



ROUNDWOOD PARK ALUMNI Newsletter 30: March 2020

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/>



Mr Kenneth Jones RIP

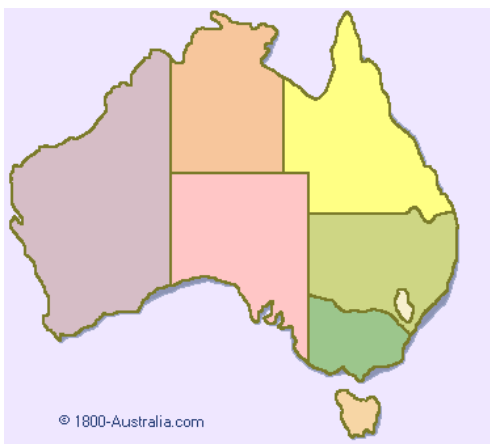
It is with sad news that we must report the death of one of Roundwood's teaching 'giants', who passed away on Thursday 13th February 2020. He was 83.

Ken was Head of English (1970-96) and was legendary in his pursuit and insistence on perfect grammar, punctuation and all aspects of the spoken and written word. He was affectionately known by all as 'Ken the word'.

Latterly Ken suffered from dementia, but his death was a shock after a brief spell in Hospital. He leaves behind his wife, Patricia, and his daughter Karen.

A service was held on 4th March at Garston Crematorium. Donations to the Alzheimer Society.

If you would like to pass any sympathies/comments these will be passed on.



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Alumni in Australia (January briefings!)



Dan in Melbourne, The fires are obviously a very big deal here though while we've had friends and family

impacted (one of our friends was part of the Mallacoota Beach evacuation, which got a lot of press, and lost her family's holiday home), I'm happy to say that Melbourne, like most of the big cities, is very safe, beyond a bit of smoke in the air. I hope other Antipodean alumni were similarly unaffected. We've had incredible thunderstorms for the last couple of days, I've actually got a bit of a headache today after being struck by a golf ball sized hailstone while out running. Never a dull moment!

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Felicity in Sydney. Thankfully we live on the coast and are relatively safe from any danger, although the smoke and ash in the air is not nice. It's so awful to see what's going on - we're attending a local fundraiser for the Australia Red Cross next week to do our little bit.

Sporting action

Sarah McKenna (2007) at the 2020 Women's Six Nations Rugby Championship.

McKenna scores for England in five-try thrashing of Ireland and most recently against Wales. 23 Feb 2020. Watch Sarah McKenna's well-worked try as England score five to beat Ireland 27-0 in front of a sell-out crowd at Castle Park in Doncaste.
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/sport/av/rugby-union/51606692>



WATCH MORE: Solo masterclass or team effort? Which brilliant France try was best? England Women held off a massive France fightback to begin the defence of their Six Nations title with a 19-13 win in Pau on Sunday 2nd February.

Watch Sarah's pass near the line to give England their first try.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episode/m000f1sb/womens-six-nations-rugby-2020-week-1-highlights>

Match report of women's rugby. <https://www.skysports.com/rugby-union/france-women-vs-england/report/95823>

A product of Roundwood Park School and Grove Junior School, Sarah McKenna took up the game at the age of six at her local club Harpenden, where her dad coached at mini level. England

Women held off a massive France fightback to begin the defence of their Six Nations title with a 19-13 win in Pau on Sunday 2nd February.

A versatile player, who is comfortable operating at fly half, centre or full back, she has played for for Scorpions, Old Albanian, Wasps and now Saracens, where she was a key part of the latter's 2014-15 and 2018-19 title-winning sides.

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Sarah's England debut arrived in August 2011 when she came off the bench in a 15-11 victory over the United States and has featured in World Cup and Six Nations squads.

She also scored a memorable hat-trick against Australia in the 2017 International Women's Rugby Series. Sarah is enjoying a stand out season for Saracens and England. Currently in the England line up Sarah was impressive in the first Six Nations match.

Hopefully the media (tv, radio and newspapers) will increasingly improve their coverage of women's sporting events and successes!

Harry Kneale saves Harpenden Hockey Club!

Harpenden Hockey Club still relies on RPS to encourage youngsters to play hockey evn if it is only by its alumni!

What might have been for Harpenden but draw at Brentwood the least they deserved Harry Kneale scored twice for Harpenden away to Brentwood. A battling performance that was up there with the best of them this season earned Harpenden a 2-2 draw away to Brentwood.



The Essex side were second at the start of the day and had beaten Harpenden 5-3 on their visit to Woollams in October but two goals from Harry Kneale ensured Harps returned with a well-deserved point.

His first was a powerful low drive from the top of the circle while the second the complete opposite, a deft deflection

to finish off a well-worked penalty corner routine.

Harpenden may think they should have got more out of the game too as those strikes put them 2-0 ahead at half-time but the home side responded strongly after the break with Andy King called into a man-of-the-match display between the pipes.

He was beaten twice in the last 10 minutes but the visitors could still have snatched with father and son duo Ali and Mac Hutson both going close.

Herts Advertiser 09:21 30 January 2020 by Neil Metcalfe / photo Karyn Haddon

The staff interview: **Mr Mike Garbutt**
(2005 – present)



Head of Expressional Arts/ Head of Drama.

1. What did you study at University/College – why that subject in particular? **I studied drama and creative writing**
2. Do you have any fond memories of your time at university/college? **Yes definitely. It was the best of times. We seemed to be devising, rehearsing, performing and touring constantly and it hugely built on my love for the subject. I gained less from the writing side of the course as I was young and arrogant and thought I knew it all! The quality of the tutoring on that side wasn't so good either.**
3. What made you go into teaching? **I had done a lot of work experience and classroom helping from quite a young age and I found that I was good at it and didn't find it hard to connect to young people. I didn't have the drive to go further with performing as I was moving down south after University and needed something I enjoyed and that was going to pay the bills. It was also a way to keep developing my love of the subject whilst still performing in my spare time as a hobbyist.**
4. Have you ever considered any other career path? Many times! But It always comes down to the same thing. **I love my subject and love working with young people. I don't think that will change although when I grow up and am heading towards retirement I'd like to throw myself into a full time career in theatre directing.**
5. Why did you choose Roundwood Park School and have you ever worked in another school or any other industry?
I started my teaching career in Harlesden, North London after doing my PGCE placements in Ilford and Eltham. I cut my teeth in pretty hardcore schools – Ilford was the kind that had a stabbing per term and the drama room often doubled as the emergency first aid room. In all that time, I commuted from either Luton or St Albans (where we were living at the time) and after a bad motorbike crash on the M1, I decided I was probably far more likely to live longer working in a nice school closer to home. I realised that job satisfaction comes in all shapes and sizes depending on what school you are in. In tougher school you celebrate the small successes much more and there is always a much greater sense of community in the staff. At RPS it was all about the depth to which you could explore creative ideas and the openness and trust that the pupils have in the teachers.
6. What aspects of your job/roles at RPS did you especially enjoy and if you have to pick one thing that you most enjoyed what would it have been? **I honestly love the day to day teaching of my subject. We work in the same way as professional companies creating performance work, just with more energy and**

at a quicker pace usually! I entered into management quite early in my career and I have always loved leading the subject and finding new and better ways to explore what we deliver, experimenting with our approaches.

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

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Too many to mention. Possibly one of the funniest I can remember was a good few years ago when a particularly challenging pupil who struggled with the freedoms of the drama room, who despite multiple warnings about not doing as asked decided it was a great idea to fiddle with an extension lead seeing if he could jam his pencil into the socket. Needless to say there was a flash, a puff of smoke and a very surprised looking young man who was willing to do whatever he was told from that point onwards in my lessons. More seriously, the best bits for me are all related to the journeys our pupils make. I am so lucky to have seen hundreds rise through from year 7 to sixth form. Every time you attend an exam results day or a year 11 or year 13 leaver's ball it's really, really special. Then when pupils get back in touch after leaving that's just the icing on the cake.

8. Did you also take part in or organise any visits or non-curricular activities with the students? Loads of theatre trips, loads of performances, loads of clubs, generally anything I think I'm going to enjoy myself, which I thinly veil as a great idea for the kids (you don't want to know how much of my life I have wasted in darkened spaces watching turgid live entertainment.) I don't want the same for our pupils!

9. How do you feel you made or are making an impact at RPS in any of your roles at RPS? I have had a lot to do with changes in recent years to the way that teenage mental health is dealt with in school and run initiatives regards that. I was part of the first ASPIRE group which looked at teaching the full student (not just cramming their brains full of facts!) there have been more school performances than you could shake a stick at and my department and faculty are as efficient and harmonious as they have ever been. There is also too much photographic evidence of dressing up in more ill-advised/inappropriate costumes on charity days and for staff functions than I care to remember.

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

As well as making the most of my kids, I run, take swing dance classes, and play in a couple of bands. I'm a half decent singer, mediocre sax and guitar player and I'm god-awful at football, but I enjoy the run out on a Sunday morning. When opportunities arise I also get involved in interesting sounding performance projects too.

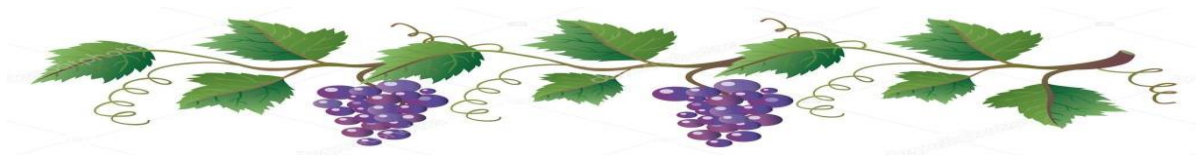
11. Given the changes in education over the years, would you, given your time again, go into teaching or another profession?

I think things are really different these days. It's not the same playing field. With things like UNIFrog – the online careers guidance tool that tailor makes options to your interests, I would probably have found a different niche within the creative sector that as a 21 year old leaving university would have really inspired me. I loathe the fact that Education in this country currently is used as a point scoring exercise by career-minded politicians who don't know enough about the role of education secretary when they arrive in office, try to make their mark by meddling with what they don't really understand from a shop-floor perspective and then leave for another office 18 months later. It creates real inconsistency for everyone involved in education. However, saying all that, I love my job to bits and my kids will both be at RPS in September so I have no plans of changing anything for a long time (besides, I don't think my band is ever going to be anything more than a hobby these days!)

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

I suppose as the chap who helped those who loved drama to love it harder and for those for whom drama wasn't their thing, to know that they were handled with respect and care for who they were choosing to be at the time.

N.B. the red ink was his idea!



The GRAPEVINE ; the invitation section!



Jonathan Bagnell (2008) Jonathan spent 2019 living in Tokyo, Japan where he worked on delivering the VIP hospitality programme for Rugby World Cup 2019. After an exciting year he has now returned to London where he is a Senior Event Manager delivering the VIP partnership programmes in Formula 1.



Haris Rajah (2015) .

Haris graduated from Sheffield Hallam University with a BSc (hons) in Real Estate. After a series of varied internships relating to surveying, development and industrial property & assets, Haris is currently a graduate Surveyor with JLL (US company

specializing in real estate and investment management).



Hannah May Ryan (2013).

Hannah May graduated from the University of Birmingham with a bachelor's degree in Geography. After joining the Goat marketing & advertising agency in London, she worked her way up to her current position of Campaign Director.

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Tom Chappin (2013)

Tom graduated from Manchester University with a BA in Economics & Social Studies.

Tom is currently a Junior Project Manager at Context world (an Information technology & services).



Aleck Johnston (2008)

Aleck holds a BA in Economics & Finance from Exeter University.

Aleck is currently the Head of Products at the Universities Superannuation Scheme Ltd (USS)



Rachanda Shafei (2008)

Since leaving Roundwood Park I decided to read law at Buckingham University and then went on to complete the BPTC at City University London where I qualified as a barrister. Since then I have worked with finance litigation firms and work as a court advocate across all courts in and out of London. I was called to the bar at Inner Temple in March 2018 and will commence pupillage in chancery

lane later this year.

Alumnus of the Month: January 2020

DREW LYNESS

Wildlife & Conservation champion.

(2006-13)

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After his A levels in the Sixth Form, Drew, attended The University of East Anglia where he graduated in 2016 with a 1:1 BSc (hons) Ecology degree.

Whilst at UEA he took on the role of president of the Conservation and Wildlife Society for two years, aiming to get more students involved with this sector. Shortly after, he was employed by the RSPB as the 'Local Groups and Volunteering Support Officer' for Eastern England. This was a position which he held for three years, and during which time gained valuable experience of

working with volunteers remotely, supporting volunteer-led community groups (including those working with children and young people) and helping staff deliver a high standard of volunteer management.

Drew also does voluntary work for the Oriental Bird Club, which is a volunteer-led charity that raises funds for wildlife conservation projects in South East Asia. Drew is a knowledgeable naturalist with a keen interest in bats, dragonflies, butterflies and marine mammals. Perhaps most obviously, Drew is a highly experienced and well-travelled birder. Over the last couple of years, he has been fortunate enough to encounter several critically endangered species such as Balearic Shearwater, California Condor and Spoon-billed Sandpiper.

"Drew has also delivered many wildlife-themed talks to schools, universities and community groups. Most recently, he was scheduled by the local RSPB group in Harpenden to give a talk entitled 'My Passion for Swifts' but unfortunately it has been postponed due to separate work commitments."

Currently, Drew manages Volunteering Operations for the Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (CIEEM).

A typical gem from Drew. *Did you know a common swift (Apus apus) will stay airborne for up to three years after fledging!? One fledgling, satellite-tagged in Cambridge, took only five days to travel 5,000 km from the UK to Senegal. Madness!*





This Red-throated Bee-eater from The Gambia in December is one of my recent favourites!

(Photo courtesy of Drew Lyness)

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Letter from Canada or another episode of Northern Exposure?

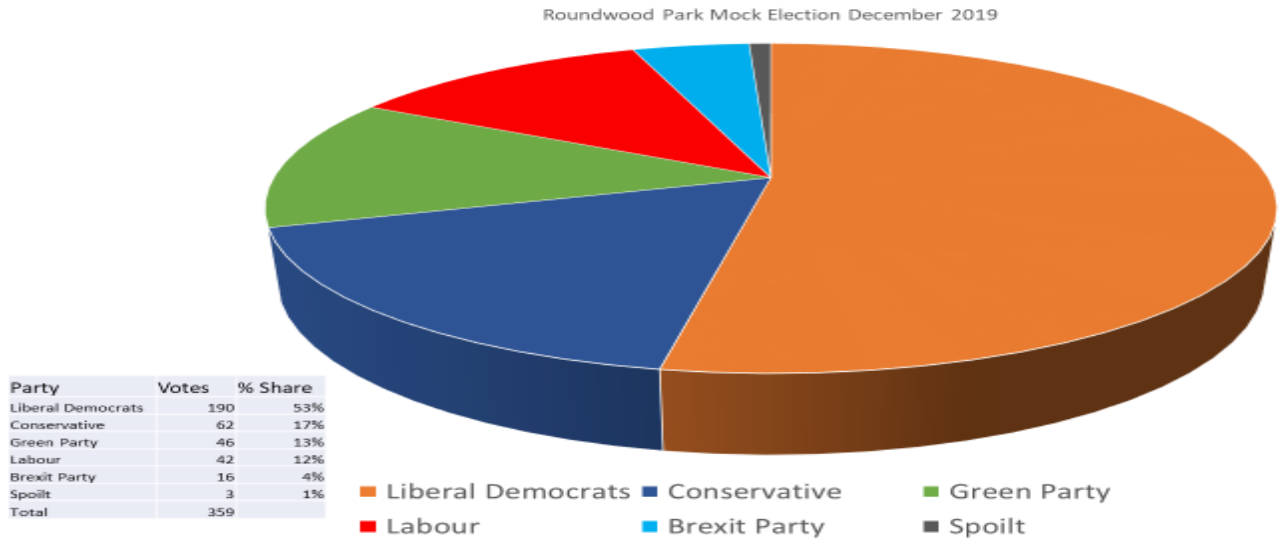


Ashley Quirke- Tomlins 92006) reports from the Yukon.

“Job wise, yes the big red maple leaf has come calling. I’m staying in Whitehorse, Yukon, but have transferred into the federal government to work as a Negotiator for Crown Indigenous Relations Canada. My job is to represent the federal Crown as we negotiate the drawing down of administration of justice powers by indigenous governments – similar to devolution in the UK. Ultimately the goal is to negotiate treaties to define the physical and legal jurisdictions of indigenous governments in Yukon (a process started in 1763.) It’s an interesting mix of constitutional law, justice and corrections policy, and aspects of diplomacy. Winter has finally arrived in Whitehorse. It has been fairly mild so far this year, with only a few days dipping into the -20’s. Yesterday was -38 and it is -34 today. Our husky seems delighted outside but I’ve not had a chance to adapt to the real cold yet this year. I spent a couple of hours outside with her at the weekend and by the time I got back my breath had frozen to the fur ruff of my parka and my zipper was frozen shut. Hope all is well and will look forward to the next edition of the newsletter.” Ashley

The 2019 General Election - Youth speaks!

The whole school recently held a mock election and the results are shown below.



WEDNESDAY VISITS

The school buildings have been revamped, reconfigured, extended and some new buildings added. Some features have been removed and

internally rooms have been created or converted. The staffing has changed continually over the years but one or two have been there for years.

DO CONTACT us by telephone or email if you would like to visit, have a tour or even lunch on any Wednesday after 10am.



PLEASE UPDATE YOUR DETAILS?

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
Victoria (Barrett) Chamberlain
Lisa (Ring) Ellis
Lauren Garner
Lauren Jeffs

Richard Jones
David Minto
Sue O'Brien 199
Natasha Riding
Hana Saher 2011

Michael Sanders 1977
Jamie Smith
Claire Stratton 2008
Hannah Sykes

Alan Tate 1991
Thomas Toyer 2011
Christen Williams

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



Roundwood Park Careers Department Needs You!



On the 5th Feb, which was the Year 10 Careers Investigator Day, we had 20 employers visit, 7 of whom were alumni. **Abi Bloch** spoke about Sport & Dance and being a Franchisee, **Kirsty Greyling** - Law and being a solicitor, **Bobby Palmer** on journalism and being a freelance writer, **Rachel Poupard** - working in government and the cabinet office, **Steve Alison** - working in the police force, **Richard Washbrooke** - a freelance photographer and **Richard Harris** - all about business, recruitment and HR. The students took so much away with them from the day. The feedback has been tremendously positive and they all said they would have liked more time with the employers. .



National Careers Week 2nd – 6th March 2020

During the week of 2nd - 6th March, a plethora of employers, alumni and parents gave up their lunchtime to talk to our students about their industry and career within it.



We had representation from an amazing array of sectors; musical theatre, marketing, media, healthcare, technology and travel to name but a few. RPS were extremely pleased to welcome back ex-pupils, **Sarah Reeves**, **Dr Charlotte**



Coleman and **Ellen Bentley** who gave amazingly insightful presentations about their careers in the tourism industry, at IBM and in the Civil Service respectively. Each alumna also hosted a year group assembly, after which they had an opportunity to catch up with some of their 'old' teachers!

The careers department would like to thank everyone who gave up their time to support this event; we are extremely grateful.
If you would like to be involved in any of our Careers events at RPS, please contact careers@roundwoodpark.co.uk

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Pippa Kennedy is coming in on 26th March to talk to our Y12s.

Thanks to Mrs Jacqui Hammonnd of the Careers Dept for this report

The Careers Dept are always looking for volunteers to come in and pass on their experience and advice to students of all ages. Please continue to offer help.



Letters to the editors

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

1. **“We have some really good news to add to the upcoming Alumni newsletter”- parent.** *Wonderful to get mail like this . If only more would send in material/news.*
2. **“I am one of the rarer of my generation in that I now abstain from social media”- RS.** *Perhaps there is hope for a generation that is not transfixed to their phones?*
3. **“ Great memory! I certainly was, and still am”- DL.** *Being in contact with so many unique and interesting students over the years one is bound to remember so many individuals who have made an impact in one way or another. It has been a privilege.*
4. **“As always, thank you for the newsletter. We had an exciting Christmas period as we welcomed our baby into the world!” – ES.** *Good news all round!*
5. **“There are currently no bushfires close to Brisbane, though there have been some on the Sunshine coast and nearby Islands. ” We are lucky in Queensland, that with our sub-tropical and tropical climate, we have**

higher humidity and summer rainfall, lowering the bush fire risk, unlike the southern states – dry summers, with hot, dry winds from the central Australian deserts.” - Mike Chamberlain (ex teacher). *It seems they are either flooded or afire!*

6. **‘Some ex-alumni are coming’.** *Anon. Could not resist this one! Has anyone been ex-communicated?*



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

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

The school continues to operate in challenging times with ever increasing opportunities and demands on its finances.

Any level of donation is gratefully received.

It is possible to make a small gift aided ‘one off’ or monthly donation by visiting/clicking on the following link.

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



Staff changes - incoming

- Tamsin Corbett:** HR Assistant
- **Rumena Hussain:** Reprographics Assistant
 - **Lauren Turner:** Pastoral Assistant
 - **Louise Evans:** Attendance Officer following the departure of Mrs Debbie Guy (Feb 2018 -Dec 2019)

STOP PRESS



Mrs Rebecca Glover, Head of Sixth Form and PE teacher from 2000 - 2002. Was recently heard on BBC R4's Womens Hour talking about 'snowplough parents'. (thanks to Ms Christine Hood for this snippet of information).

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p07ztb9t>

Rebecca is currently the Principal of Surbiton High School , following Headships at Hull Collegiate school and Tadcaster Grammarschool.



Mrs Judy Munton , Head of Sixth Form and Geography teacher from 1982 -1997, regularly meets up with other former RPS staff on a regular basis.

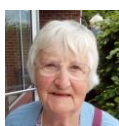


Ms Christine Hood (1975-2008; Head of Biology) remains an invaluable contact to keep us up to date with changes and events relating to past staff.

Mrs Carol A Jones (Food Tech;1995-04) and **Mrs Gina Elliott** (Head's Secretary; 1989-99) were both seen to be well and in the bar of the Harpenden Common Golf Club at a celebration of the life of a golfing friend that had died recently.

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Mrs Jane Daly (2000-15;German teacher, KS4 Senior Tutor) is now a Deputy Head.at Bishops Stortford College.



Mrs Evelyn Gillett and **Mr Paul Woodhouse** were both seen at Mr Ken Jones Funeral on 4th March.



were both seen



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***