



ROUNDWOOD PARK ALUMNI Newsletter 29: December 2019

4www

www.roundwoodpark.co.uk/alumni



Page | 1

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/>

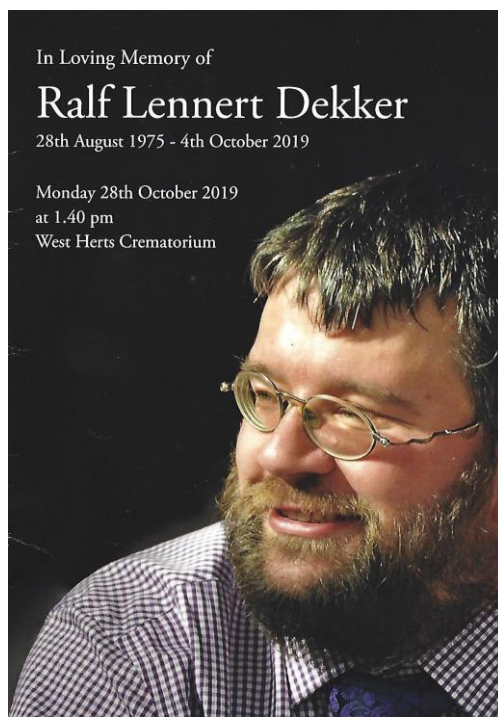
GDPR!

Over the years previous issues of this Newsletter have contained many photos of alumni informing of current activities or old group class photos or of images on assorted trips or around the school. Similarly images on the Alumni news pages of the school web site have shown similar. There appear to be different interpretations of GDPR but in essence such images can only be published with the permission of those shown in the images.

We would therefore ask that alumni send in photos with stated permissions to publish them. Even if images are on social media it appears that permission is still required to publish elsewhere.

We would be interested to hear if this interpretation is correct or not?

Sad Newser



We were all saddened to learn of the death of Ralf Dekker (class of 1993) who died on 4th October 2019.

There was a service at Garston Crematorium on Monday 28th October and was attended by Ralf's relatives



and so many of his friends and colleagues. During the ceremony, Adam Akers (class of 1992), a close friend wrote the following poem which was read out by Adam;s wife Liz.

POEM 'He Is'

written by Adam Akers and read by his wife, Liz Akers

His passing was harsh and unfair;
He was not.
He was gentle of soul and kind of heart.
His passing was sudden and sad;
He was not.
He was always there and happy to be so.
His passing was confusing and mean;
He was not.
He was calm and generous to those around him.
His passing was cold and unwanted;
He was not.
He was warm of spirit and needed by all.
His passing was everything he was not.
His passing was final;
He is not.
He will be with us forever in all we do.
He is.

Following the ceremony there was a gathered at the Plough & Harrow in Southdown.

People were asked if they wished to make a donation to the British Heart Foundation.

ALUMNI IN THE NEWS

1. Harpenden Hockey Club The local club still comprises of many Roundwood Alumni although now that the school no longer teaches hockey (shock horror!) doubtless fewer boys and girls may take up the

game. Harpenden Hockey Club hope they can attract more players will head to the club soon as they battle an all too familiar drain of talent. Read more. <https://www.hertsad.co.uk/sport/player-drain-causing-headaches-for-harpenden-hockey-club-1-5755836>

However there are regular match reports in the Harpenden Edition of the Herts Advertiser which can be viewed online.

Dan Burgess (class of 1997), Todd Baines (class of 2004) et al – lead the field for Harpenden Mens 1st XI



Harpenden were left feeling as wretched as the weather as they suffered a 5-3 loss to early East Hockey League Division Two South pacesetters Brentwood.

They finished with a flourish as Todd Baines, Reece Baker-Kiff and Mark Hoefield all scored in the latter stages of the contest but it was far too little and too late to alter the outcome.

PUBLISHED: 16:37 15 October 2019 | UPDATED: 10:23 16 October 2019
Neil Metcalfe Photo by KARYN HADDON



2. Rugby

Max Baggio [2014] scored the dramatic last-gasp try that led to Harpenden's shock win over North Walsham.

On Saturday 16th November, Harpenden stunned unbeaten London One North leaders North Walsham

with a last-gasp converted try giving them a 31-29 success. Read the full article here.

<https://www.hertsad.co.uk/sport/rugby-union/harpenden-v-north-walsham-report-1-6384400>

STUDENT ACTION IN HOUSE TO REDUCE WASTE/PLASTIC USE.

Following a visit to Parliament with Bim Afolami, the RPS student body continues to promote green issues and now seeks to drastically reduce the use of plastic in school.



Climate Action at RPS!





Plastic Free School: September - October 2019

At the start of this academic year, students were asked to bring in their own water bottles so that we can avoid the need for disposable plastic cups in school.

This half term we have spared the use of **16,000–18,000 plastic cups**, which the senior school alone would normally have got through by now. Roundwood Primary School have also swapped to reusable cups, saving an extra 8,000 single-use cups from being used.

This really highlights what a big impact we can have with a very simple swap!

Students - please keep bringing in your water bottles and consider what else you could be doing to help reduce unnecessary waste.

RETHINK THE FUTURE


REDUCE


REUSE


RECYCLE



The staff interview:

Mrs Helen Twomey
(2004 – present)

MFL teacher/formerly Head of Dept.



Page | 5

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

I studied German and Linguistics at Sheffield University. I was studying German at A-level and loved it, so it seemed like a natural choice. However, I had never studied Linguistics before, but really liked the sound of it (possibly not the best reason to choose half of your degree!).

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

So many!! I absolutely loved university! A particular highlight was my year abroad in Germany in my third year and all the experiences I had there.

3. What made you go into teaching?

I got into teaching by accident! After my degree, my old German A-level teacher contacted me as they needed someone to cover a maternity position and she knew I wasn't sure what I was going to do next. So, I ended up teaching for two terms at my old school, unqualified and not really sure what I was doing! But it was a valuable learning curve!

4. Have you ever considered any other career path?

Yes, but I can't imagine not being in a school around students.

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

I saw a tiny advert in the print version of the TES for the job at Roundwood and it sounded ideal. I had never been to Harpenden and didn't know the school at all, but something about it struck a chord with me!

6. 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?

There are lots of things I've really enjoyed, but one thing that stands out as enjoyable and memorable are the Rhineland trips, especially those with the much missed Connor Geraghty!

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

A huge thing that stands out is the incredible support, care and kindness I received after something very sad happened to me in my personal life. The staff and students were unbelievable and I will never forget how much that helped me.

8. Did you also take part in or organise any visits or non-curricular activities with the students?

Yes, I've been on lots of trips (not as many in recent years since I had my children). The Rhineland trip every year for many years, the French trips, a couple of history trips, a business trip to Eurodisney, and lots of day trips.

9. Do you feel you made an impact at RPS in any of your roles at RPS?

Gosh, I don't know the answer to that one!

10. What are your passions/hobbies or pursuits in your spare time?

These days, I don't have that much time for myself as I have two small children (Rufus, who is six and Tabitha, who is four), who are amazing but keep me very busy. I have lots of brilliant friends and I love spending time with them. I also read a great deal and am currently very interested in the political situation in our country.

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

I think I would still go into teaching as I can't imagine not having built the relationships I have with colleagues and students, but it has been hard work to deal with all the changes.

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

I'd like to be remembered as kind and always willing to listen and help.



The GRAPEVINE section will now feature only those that have specifically asked to be shown here.



I am sure you recognise some if not all of the faces in the picture? They are all of Roundwood alumni at a Chicago Cubs v St Louis Cardinals baseball game last Friday 20th Sept 2019.

In the photo are...

Dan Wise

Simon Andrews

David Murphy

Aaron Abraham

Chris Gregory

David Hay

Dan Bathurst

We spent a long weekend there visiting Dan Wise and his family, celebrating 32 years of friendship, which started at Harpenden Colts at U7s and has continued through 7 years at RPS and into adulthood. Some of us are still living in Harpenden but most a spread across London and the southeast but more recently Chicago.

Thanks to Chris Gregory (1999) for sending this in.

Alumna of the month: November 2019

Trish (nee Hall) Lamb (2001- 08)



Trish is the Customer Experience Manager at the Met Office.

She is a passionate Customer Experience Manager with a demonstrated history of working in a scientific organisation.

Trish's career history has centred around customer service; from initially providing it, to managing a team of advisors and now going beyond customer service and managing the full experience and all interactions our customers

have. I have a strong knowledge and interest in environmental sciences with a first class BSc in Geography and a Masters of Research (MRes) focused in Climate change impacts and feedbacks from University of Exeter.

Especially now what could be more topical or relevant than Climate change?

WEDNESDAY VISITS

If you would like to have a look around your old school to see just how it may have changed since you left, then please email us to arrange a date.

Page | 8



You may be surprised to see the radical change in the school canteen, especially the serving area and the dramatically changed range of enticing and delicious food. Mrs Sonia Papworth, the Canteen Manager for many years has been responsible for this transformation.

HOME ECONOMICS/COOKERY LAB REVAMPED!

Over the summer, the current Head of Department (known as Design & Technology) was able to submit a successful bid for a substantial grant. This enabled the complete refit of the cookery room/lab. Very smart it looks too.



Left - the view as you enter the room from the corridor.



Right – the view as you enter directly from the path from the playground.

STILL 'MISSING'!- If you know any of the following can you ask them to make contact by emailing the alumnioffice at b.smith@roundwoodpark.co.uk



**Penny
Avis**

**David Minto
Simon New
Sue O'Brien
Hana Saher
Michael Sanders
Jamie Smith
Hannah Sykes
Alan Tate 1991
Ben Thompson
Thomas Toyer
Alex Trott
Christen Williams
Nicola (hume) Williams
Jonathan Winter**

**Bethany Cawthorpe
Lisa (Ring) Ellis
Dave Jones
Richard Jones
Jessica Kemp 2008**

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



**Roundwood Park Careers Department
Needs You!**

Careers Investigators Day, Wed 5th
February 2020

Each year, Careers at RPS host a large-scale event for our Year 10 students. The objective of the day is to support students to research and explore their own careers ideas and to meet with employers and understand more about the world of work.

Students LOVE to talk to and hear from adults other than teachers!

CAN YOU HELP?

We would love to hear from you if you are able to present a 15 minute talk on your job and what it is like to work in your sector. The day is about promoting job roles and the range of job sectors that you can consider rather than promoting a particular company.

If you work in the following sectors - Leisure & Tourism, Sports, Catering, Civil Service, Media, anything creative & all things digital even better!

The event is to be held at Roundwood Park School on Wednesday 5th February 2020.

If you would like to inspire our pupils and support this event, **please contact Jacqui Hammond, Event Coordinator & Employer Liaison to find out more - careers@roundwoodpark.co.uk**



Letters to the editors

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

1. **“Being one of my most memorable teachers” – CM.** *Flattered to hear this but at the same time relieved you did not have bad feelings!*
2. **“I always really enjoy the alumni newsletters thanks for taking the time to put it together” – CG.** *Always a pleasure to learn this and even more so when alumni send material in.*
3. **“Happy to be included wherever 😊 – KB.** *Especially pleasing to hear that alumni are happy to share their data for publication around school and in the newsletters.*
4. **” Thank you for the latest edition of the newsletter, I always enjoy reading it and catching up on life in Harpenden. I was saddened to learn that Ms Berdinner has passed away, she taught me English in the third year (or year 9 as we now know it!) - JP.** *Yes, a sad moment.*
5. **“You haven’t lost touch with me. I’m just quiet, sorry. I don’t know why my email wouldn’t be working. I definitely get the newsletters” -SG.** *This is not an unusual phenomenon with large group mailing. .We lose touch when email addresses are changed!*
6. **“Thanks for taking the time to share this with me, much appreciated” - Mrs Halliday** *when an alumni wrote back about her.*
7. **“Brilliant - thank you! “ – CW.** *We always try to help..*
8. **“Please remove this e-mail address from your database”- Anon.** *A work place manager not happy to receive emails to the work place after the alumnus had left the employment. Hence, we recommend the use of personal emails for this.*
9. **“Always nice receiving these, particularly travelling round Asia - I am on a career break” -DJ.** *Yes, the wonders of modern technology.*
10. **For the privacy reasons, could you please remove my profile from your website?- Il.** *Disappointing but given GDPR, understandable and as requested this has been done immediately.*

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.

Page | 11

Lucy – a ‘potted’ history



Many of you may remember this plant that was beside the door to the computer room in the sixth Form area.

The original plant was bought from a florist called Celino's on the Edinburgh Road in Glasgow in 1974. It was the first house plant that Dr and Mrs Smith bought before they were married in 1975.

The plant before you is an aerial rooted cutting. (Many others went into the library – since got rid of by the current librarian!)

This plant has been associated with the Smiths and exceeds the period that they have been married by 1 year. The plant thus has a symbolic meaning to them.

The plant is known as LUCY after the first person to volunteer to look after her and water her regularly.

The first ‘Waterer’ was **Lucy Johnson** (class of 2005) and she bequeathed a pink watering can for this purpose. Other ‘Lucy’ carers have been Monique Hall and Olivia Dixon.

Staff changes

Mrs Rebecca Barley (2012-2019). Teacher of English

Mrs Rebecca Blake (2016-2019). HR Assistant.

Page | 12



Mrs Kate Barron (2012-2019). The Reprographics maestro is leaving to take up a position utilising her academic skills and training in psychodynamic counselling as the Mental Health Lead at Townsend School.

STOP PRESS

Mrs Shiela Wheeler, former Head of Music, is alive and well and still living in the area.

Mrs Sandy Walker, former super-efficient 6th form secretary or 'secrtaire exceptionelle' in her words, was seen with husband in St Albans recently.

Mrs Chris Wilson, former Chief technician in the Science department, last seen helping with conservation of Harpenden Common.

Rory Meldrum (class of '83) is alive and well and now in the west country and also, like the rest of us, 'getting older'!

Alumnus **Dean Smith** remains well and active with his flourishing window cleaning company/service in Harpenden.

Suzanne (nee Bowd) Webb. Formerly Head Girl, Deputy Head and currently Head Teacher at Roundwood Primary School is leaving at the end of the Autumn Term.

Jack Carr (class of 2005) recently encountered in the Maltings in St Albans and enjoyed many reminisces of times gone by.

Mrs Kaye Cartwright, (1984-87) former Head of Home Economics/Cookery is alive and well, still involved in school management and living in Herts.



CONTACT – Your news and views are greatly appreciated. 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*