



ROUNDWOOD PARK ALUMNI

Newsletter 36: December 2021

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.

Editorial comment

Contact - help us to keep in touch! - please inform us of updated emails address and encourage fellow ex-RPS students to get in touch.

b.smith@roundwoodpark.co.uk

Health and safety at RPS.

The school has continued to strictly follow all Hertfordshire Public Health guidance and Government instructions as and when issued.

The situation is under constant review.

Visitors are asked to wear face coverings.

New Website

As always anything technical has to undergo repeated upgrades but fortunately the school has after a few years decided to improve the perception and information about the school with a new website. The Alumni section can be found by clicking on the 3 bars (top RHS) then 'about us' and scroll down beyond 'community' to find 'Alumni'.

If you have any difficulties or find errors or omissions, please let us know.

RPS Humanities graduates – latest – link update

Dear Roundwood alumni,

Following difficulties with the link, the Humanities Dept. please find the latest link. <https://forms.gle/pF234Ae1ygiuw17r6>

Previous link may not still be working: [Google Form Link](#)

Hope you are all well, Best wishes,

Andy Porter (Head of Humanities Dept.) Please feel free to e-mail me on a.porter@roundwoodpark.co.uk

Alumni continue to help

Page | 2



We were all delighted to see **Aleks Cvetkovic (2011)** when he visited on November 15th & 16th to help out with Y12 and Y11 interviews.

ALUMNI IN THE NEWS

Family-run café brings welcome refreshments to Nomansland

Victoria Smith and her team at West End Barns, near Heartwood Forest and Nomansland Common, Wheathampstead.

Alexander Like many of us, I have been walking and exploring the local area in the past year or so, and have been very grateful for beautiful Nomansland Common. You may have spotted a sign for a new café – West End Barns – just along from the car park. Open at the weekends,

Tucked away in a stable block just off the lane, West End Barns is a lovely café run by Victoria Smith. It really is for walkers, cyclists and horse riders, as there is only a tiny car park nearby.

A spacious, pretty barn, with flowers outside, the café is mostly takeaway but there are a few benches under cover and hay bales in the yard to sit on. If you are on your horse, there is a bell just outside so you can ring and order without getting down!

The café is very much a family affair with Vicky working alongside her sister, mum and future mother-in-law, who also help with the baking. There is an excellent range of homemade cakes, bakes and scones – we had a delicious and generous millionaire shortbread and brownie, but I was also tempted by the scones, which vary each weekend.

Vicky told me that they usually have fruit and cheese scones and the breakfast scones with bacon are also popular. There were a couple of gluten-free options and some pretty vegan cupcakes too and Vicky mentioned that everything they bake is nut-free.

You can get take-out coffee, tea and hot chocolate (which was very good) and the team have an arrangement with VegWare to collect used coffee cups

They will also fill up your own hot drink cup if you prefer, which is more eco of course. Ice cream is made by Lewis of London. Vicky is also selling some local produce including St Albans honey, Mrs



Middleton's rapeseed oil and mayonnaise and Sa-Wu-Chay sauces. The two carts that now act as shelves have been on the farm for around 100 years!

Victoria explained how she received funding from the Henry Plumb Foundation (a foundation helping young people realise their dream of finding a future career in the farming and food industry) which helped her to sort out the barn and buy the coffee machine.

She has also just been awarded the Entrepreneur of the Year Award, supported by NatWest, at the National Federation of Young Farmers' Clubs (NFYFC's) YFC Achiever Awards 2021. The judges included Zoe Colville, aka The Chief Shepherdess, Alexia Robinson, director of Love British Food, Roddy McLean, director of agriculture at NatWest and Tom Pope, NFYFC's YFC AGRI Chair.

I'd love to see the café use washable cups going forward as we move out of this pandemic, but otherwise, what a wonderful and very welcome new addition to Wheathampstead and Nomansland.

West End Barns is located opposite Heartwood Forest and Nomansland (postcode AL4 8EG) and is currently open at weekends between 10am-4pm.

Courtesy of the Herts Advertiser, October 1 by Becky Alexander



Sarah McKenna remains a regular force on the pitch for the England rugby internationals and we look forward to her rise in the ranks and for a good, and injury free, season. She is often mentioned in dispatches in the national press if you are not able to view the matches.

DO YOU HAVE A STORY TO TELL?

Since leaving school, so many of our alumni have spread far and wide and have undertaken a vast range of occupations and faced many challenges; ultimately, they/you remain well and happy in your chosen lives.

We would really like to hear from any that would like to just give a brief synopsis of how their career path/lives have changed since their school days. Also, if they would like to offer any guidance or career insights.

The Alumni telegraph is working.

We thank the help so far in renewing contact with some of our alumni and most recently in 'finding' our star canoist, Rachel Fox and also for helping identify some musicians (as seen in Tim's photo).



Tim Arnold writes – “just to let you know I have been contacted by an old band boy now living in Sweden.

So, rooting around in the attic I found this photo of the band taken around 1965 for the Herts Advertiser following 2 of our contest wins. You might want to include it in your next edition. The picture was taken in the boys’ playground outside the Metal workshop. It might jog a few memories and put names to faces. I can remember about half of them.”

If you were part of this band between 1963-68 or are one of the boys in this photo or if know any of these boys in this photo please contact Tim on [tfiservices@virginmedia .com](mailto:tfiservices@virginmedia.com).

Memories of a Trampolinist?

As former member of Mrs Moxham’s trampoline squad, you will be delighted to know that Mrs Moxham’s trampoline teams are following in the footsteps of those before and continuing the tradition of winning individual prizes and tournaments.

The STAFF INTERVIEW

Mrs Alex Gray

Assistant Headteacher & Head of music.

2004 – present.

Page | 5

Click on the following link to see and hear Alex giving her interview. This method was Alex's idea.

<https://www.loom.com/share/d83ce75ceac14cb08c1fc87007cc5fe7>

Future Staff Interviews.

Let us know if there is a particular teacher you would like to read about. Also let us know if you like or prefer the audio visual 'interviews'?

Staff News?

If you would like to find out any information about any teacher/member of staff, then please go to alumni/staff news on the school website. This information is patchy on staff that left many years ago and we would welcome any information regarding incorrect or missing members.

General RPS information

More RPS news can be found on the fortnightly 'Roundup' newsletter on the school website <https://roundwoodpark.co.uk/roundup-newsletters/>



Letters to the Editor

1. Thanks! I loved my time at RPS..... my nephew is now in year 10! LC.
That's great news and we always like to hear that our alumni are sending their children and relations to us.
2. Let's start a conversation? NG, FL, TH, ES.
Always pleased to be contacted through LinkedIn. (Hopefully contact details for all our LinkedIn alumni are kept updated)
3. Thank you. KS, PF, NC. *Every contact counts.*
4. Thank you for the continues emails on updates on the newsletter. NK. *Our pleasure.*



5. I was in your A level Chemistry class and remember you well. I feel I was most likely one of those frustrating students who was not prepared to do enough work to satisfy their potential. I am sure you helped me achieve at least satisfactory results which were enough for me to get into Physiotherapy which is a profession I still love. Yes, I am Richards sister and followed his path into canoeing and met my husband through the sport. I was fortunate enough to compete for GB in 1992 and 1996 Olympics.

Now I am a mother of 2 and living and working in Melbourne in Australia. Our eldest will be 18 next year and he is competing for Australia in the Junior team in Canoe slalom.

Rachel (nee Fox) Crosbee (class of '87)

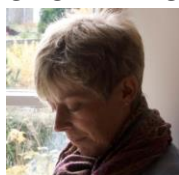
Delighted to hear from Rachel and thanks to the power of the alumni network that put us in touch after all these ears.

Staff changes

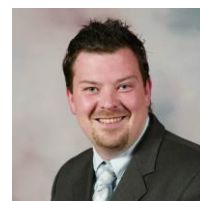
Mr Ed Wilkinson (2005-12, 2020-present) is now back at RPS as Head of Economics.

Miss Ruth Plowman, Geography teacher is now Head of Y10.

STOP PRESS



Recent communication from 'the mistress of Swaledale', **Helen David**, (1997-2000) former Head of Sixth Form and teacher of English, remains in Yorkshire, doing a lot of walking and playing the piano (badly she says).



WEDNESDAY VISITS

The situation at school is potentially ever changing as further guidance is directed. Should you wish to visit please contact us. Mask wearing, at least, will be expected.

If you would like to visit please email me and I will see what we can arrange.



Any comments/memories/photos of your time with us or your recent news will be greatly appreciated by all our readers.



Wishing our readers, a safe and Merry Christmas

BMLS (editor)

