



ROUNDWOOD PARK ALUMNI Newsletter 28: September 2019

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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.

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/>

Reunions

These are usually arranged between groups of friends and we are always willing to help if required. We would ask that organisers could ask/suggest/recommend that all alumni could/should make contact to be put on the RPS Alumni mailing list. Simply go to www.roundwoodpark.co.uk/alumni



Climate Change awareness

Mr Bim Afolami, Harpenden & Hitchin MP, has indicated a keen interest in education. He has previously invited Mr Henshall (Head Teacher) to a Select Committee meeting in parliament. He has now invited students from the local secondary schools and a group of Sixth Formers from RPS that organized the climate change petition were invited to parliament.

Alumni in the News

1. Powerlifting

The Commonwealth Powerlifting games are held in Canada on 15-21 September 2019.



Luca Kawahara-Musiu (Y11) competed in these games in the under 74Kg bracket for under 18s and bench pressed 110kg to win the championship.

The entry fee and anti-doping costs are funded but Luca is having to fund his flight and other costs. In order to help he has set up a funding page. We all wish Luca the best in Canada and If you would like to support Luca please look at the following.

<https://www.gofundme.com/f/commonwealth-powerlifting-championship-fundraiser>

Golf

Ellen Hume (class of 2016) is the new English Women's Amateur Golf Champion. Ellen, aged 19, playing for Mill Green Golf Club was up against the number one seed Lily May Humphreys, but the Hertfordshire star was able to hold her nerve at the wet and windy Saunton Golf Club in Devon on Sunday 19th May to win the match and the title.



Hume said: "It's the toughest match I've ever played. I know that Lily is a great player and I felt I was the underdog going into the match, definitely. "It's unbelievable, I never expected to win, especially with the opponents I've had. The odds weren't in my

favour."

2. Rugby



Breakthrough just the start for Harpenden's latest Man in Black Ralph Adams-Hale

A first try for Saracens may not have been enough to get him a Heineken Cup semi-final spot against Munster but there is no denying that it has been a memorable year for Ralph Adams-Hale.

The Harpenden man made his first Gallagher Premiership start in December against Wasps and has featured a number of times since, including a try-scoring appearance off the bench at Bristol Bears one week ago. And when he reflects on the moment he found out he would be in that team to face Wasps, a smile floods across his face.

Read the entire Herts Advertiser article on Alumni News.

3. Another book published



A bestselling St Albans author was held captive in the world of criminality when writing her latest book. **Angela Clarke** was inspired to write *On My Life* while she taught creative writing in prisons around the UK. You can read the full Herts Advertiser article at

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<https://www.hertsad.co.uk/news/st-albans-angela-clarke-on-my-life-1-6172773>

5. The 2019 Bridgestone Solar Challenge for two Alumni



Emily Pearson and **Hugh Thomas** (both class of 2017) are studying at Durham University and are taking part in the 2019 Bridgestone Solar Challenge in Australia in October.

“We are both representing Durham University at the Bridgestone World Solar Challenge in Australia. This is a race that challenges teams to

design and build a solar powered car capable of travelling 3000km from Darwin to Adelaide.

We both did Maths, Physics and Further Maths at A-level and now study Engineering at Durham University, where we are both involved in their Electric Motorsport Team.”

“If you are interested in what we’ve been up to over the past couple of years, you can find out more in the links below:”

https://twitter.com/DUEM_Electric

<https://www.facebook.com/DUEM.Electric/>

<https://www.worldsolarchallenge.org/>

The race starts on 13th October and ends on 20th October.

The staff interview
COLLEEN HALLIDAY
Chemistry teacher
Jan 2002 – present



1. What did you study at University – why that subject in particular?

I studied Biochemistry, partly because I loved studying organic chemistry at A level and because I had wanted to study Biology at A level and was not able to. In my day schools offered ‘packages’ of A level subjects; none of this ‘free choice’. I had to study Maths, Physics and Chemistry.

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

I enjoyed the whole experience although it took me a while to adjust to life in London, having moved from a small Suffolk town! I made friendships that lasted long after Uni, although I have lost touch with most of them now. I also was surprised to gain a 2.1 BSc having not done very well at A level.

3. What made you go into teaching?

I had always wanted to teach – when I was 10 I had a blackboard and easel for my birthday, along with a double desk from the local primary school (my mum was the school secretary) and used to teach my 5 - year old sister and her friend. They had continual Maths problems to do. I had also had a difficult time at home during my secondary education and wanted to support other young people in their teenage years.

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

No, I didn’t enter the profession until I was in my early 30’s when my children were all in school. I originally wanted to go through the Pastoral system in terms of promotion but opportunities arose in the curriculum area instead. I have no regrets, as I have always been actively involved as a form tutor.

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

I had been teaching in Chingford while living in London. I had moved there, with our daughter, for my husband to take up work. Our sons had stayed in Hemel Hempstead. We then moved back to Hemel and I needed to get a job nearer home.

The position at Roundwood Park came up at that time. I had previously worked in other schools in Hemel and London; my first ever job had been in a school as a Biology Technician.

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

I came originally as Head of Chemistry. Then there was a change in the department to Key Stage coordinators and I took on KS4 for all three subjects and KS5 Chemistry. A stint as joint Head of Science with Mr Barnett and then back to Head of Chemistry. When I reached my 60th birthday, I stepped down from all responsibilities, to become a full-time classroom teacher again.

7. What aspects of your job at RPS do/did you especially enjoy and if you have to pick one thing that you most enjoyed what would it have been?

I enjoy interactions with the students the most. I love teaching my subject as well, particularly at A level, but I have so many memories of being a mentor, supporter, advocate; it makes the long hours and hard work worthwhile when you get a thankyou from someone you have been privileged to help. It is truly humbling at times.

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

I remember the joy of arriving in August one year, on GCSE results day, to find that all 6 students that had studied for Entry level and been entered for GCSE towards the end of Year 11, had achieved a grade. They received a revision guide, and had worked at home to cover the parts of the specification we had not done in class.

9. Apart from your teaching responsibilities what other activities or pursuits have you take part in whilst at RPS?

I have taken an active part in House events over the past few years and supported the Music department at concerts.

10. Have you taken part in extra-curricular activities such as visits or other events with the students and which did you especially enjoy?

For several years I organised revision trips for A level chemists and Science Live for Year 10 students. I have also visited a variety of venues during Enrichment weeks.

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

By increasing the number of students studying A level chemistry from one group to three groups. Since the number of subjects studied has gone from 4 to 3 there has been, unfortunately, a decline in numbers.

12. You have been a stalwart in the Science dept over many years. Teaching is regarded as one of the most stressful careers. Do you foresee or look forward to retirement or going part time?

I intend to go to 4 days a week next year and am likely to retire in the next few years. I would love to spend more time with my grandchildren and I want to do more gardening, walking, reading; just having a life actually!

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

I would still have come into teaching, although the job has changed out of all recognition from when I first started – not all for the better!! My biggest concern is the pressure that the education system puts on students.

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

As someone who cared as much about their well- being as their academic progress and achievement.

RIP; Liz Berdinner (teacher of English in the 70/80s).

It is with great sadness that we hear that Ms Liz Berdinner has died on Friday June 7th 2019.

Liz was an accomplished and popular English specialist teacher whose knowledge of grammar, punctuation and literature was renowned throughout the school. After Roundwood, she moved away and lived in High Wycombe. More recently she became quite unwell and spent a period in a nursing home where she sadly died.

Wednesday visits

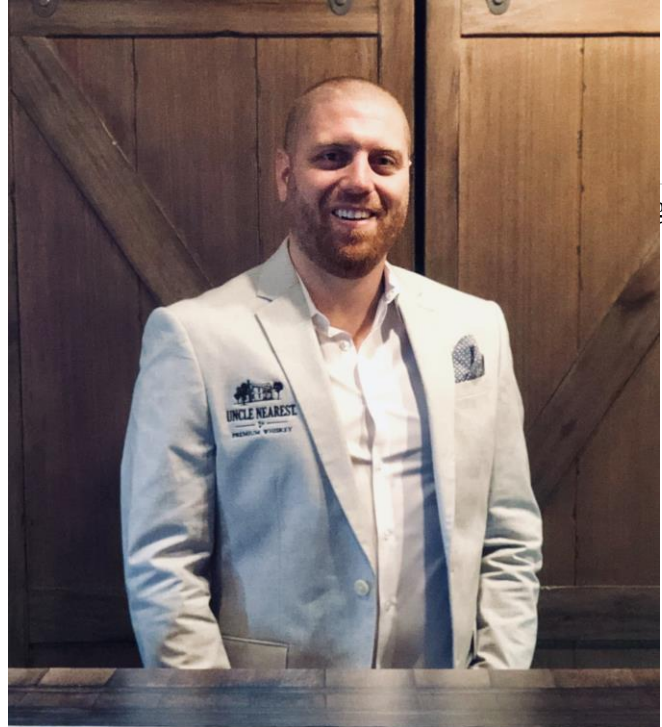
We would be delighted to see you on any Wednesday during term time. Please contact the school or email me to arrange a suitable time for a tour. You may also wish to experience and enjoy lunch in the vastly updated and modernised canteen. Do bring in any old photos if possible.

Alumnus of the month

July 2019

Richie Michaels

(1995-2000)



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Richie is currently the owner of Whisk(e)y Tasting Experiences and National Brand Ambassador at Uncle Nearest Premium Whiskey in Kentucky, USA.

After completing his GCSEs in 2000, Richie attended Oakland's College and gained an Associate degree in Sport & Fitness Administration / Management. Richie then moved to the USA in 2003, joining the degree programme at Bellarmine University in Louisville, Kentucky, studying Business Administration; he graduated with a Bachelor of Business Administration in 2007.

After graduating from Bellarmine University, he started his career by managing bars in his now "hometown" of Louisville, before moving into a customer relations role with Beam Suntory (the world's third largest spirits brand) as a Key Account Manager, taking care of their top bar and restaurant customers. This role put him in the center of the US Whiskey industry for the next 5 years until he was ready to break off and start his own Whisk(e)y tasting and education company; Whisk(e)y Tasting Experiences.

Richie still owns and operates Whisk(e)y Tasting Experiences, but is now also the National Brand Ambassador for Uncle Nearest Premium Whiskey. He travels the country and sometimes the world hosting classes, seminars, and presentations about Uncle Nearest Premium Whiskey. He often comes back to the UK to host Whisk(e)y presentations and will be joining us July 22nd-26th to host Whisk(e)y and cocktail masterclasses in Soho and Leeds.

Thanks to Richie for sending in this account.

If you would like to feature as Alumna/us of the month PLEASE send in your account that we can publish in this newsletter and also the main school newsletter 'Roundup.

Memory Lane



Many Thanks for this image sent by Andy Crofts. From the days when the school badge had a traditional look and a meaningful motto 'What we shall repay or Give something back'.

Those were the days!

Coincidentally the City of Belfast has a Coat of arms with motto "Pro Tanto Quid Retribuamus" (Latin: "What shall we give in return for so much")



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

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/

Grapevine is changing.



The GRAPEVINE section will now feature only those that have specifically asked to be shown here. We would be delighted to feature more of our alumni and now ask that you PLEASE email us with the details you wish to share with fellow alumni.

Charlotte Wood (class of 2009)



Charlie gained a Law degree from the University of Brighton and practised law for a brief period before embarking on her own commercial enterprise – **CHARLIE'S**.

In May 2014, Charlie opened and continues to run a highly popular and successful café, 'Charlie's, is on the main street (Station Road) near the river in Wheathampstead.

You can find more information about Charlie's café on the following links.

<https://charlies-coffee-store.business.site/>

<https://www.facebook.com/charlieswheathampstead/>

Kate Murphy [Class of 2015]

"Gained a BSc (hons) in bioveterinary science from UWE and I am now studying veterinary medicine at the Royal veterinary college London".



'LOST' Alumni!



As a result of changes in circumstance – getting married, new job or simply email address changes/problems – we have lost contact with a number of our alumni who are on our mailing list. Clearly we try to reconnect but this is not always easy or

possible. It maybe that some no longer wish to remain in contact but if you can help us 'reconnect' with some of the following that would be great.

Lisa (Ring) Ellis
Sara Alice (Green) James
Richard Jones
Jessica Kemp 2008
Bradley Marney
David Minto
Simon New
Hana Saher
Jamie Smith

Hannah Sykes
Alan Tate 1991
Ben Thompson
Thomas Toyer
Alex Trott
Christen Williams
Nicola (hume) Williams
Jonathan Winter

Apologies if you are listed above and are receiving the newsletter with the email we have on file.



Letters to the editors

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

1. **"I'm a big golf fan and follow the professional and amateur game, but Ellen Hume was crowned English Ladies Amateurs golf champion on Sunday"- JR.** *Not being a golf fan, I did not know this and so many thanks for this information. Can I ask that alumni keep sending in snippets of info about other alumni (and themselves)?*
2. **"My name is down as Michael for some reason!" – JB.** *Reason being another careless slip by the 'old 'un'! Profuse apologies.*
3. **"I am sorry for being so hard to find" – PB.** *As people move/change jobs email addresses can change and short of consulting friends/relatives or social media it can be difficult to retrace our alumni.*
4. **" Thank you for the latest newsletter" – RH.** *Always nice to receive such a note.*
5. **"Sending this reply from my current email account so you can update your mailing list."- AC.** *Many thanks. The ideal way for us to keep in contact with alumni.*
6. **"I can also steer you towards decent craft beer." – BN.** *I am all ears!*
7. **"I would be very happy to appear in the grapevine section of the alumni newsletter. Here is some information that could be added" –KM.** *This is wonderful and from now on it will be the only way that details can be published given GDPR.*
8. **"Please unsubscribe me, thank you"- JC.** *A rare and disappointing request but removed all the same.*

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.

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Staff changes



Tony Smith [Jan 2007 –Sept 2019] From a background in the Music business TSm starting as a teacher of Economics and Business Studies. His business acumen took him the school's Business Manager and then Promoted as a Deputy Head and Director of Operations. As RPS had a hand in the initiation of the New Katherine Warrington school, Mr Tony Smith was appointed and is the new Head teacher at KWS.

KWS was reported in these issues through the archaeological work of Alex Thomas.



Amanda Green. [October 2007 –Sept 2019]. Amanda joined the Science technician team and took over as Chief Technician. Her meticulous attention to details and ability to organise has been invaluable to ensure that everything in the Science dept was above board, running smoothly, well equipped and tickety boo. She will be difficult to replace but is moving on to a post at Rothamsted working in the Hearts Milk Bank/ Human Milk Foundation.

Mrs Gill McKenna [Sept 1998-Aug 2019]. MFL (German) teacher, Ex Head of Dept, Assistant Head latterly.

Caroline Bond [sept 2012 - Aug 2019]. Teacher of Maths

Daniel Amias [Sept 2016 - Aug 2019]. Teacher of Politics

Dr Andy Perrett [Feb 2015 - Aug 2019]. Teacher of Science

Laura Brimacombe [June 2014 - Aug 2019]. Teacher of Science (Biology).

Katerina Papakonstaninou [Sept 2019 - Aug 2019]. Teacher of MFL.

Vester Biezeman [Sept 2017 – Aug 2019] Teacher of Computer Science.

Rebecca Barley [2012-31/12/2019]. Teacher of English.

Mrs Vikki Psaila [2017-19]. Employment Liaison & Events Coordinator.

STOP PRESS

Anne Lindgren [1979-89]. Former teacher of History is alive and well and still lives in St Albans.

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Dan Carnell [1998]. Was seen recently with a hunk of beef in his hand. He was over from Switzerland with his wife and children to meet up with his parents.

Kathryn (Tyers) Barker [1985] was also seen in Harpenden, alive and well and as cheerful as ever.

Megan Clark [2017]. Was seen in a local hostelry during the summer recess after her first year at Roehampton University.

Lauren Berryman [2014]. Seen recently in Redbourn and 'waxed lyrical' about her former form tutor, Mrs Helen Twomey.

**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.

Ed

BMLS