other countries (Steph Cunningham for example, who probably thinks I have long forgotten her) and once more given back to those less fortunate than themselves.

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

I believe I would still go into Education, but I am saddened by the turn that education has taken. Everything is results driven and this bypasses many students who do not have those attributes. I do not like the stress that students put themselves under to achieve and are sometimes too busy gaining exams to grow as individuals. Schools such as Roundwoodpark have had to come up with other initiatives and schemes to ensure that students do still get emotional support and other guidance away from the traditional curriculum.

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

Hopefully, as someone who had a sense of humour and as someone who cared about those that needed caring about.



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



Phil Borge-Slavnich (1999)

Phil, having started out in Public Relations (pr), IS NOW THE Managing Director of Eulogy, which specialises in PR for both consumer brands and B2B organisations, combining strategy and creativity with media intelligence.



Chris Gibbons (2000)

Chris is a Partner and Technical Due Diligence Specialist at Chartered Surveyor Tuffin Ferraby Taylor LLP in Birmingham. Chris gained a BSc honours in Building Surveying from Coventry University.



Andrew Durrant (2002)

Andrew is currently the Functional Project Manager at Bentley Motors Ltd in Crewe, UK. Andrew studied Engineering at Loughborough University, gaining an M.Eng in Mechanical Engineering.



Gemma Allsopp (2003)

Gemma is a Legal administrator at The Really Useful group in London. After leaving RPS, Gemma gained a degree in Drama and Theatre Studies from the University of Kent.



Jen Crossland (2004)

Jen is a Customer Success Manager at SkillsFox in Hove.

Jen gained a BA honours in Communication & digital Media from the University of Brighton.



Joe Carr (2005)

Joe gained a BSc in Sound Technology and Digital Music from Oxford Brookes University. He stayed at Oxford Brookes where he is a Technical Instructor teaching Media Technology to undergraduates. He is also Freelancer on a range of projects in different roles. Some as a single person crew from project start to finish, some as part of a larger team or managing crew.



Claire Davey-Gerrad (2006)

Claire gained a Master's degree in Geography from Cambridge University and stayed on to complete a PGCE. She taught geography for a spell before moving into industry where she works for Dentsu Aegis Management in London as a Global CSR (Corporate Social Responsibility) manager.



Ross Barrable (2007)

Ross is currently the Strategic Relationship Manager at the Nuclear AMRC (Nuclear Advanced Manufacturing Research Centre) in Sheffield.

Ross attended the University of Sheffield gaining an MEng in Aerospace Materials Engineering and then an MSc in International Management and Marketing.



Luke Fitzgerald (2008)

Luke attended Bristol University where he gained an MEng (1st class) in Computer Science. After gaining considerable experience in key industries he is now a Quantitative Developer at Man AHL in London



Emma Bech (2009)

Emma is currently the Customer Loyalty and Lifecycle Marketing Manager at Worldpay.

Emma graduated from the University of York with a BA Hons in English and Foreign Literature with a focus on Spanish literature in particular the rise of magical realism within South America.



Chandni Umrada (2010)

Chandni joined JRPS in the 6th form and after her A levels went to the University of Reading and gained a Master's degree in Pharmacy. (MPharm).

Currently Chandni is a locum pharmacist and also studying for an MSc in Healthcare & Design at Imperial College/Royal College of Art in London.



Emily Lloyd (2011)

Emily is currently a FY2 Doctor at Royal Derby Hospital with special interests in General Surgery and Medical Education. She is also set up the organisation Mission Zambia, a not-for-profit working directly with an NGO in Western Province, Zambia. Emily studied medicine at Nottingham University gaining an MBBS (bachelor of Medicine, Bachelor of Surgery).

Matches section



Wedding Bells for Fabiana

Fabiana Solano (class of 2011) and Joseph Habib were married on Saturday 14th April 2018 in Harpenden at St Nicholas Church!

We wish them every happiness.



... and Wedding Bells for Natasha.

Natasha Green (class of 2010) and Harry Swales were married in August 2018.

Athletic success. Up and coming youngsters?

RPS continues to produce outstanding sportsmen and sportswomen – some recent highlights.



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At the National Athletics Championships in Birmingham this July, RPS students produced two truly outstanding performances resulting in TWO NATIONAL CHAMPIONS.

Mia (in lane 3 and in orange) has just won the Junior girls (year 8&9) 75m hurdles. A year younger than the other girls, Mia came through to take GOLD!! She is the best 75m hurdler in the country!

Video of her final is on the RPS PE Twitter feed..

Josh won the Intermediate (Year 10 and 11) boys triple jump. He improved in every round before jumping an enormous PB in the final round (14m 37) to take first place. He is the best triple jumper of his age in the UK.

<http://runjumpthrow.com/fixtures/12949-esaa-2018-track-and-field-championship>

Another great achievement went to Liam (8S), who won Elite Sports Performer U21, at the St Albans and Harpenden sports awards in July.

Liam competes as an elite level snowboarder on a world stage. He is currently British Champion above his age group and has numerous world tour podium finishes this year.



Letters to the editors

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

1. **“Don’t forget we are ‘early’ Roundwood specimens – classics even!” - Anon.**
Yes, and sooner or later all readers will be!

2. **“There is no way I can afford a £500+ donation! - RL** *This was, perhaps, not an unexpected or surprising response to a plea/request from the RPS management enquiring if alumni would be prepared to offer some financial support for the new all weather pitch. On reflection a kind request for any financial support, large or small, would have been, and would still be, kindly received. . .*
3. **“Please remove my name from your database. I don’t agree in that approach for funding” - JK.** *The second of three responses following the RPS Management request for funding for the All weather pitch. It is quite usual for alumni to be approached for funding on a whole variety of projects and many schools, colleges and universities are quite reliant on this regular source of income. Apologies for any upset caused.*
4. **“if there is later an option for less significant donations then I’d be happy to give”- TW.** *Accessing the school’s web site and going to Alumni then to funding will give the opportunity to make any donation large or small or even make regular monthly payments. This information or a link is usually included in each newsletter somewhere! To go there directly go to <https://roundwoodpark.co.uk/alumni-funding/>*

FUND RAISING continues.

RPS continues to seek funding for the all weather pitch.

www.rpcp.co.uk - [Roundwood Park Community Pitch](http://www.rpcp.co.uk)

Alternatively, we seek additional help with bursaries for youngsters to attend field courses and educational trips as well as for scientific equipment.

<https://roundwoodpark.co.uk/alumni-funding/>

Any form of donation is gratefully received.

Staff changes

The following left RPS at the end of the Summer Term in July 2018.

Mr Terry Lansdowne (2002-18)	Teacher of Maths /HoY
Mrs Nicky Adkins (2006-18)	Chief Librarian
Mrs Joy Gupta (2005-18)	Teacher of French.
Samantha Penfold (Sept.2017 -2018)	Teacher of Science
Amanda Pym (2017-18)	Teacher of MFL
Dianna Reid (2017-18)	Acting Dh of Inclusion
Joanna Gardner 2016-18)	Teacher of MFL
Gayle Hemmings (jan 2015-18)	Teacher of English
Jess Lacey (2014-18)	Teacher of Biology & Science.
Abi Lewis (Mar. 2016-18)	Teacher of English (HoD)
Seamus McKenna (Jan.2018 –Aug 18)	???????
Shaun Vallye (Jan.2017-Aug 18)	Teacher of English

STOP PRESS

BOUNCING for GLORY! Pauline Moxham's trampolinists gain 3 national titles.

Read more - <https://roundwoodpark.co.uk/pauline-moxhams-trampolinists-gain-3-national-titles/>

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Many alumni will have been involved in Miss Moxham's after school Trampolining Club and may have gained success in the many competitions entered. You may not be surprised to see that Miss Moxham continues to demand high standards to bring out the best.

Her most recent success was published in the Herts Advertiser (Harpenden Edition); 03May2018.



CONTACT – Your news and views are greatly appreciated. Please continue to send in articles and photographs.

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?) Please email b.smith@roundwoodpark.co.

Happy reading

Ed: BMLS