



ROUNDWOOD PARK ALUMNI

Newsletter 27: June 2019

4www

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.

PLEASE UPDATE your contact details if they have changed.

PLEASE inform us with 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/>

Climate Change awareness



At the time when many school students went 'on strike' to march in protest about the lack of action by the government to curb climate change. Instead of taking a day off school, a group of 6th formers held a giant petition signing session and presented this to MP Bim Afolami.



Mr Afolami has invited the group of organizing sixth formers to parliament, sometime in June, to discuss climate change.

Bethan Donnelly (class of 2012) visits to talk and inspire during Science week. On Monday March 11th the chemistry department was pleased to welcome back Bethan Donnelly, an alumni student, studying for a PhD at

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Bristol University. She came specifically to speak to our Year 12 and Year 13 chemists about her studies in synthesising organic molecules that could lead to the discovery of a new antimicrobial agent, and also to engage the Year 13 students in a spectroscopy activity involving forensic analysis. This was a good revision exercise for them as they have studied IR, NMR and mass spectrometry as part of their A level course. Bethan brought both a portable IR and a UV/visible



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spectroscope with her, which the students were able to use. They had to study a variety of spectra in order to identify a range of organic molecules and also analyse a drug sample to ascertain whether the dosage could have led to the victim's death! This involved some serial dilutions which proved to be somewhat challenging to some. She also entertained them with a demonstration of the properties of dry ice and liquid



nitrogen; two chemicals we are unable to source ourselves. A few minutes in liquid nitrogen transformed a banana into a 'hammer' capable of driving a nail into a piece of wood!

As her visit coincided with National Science Week, Bethan ran a session for Year 7 and 8 students during the lunch hour. They were challenged to manipulate the concentration of the 'iodine clock' chemicals to produce a reaction that took one minute to complete. L. Scott and T. Conway-Shah, two Year 8 students, were the winning team with a reaction taking exactly 60 seconds. I must admit, I was impressed with their precision especially as they are both students I teach! It was a particularly enjoyable

day for me, watching a young lady I had taught a few years ago, sharing her passion and enthusiasm for chemistry.

The visit was coordinated & reported by Mrs Colleen Halliday (Head of Chemistry)

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The upper Science landing notice board was also used to portray many well known scientists

in addition, alongside them our own 'scientific alumni'.



Where do our students go after they leave?



Leavers are shown on a giant 8'x5' map of the UK to indicate destinations and courses of study, work or future direction.

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This remains in the hall foyer for all to see.

Wednesday visits

We were delighted to welcome **David Craigen** (class of 1991) back to visit the school on 24th March. David enjoyed a tour around the school and was particularly keen to inspect the new all-weather artificial pitch. He was also able to meet with and address a group of Y12 students about his life experiences and was able to offer a great deal of valuable insights and guidance as these young adults would soon embarked on their future careers.

If you would like to revisit your 'old' school and enjoy school lunch, and not as you knew it then, please let us know.

Alumna of the month: March 2019

VANESSA FOX

(1988-95)

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Chief Executive Officer at Farms for City Children, a charity based in Exeter.



Vanessa graduated from the University of Cambridge with an MA in Political & Social Sciences.

From a start as a News Desk Assistant at the Express Newspapers, Vanessa has carved out a career that has provided diverse travel opportunities. After a few accounting and advisory positions, Vanessa moved to Nairobi, Kenya, to take up a consultancy dealing with

Project Development & Proposals at Farm Africa. Other senior positions followed in Nairobi as Consultant for commodities, monetarization analysis and then as a Director for Development & Communications. Vanessa then moved to Dar-es-Salaam, Tanzania, as a Senior Project Manager at BBC Action. Then out of Africa to Geneva, Switzerland, as Programme Director for the Emerging Enterprises at a law firm.

Then, back in the UK, in May 2018, Vanessa took over as CEO of the charity <https://farmsforcitychildren.org/>, a charity founded in 1976 by Sir Michael Morpurgo and his wife Lady Clare Morpurgo, that provides week-long residential stays at our 3 working farms in Devon, Gloucestershire, and Pembrokeshire for primary school groups from disadvantaged city schools.

Go to Roundwood Park and see the world!

Alumni of the future; school pupil achievements.



Current school achievements on the pitch.

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U15 team containing year 9 and 10 girls who became HERTS COUNTY CHAMPIONS in March. Perhaps some will be following in Sarah McKenna's footsteps to represent their country at national Level.

Alumni in the News



1. Special Rugby report

Sarah McKenna Saracens and England Rugby star.

Listen: Radio Verulam interview.

<https://www.radioverulam.com/podcast/sarah-mckenna-and-england-womens-rugby-start-with-a-bang/>

Watch: Sarah McKenna with the finish to extend England's lead.

<https://twitter.com/EnglandRugby/status/1091389963894165504>

Also heard on BBC Today programme at 0833/Mon17th March 2019;

Ralph Adams Hale in Heineken up final

<https://www.hertsad.co.uk/sport/rugby-union/harpenden-s-ralph-adams-hale-driven-by-saracens-success-1-6028584>



2. Business News - Will Read

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/alisoncoleman/2019/03/05/the-startup-aiming-to-give-50-million-employees-a-voice-and-businesses-some-serious-benefits/>



The Start-up Aiming to give 50 million employees a voice, and businesses some serious benefits – Forbes

This information was notified by Matt Pope (Ex-PE teacher, now at Samuel Ryder School in St Albans)



3. Another on the box – Blue Peter Presenter



Richie Driss (class of 2007)

After graduating with a degree in Film & Television Studies, Richie took on a number of roles as a presenter for several radio and media outlets.

His most recent appointment is as the 38th Presenter of BBC TV's Blue Peter programme.

News of this broke on the Herts Advertiser.

Whilst in the RPS Sixth Form, Richard attended SJL for Media Studies as part of the consortium arrangement.

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<https://www.hertsad.co.uk/news/blue-peter-presenter-richie-driss-studied-a-level-media-at-sir-john-lawes-school-harpenden-1-6017804>

We would like to hear from you if you have been in the news, print or on screen or any activity or venture you would like to share.



Matches Section

Many will be delighted to know that

**Mr Andy Porter
and
Miss Rebecca Way**

were married on Saturday 28th July 2018 at
Crabtree church in Harpenden and reception was
at Putteridge Bury.



**Lauren Hornby and Joseph Garrod
were married on Saturday 27th April.**

“It was a beautiful day and everything went so well. We are now about to enjoy 3 weeks in Maldives for our honeymoon. We got married at Burnham beeches hotel in Slough and Jenny King, Natasha Swales, Victoria Moxom and Emma Sharman (all RPS students) were four of my eight bridesmaids. We had a wonderful day and look forward to a long and happy marriage”.

Reunions?

Many of you have and do organize reunions with your classmates. We are happy to assist if we can. Given the constraints with GDPR and our privacy commitment, we are unable to provide personal details for any of our alumni. If you give us notice, we can publish informations that you provide in our quarterly newsletters. If you wish to hold your reunion at school, please make contact and our lettings manager.

RPS news sources

The Alumni newsletter(s) can be found on the school website. Please keep a note of this should any emailed link fail.

www.roundwoodpark.co.uk/alumni

The RPS fortnightly school newsletter

www.roundwoodpark.co.uk/roundup-newsletters/

The ‘staff’ Interview – will appear next issue.



If you do not wish to appear on our randomly selected **GRAPEVINE** section, please let us know. Equally if you would like to be featured here please let us know and also provide some information you would wish printed.



Daniel Carnell [1998]

Daniel is now a Development Executive working for the Scottish Development International at the British Embassy in Berne, Switzerland.



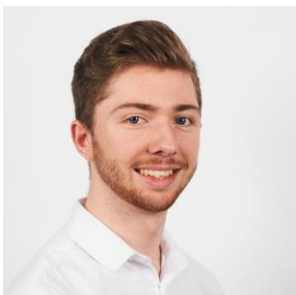
Livvy Brown [2012]. Livvy went on to Oaklands College to complete her studies. She has worked in retail and is currently a barista at Costa Coffee locally.



Holly Pullinger [2013].

Holly is living and working in Iwaki, Fukushima in Japan. She is an English teacher in five junior High Schools.

She gained a BA in English Literature from York University.



Jack Annand [2016] Former RPS Head Boy and currently President at UEA Business Society. He is studying for a Bachelor's degree in Accounting and Finance at the University of East Anglia.



Michael Bourne [2016].

Having studied Maths, Physics and product Design in the Sixth Form, Michael dropped in to school during March to say hello. Michael is currently working with Events, Media and Design at the Auto Vivendi Supercar Club in North London.

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Ben Ian Leach [1997]

BSc (Biochemistry) from Imperial College, London. PhD (Biophysics) from University of Virginia. Ben's scientific career has taken him from Oxford Glycosciences/celltech, the Scripps research Institute in California to his current position as a Staff Research Associate at the University of California.



Thomas Schofield [1997]

Thomas is currently a project accountant at Luton Town Football Club. He gained a degree in experimental psychology from Oxford University before taking the ACCA



Craig Barrable [2010]

Craig gained a Master's degree in Mechanical engineering with biomechanical engineering from Newcastle University. He worked as a Design Engineer and also as a Research Engineer in India before taking up Data Analysis in Ireland.



Lauren Holman [2006]

Lauren gained a BSc in Veterinary Science from the Royal Veterinary College then worked in a bedforshire vet practice as the Head Vet Nurse. Lauren then fancied a complete career change and now has a senior managerial role as the Project Coordinator at South Bank Tower.



Ollie Chakraverty [2014]

Ollie is currently a Junior Strategist at VMLY&R in London. He gained a BSc in Biological Sciences from Herriot Watt University.

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Letters to the editors

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

1. **“Many thanks for keeping me in the loop & keep up the good work.” – AD.** *Thanks, that is just what we like to hear.*
2. **“Please can you make sure I do not feature in any issues moving forward? The information that you have included about me ... is not only incorrect but is littered with spelling mistakes”- Anon.** *This is truly a disturbing missive and more than a little embarrassing. As a result, an apology and corrections were made.*
3. **“Unfortunately the link in the email is not working for me” – AS.** *Yes apologies for this. Having been informs that there were a significant number of errors in the newsletter; I replaced the original with a corrected copy. I had (foolishly) assumes the link would remain the same. The correct link was sent out and in future I will add the alumni link to the accompanying email in future.*
4. **“Nick Arnfield, RPS Art teacher (left in 1996), who died in 1999, was passionate about art, music and climbing. He was a very gifted art teacher, artist and musician. Nick took a BA in Art History at King’s College, Cambridge, and a Postgraduate Certificate in Education at Reading University. He inherited his artistic abilities from his mother, the late Marjorie Arnfield, who was a professional artist and art teacher. When Nick Arnfield taught at Roundwood, was he active in music in the school? I know that at his final school he was head of arts including music. Nick was a gifted bass guitarist and double-bass player and also played the cello. Did he take his art pupils on trips to see galleries?” RA.** *I would need to contact his teaching colleagues and the 3 students he taught to answer this.*

5. **"Please could you update my professional details on the website?" –VF.** *Most certainly. The alumni listings has been updated. I hope that more alumni will make similar requests.*
6. **Can you pass on my best wishes and also how pleased I was to see Mrs Briggs in this month's edition? – AB.** *certainly have done. Alas, she is leaving at Easter.*
7. **"I especially enjoyed Mr Dumpleton's section; he was always one of my favourite teachers at Roundwood. He certainly made an impact when he taught me for GCSEs." –JW.** *Always delighted to receive comments likes this. Such comments are conveyed to the staff involved.*
8. **"Great photo on the front page... Feels like ages ago!" – ES.** *Yes and it brings back happy memories.*
9. **"Could you please update my email address" – NH.** *The newsletter dispatch invariably results in many emails being undeliverable. It is so helpful when alumni inform us of email changes. Thank you.*
10. **"Please could you remove me from your mailing list? Unfortunately I no longer have the time to read the newsletters." – JS** *Certainly and done. Disappointing but we appreciate that email traffic can be excessive.*
11. **"Always great to read this on my tea break, keep up the good work." – SD** *Good to hear.*
12. **"I myself am getting married in April so I will send you details and a picture once we get them back". – LH.** *Watch out for this in the June newsletter!*
13. **"Chris Steward, Metal work teacher in 1985 -95? – any news of him?"- DP.** *None at all. Anyone know anything? DP*
14. **This is Myra Andrews** - previously worked at Roundwood. *I have just been reminiscing through your Alumni news and thank you for the memories. Did I really teach science? I am currently in Bedfordshire - still teaching PE to 5-18 year olds. MA*

FUND RAISING continues.

RPS continues to seek funding for the all-weather pitch.

www.rpcp.co.uk - Roundwood Park Community Pitch

As donations are received, it is no longer possible to identify donations from alumni and as such can no longer be mentioned on the web site.



However, all donations will receive a personal thanks from our Business Manager.

Any level of donation is gratefully received and a small monthly Direct Debit is possible.



Staff changes

Karen (nee Mason) Peters 20 -2019)

School Bursar is leaving to take a break and spend more time with her family.

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Mrs Kirsty Briggs. Teacher of English and undoubted linguistic superstar is leaving for good at Easter. Previously she worked at RPS from Sept 2001 – Dec 2006 & Sept 2007 – March 2019. She will be concentrating on her own English language tutoring company.

STOP PRESS

Pete Mann (class of ?) is alive and well at the Engineer Pub in Harpenden.

Dr Frances Hawkesford, former chemistry teacher who left RPS to teach in the private sector has, at last, retired from teaching last summer. She remains her usual cheery self and living locally.

Christine Hood, former Biology teacher, NUT Rep and 'fully paid up' ailurophile remains out and about in St Albans.

Rod Dallimore (class of 1959) remains optimistic that MUFC will actually win trophies and be a force in football once more. Ever the optimist!

Kirsty Briggs, perhaps the most enthusiastic and inspirational teacher of English and avid logophile who remains her usual upbeat, optimistic and cheerful self in Harpenden.

Myra (Andrews) Cullen is alive and well and teaching PE in Bedfordshire. See letters to editor above. Hopefully more details to follow.

Dalyaan Simeon (class of 2014) is alive and well and providing 'oxygen' to the less technically minded in the county.

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

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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.

Ed
BMLS