

# RATCLIFFIAN ASSOCIATION



## THE OLD RATCLIFFIAN 2013

Edition XVI



# RATCLIFFIAN ASSOCIATION

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# CONTENTS

Introduction	P3
News from the College	P5
Ratcliffian Association Council	P16
Ratcliffian Association Events	P18
Ratcliffian Association Sports Events	P26
Old Ratcliffian News	P31
Births	P47
Marriages	P49
Obituaries	P51
Nostalgia	P65
Diary Dates for 2014	BC

## Your President Appeals For Help!



*Louise Marsden (née Bullen) (91)  
& her husband, Simon*

As I write this piece, I am taken back to the two very happy years I spent at Ratcliffe College between 1989 and 1991. I made many friends who I am proud to say that, to this day, I still see, despite all of us living in various places around the world. The experiences that we shared at our wonderful school bind us together decades on. To this end, I am immensely proud to have been asked to take on the role of President of the Ratcliffian Association as the second only female in its 150 year history.

**Cathy Ross (née Dodson) (79)** was President in 2004 and was in the first cohort of girls to attend Ratcliffe.

I am determined that, during my tenure as President, we manage to encompass as many Old Ratcliffians as possible, from those who left sixty years ago to the ORs who have just ventured out into the world of university or work. The Association has recently unearthed over a thousand potential contacts that were previously unknown to us. I am hugely

excited by this as I feel it can only strengthen the Association.

We had a lovely dinner in Birmingham on May 17th which was attended by many ORs from a number of year groups. It was an intimate and extremely enjoyable evening. The Reunion Dinner in the summer, organised by Jackie Bennett, was hugely successful, with large groups from the Classes of '73 and '83 in attendance. It was made even more special thanks to the beautiful weather, which allowed all the revellers to enjoy the glorious views of the College.

It is hugely important for all of us to take a part in the future success of the Association. I would therefore ask that, as you go about your busy lives, if you come across an Old Ratcliffian who is not in contact with us, please point them in the direction of our website ([www.ratcliffianassociation.co.uk](http://www.ratcliffianassociation.co.uk)). By registering, they will not only be put in touch with the Association, but they will also be able to connect with classmates.

I am looking forward to attending several events over the course of my year and would urge you to join me and enjoy catching up with old friends.

Best wishes,

**Louise Marsden (née Bullen) (91)**  
President

## The Editor's Column

A significant change in 2013 has seen a large increase in the number of Old Ratcliffians for whom we have up-to-date postal and email addresses. In fact, we are now in touch with twice as many Old Ratcliffians as we were when I became Secretary in 2007. This is due, in the main, to the excellent work of our Membership Secretary, **Gemma Rumbold (01)**. As we believe that the future of the Association very much depends on being able to communicate with our alumni, she will be devoting all her time from January to maintaining the OR database and to growing the membership. Keeping in touch with Old Ratcliffians is at the core of the Ratcliffian Association, whether it is through the magazine, by email, by online newsletter or at various events held throughout the year.



*Jackie Bennett with David Simmons (74) & his daughter at the Christmas Drinks Reception in London*

This magazine is now distributed to 2500 Old Ratcliffians across the globe and is our main publication. However, as I mention in this article every year, the magazine is only as good as its contributors, so please remember to send me your news items in good time for the next edition. Our readers are always interested in hearing about what you are doing, your careers, your families and your meetings with other Old Ratcliffian friends.

Moving forward, I believe that communication via our new website will be equally as important. We have been developing the website over the past year under the careful guidance of Old Ratcliffians **Alex Currie-Clark (02)** and **Dave Ricks (07)**. The new site is much more easily accessible than the previous one and far more user-friendly. We have uploaded all the *Ratcliffian* magazines, from Volume 1 (1887) to the present day, using new software which enables readers to search each one for specific information. Another feature of the site is the ability to view lists of all ORs from each year and, where they have provided email addresses, to contact them directly. There is also a shop where one can purchase tickets for events and a range of OR merchandise. Further information and details of how to access this website are in the enclosed letter.

One of the highlights of the Ratcliffian year was the Reunion Dinner and Dance which was held in a marquee overlooking the cricket square. The feedback from this event has been tremendous. There is more about this in the Events section of the magazine. There have been several reunions, dinners, drinks parties and sports events this year, which all manifest the growing strength and popularity of the Ratcliffian Association. Next year I look forward to writing about a dinner hosted by **Andres Sardi (65)** in Bogota, Colombia, and one in Singapore at the celebrated Singapore Cricket Club, organised by **Mark Fisher (92)** and **Aisling Mitchell (née Murray) (92)**. Details are on the website.

Continuing the drive to engage our younger Old Ratcliffians, the Association is delighted that **Louise Marsden (née Bullen) (91)** has agreed to be our President, being only the second lady President in the history of the Ratcliffian



*L to R: Rishi Soni (13) (Head Boy), Gareth Lloyd (Headmaster), Mike Meredith (89), Richard Gamble (64) (Chair of Governors) & Anna Thorley (13) (Head Girl)*

Association. Louise is also a governor of the School, a director of the family business and a parent with two boys at Grace Dieu. She is managing to juggle her life remarkably well to fit in her duties as President. Following on from Louise, **Mike Meredith (89)** will take over in July 2014. Mike is a member of the well-known Meredith family whose involvement in the School goes back over generations. Mike's second cousin is **Fr Anthony Meredith (57)**, the Vicar General of the Rosminian Order, and his father, uncles, brothers and cousins all came to Ratcliffe. Mike presented the prizes at the Senior School Exhibition Day in June this year and was a great hit with the students.

On a sad note, this year the Association has lost four Past Presidents, **Fr Anthony Baxter (38)**, **Peter Lambert (44)**, **Freddie Dyer (55)** and, most recently, **Clifford Della Porta (43)**. I have attended all of these funerals and one fact has struck me about each of these four men: the ethos and the love of Ratcliffe have had an overriding effect on their lives. It is my hope that future Past Presidents and Old Ratcliffians will, likewise, take what they have learnt at Ratcliffe with them throughout their lives.

In happier news, I was recently very lucky to be invited to lunch at **Philip Jones' (60)** beautiful home in Worcestershire. **Fr Simon Giles (60)**,

a close friend and contemporary of Philip's, accompanied me and we had a lovely day enjoying a delicious lunch seated under a huge willow tree in his beautiful garden.

I hope you enjoy reading this edition of the Old Ratcliffian, which has been meticulously proofread by my colleague, **Gemma Rumbold (01)**, for which I am personally extremely grateful. Gemma's contribution to this publication is invaluable.

In conclusion, I am happy to report that the Ratcliffian Association continues to thrive and, by working in conjunction with Development Director **Andrew Yell (82)**, the School and the Ratcliffian Association are poised for another promising year in 2014.

**Jackie Bennett**  
Editor



*The candlelit marquee*

# NEWS FROM THE COLLEGE

## Ratcliffe's Progress in 2013

Dear Old Ratcliffians,

We have celebrated achievements in all aspects of our school life over the past year, namely academic, co-curricular and community building. Examination results at A Level and GCSE were outstanding. Nearly 90% of our A Level students secured their first choice university, the majority of which are members of the prestigious Russell Group. Over a quarter of our GCSE students attained at least eight A\*/A grades, and are now studying not only their chosen A Level subjects, but also AS Critical Thinking, which we have introduced into the Sixth Form curriculum from this September for our most able and ambitious students. Congratulations, one and all!

That all of this has been achieved with an active commitment to the Gospel values of universal respect and welcome, which we consistently emphasize at Ratcliffe, is something of which we can all be truly proud. My simple mantra to the students, to work hard – to access opportunities later in life, so that they may exercise both morally informed and materially beneficial choice; to play hard – to develop life-skills such as leadership, teamwork, motivation, self-discipline, integrity and perseverance, through Sport, Music, Drama, the Combined Cadet Force and The Duke of Edinburgh's Award; and to look after each other – to show consistent respect, understanding and support

of others, regardless of background: these are the qualities that I believe prepare Ratcliffe students in the most meaningful manner for life after School and once they leave home.

With a thriving and rejuvenated Chaplaincy Team nurturing the spiritual welfare of the School community, it has not been hard to maintain the exceptional pastoral care for which Ratcliffe is justifiably noted, both within the Boarding Houses and, indeed, throughout the School. The Boarding Houses have continued to grow in strength and depth, attracting students of impressive quality and character; you would be most welcome to come and meet them!

In all that we do, as staff and students, we remain deeply committed to upholding our School motto, 'Charity is the Fulfilment of the Law'. I am immensely proud of my teaching and support staff and, of course, all of our students, and I thank them for their unstinting support of me in leading this fine community. I would also like to thank parents, grandparents, friends, governors, trustees and the Rosminian community for their support of Ratcliffe College.

We find ourselves at a particularly exciting and pivotal moment in the history of the College, for on Monday 19th August 2013, work commenced on the new building, Ratcliffe College Preparatory School. The new facility will



*Celebrating A Level results*

include a multi-purpose Main Hall that will allow us to accommodate whole-school assemblies and celebrations across the Junior and Nursery ages. There will also be state-of-the-art Science and Technology areas, as well as beautifully-designed spaces for a bespoke Library and a dedicated Music Room with adjacent practice facilities. At the centre of the new building will be a quadrangle that will ensure that the building is bathed in natural light. In time, we hope to add a new Sports Hall, squash courts and a twenty-five metre indoor heated swimming pool.

Clearly, such an undertaking, whilst tremendously exciting – as we embark upon nurturing today's young acorns to grow into fine Ratcliffian oaks – is costly. If you feel you can support this project in material terms, not only would I be extremely grateful, but you will also be assured of your special place in our glorious history.

Finally, I would like to thank you, Old Ratcliffians, for your continued support of Ratcliffe College. It is always an honour both to attend Old Ratcliffian events elsewhere and to host Old Ratcliffian events here at Ratcliffe, this year's Summer Ball being just one such fine example. May you and your family be blessed with good health and happiness in the year ahead; I do hope that I shall have the pleasure of meeting you at Old Ratcliffian events.

God bless,

With warmest wishes,

**Gareth Lloyd**  
Headmaster



*L to R: Rishi Soni (13) (Head Boy), Shona Traynor (13), Gareth Lloyd, Katharine Lloyd, Emma Mee & Abe Mee (92)*

## Impressions

I have been in post as Father President for just over a year and am settling into the rhythm of the School. I suppose Ratcliffe College has been my home for many years (five as a boy and sixteen as a teacher), and I was also heavily involved in the running of the School when I was Chair of the Trustees. So to return, yet again, to Ratcliffe was initially quite a change from being a parish priest but, after this year back in the hallowed walls, it does feel like home once again.

In many ways, Ratcliffe is just the same as it ever was, full of good humour, enthusiasm and care for one

another. The Rosminian and Catholic ethos is still strong and informs much of what goes on here. In other ways, the School has moved on and developed into a thriving community where the students work hard, play hard and look out for one another. We are not hankering after the 'old days', but are very much involved in the present, forming the pupils to take their place in today's complex world with confidence and compassion. It is good to be here.

**Fr Ted Mullen (60)**  
Father President



*Fr Ted Mullen (60), Father President*

## 2013 Leavers' Mass & Presentations Friday 24th May 2013

Before starting their A Level exam leave, it is now tradition for the Year 13 leavers to celebrate their last official day at School in a number of ways. Usually this entails the giving of a 'hoodie' (embroidered on the back with their preferred name or nickname), a yearbook with inscriptions by everyone in the year and a fun BBQ lunch. To finish off the day on a more formal note, there is a Leavers' Mass, attended by parents and family, and a presentation of gifts by the President of the Ratcliffian Association (this year, President **Abe Mee (92)**, who found time in his hectic work schedule to give out the prizes). This symbolises moving on from one phase of their lives as students and entering into another as Old Ratcliffians. The boys are given an Old Ratcliffian tie and the girls a pashmina embroidered with the School crest. After Mass, everyone is invited into the Old Library for afternoon tea before officially leaving school, even though they return to take their A Level examinations. This year, an enjoyable and emotional day was had by all.



*L to R: Anna Thorley (13), Fenella Maxwell (11), Jess Barton, Hollie Finnegan (13), Shona Traynor (13), Becky Taylor (10), Frankie Hayes (13), Chloe Theobald (13) & Rose Borrajo (13)*



*An Old Ratcliffian tie & Old Ratcliffian pashmina*



*Year 13 leavers sporting their new hoodies*



*L to R: Harry Jackson (13), Will Watts (13), Tom Headley (13), Walter Yell (13), Killian Kirkpatrick (13) & George Hutchison (13)*

# VALETE

## Congratulations To This Year's Leavers

Thomas Allen	West of England University, Bristol	Sport Performance
Sophia Amlani	Oxford Brookes University	Education Studies with Psychology
Samuel Bellamy	GAP Year	Employment / Work Experience
Rose Borrajo	Application to Universities	Medicine (2014)
Guy Britton	University of Sheffield	Landscape Architecture
Amy Burle	Employment and Training	Marketing & Retail
Demi-Leigh Chamberlain	Liverpool John Moores University	Sport Development with Physical Education
Catherine Charnock	GAP Year	Employment / Work Experience
Dipesh Chauhan	University of Lincoln	Media Production (2014)
Javin Choi	GAP Year	Voluntary Service / Work Experience
George Cooper	Application to Universities	Anthropology (2014)
Charlie Dolan	GAP Year	Further Education
Ella Delargy	Application to Universities	Dentistry (2014)
Adam Donegani	University of East Anglia	Mathematics with Business
Emily-Rose Faulks	University of Southampton	Mechanical Engineering / Aerospace
Hollie Finnegan	GAP Year	Further Education / Employment
Elaine Fung	Application to Universities	Business (2014)
Thomas Furlong	University of Reading	Psychology
Kieran Gill	University of York	Mathematics and Physics
Charlie Graham	Sheffield Hallam University	Food Marketing Management
James Harrold	Manchester Metropolitan University	Psychology
Abbi Hau	Manchester Metropolitan University	Nutritional Sciences
Francesca Hayes	Manchester Metropolitan University	Business Management
Thomas Headley	University of Birmingham	Employment and travel
Matthew Howard	GAP Year	Helicopter Pilot training
Karen Hui	Application to the Army	Business
Stead Hui	Nottingham Trent University	Work Experience / Travel
George Hutchison	GAP Year	Biochemistry
Harry Jackson	University of London, King's College	Economics
Patrick Joy	University of Birmingham	Art Foundation
Laura Keay	Leicester College	Art/Design-related (2014)
Killian Kirkpatrick	Application to Universities	Accounting and Finance
Arai Kwok	University of Warwick	Business and Management
Jason Lau	Brunei University	Civil Engineering with Study in Europe
Daniel Lewis	University of Bristol	Economics
Ken Li	University of Sheffield	Employment / Work Experience
Thomas Loe	GAP Year	Rural Land Management (2014)
Timothy Loe	Royal Agricultural College	Arabic and Middle Eastern Studies
William Loe	University of Leeds	Architecture
Reiko Ma	University of Manchester	Sports and Materials Science
Ellie Mangham	University of Birmingham	Law Foundation
Pavandeep Mann	University of Lancaster	Employment and Training
Jack McPhillips	GAP Year	Business Economics
James Monk	Sheffield Hallam University	Accounting and Finance
George Morgan	Sheffield Hallam University	Rural Property Management
Moyo Mosaku	Harper Adams University College	Film and Television Production
Frederik Notman	University of York	Business Management and Marketing
Hollie Powell	University of Keele	Psychology
Amelia Power	City University, HK	International Business Management
Edward Rayns	University of Sheffield	Business Economics
Georgina Rea	University of Sheffield	Business and Marketing
Emma Redding	Sheffield Hallam University	Business Management
George Rumming	Sheffield Hallam University	Business (Team Entrepreneurship)
Lewis Ryan	University of Newcastle	Economics
Amelia Selby	West of England University, Bristol	Applied Sport Science
Zoe Smith	University of Sheffield	Media Production
Rishi Soni	University of Lincoln	English
Oliver Steer	University of Exeter	Product Design
Rebecca Taylor	Sheffield Hallam University	Voluntary Service / Employment
Chloe Theobald	Application to Universities	Law and French (2014)
Henry Thomas	Moulton College	Equine Therapies
Anna Thorley	University of Reading	Politics and International Relations
Katherine Threadgold	University of Aston	Economics and Management
Shona Traynor	Sheffield Hallam University	Events Management with Arts & Entertainment
William Watts	Sheffield Hallam University	Physiotherapy
Edison Wong	York St. John University	Voluntary Service / Further Education
Walter Yell	GAP Year	Medicine
Monica Zhang	Application to Boston Medical School, U.S.A.	History
	University of Exeter	Economics and Politics
	University of Manchester	Fashion Marketing
	University of Leeds	Media-related
	Employment and Training	Flexible Combined Honours
	University of Exeter	Employment / Further Education
	GAP Year	Mathematics-related (2014)
	Application to Universities	Politics (Cardiff) and Diplome (IEP Bordeaux)
	University of Cardiff	Law and Criminology
	University of Sheffield	Law Foundation
	University of Lancaster	Civil Engineering
	University of Birmingham	Modern Languages
	University of London, University College	



## NEW SUBSTANTIAL BURSARIES AVAILABLE TO SIXTH FORM STUDENTS AT RATCLIFFE COLLEGE!

If you would like to send your child to Ratcliffe College for the Sixth Form, but have previously considered that the cost may be prohibitive, you should read on!

Ratcliffe has recently introduced a new scheme aimed at Gifted and Talented students.

A full bursary could cover 50% of the Day Fee or up to 70% of the Boarding Fee.

All awards would be subject to a parental means test and satisfactory GCSE results as per the School's criteria for entry into the Sixth Form.

The following places are currently being considered for entry in September 2014:

1. **Academic** (one boy and one girl)

Each candidate would be examined at interview in the three subjects selected for the following year's AS course, together with an outstanding school report that confirms the probability of gaining six A\* grades at GCSE.

2. **Art & Design** (one boy and one girl)

Each candidate would be examined at interview with a portfolio of exemplary work.

3. **Drama** (one boy and one girl)

Each candidate would be assessed at interview with a portfolio of demonstrable performance experience.

4. **Music** (one boy and one girl)

Each candidate should possess a Grade 6+ in his/her first instrument and a Grade 4+ in his/her second instrument and would be assessed at interview.

5. **Sport** (one boy and one girl)

Each candidate would be assessed at interview, with an expectation to be playing at regional level or equivalent.

For further details, please contact the Registrar on 01509 817072 or [registrar@ratcliffe.leics.sch.uk](mailto:registrar@ratcliffe.leics.sch.uk) or download the information pack from our website [www.ratcliffe-college.co.uk](http://www.ratcliffe-college.co.uk)



Girl boarders take part in the Race For Life in aid of Cancer Research UK

## Old Ratcliffian Louis Deacon (99) Opens Newly Refurbished Boys' Boarding Facilities

A recent refurbishment of the Boys' Boarding facilities for pupils in Years 6 to 11 has taken place at Ratcliffe. Two wings have been overhauled and themed after local sporting clubs, and they are now known as the 'Tigers' and 'Foxes' areas of boarding. Corresponding colours have been used to maintain the theme in communal areas such as the common rooms, halls and boys' bedrooms. Each room has state-of-the-art furnishings that greatly exceed the 'minimum standards for boarding' and the boys have access to Wi-Fi, Sky TV and a variety of gaming consoles. Each boy also has access to a communal kitchen for the preparation of snacks and drinks. Old Ratcliffian **Louis Deacon (99)**, current Leicester Tigers captain, who recalls boarding at Ratcliffe College with great fondness, returned to his alma mater to officially open the new boarding area and commented that he 'would have loved to be a boarder again with these facilities!'



*Louis Deacon (99) (far right) pictured with Harry Jackson, 1st Team Rugby Captain & other members of the team*

## Ratcliffe's Diverse Drama Programme in 2013

Life in the Drama Department continues to be a very active and varied one. This year, productions have ranged from the dark and dramatic *Oliver Twist* (Year 10) and *Opening a Can of Worms* (Year 13), to the hugely entertaining *Rhymes and Tales* (Year 7), *The Turbulent Term of Tyke Tyler* (Year 8) and colourful pantomimes performed by Year 9.

The Year 12 students, who performed Brecht's *Caucasian Chalk Circle*, should be commended; with only six students, they managed to tell the adapted tale with five of them multi-rolling at least four parts! Particular mention must also go to the Year 11 GCSE students, who represented possibly the best group the Drama Department has had for many years, focusing on 'plays that make you think'. Scenes taken from *Blood Brothers*, *New Connections*, *The King's New Clothes* and *Sequence of Events* were performed at an extremely high standard, with fourteen



*Year 10 performs Oliver Twist*

students out of twenty achieving A grades.

Henry Thomas, who has been our Lighting and Sound student for the past six years, is leaving us to go on work placement for the BBC. He has proved to be one of our most outstanding trainee technicians over the years and we wish him every success for the future.



*The Year 11 production of Sequence of Events*

Old Ratcliffian **David Ricks (07)**, another of our talented ex-students, is soon to join the Technical Staff for the Theatre. He will work alongside **Megan Stephens (01)**, who continues to produce an astonishing number of costumes for all the plays that are performed.

**Claudette Caven-Henrys**  
Head of Drama

## Ratcliffe's Future Sporting Stars!

In what has been a very positive year overall for the School sports teams, the students below have shown exceptional talent in their fields:

### Rugby

Last year was a very successful one for rugby, with Harry Jackson (Year 13) representing Leicestershire Under 18s and the following attending the Tigers School of Rugby:

Under 13: Ganesh Thapa, Matthew Ward, Aarin Popat, Ben Dexter, Barnaby Carroll, John Somerville, Harrison Grimmett, Jack Nightingale, Olutomi Mosaku, Jack Vinall and Harry Brooks (Year 8)

Under 14: Luke Gyesei-Appiah, Harry Redding and Richard Ward (Year 9)

### Netball

Congratulations to Olivia Gilchrist, Holly Blount, Megan Vincent and Katy Winston (Year 9) and Olivia Back (Year 8), who all represented Charnwood Sapphires at the Under 14 National Finals, while Olivia Gilchrist also attended the Under 16 finals.

### Ice Hockey

Molly Brooks (Year 10) has represented the England Under 16 Girls and has also been included in the Great Britain Under 18 squad.

### Ice Skating

Emily Cheetham (Year 10) won both the Novice (Shadows) and Junior (Icicles) titles at the British Championships in 2012 with her respective teams.

### Hockey

A large number of students reached the Junior Regional Performance Centres this year, including:

Under 13 Girls: Olivia Carpenter and Jenna Pole (Year 7)

Under 13 Boys: Matthew Ward (Year 8) and Joe Evenden (Year 6)

Under 14 Girls: Olivia Back (Year 8)

Under 14 Boys: Harry Antill, Finley Butler, Jack Nightingale and Richard Ward (Year 9)

Under 15 Girls: Emma Milner (Year 10)



Touchdown!

Under 15 Boys: William Honey, Sam Nightingale, Ben Pole and Jack Watson (Year 10)

Under 16 Girls: Caitlin McMillan (Year 10)

Under 16 Boys: Joey Higham (Year 10)

Under 17 Girls: Elinor Thomas (Year 12)

Under 18 Boys: Charlie Dolan (Year 13)

Olivia Back (Year 8) also won the Leicestershire Player of the Year award.

### Tennis

Sibella Chew (Year 11) was part of the 'Fallows Cup' team that won a Leicestershire Under 18 inter-club doubles competition.

### Football

Cameron Gilchrist (Year 11) has signed for Premiership club, Swansea City

### Cricket

The following students have been selected for their respective county age groups:

Oliver Welch (Year 6): Under 11, Leicestershire

Toby Snell (Year 7): Under 12, Leicestershire

Jack Nightingale (Year 8): Under 13, Leicestershire

Rion Yapa (Year 9): Under 14, Leicestershire

Sam Nightingale (Year 10): Under 15, Leicestershire

Ben Shaw (Year 11): Under 17, Nottinghamshire



The Old Ratcliffians take on Ratcliffe in the Taylor Cup

Sam Nightingale has also been given the honour of captaining his county this year, while also getting the opportunity to play against the highly-successful England Ladies team.

### Cycling

Tom Chandler (Year 10) races for the Melton Olympic Cycling Club and recorded the fastest times in the Juvenile and Senior Hill Climb, attracting attention from Gary Coltman (GB Youth Performance Manager), who has advised him to attend the National School of Coaching for Cycling.

### Judo

Finbarr Lloyd (Year 9) again competed in the HMC National Judo Championships this year, winning the Silver medal in the Under 16 Category, getting him an invite to train this summer on a Future Olympians' course in Budapest, Hungary.

### Cross Country

Emily Hollis (Year 11) and Cameron Hart (Year 11) represented Ratcliffe at the National Cross Country Championships, qualifying them to represent Leicestershire and Rutland in the English Schools Cross Country Championships.

### Golf

Declan McAuley (Year 10) and his older brother, **Sean McAuley (05)**, finished second in the regional finals of the International Pairs Golf Competition at Mottram Hall, earning themselves a place in the International Pairs UK Finals.

**Phil Gilchrist**  
Director of Sport

## Ratcliffe's Top Cadet!

Ben Latham, a Year 12 student, has been selected from hundreds of applicants to attend a 'Leadership and Challenge' course in Canada during the summer. He has been selected as one of the top twelve British cadets for this year's course.

He will be challenged physically and mentally during the six or seven weeks that he is in the Rocky Mountains of Canada. The whole emphasis of the course is on 'Leadership and Challenge'; 'Leadership', as the cadets take full responsibility for their groups, from their welfare to ensuring that the tasks are successful. 'Challenge', as they will be training, at times, in extremely harsh environments and tough situations, pushing themselves, very often to the limit of endurance and mental capacity.

He will also be integrated into platoons with Canadian cadets, for some of whom French is their first and only language. The training will involve expeditions onto glaciers and through the Rocky Mountains, horseback riding, mountain biking, rock climbing, canoeing and kayaking Grade 3 glacial rivers and a community parks project.

Gareth Lloyd commented: "We are thrilled for Ben, and very proud of his achievement. He has worked extremely hard to win this coveted place, and will certainly benefit from the wonderful opportunity that awaits him. He typifies the excellent work ethic of so many of our students, all of whom join me in congratulating him."

**Mark Balmbra**  
Lt Colonel OC Ratcliffe College CCF



Ben Latham gets the award for Top Cadet

## Remembrance Day at Ratcliffe

*'On the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month.'*

The whole Senior School attended a moving service in the Chapel of the Immaculate Conception to commemorate Remembrance Day on November 11th this year.

The entire CCF, all resplendent in their uniforms, marched in step to the altar with the standard-bearer in solemn procession. The first hymn, 'I Vow To Thee My Country', almost lifted the roof and, after one of the Year 13 Students, Elinor Thomas, read

the moving poem *In Flanders Fields*, the whole congregation was lost in thought and prayer.

The choir then sang Purcell's 'Thou Knowest, Lord, The Secrets Of Our Hearts' in perfect harmony.

The names of Old Ratcliffians who died in the two World Wars were then read out as representatives from each year group processed up to the altar with lighted candles and small crosses with poppies. The Headmaster, Gareth Lloyd, laid a wreath at the altar, followed by Stuart Brambell, representing those members of Ratcliffe families who are currently serving in the Armed Forces.

At exactly 11am, the Last Post was sounded, followed by two minutes' silence and the Reveille.

**Fr Ted Mullen (60)**, Father President, gave a blessing and the congregation then sang the National Anthem.

This service was beautifully scripted and executed and its memory will certainly remain with the students for many years to come.

**Jackie Bennett**  
Editor



Marching out in step



The standard-bearer



Crosses, poppies & candles representing those lives lost in the two World Wars

## A Cultural Tour of China for the Sixth Form 20th-28th October 2012

At the start of the half-term holiday, eighteen students, along with Mr Cantrill, Mr Lambert and Mrs Grant, headed off to China for a cultural tour. After arriving in Beijing on a wet Sunday morning, the group was met by two very keen tour guides, Tom and Lotus. Despite being exhausted from the nine-hour flight, we went straight to the Beijing Olympic Stadium. Unfortunately, we were unable to rest on the bus journey as Lotus, our 'local guide', believed that we were there to learn as much Chinese as possible and that it wasn't a holiday! Her language lessons were helpful in allowing us to master the basics and are definitely what we will remember her for! An early start the next day saw a visit to China's best-known tourist attraction, the Great Wall. A steep climb up numerous uneven steps rewarded us with spectacular views. Here we discovered that, not only was the wall famous, but it appeared to the Chinese that we were too, with many wanting pictures of us! Recovering from our paparazzi experience, we moved on to the Sacred Road, an important spiritual location from the Ming Dynasty that marked the route to the Imperial Tombs. Later in the day, we visited Tiananmen Square and had the opportunity to see the well-known portrait of Chairman Mao.

The second stage of our trip took us from Beijing on the overnight train to Xi'an. This was a new experience for all, where four people shared a cabin the size of the ones on the Hogwarts Express! After a rough night's sleep, we ended up in Xi'an ready for another busy day ahead, visiting the Terracotta Army. The sheer size was breathtaking; there were life-sized soldiers as far as the eye could see, each with their own individual characteristics. It was definitely a highlight of the tour. At the end of a tiring third day, we arrived at the cruise ship in Chongqing, where we were to stay for the next three nights, travelling along the River Yangtze. During the cruise, we admired the incredible scenery and were able to go on a variety of excursions to the famous sights along the river. These included the Ghost and White



*At the Great Wall*

Emperor Cities, as well as a smaller boat trip down the Lesser Three Gorges, a truly beautiful area.

The final section of our tour took us to Shanghai. It is safe to say that Shanghai was by far everyone's favourite city, as it was completely different to any of the others we had previously visited, and it felt more like home. The Oriental Pearl TV Tower was a real experience for all, being able to see the whole of the city through a glass-floored dome which you could walk around. After this, we visited a traditional tea house where we got to try several different teas, many of which were an acquired taste! A trip to Shanghai's own China Town saw some well-deserved retail therapy! Purchases varied from the oriental, such as silk scarves and chopsticks, to a very British purchase, England football jackets! To finish the day, we got to see Shanghai at night on a river cruise. This was truly spectacular! Then we went to the world famous Shanghai Acrobat Show, which was incredible.

Thanks must go to Mr Cantrill, Mr Lambert and Mrs Grant for taking us on such an unforgettable trip.

**Shona Traynor (13) & Anna Thorley (13)**



*In Tiananmen Square*

## Ratcliffe College Introduces New School Uniform & Sports Kit

Following a detailed consultation process with all stakeholders, a new School uniform and sports kit was brought in in September 2013. The new uniform was introduced to students from Nursery to Year 11, and the new School sports kit was introduced for all students, from Nursery to Year 13 inclusive. Sixth Form students continue to dress smartly for the School day as for the business workplace. In designing the new School uniform and sports kit, the School adhered to the salient principle of high-quality clothing of a distinctive appearance, balanced with value for money. In addition, the School has reintroduced a distinctive 'Colours' blazer for high-achieving students in Drama, Music, the Duke of Edinburgh Award, CCF, Sport and Academic Studies.



*The Sixth Form 'Colours' blazer*



*The Junior School uniform*

## The Ratcliffe College Foundation



*Proposed front elevation of the new Preparatory School*



*An aerial view*

Now is a very exciting time for Ratcliffe, with groundbreaking new projects on the horizon that will transform the School and hugely benefit the students. As Director of the Foundation, I am very aware that it is the generosity of the Ratcliffe community, in no small part, which has helped to make these changes possible.

### 'Building for Future Generations': Major Fundraising Appeal

In April, we launched our largest ever fundraising appeal for the new Preparatory School building project. This sympathetically-designed building will be a superb addition to the facilities we have here at Ratcliffe and will enable us to continue to provide the best education we can with state-of-the art facilities. The building work has now begun, with the Preparatory School due to open in September 2014. If you have not yet made a contribution to the



*The construction work begins in earnest*

Building Appeal, we would urge you to consider doing something now, however small, to show your commitment to this exciting and historical development.

## The Chapel Organ Restoration Project



Fr Eugene Monaghan (53)

After an extensive planning phase, the long-awaited and much overdue restoration of the Chapel organ has now started. The console has been removed, as well as the pipes, wind chests and electrical system. The restoration scheme will not only restore the original 1937 instrument, but also add to it, giving greater scope for choral and congregational accompaniment, recital work and, of course, teaching. Fundraising is

ongoing and will enable the completed organ to meet the needs of the School and last at least another eighty years.

The project is in memory of **Fr Eugene Monaghan (53)**, former Director of Music. If you would like to support this project, you can make a donation online at [www.justgiving.com/MonaghanMemorial](http://www.justgiving.com/MonaghanMemorial) or contact me: [ayell@ratcliffe.leics.sch.uk](mailto:ayell@ratcliffe.leics.sch.uk).



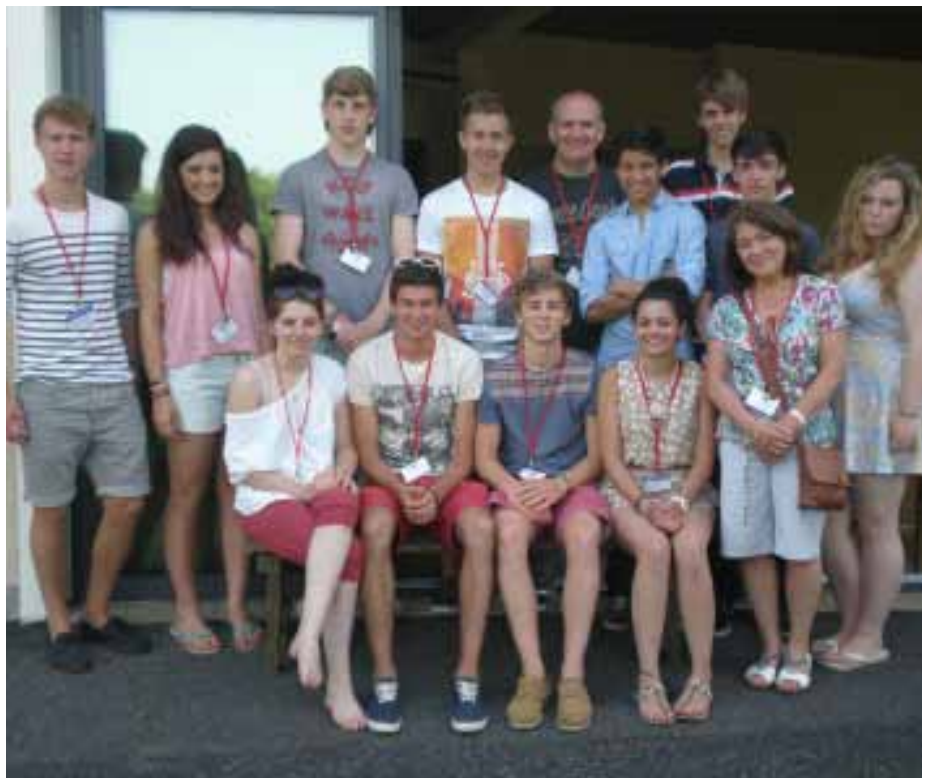
Stripping out the organ for its restoration

## Coventry Old Ratcliffian Reunion Lunch (Class of '50-'60)

Thanks to the generosity of **Peter Deeley (59)**, a number of Old Ratcliffians, including **Fr David Tobin (59)**, had the opportunity to meet up and share stories over a lovely lunch provided at Mr Deeley's Head Office. The lunch was also an opportunity for the assembled ORs to hear the latest news from Ratcliffe and, in particular, to find out more about the new Preparatory School Building Appeal.

### Charity

Since The Ratcliffe College Foundation was established in July 2011, we have received some very generous donations towards a wide variety of projects that continue to improve the opportunities and facilities that students experience here at Ratcliffe. As a consequence of the donations received, we have been able to assist with smaller projects too, such as the Ratcliffe students' trip to Lourdes with the HCPT Group. We have also been able to provide our first ever GAP Bursary Grant to a Sixth Form leaver who was undertaking charitable work ahead of going off to university.



The HCPT Pilgrimage to Lourdes

## Gifts to the Ratcliffe College Foundation

Sir Winston Churchill once said, 'We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give.'

We would like to thank all those people, including many Old Ratcliffians, who have already shown their support to the Ratcliffe College Foundation and who have helped to improve the opportunities and facilities for students, both now and for future generations of Ratcliffians.

If you are thinking about making a donation to the Foundation and would like to visit us, or if you have any ideas or comments about Development at Ratcliffe, please do get in touch with me directly at [ayell@ratcliffe.leics.sch.uk](mailto:ayell@ratcliffe.leics.sch.uk).

**Andrew Yell (82)**  
Foundation Director

### Individual Gifts

Anonymous x 8	Mr R Galliano	Mr & Mrs P Montgomery-Stuart
Mr P Anthes	Mr & Mrs R Gamble	Mr M Mower
Mr & Mrs J Baxter	Mr P Hebbert	Mr & Mrs M Musson
Mr & Mrs Birch	Mr & Mrs G Hendry	Mrs C Northover
Mr A Blackham	Mr J Hibbert	Mr E Ogon
Mr D Bowman	Sir & Lady A Holland	Mr & Mrs D Page
Mr & Mrs R Butler	Mr B Jacobson	Mr & Mrs R Peel
Prof D Chamberlain	Mrs B John	Mr & Mrs J Plumb
Ms H & Ms H Chatterton	Mr D Jolliffe	Mr I Potts
Mr & Mrs K Cho	Mr & Mrs A Khan	Mr T Ryan
Mr & Mrs R Clowes	Mr M Lambert	Mr J Scott
Mr & Mrs I Clover	Prof R Leaper	Mr B Sherratt
Mr M Coker	Mr J Lecutier	Mr & Mrs J Stabler
Mr P Daley	Mr & Mrs G Lloyd	Mr & Mrs M Stokes
Mr A Daly	Mr & Mrs P Loe	Mr D Thistlethwaite
Mr & Mrs C Della Porta	Mr M Lomas	Major G Tomlinson (RIP)
Mr & Mrs A Dickinson	Mr & Mrs L Massarella	Mr M Waldron
Mr J Duvallon	Mr & Mrs S McBallantine	Mr & Mrs S Walker
Mr C Doran	Mr G McCloskey	Mr & Mrs M Wheatley
Mr P Doran	Mr T McConnell	Mr P Whittam
Mrs M Fagan	Mrs T Miller	Mr J Willcox
Mr A Fearn	Mr & Mrs N Mohan	Mr & Mrs A Yell
Mr P Freeman	Mr J Moiser	

### Groups/Events

Hong Kong Old Ratcliffian Dinner	Opera by Candlelight (Music Scholarship)
Schools' Cycle Sportive	Peter Daley Bursary Fund
Lourdes/HCPT Parent Group	Ratcliffian Association & Cunningham Trust Fund
New York Old Ratcliffian Dinner	
The Ratcliffe Chorale	
Past Presidents' Dinner	

### Gifts Direct to the School

# THE RATCLIFFIAN ASSOCIATION

## Ratcliffian Association Council Members 2013-14

<b>President:</b>	<b>Mrs Louise Marsden (91)</b>	<b>Chairman of Bar &amp; Social Committee:</b>	<b>Mr Abe Mee (92)</b>
<b>Vice Presidents:</b>	<b>Mr Gareth Lloyd – Headmaster Mr Michael Meredith (89)</b>	<b>Clerk to the Ratcliffe &amp; Cunningham Trust Fund:</b>	<b>Mr Michael Coker (52)</b>
<b>Honorary Treasurer:</b>	<b>Mr Paul Carter (60)</b>	<b>Website Officer:</b>	<b>Mr Mark Gamble (71)</b>
<b>Honorary Secretary:</b>	<b>Dr Isobel Sommerville (83)</b>	<b>Chaplain:</b>	<b>Fr Ted Mullen (60)</b>
<b>Membership Officer:</b>	<b>Miss Gemma Rumbold (01)</b>	<b>School Liaison Officer:</b>	<b>Mr Graham Sharpe (co-opted)</b>

### Council Members:

- Mr Peter Astill (71)**
- Mr Richard Gamble (64)**
- Mr Ben Heath (87)**
- Mr Michael Heath (56)**
- Mr Richard Cunningham (59)**
- Miss Shona Traynor (13)**
- Mr David Robson (co-opted)**  
(Director of Finance)
- Fr Simon Giles (60)**
- Mr John Astill (89)**
- Mr Andrew Yell (82)**  
(Development Director)



*The new President, Louise Marsden (née Bullen) (91), pictured with Abe Mee (92), dons the Chain of Office for the first time*

## Ratcliffian Association Accounts - Year Ending 31st December 2012

<b>Profit &amp; Loss</b>	<b>2012</b>		<b>2011</b>	
<b>Subs</b>				
School	17,279.00		13,582.00	
Direct	7,114.50		7,622.72	
<b>Other Income</b>				
Donations	50.00		118.33	
Profit on Events	205.27		5,079.02	
Sales of Merchandise Stock	1,321.50		1,020.00	
Movement in Stock	-734.05		-813.11	
Dep A/C Int	728.53		504.21	
		<b>25,964.75</b>		<b>27,113.17</b>
<b>Expenses</b>				
Website/Computer	1,563.24		1,571.86	
Old Ratcliffian - Printing	3,815.00		3,853.00	
Old Ratcliffian - Post and Packing	2,750.08		1,998.57	
Old Ratcliffian - Recharge to Ratcliffe College Foundation	0.00		-1,601.00	
Postage - London Dinner	0.00		110.88	
Phone	440.84		255.45	
Subscriptions	53.00		43.00	
Consultants/Prof Fees	516.25		463.75	
Donations	750.00		500.00	
Bank/Misc charges	141.01		121.81	
Printing/Copying	1,072.99		637.43	
Stationery	138.00		406.06	
Postage	1,283.38		1,642.14	
Digitising of Ratcliffian Magazine	3,231.63		0.00	
Secretarial	11,972.27		11,999.90	
Travel/Subsis	815.30		273.94	
Maint & Notice Board	39.50		155.35	
Leavers' Presentation Gift	799.74		658.24	
Gifts & Trophies	451.36		189.19	
Misc	360.90		49.50	
		<b>30,194.49</b>		<b>23,329.07</b>
Excess Income/(Expenditure)		<b>-4,229.74</b>		<b>3,784.10</b>
<b>Balance Sheet</b>				
<b>Fixed Assets</b>				
Computer Equipment	478.80			
<b>Current Assets</b>				
Allied Irish Bank	17,096.29		14,923.90	
Investment	33,310.79		33,434.00	
Cash	180.00		123.00	
Debtors	404.96		1,601.00	
Prepayments	168.00			
Bar Stock	170.00			
Merchandise Stock	955.63		1,998.73	
		<b>52,764.47</b>		<b>52,080.63</b>
<b>Current Liabilities</b>				
Creditors		<b>-12,111.06</b>		<b>-7,288.46</b>
Accruals		<b>-90.98</b>		
		<b>40,562.43</b>		<b>44,792.17</b>
<b>Financed by</b>				
Accumulated Fund	44,792.17		41,008.07	
Excess Income/(Expenditure)	-4,229.74		3,784.10	
		<b>40,562.43</b>		<b>44,792.17</b>

# RATCLIFFIAN ASSOCIATION EVENTS

## The London Christmas Drinks Party

Tuesday 4th December 2012

Thanks to the generous hospitality of **Robert Forstner (72)**, we were able to hold an Old Ratcliffian Drinks Party amidst an array of spectacular sports and vintage cars in his Excalibur Showroom on Park Lane in Mayfair. So spectacular were the vehicles on display that keen car enthusiasts were spotted through the window taking photos of the cars – I thought it was because they were trying to photograph members of the Ratcliffian glitterati! One of the cars, which Robert had just purchased that very day, was originally the property of the King of Rwanda – a real talking point!

The event was very well attended by ORs from London, the Home Counties and Leicestershire in particular. Gareth Lloyd and **Abe Mee (92)** both welcomed their guests and thanked Robert for his hospitality. The party was so successful that another has been planned for December 2013.

**Jackie Bennett**  
Editor



*Gianpaolo Mantini (95) & David Haigh (95)*



*Mr & Mrs Henry Cheong (66)*



*Guests at the Drinks Party*



*A vintage Bentley*

## The Ratcliffian Association London Dinner

Friday 22nd February 2013

The Crypt, St Etheldreda's, Ely Place, London

The London Dinner took place in the usual venue, with high-quality French cuisine, delicious wines and aperitifs provided by the Bleeding Heart Restaurant. With a ticket price of under £60, it was a bargain night out in London! The Association owes a debt of gratitude to St Etheldreda's, which opens its doors to Old Ratcliffians every year for this flagship event under the generous patronage of **Fr Tom Deidun (62)**, the Rector of St Etheldreda's.

The evening started with a Mass in the historical and beautiful church at St Etheldreda's, led by **Bishop John Arnold (71)**. Following the Mass (when the latecomers had arrived from Ye Olde Mitre Tavern next door!), the evening continued with champagne and canapés. The dinner was attended



*L to R: Mary Reeves, Brian Coe (60), Alasdair Macmillan (58) & Tim Gamble (62)*



*Katharine Lloyd, Ed Gamble (95) & Gianpaolo Mantini (95)*

by over eighty Old Ratcliffians, the Headmaster Gareth Lloyd and his wife Katharine, **Abe Mee (92)**, President, and his wife Emma. The top table was full of laughter, with much teasing of the President by his close friends, **Dom Magee (92)** and **Ed Gamble (95)**. In his toast to the President, Dom continued to recount the amusing catalogue of



*Fr Louis Beasley-Suffolk (60), Judith McCarthy & David McCarthy (61)*

events which had befallen his friend at Ratcliffe, much to the enjoyment of all concerned. Gareth gave an eloquent and comprehensive account of Ratcliffe's progress over the year, and **Peter Casartelli (56)** proposed the health of the School and its Headmaster. Peter had also organised the dinner in conjunction with the Association and kindly agreed to continue for another year.

Old Ratcliffians in attendance were: **Bryan Cassidy (52), Pat Jolliffe (53), Tony Jewell (54), Nicholas Tomlinson (56), Tony Sweeney (56), Peter Casartelli (56), Jonty Myles (57), Nigel Jewell (58), John Hearson (58), Alasdair Macmillan (58), Philip Jones (59), Ewan Simmonds (59), Richard Cunningham (59), Paul Carter (60), Brian Coe (60), Robert Edmund (60), Fr Ted Mullen (60), Fr Simon Giles (60), Tim Gamble (60), Fr Louis Beasley-Suffolk (60), David McCarthy (61), Richard Hopkins (61), Colin Evans (61), Fr Tom Deidun (62), Ian Potts (62), Richard Gamble (64), Bishop John Arnold (71), Michael Lee (73), Charles Hothersall (73), Edmund Tierney (73), David Simmons (74), Frank Tierney (76), Dominic Russell (78), Anne de Graeve (79), Andrew Yell (82), Simon Bullock (86), Michael Meredith (89), Dom Magee (92), Abe Mee (92),**



*Dom Magee (92)*

**Edward Gamble (95), Gianpaolo Mantini (95), Georgina Meredith (96), Wilson Chiu (00), Gemma Rumbold (01), James Daffurn (01), William Winterton (01) and Oliver Thompson (01).**

**Jackie Bennett**  
Editor

## The Ratcliffian Association Retreat

Friday 5th - Sunday 7th April 2013

'A Year of Faith', led by Fr Anthony Meredith IC (57)

The advance party of sterling Old Ratcliffians felt much at home with the warm welcome given by **Fr Anthony Meredith (57)**; they being a happy mix of Royal and other engineers, a farmer, a barrister and an IT specialist. We soon discovered a hidden dining room where we enjoyed our dinner together. A lively repartée ensued with hearts and minds as we dined and chatted together till bedtime.

At 11am, a combined party of Ratcliffians and Ascribed Rosminian Members, together with Fr Anthony Meredith, convened in the Old Library. Jackie Bennett introduced our Retreat Father, saying that he had travelled from Rome and that he was currently the Assistant Vicar General, to which, with sprightly good humour, he rose and exclaimed: "I AM the Vicar General!" This was said with a twinkle in his eye, as though he felt himself to be the least likely candidate for Vicar General. All joy broke out; we were all aboard - our voyage began! We all then introduced ourselves as we steered into the 'Year of Faith'.



*Mike Reynolds (64), Paul Rudd (60) & Michael Heath (56)*



Fr Anthony Meredith (57) celebrating Mass at the Retreat

Why faith in God? It is so that we may have the very best of life, and do our very best in life. There are various levels of faith: faith as little as a mustard seed and, at times, faith as great as that of the centurion whose servant lay sick. At other times, we may be lacking faith, or even have no faith, according to our individual and communal challenges and circumstances.

He asked us to focus on God Himself rather than on our own level of faith. Everybody wants to get to Heaven. How can we? The answer is by having faith in Christ our Lord Jesus. It is God who helps us in our little faith, in our weak faith, in our great faith. It is through faith in Christ Jesus that we will get into Heaven. With faith in God, He can continue building His Church on Earth. He chose Peter, Paul, you and me, for His design purposes.

We listened intently as Fr Anthony explained how reliance on faith shaped his life, as he then reflected on his own vocation.

From his first term at Grace Dieu, and then Ratcliffe, he learnt gradually that his faith in God would help him to work, and also to learn. He said that, with little confidence in himself, his faith helped him to grow in confidence and faith in God.

After six happy years at Ratcliffe with his brothers, he decided that he wanted to join the Order. He offered to do anything – type papers, Pitman shorthand or even drive a car. He tended the garden. Then, one day

came, ‘Try for Philosophy’, so he did! Later he was sent to study Theology, which he did and passed.

Seminary studies were very difficult for him, but his faith led to him being ordained a priest, having learned to give God more time to work. He spent over a decade with his brethren at Derryswood, where **Fr Tony Baxter IC (38)** asked him if he could become the Novice Master. He accepted what he knew would be a difficult challenge for him, but again, by the Spirit of God, it happened.

He returned to Ratcliffe as Rector, which was initially for a period of no more than six months, but he stayed for thirteen years as Spiritual Director and also as Vicar for Religious Orders in the Nottingham Diocese. Following on from this were six years as Provincial in England and a further six years as Regional Superior in India. He is now living in Rome as Vicar General. He reiterated once again: “All through, I had a lot of confidence, not in myself, but in what God could do for me.”

Jesus taught this Commandment to His Apostles before ascending to Heaven: “Go to Jerusalem and wait for the promise of The Father, and you will be clothed with the power of God’s love in The Holy Spirit, who is given to us. Look at Jesus and wait. Pray to the Person of the Holy Spirit and wait for the Gift.”

Follow the Commandments Jesus taught: love your God with all your heart and mind, and love your neighbour as yourself. Blessed Rosmini said, “Love God as one another.”

Everyone retreated outside to the front of the College to say the Rosary, Mysteries of Light, in the Ratcliffe tradition. Later, Fr Anthony said Mass in Our Lady’s Chapel for all our petitions.

We left the retreat with a clearer understanding of our reliance on God. Love through faith is far more transformative than any self-reliance and is where real joy lives.

**Clifford Della Porta (43)** with contributions from **Louis Della Porta (81)** and **Fr Anthony Meredith IC (57)**

*Sadly, Clifford died in October this year. His obituary can be read at the back of this magazine. His wife, Josie, told me that I must never ask him to write this report again as it had troubled him greatly. This was the sixth draft of the said report! Like everything which Clifford undertook in life, it was done with deep commitment and a desire to do good. He will be greatly missed for everything he contributed to those around him.*

**Jackie Bennett**  
Editor



Marlene Yell, Florrie Jackson, Margaret Smidowicz & Adelaide Sheehan

## The Ratcliffian Association Birmingham Dinner

Friday 17th May 2013

The Opus Restaurant, Birmingham

The biennial Birmingham Dinner took place in the award-winning Opus Restaurant in the heart of the city. **Ed Gamble (95)** once again kindly agreed to host the event and act as MC. The dinner itself was held in a private dining room which was just small enough to provide an intimate setting for about thirty Old Ratcliffians and their guests. Gareth Lloyd gave a progress report on what

was happening at Ratcliffe and **Abe Mee (92)** entertained guests with some jokes, one of which he had used at the London Dinner, much to the amusement of some!

Old Ratcliffians from the Class of '97 were well represented, including **Mark Snutch** (the Ratcliffian Association Rugby Captain), **Will Ventham** and **Jessica Jordan (née Gamble)**. **Louise Marsden (née Bullen) (91)** attended, along with her classmate, **Sam Spillane (née Murphy) (91)** and their husbands. Other Old Ratcliffians in attendance were: **Philip Jones (59)**, **Peter Deeley (59)**, **Fr David Tobin (59)**, **Fr Simon Giles (60)**, **Richard Gamble (64)**, **Jeremy Knight Adams (65)**, **Michael Clarke (67)**, **Andrew Gamble (68)**, **Fr Philip Sainter (69)**, **Robert Woodward (72)** and **Andrew Yell (82)**.

**Jackie Bennett**  
Editor



Gareth Lloyd & Michael Clarke (67)



Will Ventham (97), Emma Snutch, Alice Ventham, Harri Gamble & Jessica Jordan (née Gamble) (96)



Sam Spillane (née Murphy) (91), Abe Mee (92) & Andrew Gamble (68)

## The Ratcliffian Association Reunion Weekend

Saturday 6th – Sunday 7th July 2013

Ratcliffe College

This year's annual Reunion Weekend was held in glorious sunshine. The Dinner took place in a marquee which was sponsored by Old Ratcliffian **Amey Rayns (08)** of Bradgate Events. It was a beautiful setting with candlelit tables and fairy lights which created an intimate atmosphere. Before the dinner, there was a champagne reception on the South Terrace overlooking the cricket pitch and the marquee. The guests dined on barbecued legs of lamb, with each table having a designated carver fully kitted out in a chef's hat and apron!



Simon Burns (83) & James Lavin (83)



The Class of '83



The Class of '73

The Dinner was represented in the main by the Classes of '73 and '83, but there were many other year groups there in smaller numbers. The outgoing President, **Abe Mee (92)**, welcomed the new President, **Louise Marsden (née Bullen) (91)**. Ratcliffe's Headmaster, Gareth Lloyd, also gave a rousing speech and announced the exciting news that the construction of the new Junior School had been given the go-ahead by the Board of Governors and that building work was to commence in September.



*Gerard McCloskey (64), Teresa Gamble, Elena McCloskey & Richard Gamble (64) (Chair of Governors)*



*Erick Bilinski (83), Simon & Paula Lingard (née Dewhirst) (83), Lisa Tan & John Gay (83)*



*The marquee*

**Miles Walton (73)** was a wonderful organiser and gathered a group of nearly thirty from the Class of '73 – for many of them, this was their first time back at Ratcliffe. **Greg O'Connor (83)** also did a fantastic job in rallying the

troops from the Class of '83. Again, this was the first time back at Ratcliffe for many of them in thirty years.

Dinner was followed by dancing, and the Old Ratcliffian bar was opened for those who wanted a quieter place to chat. Shaun Walker, Ratcliffe's Facilities Manager, once again doubled as taxi driver, taking everyone back to their local hotels and guest houses at the end of the evening.

On Sunday, following Mass and the AGM, Old Ratcliffians gathered again around the cricket pitch for a hog roast lunch in the marquee and a thrilling 20-20 cricket match (now known as the Rik Hughes Cricket Cup), where two teams of Old Ratcliffians played against each other. Graham Sharpe kindly offered to give

up his Sunday afternoon to umpire and Rik Hughes to score. Meanwhile, the historic Wimbledon Men's Singles Final was watched by several Old Ratcliffians and their guests in the Theatre, and there was a bouncy castle outside for the children which kept them happy for hours. Recent leaver, **Shona Traynor (13)**, gave a tour of the School to those who were keen to see how much it had changed since their time at Ratcliffe.

Photos of the weekend, taken by Old Ratcliffian **Graham Borrajo (11)**, can be found on the Ratcliffian Association website, [www.ratcliffianassociation.co.uk/galleries](http://www.ratcliffianassociation.co.uk/galleries).

**Jackie Bennett**  
Editor



*Back Row, L to R: Ginny O'Keeffe (née Gamble) (98), Andrew Espinasse (98), Rob Hull (97), James Gamble (94), Sam Bird (98) & Charlotte Hull (née Berry) (98). Front Row, L to R: Gayle Gamble & Giuliana Bird (née De Rienzo) (98)*



*The Class of '83: Back Row, L to R: Jeremy Foulds, Andrew Cullen, Ian Lamaletie & Andrew Ramen. Front Row, L to R: Marc de Verteuil, Fr Ted Mullen (60), Erick Bilinski & John Gay*

## Miles Walton's (73) Account of the Reunion

Of the nearly ninety in our year group (1968-73), over forty were astonished to find themselves, in late 2012, on the same email list, inviting them to come to the OR Reunion Weekend for our 40th Anniversary. It was the first time most of us had been in touch since the mid '70s, though one would hardly have guessed this from the amicable tone of the correspondence. When it became clear that some lived in Ireland or had Irish connections, **Paul Romeril** arranged to host, in April 2013, a Class of '73 Dublin Gathering for **AJ McKeon, Anthony Thistlethwaite, Keith Mellors** and me, along with our wives - a very enjoyable evening.

After a few last-minute apologies for absence, seventeen of us received

domestic passes to attend the tropical OR Weekend in July: **Leo Barragry, Tim Coker, Keith Mellors, Anthony Cutler, Nic Dechamps, Alan Dewhurst, Peter Doran, Des Keating, Judy and Liam McKnight, Sarah and Richard Mills, Tom Redfern, Paul Romeril, AJ McKeon, Mike Sprawson, Ed Tierney, Tim Turner and Miles Walton**. We recognised each other instantly, of course, and blamed the heat for abandoning plans to do some sport prior to the dinner. The School tour unearthed varied memories of dorms long-forgotten (such as the thirty-plus beds in Our Lady's), of numerous 'footy' matches in the quad, of listening to groundbreaking late '60s rock in our common rooms, and of quaking outside **Fr Tomlinson's (52)** office.

I remember no such place in our day, but we rapidly acquainted ourselves with the OR Bar and its stock before sitting down at two tables for dinner. Some hours later, I was not the only member of our group who struggled aboard the last shuttle back to the hotels.

On Sunday, we enjoyed Mass, coffee and lunch in the blazing sunshine before heading home after an enjoyable and rather moving weekend. It was great to see friends from years back, and to exchange promises not to leave it another forty years!

**Miles Walton (73)**

## Past Presidents' Dinner Friday 1st November 2013 Ratcliffe College

The annual Past Presidents' Dinner was held once again at the College on Friday 1st November, the Feast of All Saints. The evening started with Mass in the Chapel, concelebrated by **Fr Anthony Meredith (57)** and **Fr Simon Giles (60)**. Prayers were said for four Past Presidents: **Fr Anthony Baxter (38), Clifford Della Porta (43), Peter Lambert (44)** and **Freddie Dyer (55)**, all of whom have died in the last year.

Following a champagne reception in the Old Library, thirteen Past Presidents joined Association Secretary Jackie Bennett for an excellent meal provided by the College catering team. **Richard Gamble (64)**, Chairman of Governors, spoke briefly on current developments at the College and reported progress on the new Junior School.

Past Presidents in attendance were: **Philip Hebbert (44), Michael Coker (52), Patrick Jolliffe (53), Anthony Jewell (54), Sir Anthony Holland (56), Michael Heath (56), Fr Anthony Meredith (57), Dick Cunningham (59), Paul Carter (60), Paul Rudd (60), Fr Simon Giles (60), David Jolliffe (64)** and **Richard Gamble (64)**.



*Michael Heath (56), organiser of the Past Presidents' Dinner*

Apologies were received from the Headmaster, Gareth Lloyd and Father President, **Fr Ted Mullen (60)**, who were both attending the New York Dinner, and also from our current Association President, **Louise Marsden**

**(née Bullen) (91)**, who was attending to family half term duties.

**Michael Heath (56)**

## Lourdes Pilgrimage: The Ratcliffe Rosmini Group Friday 19th - Friday 26th July 2013

This was our fourth year as the Ratcliffe College and Rosminian Parish Family Group, or HCPT Hosanna House Group 512.

I was delighted that we were a good fifty Pilgrims in number and we were able to fill the St Bernadette's side of Hosanna House. We were once again the largest Hosanna House Group to travel with HCPT.

We travelled as a group to Lourdes during the week of the 19th-26th July 2013 and we were well represented by students, staff, governors, Old Ratcliffians, and other members of the Rosminian Parishes and Rosminian Family:

A total of five ORs joined the Pilgrimage:

**Danielle Fairbrother (02)** is now in her twelfth year with the group and for the fourth time she was my Deputy Group Leader. She proved herself to be an excellent deputy and we worked well together. She is now in her seventh year as a secondary school PE teacher.

**Richard Gamble (64)** went for his eighth time with the group. His sterling work and support with organising the transport and running the bar during the week was invaluable. He is famous for his gin and tonics!

**Fr Anthony Meredith IC (57)** was able to join the group as Chaplain. We were very honoured that he was able to take time out of his busy schedule in Rome to be with us.

**James Morley (08)** is now in his sixth year with the group. James helped to care for a young man with cerebral palsy. He has gained a great deal of confidence in his caring skills and is very much part of the team.

**Peter Tetlow (78)** was able to join the group and we very much benefited from his wealth of experience of Lourdes.

This year we were honoured to be part of the hospitality group who welcomed Archbishop Vincent Nicholls to Hosanna House for his first ever visit. Fr Anthony Meredith, Paul Milnes and Anthony Harris enjoyed a cup of tea and a chat.



*Hattie Wheeler (current pupil), Amelia Power (13) & Chloe Theobald (13) with Bettie Roberts & Sue McEvoy*

I would like to thank the Ratcliffian Association for its support over the last nineteen years and for their donation of £750 given to assist OR student helpers. This has been an invaluable support to ORs at university who wish to offer themselves as carers to the sick and disabled in the group.

Now we have our own group, we have spaces for more ORs to go on our pilgrimage. There are also spaces for ORs who are sick or disabled and spaces for those who would



*Fr Anthony Meredith (57) with Archbishop Vincent Nichols and fellow pilgrims at Lourdes 2013*

like to go as carers. We are very much in need of a Group Doctor to work alongside Dr Sheelagh Bolt and learn from her many years of experience before she retires. We are also in need of helpers who are qualified nurses or carers. If you are in the medical profession and able help in this way, please do not delay in contacting me.

All new helpers must attend an Induction Day (this is usually held at Ratcliffe College on a Sunday in May during the year of travel).

Any ORs wishing to take part next year in the Pilgrimage to Lourdes (provisionally booked as the **18th-25th July 2014**) should contact Jackie Bennett at the Ratcliffian Association Office - [jbennett@ratcliffe.leics.sch.uk](mailto:jbennett@ratcliffe.leics.sch.uk).

**Teresa Gamble**  
Group Leader



*Chloe Theobald (13), Anna Thorley (13), Amelia Power (13) & Hattie Philpott (current pupil) with Laura Adcock*

## The Ratcliffian Association New York Dinner

### Saturday 2nd November 2013

### The New York Athletic Club

Following two very successful Ratcliffian Association Reunion Dinners in Washington DC (July 2011) and Los Angeles (April 2012) respectively, the third chosen destination for a US-based dinner was the Big Apple itself, New York.

On the evening prior to the Reunion Dinner, however, **Noel Sloan (79)**, unable to join us the following night, very kindly took **Fr Ted Mullen (60)** and myself to a most impressive French restaurant. It was lovely to hear the two of them reminisce about their first meeting, when Noel was a thirteen year old boy arriving at Ratcliffe College and placed into the care of the Third Form Master, none other than Fr Ted himself.

The venue for the Reunion Dinner was the inimitable New York Athletic Club, one of the oldest private clubs in the United States that simply oozes elegance and charm



*Eugene McCarthy (61), Martin Sabels (80), Eric Ciambra (79) & Mrs Ciambra*



*Fr Ted Mullen (60), Francesca Morris (84), Peter Daley (56) & Ben Curran (76)*

alongside outstanding facilities and service. We met on Saturday 2nd November 2013, a merry band of Old Ratcliffians, spouses, Fr Ted Mullen and myself, numbering twenty-one in total. Very sadly, **Joe Maskrey (60)**, who had organised the wonderful reunion in Los Angeles, was unable to board his plane from LA to New York owing to a shooting incident that took place immediately before his scheduled departure. Talk about an excuse for absence!

We enjoyed drinks and canapés prior to a sumptuous three-course dinner, followed by yet more drinks and convivial conversation in an adjacent private bar. My very special thanks must go to US-based **Pete Daley (56)** and **Eugene McCarthy (61)** for their 'on the ground' sterling services, and especially our Association Secretary, Jackie Bennett, our Development Director, **Andrew Yell (82)**, and my wonderful PA, Christine Govan, without whom we would simply not have had the event.

As Headmaster, I spoke over dessert of exciting developments at Ratcliffe, in particular the new Preparatory School, whilst also reassuring the brethren that we still very much hold dear to our traditional Rosminian values and ethos. So much is happening for the good of all the children at the College, it is impossible for me to list the various activities and areas of development. Suffice to say, Old Ratcliffians will always be welcome here, to enjoy a tour of the College, a delicious meal or two, and even a stay in our Guest Room, should you require it, if you would like to see at first-hand what is happening here.

I had to say goodnight to the wonderful company at a reasonable hour, as the following morning I had to rise at 4.00am to run the celebrated 26.2 miles of the New York Marathon, which was terrific fun. Pete and Eugene, together with Pete's wife Kathie, took me and Fr Ted out for a well-earned dinner on Sunday evening. This was followed by another rude awakening for me at 4.00am the next day to catch my flight back to London, with several days of some serious 'catch up back at the ranch' ahead,



*The private dining room at the New York Athletic Club*

but some fantastic memories of our first ever New York Reunion Dinner.

The following Old Ratcliffians attended the event: **Peter Daley (56)**, **Fr Ted Mullen (60)**, **Joe Maskrey (60)**, **Eugene McCarthy (61)**, **Frank Lum (67)**, **Hilary Langer (70)**, **Peter De Simone (71)**, **Robert Ippaso (73)**, **David Simmons (74)**, **Ben Curran (76)**, **Eric Ciambra (79)**, **Martin Sabels (82)**, **Francesca Morris (84)**, **Clare Nugent (née Williams) (91)** and **Joe Astill (94)**.

**Gareth Lloyd**  
Headmaster



*Gareth Lloyd, having completed the 2013 New York Marathon*

# RATCLIFFIAN ASSOCIATION SPORTS EVENTS

Special thanks must go to the following Sports Captains for taking the time to recruit and motivate our teams for all the Association sporting events throughout the year:

## Cricket

**Martin Foulds (71):** The Grand Match

**Ben Stephens (96):** The Rik Hughes Cricket Cup & others

## Hockey

**James Taylor (04):** The Thistlethwaite Cup & The Taylor Mixed Hockey Cup

## The Halley Football Cup

**Sunday 10th March 2013**

**Old Ratcliffians: 3    Ratcliffe College: 2**

Rain almost stopped play, but a shower of goals made this one of the best-contested Old Boy games. The poor drainage of the football pitch could have seen the game called off but, once underway, it was only goals being leaked.

Phil Gilchrist, Director of Sport, had managed to turn his young hopefuls into a well-organised and dangerous side, which caught the Old Boys off guard. Usually, there has been time for the Old Boys to brush off the cobwebs and slowly get into the game. Not this time.

The pace at which the game started saw the Old Boys' shape pulled apart and it was just a matter of time until a goal came. Two Ratcliffe goals went in before half time and, although the Old Boys had chances, they were from long range.

Half time was photo time, which may explain the reason the team look like they've had the wind blown out of them, but the extra seconds to catch our breath helped.

Being more organised and understanding each other's game saw the Old Boys gain in strength. Man of the Match, **Ali Richardson (00)** had found his pace on the right wing and was relentlessly

## Golf

**Abe Mee (92):** The Reynard Golf Trophy & Ratcliffian Shield

**John Astill (89):** The Grafton Morrish Public Schools Competition

## Football

**Scott Piecha (00):** The Halley Football Cup

## Netball

**Hannah Tyler (11):** The Ratcliffian Association Ladies' Netball Cup



Mark Snutch (97), Rugby Captain

## Rugby

**Mark Snutch (97):** The Patch Gamble Rugby Cup & other matches



The Old Ratcliffian XI



Phil Gilchrist (Director of Sport) (left) presenting the Halley Trophy to Scott Piecha (00)

attacking their left back, delivering ball after ball into the box.

Keeper **James Driver (09)** looked unbeatable as he commanded his area, while **James Dearson (08)** held his line well as centre back, making a number of key tackles, not forgetting the introduction of **Joe Coupland (09)**, which added another threat on the wing.

After a number of chances went begging from **Scott Piecha (00)** and **Will Coupland (01)**, who both ballooned their efforts over the bar, it was **Ed Stokes (08)** who pulled one back as he towered above everyone from a corner to nod home. Another goal always looked likely, but time was not on the Old Boys' side.

With four minutes to go, Will Coupland, who had been straying from his centre back position all game, found himself weaving past three players on the edge of the box, before firing home the equaliser and doing a Klinsmann through water in celebration.

A 2-2 score had looked unlikely at half time but, on reflection, would have been a fair result. But football isn't fair and, with only seconds to go and the Ratcliffe XI still shell-shocked at the

comeback, Joe Coupland delivered a Messi-like ball between keeper and defence to leave Piecha the easiest of tap-ins for the win.

Next year the School have threatened to have some Thai scholars on hand to bolster their squad. If so, the Old Boys are surely still favourites to take away the win!

**Scott Piecha (00)**

## The Ratcliffian Association Ladies' Netball Cup

Sunday 10th March 2013

Old Ratcliffians: 21 Ratcliffe College: 24

The School's 1st Team held off the might of the Old Ratcliffians, 24-21, despite the School supplementing the OR's team. The 'oldies' showed that they had lost none of their skill level or tactical awareness, but the 1st Team kept their noses in front. Both teams moved the ball around the court well and, despite not playing netball regularly, the 'oldies' maintained a high level of play. All four shooters, **Rose Borrajo (13)**, Sorcha Grant, **Roxy Hayes (09)** and **Emma-Grace Roberts (11)** missed very few goals and **Hannah Tyler (11)** showed that she was as tenacious as ever in defence, along with **Katie Gerigthy (11)**. **Rachael McMillan (09)** and **Gemma Taylor (01)** linked well in centre court and the 1st Team had to raise their game and outplay the ORs with speed and determination. With eight of the school team being outgoing Year 13 students,



The Ratcliffian & Old Ratcliffian teams

this augurs well for the ORs next year. An end-to-end competitive game was thoroughly enjoyed by all.

**Anne Taylor**  
Head of PSHCE

## The Grand Match

Sunday 30th June 2013

The Grand Match was played in splendid sunshine, with the College needing a win to regain the trophy. **Tom Foulds (07)** and **Freddie Bainbridge (08)** had other ideas, batting the Old Boys to a commanding total. In reply, the College lost regular wickets and were unable to push for victory, finishing on 159-9. With the game ending in a draw, the Old Boys therefore retained the trophy they won back two years ago.

**Edward Woodcock**  
Cricket Coach



Jon Reddin (Senior Deputy Head) presents the Grand Match trophy to Martin Foulds (71), Captain



The Old Ratcliffian XI

## The Thistlethwaite Men's Hockey Cup

Saturday 9th March 2013

Old Ratcliffians XI: 3 Ratcliffe College XI: 2



The Old Ratcliffian XI



Walter Yell (13) (Captain of the School Team), Jon Reddin (Senior Deputy Head) & James Taylor (04) (Hockey Captain)

## The Golf Report

### The Reynard Golf Trophy Friday 5th July 2013 Leicestershire Golf Club

On a sunny Friday in July (which made a change!), the Leicestershire Golf Club kindly played host to the Old Ratcliffian Golf Society, which gathered once again to contest the Reynard Golf Trophy. The competition was fierce as everyone was keen to seize the trophy, the silver fox, from the hands of the outgoing President, **Abe Mee (92)**. Old and new ORs were present, ready to take on old adversaries and pals over eighteen holes of enthusiastic competition.

We started with lunch before teeing off in the early afternoon. The weather was glorious and shorts were certainly

the attire for the day. The course was in excellent condition and provided a real test of golf, especially for those who were seen dusting off their clubs on the first tee!

**Myles Halley (75)** was the eventual winner of the coveted Reynard Golf Trophy and was delighted to accept it. Jack Hancock, a current student at Ratcliffe and a rather useful golfer (noted for future years) retained the Ratcliffian Shield for the second year running with a wonderful display of golf. All the competitors stayed for supper and a catch up at the bar to discuss the good, the bad and the downright ugly golf that had been witnessed over the afternoon.

Those that took part were: **Paul Carter (60), Richard Gamble (64), Bernard Murphy (67), Myles Halley (75), Chris Della Porta (79), David Brunton (79), Andy Yell (82), James Gillick (88), Mike Meredith (89), John Astill (89), Paul Nielson (90), David Reynolds (90), Abe Mee (92), Varinder Gill (99), Lindsay Buckenham (00), Simon Marsden, Jack Hancock and Alex Jarvis.** We look forward to seeing you all again next year.

### The Grafton Morrish Public Schools Qualifier Sunday 12th May 2013 Gog Magog, Cambridge

On 12th May, the Old Ratcliffian Golf Society once again put out a team of their best golfers to compete in this highly-regarded competition. The standard was high - unfortunately, not from us - and we were unable to qualify for the finals in September. However, as expected, we had great fun, despite a little rain, and vowed to return next year with some better players and a hope of qualifying through to the finals - when does Jack Hancock leave school...?!

**John Astill (89)**  
Golf Captain



*Myles Halley (75), centre, wins the Reynard Golf Trophy*



*Paul Nielson (90), David Reynolds (90), John Astill (89) & James Gillick (88)*

## The Rik Hughes Cricket Cup

### A 20-20 Cricket Match Sunday 8th July 2013

Old Ratcliffian  
'Young Guns'

Josh Simpson (09)

Freddie Bainbridge (08)

Oli James (12)

Sam Nightingale (student)

Josh Breen (student)

Tom Foulds (07)

Tom Allen (13)

Rishi Soni (13)

James Waddington (student)

Will Hoare (student)

Old Ratcliffian  
'Golden Oldies'

Ben Stephens (96)

Karl Smith (97)

Darryl Abeysondera (96)

Louis Massarella (92)

Warren Birchall (97)

Ed Gamble (95)

David Cox (08)

Mark Snutch (97)

Lee Buckby (97)

Jack Nightingale (student)



*The teams*

This year saw the second annual Rik Hughes 20-20 cricket match for the Old Ratcliffians. Unlike last year, the game was played in beautiful sunshine. Two teams of Old Ratcliffian cricketers, bolstered by a couple of

current 1st XI players, played out an entertaining match for the spectating ORs. The players were divided up into two teams, roughly comprising the over 25s against the under 25s. The youngsters won the toss, chose to have a bat and made excellent progress against a friendly oldies attack. Retiring when they reached 30, **Freddie Bainbridge (08)** and Sam Nightingale were the two most successful youngsters' batsmen, whilst **Lee Buckby's (97)** three wickets made him the oldies' most effective bowler.

After the break for a hog roast, washed down with an occasional beer, the game continued. Although **Karl Smith (97)**, **Darryl Abeysondera (96)** and **Louis Massarella (92)** all scored 20s, the over 25s were never really in the hunt, as **Josh Simpson (09)** was the most economical bowler, bowling his three overs for just eight runs.

All in all, a fun afternoon was had by players and spectators alike.

**Rik Hughes**



*Louise Marsden (née Bullen) (91) presents the Rik Hughes Cricket Cup to Tom Foulds (07), the winning captain.*

## The Patch Gamble Rugby Cup

Sunday 9th September 2013

**Old Ratcliffians: 0**  
**Old Tridents: 41**

There was a huge feeling of anticipation amongst Old Ratcliffians as they prepared to face Old Tridents (Trent alumni) in their first match against another school since the 70s. Sadly, it was not meant to be their day. The Old Tridents, under the captaincy of Nick Halley, younger son of **Myles Halley (75)**, put on a stunning performance and they completely outflanked the Old Ratcliffians. However, it must be said that the Old Tridents had hardly a grey hair amongst them, which could not be said for the Old Ratcliffians! The average age of the Old Ratcliffians was mid-thirties whilst the Old Tridents were in their mid-twenties. **Mark Snutch (97)**, who valiantly captained the side as fly half, was not too downhearted after the game. He knew that the opposition had youth on their side and warned the Old Tridents not to be too complacent, as they were definitely going to face a tougher, younger side next year. The match was played in a sporting spirit on both sides, helped by referee, Myles Halley, who was very fair, given that two of his sons were playing for the



*The Old Rats Team*

opposition (Old Tridents). The Man of the Match, adjudicated by Martin Kaye, Ratcliffe's rugby coach, was awarded to Jack Bigott, the scrum half from the Old Tridents, and to **James Buckley (97)**, on the wing for the Old Ratcliffians. **Harry Jackson (13)**, last year's captain of Ratcliffe's 1st Team played an important role in the game, as well as having to face up to his big brother, who played for the Old Tridents!

Bearing in mind the advanced age of the Old Ratcliffians team, it was surprising how few injuries were sustained. However, sadly, **Andrew Espinasse (98)** succumbed to a fracture of his right ankle. At the time, he bravely forced his boot back on, not realising the seriousness of the injury. We are told that he is now making a full recovery!

The match was very well supported by parents, friends and family from both sides. Neil Back, England Rugby World Cup legend, whose two children attend Ratcliffe, kindly agreed to lend his support to the event and presented



*Andrew Espinasse (98), Sean Espinasse (95) & Gerald Espinasse (03)*



*Neil Back presents the award to James Buckley (97)*

the Patch Gamble Rugby Cup after the game.

**Jackie Bennett**  
Editor



*Sam Bird (98) reaches for the ball!*

## The Taylor Mixed Hockey Cup

Sunday 8th September 2013

Old Ratcliffians: 3 Ratcliffe College: 1

At last, the sun shone for the return of the Old Ratcliffians to their old stomping ground, and a young Old Ratcliffian squad it was. With a squad of nineteen, the latest male leavers were introduced to a game of fives to see who went in goal, as the four options thought to be available weren't. How **Charlie Dolan (13)** didn't go in goal, even though he lost at fives, is still a mystery.

The opening exchanges were quick and, although the School didn't have their strongest line-up out, they still tested the Old Rats. However, some excellent link-up play ended in **Sarah Kerridge (12)** diverting **Rose Borrajo's (13)** early cross past the School's keeper to give the Old Rats an early

lead. The majority of the play was in and around the School's 'D', yet the score line remained at 1-0 until half time, with the School owing much of this to their keeper.

The half time whistle brought about a much-needed rest for the Old Rats and a clear message of 'let the ball do the work', as the School were showing fitness levels that the Old Rats were lacking. In the second half, as no-one was willing to go in goal, we ventured out in the Baa Baas spirit that this match usually evokes and played as eleven outfielders. Our dominance told and OR Captain, **James Taylor (04)**, doubled the lead after a well-placed reverse stick strike. However, the School started to gain territory and, with the Old Rats playing a very fluid system (at times **Matt Howard (13)** was the lone ranger at the back), the School pulled a goal back when the Old Rats found a goalkeeper - perhaps we should have kept eleven outfield players! **Sarah Kerridge (12)** was in the right place at the right time to re-establish the Old Rats' two-goal lead and, despite some interesting umpiring (I quote, "I'm trying to get them another scoring opportunity!"), the Old Rats held on to see the game out and earn the trophy outright.



Gareth Lloyd presents the cup to the winning captain, James Taylor (04)

Thank you to all the Old Rats (young and old) who turned out, to the umpires for keeping the game flowing and to everyone for playing it in the right spirit. See you again next year!

Squad: **Rose Borrajo (13)**, **Rebecca Taylor (10)**, **Katherine Threadgold (13)**, **Rebecca Pawley (12)**, **Hazel Dearson (12)**, **Hollie Stone (07)**, **Sarah Kerridge (12)**, **Georgina Kerridge (12)**, **Sophie Montgomery-Stuart (10)**, **James Taylor (04)**, **Tom Pawley (13)**, **Tom Foulds (07)**, **Joe Gerighty (13)**, **James Waddington (12)**, **Andrew Yell (82)**, **Andrew Thomas (85)**, **Matt Howard (13)**, **Walter Yell (13)** and **Charlie Dolan (13)**.

**James Taylor (04)**  
Hockey Captain



The Old Ratcliffian Mixed Hockey Team

## SAVE THE DATE! OLD RATCLIFFIANS REUNION WEEKEND

Saturday 5th – Sunday 6th July 2014



The 1964 Ratcliffe Swimming Team

Swimming Team  
1964

Standing:  
D. Gallagher  
V. Davis  
A. Bassadone  
Sitting:  
J. Discombe  
P. Wheatcroft  
B. Gamble  
(Capt.)  
M. Bevan-John  
R. Riha  
In Front:  
P. Shevlin



The 1964 1st XI Cricket Team

The XI  
1964

Standing:  
G. McClosker  
M. Starkie  
T. Fearon  
D. Walker  
M. Weston  
M. Parker  
Sitting:  
J. Kilner  
S. Jennings-Mill  
R. McClean  
(Capt.)  
T. Coates  
R. Perrier

### Class of '64 – Celebrate your 50th Anniversary!

Classes of '54, '74, '84, '94 and '04 – don't miss a chance to celebrate a significant anniversary of the date you left school! Further details will be available in the New Year on the website: [www.ratcliffianassociation.co.uk](http://www.ratcliffianassociation.co.uk)

# OLD RATCLIFFIAN NEWS

**Sachin Jivanji (06):** "After graduating from Imperial in 2009, I sold my soul to the City and started working in Investment Banking (M&A) for Citigroup. I did that for three years and then resigned in June 2012. I travelled across Southeast Asia (Myanmar, Thailand, Vietnam, Laos, Cambodia and Hong Kong) for two months in the summer of 2012 and then decided to go back to university to do a post-experience Masters in Finance. I'm currently doing this at Cambridge University and it's so much fun! I've started playing hockey again (three and a half years out has taken its toll on me, though!) and, slowly but surely, I'm getting back my skills! Hopefully, by March I'll be fit and ready to take on Oxford in the Varsity match!"



Sachin Jivanji (06) with the Blues Varsity Squad

**Donald Ranvaud (71)**, a film producer, speaks of his work: "My films have had twelve Oscar nominations all in all, and one was won by Rachel Weisz in *The Constant Gardener*, but hey, nobody's perfect!" After leaving Ratcliffe, his brother, **Ronald Ranvaud (64)**, read Physics at Oxford, then completed a PhD in America, spent five years at the Max Planck Institute in Grenoble, and finally returned to Brazil in 1978, where he has been ever since. He has spent the past twenty-five years



Donald Ranvaud (71)

as a lecturer and researcher at the University of São Paulo.



John Law (76)

**John Law (76):** "After graduating from Manchester University, I entered the Barclays Group on their graduate programme way back in 1980 and have since worked for Deutsche Bank and HSBC. I married an Italian (Simonetta) in 1984 and, after working for thirteen years in or around the City, I transferred to Rome in 1993 and then Milan in 1996, where we've been ever since. We have two children, Andrew (24) and Emily (18), who give us much joy. Aside from banking and the family, I'm currently in my second two-year term as President of the British Chamber of Commerce for Italy, which keeps me busy. The Chamber's aim is to encourage cooperation, understanding and exchange between Italy and the UK. I also remain indebted to **Peter Anwyl** (and my mother) for instilling in me a lifelong love of literature, and to Ratcliffe in general for the gift of sport, whose main outlet these days is that common middle aged man's obsession, golf."

**David Thistlethwaite (50)** writes of his son, **Mark Thistlethwaite (78):** "Mark has recently been posted by AgustaWestland to set up a new subsidiary in Abu Dhabi to service and provide a spares system for all the military helicopters (Westland) in the UAE. This means setting up a warehousing and servicing area from scratch. This time, he has to move out full-time (previously, in India, he could come and go) so his wife, Caroline, has been out to sort out a house (with all the trimmings, as required by the grandchildren). As he is CEO, he gets the boarding fees for

the two children at Bryanston plus extras; he is on a two-year contract for the Abu Dhabi position but he doesn't want to be a permanent ex-pat."

**Chris Siddall (11):** "I was very fortunate to join Sky Sports News Radio in October 2011. Since then, I've worked my way up, from cutting audio and writing scripts to becoming a reporter, and now I'm a presenter. Over the last month, I've been given the opportunity to present several shows across our station, in particular the weekend breakfast show, *Good Morning Sports Fans*, every Saturday and Sunday, which goes on air from 8am to 12pm."



Chris Siddall (11) with his girlfriend, Grace Reynolds

**Paul Romeril (73):** "We had an Irish Gathering Dinner of the three Irish-based members of the Class of 1973, joined by **Miles Walton (73)** and **Keith Mellors (73)** at my home in Dublin, together with wives, on Friday 12th April 2013. It was thoroughly enjoyed by all."



L to R: Keith Mellors, Paul Romeril, Miles Walton, Anthony Thistlethwaite & A J McKeon (all 73)

**Richard Draycott (90):** "I am currently running a business in the Middle East, living in Dubai with

Alexandra, my wife. I was married in 2012 in Oxford, with **Dominic Magee (92)** as best man, and with **Abe Mee (92)** and **Christian Gallagher (92)** both in attendance, as well as several **Lynch** cousins, who also attended Ratcliffe. **Fr Joseph Mullen IC** was the Rosminian and Catholic representative on the altar of a Church of England church in Burford! After Ratcliffe, I studied at Edinburgh University, Cambridge University and RMA Sandhurst, and travelled fairly extensively with work. I continued to play rugby throughout, for all of the above, before playing semi-professionally in Hong Kong and representing them in the Rugby World Cup qualifiers. In 2006, I moved to the Middle East with a large real estate developer to establish their regional business, and, in 2010, I set up my own business with some partners. We work with a number of the local governments and families in deploying their capital and buying businesses. I have also engaged in business with Dominic Magee and Christian Gallagher (my two old room-mates) - testament to the bonds of dormitory living! My mum and extended family still live in Leicestershire, so I do return often. I had many happy times at Grace Dieu and Ratcliffe and the team photos hung in my study remind me of the place frequently."



*Richard Draycott (90) & Alexandra*

**Mike Reynolds (64):** "I have now been retired from the Army for twelve years and much of my spare time is taken up as a trustee and field officer for a charity called 'Just a Drop'. The charity undertakes projects to provide clean water, sanitation and health and hygiene training to remote communities worldwide. It has taken me to Chile, Bolivia, Mongolia, Niger, Kenya and Uganda. I now concentrate on East Africa. It is immensely satisfying to change, and indeed



*Mike Reynolds (64)*

save, the lives of people who are desperately poor. This can be done for just a pound or two per head. As a volunteer, it is payback time after an excellent education and rewarding career."

**Sam Spillane (née Murphy) (91)** celebrated her fortieth birthday with a fantastic trip to Las Vegas that was organised by her Event Management company, SJ Events. Fellow travelling companions included a number of Old Ratcliffians, namely **Bernard Murphy (67)**, **Edward Gamble (95)** and **Sebako Siame (91)**. Highlights of the trip included a helicopter tour of the Grand Canyon, where this photo was taken, and it's fair to say a great time was had by all!



*Sam Spillane (née Murphy) (91) & friends at the Grand Canyon*

**Peter Bankart (43):** "I am now living in retirement in New Zealand, having given up flying and my photograph business. Life has been good, and I have many happy memories of my years at Ratcliffe. I have four children now scattered all over the Pacific. I send all my old friends my kindest regards."



*Peter Bankart (43)*

**Philip Wetten (65):** "My wife Vesthalia and I recently visited our daughter and family in Bogota, and were able to meet up with three ORs there: **Andrés Sardi (65)**, his brother **Jorge Sardi (59)** and also **Hernan Lara (62)**. They entertained us regally on two occasions and we had plenty to reminisce about, as well as looking forward to January 2014, when a group of ORs from the UK are planning to visit Bogota and Cartagena for several days. We now feel that we owe a return of hospitality to the Bogota group; I would hope that one day we can all arrange to meet at Ratcliffe and repay them adequately for their kindness to us in Bogota. I would take this opportunity to remind all ORs that they are more than welcome to visit us here in Caracas; Venezuela is geographically the gateway to South America, and is also well connected with Central America and the Caribbean. Despite the current political situation, it is still an interesting place to visit with plenty to see and do. If you're interested, please contact us - we love having visitors!"

**Fr Anthony Meredith (57):** "For the past five years, I have been living in Rome in our Generalate and International House of Studies. We have a community of just over thirty, with twenty-three students from Africa, India, Venezuela, Italy and England. After my six years in South India, living in the Leadership Team in Rome has been a completely new challenge. I have been a Vicar to our Father General who, at the age of seventy-five, handed in his resignation to our Major Council early in January this year. This was accepted by the Holy See. As the Senior Vicar, I was appointed by the Holy See as Vicar General for the day-to-day administration of the Order, with responsibility to call a General Congregation (Chapter) to elect his successor. This we did at the same time as the Cardinals were in conclave electing our new Pope. The day after the Cardinals elected Pope Francis, we elected Don Vito Nardin to succeed Father James Flynn. For most of the month of October, I was with Don Vito on visitation in Ireland, Wales and England. Before that, I was part of a team leading a two-month experience of prayer and renewal in the Gospel and in our Charism for

seven of our young men preparing for their final vows. In June and July, we were in Rovereto (the birthplace of our founder, Blessed Antonio Rosmini), a beautiful part of the Trentino near to Lake Garda. This was followed by a week's retreat in Domodossola in Piemonte (Monte Calvario), the house where Blessed Antonio founded our Institute. I was able to take time out of this programme to accompany the Ratcliffe pilgrimage in July. We had twelve pupils from the College and, for the past three years, we have been most impressed by the willing service they have given to all on our pilgrimage, setting a very good example of caring for others. At the end of August, I went again to Lourdes with some ten members of my family - it was a time of blessing and relaxation for me. While in Rome, I am working hard at learning the Italian language, and Don Vito is making great strides in learning English. After the election of Pope Francis, we wait in joyful hope to see the fruit of his living, his preaching of the Gospel, and his care 'to bring the Good News to the poor'."



L to R: Sarah Harley (04), Hannah Merrion (05), Jenny Tandy (05), Alice Myles (05), Jenny Slaughter (05), Laura Betts (05) & Callie Thornton (née Glover) (05)

**Sarah Harley (04):** "For the past three years I have been living in Genoa, Italy. I think I have just about got to grips with the lingo and it definitely is, as they say, 'la bella vita' living here. Last May, my son was christened, with ORs **Laura Betts (05)** and **David Harley (02)** as his godparents. We had a fantastic weekend; **India (05)** and **Charlie Hobbs-Mauger (03)** even travelled all the way from Le Marche to help us celebrate. More recently, I have just completed my English teaching course and hope to start putting it into practice very soon. We're also getting married next year, so that's going to be a very

special time for us. Old Ratcliffians **Laura Betts, Callie Thornton (née Glover) (05), Jenny Tandy (05), Alice Myles (05), Louise Alton (05), Jenny Slaughter (05), Hannah Merrion (05)** and I all keep in regular contact and see each other when we are able to."

**Mike Meredith (89):** "I was delighted to attend the London Dinner in February this year with **Georgina Meredith (96)**. It's a great event in a fabulous venue and I'd recommended it to all ORs, young and old. I had the pleasure of sitting next to this year's Ratcliffian Association President, **Abe Mee (92)**. Taking Abe's lead, I'm getting more involved with the Association this year. I'm really looking forward to meeting lots of ORs at upcoming events – the match at The Leicestershire Golf Club was excellent fun this year. It was especially nice to catch up with **John Astill (89)**, who was my opening bowler in the 1st XI back in 1989, and **Jim Gillick (88)**. Others that I am still in touch with include **Bridget Lavin (89)**, with whom I share an annual London-based pint, **Tony Workman (87)**, who I trade godfather duties with, and **Pav Piotrowicz (89)**, who I bumped into at Legoland this year with his wife and three daughters! Of the various **Merediths**, **Eddy (93)** has lived in Auckland, New Zealand, for the last eleven years with his wife and three daughters. **Charlie (98)** is also in Auckland. **Paddy (91)** is in Singapore with his wife, Marie. Along with **Richard (87)** and his family, we are all spending Christmas 2013 together on the coast of the North Island, New Zealand. Finally, I had great fun giving the speech at Prize Day this year – although my memory of a naked Nigel Taylor has left an imprint in too many minds! Finally, this photo, taken at a family christening at St Paul's Cathedral,



L to R: Richard (87), Mike (89) & Eddy Meredith (93) with their mother & all her grandchildren

shows three of the Meredith brothers (me, Richard and Eddy) with our broods and Grandma Mary. Paddy is missing, but all eight of Mum's grandchildren are there – the first time this had ever happened! It's odd that Mum's four boys have produced seven girls between them; my little boy, Alfie, is the only one so far who will perpetuate the name!"

**Andrew Mason (96):** "I now have two children at Ratcliffe, Tomas and Lucie. Tomas is now in his first year of the Junior School and Lucie is in Cygnets Two. Tomas is really enjoying the masses of clubs on offer and Lucie is loving learning to swim. I attended the wedding of **Roberto De Rienzo (00)** in July and saw a lot of ORs, including **Andrew Espinasse (98), Rob (97) and Charlotte Hull (née Berry) (98)**, the **Richardsons, Sam (98) and Giuliana Bird (née De Rienzo) (98)**, Carl and **Maria Pastars (née De Rienzo) (96)**, and a few others I can't name. It was a great day down in Somerset! Tomas has just enrolled at Syston Rugby Club and I hope to get more involved there in the future – I've noticed Sam Bird and his older brother already coaching there!"



Clem Maginniss (74)

**Clem Maginniss (74)** has left the Regular Army after a full service career and is now serving in the Army Reserve. He has also been appointed Commandant of the Norfolk Army Cadet Force, which is not only a thoroughly satisfying post, but also one that brings back many happy memories of the Army Section of the Ratcliffe CCF, commanded by the highly respected and remarkable **Lieutenant Colonel Bill Robinson**.

**Miles Latham (03):** "The business I run with **Tim Cabrelli (03)**, Affixius ([www.affixius.com](http://www.affixius.com)), continues to grow from strength to strength. We have been listed as two of Leicestershire's

'Rising Stars' by the Leicester Mercury Business supplement and are in the final of the Leicester Business Executive Awards. Our aim is to move to a new Production Studio in Loughborough in the near future and to continue to expand our team. We're even working for Ratcliffe! On a personal note, I'm delighted to say I that will be getting married on March 22nd 2014 to my gorgeous fiancée, Katie, at Beaumanor Hall."

**James Buckley (97):** "I've just come back to work in Castle Donington after spending a year working in London on the Olympics. Since then, I have met my future wife and we are engaged to be married next year on June 6th. It's all been a bit of a whirlwind, but I couldn't be more excited!"



James Buckley (97)

**Anna Casswell (née Evans) (88):** "I'm looking forward to celebrating my fortieth birthday in 2014! My husband and I are busy running a solar thermal installation company, Plumb Solar Ltd. Our sixteen year old son, Sam, left Ratcliffe this year after taking his GCSEs and is now at Leicester College studying Construction. Our eight year old daughter, Amy, is doing well at Rothley Primary School. I still enjoy skiing and snowboarding and, in September this year, I participated in a World Record event. It involved the largest parade of kitesurfers covering a one mile course off the coast of Hayling Island; there were 318 kitesurfers, including Sir Richard Branson! Money was raised for Snow Camp, RNLI and Virgin Unite."

**Naveen Cunha (82):** "What a great year this has been! On September

19th 2012, we celebrated our twenty-fifth year of marriage. We spent several days at Yellowstone National Park - being a geologist, I was in Heaven! Since then, our oldest son, Paul, and our daughter, Katheryn, have both graduated from college. One son is on a religious mission in India and is enjoying it immensely. We will be grandparents around Christmas time. We have one son left at home and he is a senior in high school. An empty nest is just over the horizon. Just when we think we are enjoying this stage in our lives, another comes around and provides us with more great experiences."

**Andy Teeton (90):** "I am still in the Army and the last four years have been pretty hectic. After a stint of teaching on the Army Intermediate Command and Staff Course, I started a job in the Joint Force Headquarters, moving with my wife (Diane) to a place near Watford in the summer of 2009. The next two years passed in a blur, with numerous trips around the globe, including training in Africa, post-earthquake advice in Haiti and various tasks in the Middle East, including evacuation planning during the Arab Spring. Despite the travel, Diane managed to give birth to three boys. In the summer of 2011, we all moved to Bristol so that I could start a job in the Defence Equipment and Support organisation. The hope of some stability didn't last long and, in April 2012, I was selected for a job in Yemen starting in June of the same year. Following a busy period of training and briefing, I started a six month stint working with the British Embassy in Yemen's capital, leaving Diane to do the hard work of looking after our boys. Thankfully, we have all regrouped safely in a new house in Bristol and I have started a new



Andy Teeton (90) & a colleague

job, still in the same Defence and Equipment Support organisation. We are now hoping for some stability for the next two to three years to concentrate on family life."

**Douglas Chamberlain (50):** "We have a small group of Old Ratcliffians from Form V-A of 1949 that meets annually for a few days (six of us in all, together with spouses). This year we met in Wells in Somerset, where we stayed in a hotel facing the lovely cathedral that was built in 1175 (the first Gothic cathedral in Britain). We shared very happy memories of our years at Ratcliffe."



ORs & their wives, L to R: Tony Fearn (50), Gerald Della-Porta (49), Douglas Chamberlain (50), John Wolfe (49), Nick Mayne (49) & Paul Simmons (51)

**Peter Fraser (71):** "On December 7th last year, I was told that I had colon cancer and I had a large tumour removed on New Year's Eve. They then found that the cancer had spread to the lymph nodes, so I subsequently underwent six months of pretty gruelling chemotherapy, followed by a further operation on September 9th. I saw my surgeon recently and am happy to say that I have now been signed off as being fit and well and, to the best of my knowledge, cancer-free. I will have the usual six-monthly CT scans to check that it has not come back, but my initial blood test is looking good. I go back to work on Tuesday after nine months off and the family and I now have our lives back again. I feel immensely lucky that I have survived this; I could not have got through it all without the support and prayers of my family and friends. Life looks rather wonderful right now and I appreciate everything so much more than I did before December 7th. I had my sixtieth birthday on September 29th. My company, Astrium, successfully launched a rocket that evening with another of my satellites on it, Astra 2E. I don't know anyone else that has had such a

big rocket sent up on their birthday!"

**Mike Comber (06):** "In 2012, I won my first Car Championship in a Caterham-style car and have just finished third in the MX5 Supercup Championship. I'm currently running a team of MX5 race cars. I have also been managing my own business in the motor trade for the last six months at Thrussington Garage, dealing in servicing, MOTs, bodywork and general maintenance."

**Rob Wild (98):** "Business is going well. We are still doing photography, but around twelve months ago, Rebecca and I set up an additional company, internationally dealing in French Antiques. I'm pleased to say that it has gone very well indeed and I'm rarely in the UK at the minute, so we are pushing that a great deal more than the photography. The family are all well and number three is on the way, due in early February. As they say in *Jaws*, 'We're gonna need a bigger boat!'"



Paul Holmes (74)

**Paul Holmes (74):** "I am a student once more, for the third time! I have matriculated at the Hochschule für Philosophie (the sister college to London University's Heythrop College) here in Munich to do a Certificate in Corporate Ethics (two semesters). My first degree was Philosophy and German, and my second was Building Surveying. After that, who knows; I will leave my current and long-standing employer in April."

**Laura Keay (13):** "I'm at Manchester University studying Architecture and will be off to Berlin in October to study Architectural Styles and Buildings."

**Debbie Pickford (96):** "I graduated from Birmingham in Geography and Town Planning and then decided on a completely unrelated career in HR! After working for a couple of multinationals and an SME, I set

up my own business, Isis HR, with a view to having a better work/life balance, although the business really took off! I married Adam in 2004, having been together since my first term at university. We have two sons, Daniel (6) and Oliver (4), and we are expecting our third child in November. We live in the small market town of Faringdon in Oxfordshire."

**Josh Taylor (11):** "The last year has been very busy for me. My degree at the University of Birmingham, where I am now in my third year, is going well. My squash (both playing and coaching) has gone from strength to strength. Playing-wise, I have recently joined the Professional Squash Association and have been training as much as possible around my degree. I have high aspirations to get my ranking up into the top 250 in the world by the end of the season, and I'm looking set to turn full-time next year, once I graduate. Coaching-wise, I have just accepted two roles: one as England Squash and Racketball Lead Regional Coach for the East Midlands, and another as Director of Squash for the Fantasy Squash Academy (based out of Nottingham Squash Rackets Club), which I will start after graduation, alongside training. It looks like it should be another busy, but successful, year ahead!"

**Felicity Norris (12):** "I am currently in my second year of Medical School at UCL and am loving living in London. After I graduate, I hope to qualify as a paediatrician and to continue my training in London. I recently went inter-railing in Europe and hope to do more travelling, as well as volunteering, next summer."



Felicity Norris (12) enjoying Paris

**Adrian Ferguson (88):** "After twenty years, I became bored of the casino business, so I went to university and graduated in January with a BSc (Hons) in Civil Engineering Surveying. I am now working as an offshore

surveyor and have relocated to Aberdeen."

**Lizzi Hewitt (08):** "Having spent two years working with high street brands such as Superdry, Karen Millen and French Connection as their PR and Marketing Coordinator for watches and accessories, I'm excited to continue my career with Lafarge Tarmac as their new Marketing Manager for Readymix across the UK."



Katy Campbell (10)

**Katy Campbell (10):** "I graduated this summer from Warwick University and have moved to Wales! I'm getting married on November 30th to Steve Quantick, a writer."

**Matilda Murphy (09):** "I have graduated from King's College London with a 2:1 in French and a Distinction in Oral French. I am currently studying at The University of Law, Bloomsbury, to become a Family Law Barrister. I am also doing pro bono work for the National Centre for Domestic Violence."

**Kelly Eaton (00):** "I am currently still running a hotel, but have recently decided to take a small break from my career and travel for a while. My partner and I, along with my three year old daughter, will be travelling to Hong Kong, the East Coast of Australia and then to Southern Thailand."

**Laura Frame (03):** "I'm delighted to announce my engagement to Adam Thompson, having been together for eleven years. I was a pupil at Grace Dieu and Ratcliffe from 1991 through to 2003 and, since leaving, I have had many wonderful experiences. One which stands out for me was cycling across Kenya for charity in 2011 and raising huge sums of money for breast, cervical and ovarian cancer. It was a once-in-a-lifetime experience and one that I look back

on with pride. I now work as part of a management team looking after celebrities and experts within the Media industry, a career that I simply love. The future groom achieved a Sports Science BSc (Hons) and a PGCE in Physical Education, including an MA, and works as a Sports Science Teacher and as Assistant Head of Post-16. Adam proposed at my favourite sunset bar, Café Mambo, on the Ibiza island. We watched the sunset and, at the very moment the sun disappeared, Adam got down on one knee - for the first time in my life, I was speechless with shock! I'm happy beyond words; we're living together in Nottinghamshire with a cat named Billie Jean and I'm simply over the moon to begin planning for a wedding in 2015."

**Rachael McMillan (09):** "Having completed a graduate scheme in just under a year, I am now a Marketing Manager at Tesco HQ, based in North London."



Olly Stabler (11)

**Olly Stabler (11):** "The only 'achievements' for me would be thus: I graduated from the University of Manchester with a Certificate of Higher Education in Theology; I got a place at the University of Leicester studying Law; and I formed a band called Satellite Empire and released a free CD ([www.satelliteempire.com/downloads](http://www.satelliteempire.com/downloads)). We are making quite a bit of noise at the moment, having been on Radio Leicester, Takeover Radio and, most recently, featuring on Music in Leicester's homepage."

**Tom Smith (12):** "After exceeding my A Level grades and moving on from Ratcliffe, I attended Aston University, where I am currently studying Multimedia Computing. My course focuses on web development and multimedia applications. In my first year, I achieved a First in my results and since then, I have re-enrolled for my second year. My next step is to

look for a suitable placement in my area of study."

**Harriet Bird (10):** "I finished university this summer with a Double Honours Degree in Criminology and Psychology. I am now working as a Project Executive at WHP, who are a reward and recognition programme."



Ruby Finnegan (10) & Harriet Bird (10)

**Ed Stiven (12):** "I'm currently studying for a Master of Engineering degree at the University of Warwick. As part of 'Engineers Without Borders Warwick', I helped to organise a project to Tanzania, where three other Engineering students and I worked with a Dutch NGO called 'I Love Wind Power, Tanzania' to build a one kilowatt wind turbine in a rural village called Kemgesi. We ran a training scheme for eight days, teaching theory lessons in the mornings and then practical lessons building the turbine in the afternoons."

**Suzie Christie (09):** "I am currently studying Live Events Production at Leicester College. I am now engaged to my long-term partner and we are living together happily in a flat."

**Tom Myring (03):** "I have bought some properties in Norway that I'm renovating and I'm thinking about buying some in the UK this year. All is going well so far."

**Amelia Selby (13):** "I had a busy summer visiting different countries around Europe before settling in at Sheffield to study Event Management. I'm hoping to become a wedding planner in the future!"

**Sophie Montgomery-Stuart (10):** "I am currently in my final year at the University of Surrey studying Business Management. I have just completed a year's work placement at Mattioli Woods, followed by a summer of volunteering and travelling in Tanzania with **Sophie Yell (10).**"

**Anil Ekanayake (01):** "After three years of working in Management Consultancy in the UK, Norway and Italy, I have decided to settle in one place, and recently took a role with the BT Group. On top of that, I got married and bought a flat in London - a busy six months!"

**Frankie Lo (05):** "I hope all my fellow Old Ratcliffians are well. In the past few years since university, I have been moving around the world working as a Personal Assistant, exploring a little of it too. As Christmas approaches, I hope everyone has a great time and remembers how much fun we had at our Immacs! I wish everyone a merry Christmas and a happy New Year."

**Sarah Whittaker (09):** "After leaving Ratcliffe in 2009 and going to Loughborough High School to study for my A Levels, I secured a place at the University of Manchester to study Business Management with Spanish. I am currently in my third year and am living abroad in Valladolid, Spain, working as an English Language Assistant in a school."

**Amy Lang (08):** "Last time you heard from me, I was in New Zealand, teaching and running a restaurant. I then spent eight months in Australia running another restaurant and getting travelling out of my system! I returned in November last year and, since then, I have been working all over the place! I am currently in the process of moving back to Leicester with my partner, Jack; he is a chef, so we are working towards opening our own pub/restaurant and looking forward to finally settling down."

**William Moore (03):** "I am currently in the process of relocating to Bruton in Somerset. I am due to marry Miss Kerry Rochford on July 5th 2014."



William Moore (03) & his fiancée Kerry

**Oli Brierley (05):** "I am now working and living in London, having moved there in January 2013. I had been living in Leeds for about seven or eight years, but I was ready for a change and wanted to pursue my Media Sales career, which inevitably brought me south, where I am from originally. I now work for Hearst Magazines UK, producing advertising plans in print and digital form for the likes of *Runner's World* and *Men's Health*. Some of my key clients include Nike, Puma, Lucozade and Jaguar, and I am lucky enough to attend regular events in stunning locations such as Harrods."

**Elizabeth Moore (10):** "I now work at Birmingham Airport as a Passenger Service Agent with Servisair."



Elizabeth Moore (10)

**Rob Phillips (94):** "After leaving Ratcliffe, I studied Engineering at De Montfort University, fought in Iraq and Afghanistan, landed every boy's dream job and now challenge domestic terrorism daily."

You could certainly say that **Kevin Yell's (71)** business, Ainsworth House and Gardens, continues to grow, hosting over seventy weddings this year. He is now licensed as a visiting preacher for the Episcopal Diocese of Oregon. On a different front, he has a play, *Entanglement*, being produced in January 2014 as part of Portland's Fertile Ground Festival of New Works, which he hopes will go further. Life is good and very busy!

**Georgia Gamble (11):** "After leaving Ratcliffe, I went to Manchester Metropolitan University. Unfortunately, it wasn't for me, as I didn't enjoy my course, but university isn't for everyone! Since then, I've been involved in various jobs within the aviation industry, including airport check-in, which was interesting to

say the least! I am currently cabin crew for Monarch Airlines, based at Birmingham International Airport, fulfilling my dream as a trolley dolly! I am now living in my own home with other dollies and loving every bit of it! Every day is different and there is never a dull moment. Dealing with extremely early mornings, bad turbulence and awkward passengers is the norm! I am looking forward to developing my skills and I'm aiming to work for an international airline so that I can explore more of the world. In the words of Del Boy, "the world is your lobster!"

**Susie Pollard (11):** "I'm currently working full-time at Pollard Boxes - I've been here for over a year. I still see some people from Ratcliffe, which is lovely."

**Andrew Harris (00):** "I became a Chartered Chemical Engineer a couple of years ago, and am currently plying my trade overseas as a contractor in Azerbaijan (where Eurovision was held last year). I'm busy working on onshore oil and gas design projects for BP."

**Tom Hazell (10):** "I have been working hard policing the streets of Wigston and Oadby over the past eighteen months or so. Recently, I decided to save up and do something I've wanted to do for as long as I can remember: take flying lessons. In August 2013, I completed my private pilot training and achieved my pilot's licence. In between shifts, I now try to enjoy the sights of England from the sky with friends and family (weather permitting), which isn't as often as I'd like, English weather and all!"



Tom Hazell (10) having flying lessons

**Mat Barston (05):** "After finishing my Geography degree at Bath Spa University, I am currently running various nightclub events in the South-West of England."



Alice Foulds (11)

**Alice Foulds (11):** "I am now at the start of my third and final year at Aberystwyth University. This summer, I worked in Aberystwyth and next year I will be Vice Captain for the hockey 1st Team."

**Kelly Walne (01):** "Our youngest started school this year, so they are now both at Grace Dieu and we're hoping for them to become Ratcliffians in the future."

**Arjun Chawda (10):** "I'm currently in my fourth and final year at university, having completed a successful placement at Enterprise. In the next couple of years, I hope to return to Enterprise's Accounts Team, where I will gain my CIMA qualifications to practise as a Chartered Accountant."

**Georgina Kerridge (12):** "I have just returned to Lincoln University for my second year studying Media and Communications. After a long and enjoyable summer traveling with my sister to New Zealand and Fiji, I am looking forward to getting back into university life and starting the hockey season with the Lincoln Ladies 1st XI."

**Elyssa Fagan (05):** "2012 and 2013 have been busy years for me! I made the move from Nottingham to Cheltenham in mid-2012 to work in PR at a specialist children's entertainment agency whose clients include a range of major toy accounts. I worked with a variety of clients, but my main one was LEGO. During 2012 and 2013, I hosted various press launches around the country for LEGO products, including LEGO Technic at the Gadget Show Live, the LEGO Castle press launch at Warwick Castle, the LEGO Galaxy Squad launch at the National Space Centre, and two consumer engagement events at LEGOLAND Windsor for the LEGO Hero Factory. I also gained coverage for LEGO in various national newspapers and magazines, as well

as organising press trips to LEGO's head office in Billund. I also worked on a campaign to heighten awareness for a new DVD from Warner Bros. Pictures. Most recently, I have acquired a new position heading up consumer and corporate PR at an agency back in the Leicestershire area so, from November 2013, I will be moving back to Nottingham for my job, but also to be closer to my friends and family. I also recently set up a lifestyle, gaming and beauty blog, [www.oneelleoftheball.com](http://www.oneelleoftheball.com). It's been a super busy year!"



Elyssa Fagan (05) (right)

**Adrian Fidler (98):** "I work as a Second Officer for Swire Pacific Offshore in the Merchant Navy and am currently in Labuan, Malaysia, due home for leave in November. I meet up with **Chay and Kier Creighton (00)** when I'm in Singapore and with **Andrew Espinasse (98), Sam Bird (98)** and other Old Ratcliffians when I'm home."

**Max Noss (10):** "I am now into my final year of university in Sheffield after successfully completing a summer internship at WPP in London. I was working within the Invention Team, mostly with Rolex and Jaguar Land Rover, and I hope to work there after I graduate."

**Justin Jones (08):** "For the past three years, I have been in London training for a BA Hons in Musical Theatre and Professional Dance at Doreen Bird College. I recently graduated and gained a First Class Honours Degree. During my three years in training, I got some great performance opportunities, including one in the Royal Variety with the boy band Take That, and a quick job in Malaysia with *Beauty and The Beast: The Musical*. However, most recently I have moved to Germany to take a part in the Disney Broadway Musical, *Tarzan*. I've been in *Tarzan* since April and it's just over a one year contract."

The performing industry is always an uncertain one, but it's incredibly rewarding. Who knows where I'll end up next!"

**Philip Remedios (81):** "Our family has been well here in Tampa Bay, Florida. Our seventeen year old is in her final year in high school and looks to be following her sister in the Medicine/Biochemistry field. We will visit England again next summer and will definitely stop by Ratcliffe for another visit and hopefully also arrange a Class of '81 reunion in London."

**Daniel Jackson (94):** "After leaving Ratcliffe, I spent six years at Nottingham University before taking up a job with the Forensic Science Service. I joined Dr J H Burgoyne and Partners LLP as a Fire Investigator in 2006, and relocated to the Dubai office in April 2013."

**Yoon Joo Kim (91):** "I've been living in Korea since I left Ratcliffe. I went to university here, majoring in English. I got married in 1997 and have two lovely girls. This year, I opened an English Learning Centre for elementary school children, which is called 'Samsung English'. Here in Korea, there are many private learning centres, especially English ones."

**Joshua Simpson (09):** "I have recently graduated from Northumbria University with a BA in TV and Film Studies, and I have just been offered a job as a Recruitment Consultant at Hays in their Nottingham branch."



Joshua Simpson (09)

**Christopher Jee (07):** "After leaving Ratcliffe, I went to St Kevin's, where I spent a year with **James Gisborn (07)** as a GAP tutor. I started reading History at the University of Exeter in 2008 and graduated in 2011. I then travelled to Nepal with my long-term girlfriend, where we bought a diesel-powered rickshaw and drove 3200



Christopher Jee (07)

kilometres, from Pokhara to India's southernmost city of Trivandrum. In January 2012, I went to the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst, where I was commissioned in December 2012 into the Royal Regiment of Artillery. After attending my Young Officers' Course, I took my first posting in the 3rd Regiment Royal Horse Artillery in Hohne, Germany. Since then I have been deployed on exercise to Kenya and look forward to joining the Regiment in Theatre in the New Year."

**Hannah Stokes (née Derbyshire) (03):** "I am half way through studying for my MA in Religious Studies and I have taken up a position in a new college as Head of Humanities and leader of the Duke of Edinburgh's Award. **Robyn (04)**, my sister, has made a life in Spain, teaching English as a Foreign Language."

**Peter Astill (71):** "I have been accepted into the second year of a four year formation programme, which will hopefully mean that I will be ordained a permanent deacon, God willing. This is based upon studies at St Mary's College, Oscott. Helen attends with me at the monthly Saturday seminars. Please remember us in prayer."

**Dave Ricks (07):** "My business, Dave Ricks Web and Design, is still going strong, with recent developments including the introduction of film and DVD production to my portfolio. A recent training DVD that I made is now selling well on an international scale. All areas of the business are booming and I am taking on numerous exciting new projects. I continue to work in the Ratcliffe Drama Department, teaching Technical Drama students about lighting and sound in productions; the group this year is larger than ever. I

have also taken on the finalisation of the Ratcliffian Association website, which will be complete by the time you receive this magazine. I urge you all to take a look and see the wealth of benefits that can come from using the site regularly. Best wishes to all."



Dave Ricks (07)

**Rita Chan (97):** "I am married to Cyrus Ng, with an almost three year old son, Cayden Ng. I am working at Converse HK as a Merchandising Manager."

**Alex Chitenje (97):** "In April 2009, I decided to join the British Armed Forces. Since then, life has become much busier and now involves a lot of travelling. Communication with Old Ratcliffians has been great, especially on Facebook. Currently, I am serving in Afghanistan and my tour ends in October. I hope that, one day, I will have the chance to catch up with my fellow ORs. It is a great feeling to be a Ratcliffian."



Alex Chitenje (97)

**Sylvester Cheung (95):** "Since being made a partner, I have embarked on numerous interesting architectural projects within the county, one of which is the Allerton Visitor Centre in Loddington near Oakham. The project is a conversion of an old farm shed into a multi-purpose conference

and visitor centre. The building is used by the Allerton Trust to promote sustainable farming and also by the local WI, as well as being available to local residents for private hire. It is the winner of the Leicestershire and Rutland ProCon Sustainable Development Award for 2012. I am now about to embark upon a new venture; having been a partner to a local architectural practice, I have now set up and am running my own practice, Sylvester Cheung Architects Ltd."

**Charlotte Power (10):** "Since I left Ratcliffe, I have completed my A Levels (Biology, Chemistry and Philosophy and Ethics) and have also undertaken several months of work experience in dairy, equine and veterinary areas. This year, I started a Veterinary degree at the Royal Veterinary College in London. I still enjoy sports; I continued to play netball throughout Sixth Form and have signed up for the team at university. I still keep in contact with some friends from Ratcliffe."

**Antony Raine (02):** "I left the Army this year following five great years as Cavalry Officer in the Queen's Royal Lancers, finishing as Captain. I managed to see a fair bit of the world during my time, serving in Canada, France, South America and on a seven-month operational tour to Afghanistan. I am now a singer-songwriter based in London and have just self-released an EP, *Farewell to Arms*, which can be found on iTunes, Amazon and Spotify!"

**Tim Adams (98):** "Since my last update, I have moved my base to the Island of the Gods in Bali, where I opened a restaurant called Mantra (winner of the 'Best Bar' twice last year), situated in the bustling streets of Petitenget. I am currently building a villa project in Ubud, Bali, and still continue to consult various branding and F&B projects worldwide. I have been married to Anatria Praptiasih for two years now and we have a son, 'Rocket', who is twenty-two months old and full of beans! Anatria is a well-known performing artist here in Indonesia and I normally call her 'Tatis', which is her stage name (you can check out her latest video, 'Whatever', on YouTube). We plan to have another child as soon as she can take time off from touring. My base is

in Bali, although I spend a lot of time travelling through Southeast Asia. Currently, we are embarking upon a number of new projects, including two restaurants and a clothing label that we hope to launch in Jakarta sometime next year."

**Mike Ham (08):** "I just graduated from De Montfort University with a 2:1 in Media Production. During my final year, I worked alongside Leicester City Council, Leicestershire County Council and Leicestershire Chamber of Commerce, producing video content for them as volunteer work, including a DVD toolkit on sexual health and relationships. It has just had a very successful launch and received good feedback. It will be circulating in schools in the Leicestershire area soon. My videos can be viewed at [www.youtube.com/hammike92](http://www.youtube.com/hammike92)."

**Hannah Tyler (11):** "Since leaving Ratcliffe, I've been studying Religion at the University of Central Lancashire. Whilst being at university, I've participated in various conferences, both politically and socially. I have thoroughly enjoyed the past two years and can't wait for the third. I've also joined the University of Central Lancashire's Cheerleading Team, the UCLan Tigers, and I was recently voted in to be the team's Treasurer. I've met some amazing people through cheerleading and have been away on holiday and entered various competitions with the team (our best result being second place in 2012). After graduation, I plan to do either a PGCE or an MA."



Hannah Tyler (11)

**Victoria Meynell (née Illingworth) (00):** "I have been extremely busy this year opening up my business, Chris Meynell and Family Funerals. My father-in-law, husband and myself have gone into business together. We are based in Syston and are passionate about delivering a family-owned and run service that is very competitively priced. I continue to work part-time at Glenfield Hospital as a Research Nurse and, obviously, our three beautiful children keep me busy too! Life is good."

**Mike Spurr (94):** "I now have a degree in Food Science and Human Nutrition. I love travelling and have visited over twenty countries. Despite damaging the majority of my body through twenty-five years of rugby, I still love skiing and mountain biking. I work at Pepsico as a Research and Development Project Manager, shaping the future of snacks - you could say that I'm a chief crisp taster! I have multiple patents to my name. I now live locally with the better half and Morris the dog."

**Tommy Castleman (01):** "Since leaving Ratcliffe, I have trained as a carpenter, started a property development company and, oddly, also become a part-owner of a pyrotechnics company. During this time, my band was signed to a large European label, and I often spend my time on tour. I got married in 2011. I'm currently looking to open a small antiques dealership in Barcelona specialising in German beer steins."

**Ryan Patel (11):** "I've just finished my A Levels at Wyggeston and Queen Elizabeth I College (QE College) and am now going to Trinity College, Cambridge to read Economics."

**Simon Tyas (71):** "I have been married to Mhairi since 1992 and have been living in Scotland since 1986, which I think makes me an honorary Scot. I completed my Royal Air Force service in 2009 after a period of thirty-one very happy and fulfilling years, during which time I was a security officer responsible for Royal and VIP flights, a pilot, and for twenty-five years, an air traffic controller. After all of that, I was honoured to receive the L G Groves Memorial Award for Flight Safety, the Chief of the Air Staff Commendation and, in 2002, the MBE. Since leaving the Royal Air Force, I have been

working for Vodafone UK in Customer Services. All but one of our five children have left home and are fully involved in their interesting lives, and Caitlin is studying hard at Glasgow University. So, I'm still alive, healthy and happy!"

**Nicole Parry (00):** "I am currently a private chef, having worked for Richard Branson for years. I am now working on a TV show – details to be confirmed."

**Sameer Pattni (99):** "I have travelled to New York, Dubai, Mumbai and Goa recently - I can't get enough of it! Catch me if you can!"

**Jeanette Reilly (86):** "I'm now based in Berlin and working as Head of Marketing for KPMG."



Jeanette Reilly (86)

**Simmy Leung (97):** "I am now married with two boys, living and working in London. **Alan (02)** lives in Hong Kong; he and his wife are now expecting their first child, due in January. **Alex (06)** is now living in Oxford, where he is studying for his PhD degree."

**James Connolly (06):** "Having attended Ratcliffe from Years 7 to 11, I then studied Management Sciences at Loughborough University and I'm now a Technical Account Manager at Microsoft. I live in Reading, where our UK office is based, and travel around the country working with customers in Yorkshire, London, the Midlands, the South Coast, and even one in Jersey!"

**Peter De Simone (71):** "Despite a long association with Ratcliffe from my time as an Upper Sixth Former and Oxbridge candidate (1970-71), with frequent visits back, I somehow never learned about the Rosminian connection to St Etheldreda's Church in Ely Place, London. I visited the UK this past August to see some friends and to catch my cousin's wife, Lucy Robinson, playing opposite Kim

Cattrall at the Old Vic in Tennessee William's *Sweet Bird of Youth*. **Frank Finnegan (72)** and his wife, Chris, and David and Mary Reeves joined me for a delightful night out at the theatre. The next morning, the five of us met up at St Etheldreda's, and I could not have been more impressed, both with the historic structure, and particularly with the fabulous music, delivered by an exceptional organist and a brilliant quartet of singers! **Fr Tom Deidun (62)** said a Latin Mass, and afterwards we retired to the ancient pub next door for a pint. I will not stop in London again without a visit to St Etheldreda's."

**Ben Curran (76):** "Greetings to all my Ratcliffe colleagues from 1973 through to 1976. I am alive and well here in my home town in Washington DC, where I've been kicking around having fun with my two kiddos, Jacob (8) and Matiws (4), and my lovely bride of ten years, Mimi Curran. I invite any of you to pop in for a visit when or if you are ever in DC. Since working in the mid-80s in the Sudan with the International Rescue Committee in the world of refugee camp management, I have been in the States serving as the NGO Coordinator with the Federal Emergency Management Agency. Recently, I took on the management of a large part of our agency's Disaster Cadre Workforce. There's never a dull moment!"



Ben Curran (76) (far right) at the New York Dinner

**Christopher Murphy (83):** "After working as a Paralegal for the Civil Service, first in the HMRC, then the RCPO, the Northern Ireland Office, and finally in the Serious Fraud Office, I was mobilised by the Army in June 2013 for a year's military service. I am currently posted to Kandahar Airfield. Out of sixty-three soldiers who were in my call-up at Chilwell Military Training Centre, I was the

oldest by several years, but I was one of the forty who passed the course successfully."

**Helen Yiend (née Moir) (98):** "We moved into a flat in Putney, having undergone an exciting extension project; it's now a slightly bigger, perfectly-formed flat. We were very lucky to welcome Montgomery (Monty to his mates) Evan Yiend into the world in January this year. He surprised us a little, arriving the Sunday after I finished work on the Friday - efficient use of maternity leave! We feel very lucky to have such a gorgeous guy in our lives. I still work at M&C Saatchi in the Sport and Entertainment Team and have enjoyed keeping up with my colleagues and clients while on maternity leave (Monty loves a trip to the office!). Life outside of work is almost as busy but slightly less crazy; I'm still recovering from the Olympic madness! I still see lots of **Georgina Spencer (née Brittain) (98)** and **Sam Clemons (98)**, with his brood of four, and I have mummy meets with **Jane Bellard (née Laurie) (00)**. I enjoy keeping up with everyone else on Facebook!"



*Christian von Massenbach (95) & his wife, Katharina*

**Christian von Massenbach (95):** "Three and a half years ago, I moved to the UK with my wife, Katharina. I now work in London for Evercore Partners. I deal with institutional clients in Germany and Switzerland and raise capital for third-party Private Equity Funds. We are currently living in Hambleton (Surrey), but will most likely move to East Sussex by the end of the year. My wife is running a successful online children's shoe business, Menthe et Grenadine ([www.menthetgrenadine.co.uk](http://www.menthetgrenadine.co.uk)), and we regularly take part in school sales."

**Paul Davenport (82):** "I've been working for Defra since its inception in 2001. I'm living in Crayford in South East London. At the end of October 2013, it was five years since a little boy was placed with us for adoption. Dylan will be eleven in December, has now been adopted, and is certainly no longer little! There have been a few challenges these past five years. I attended the 25th Anniversary Reunion for the Class of '82 in 2007. I also came up last year, and I hope to be at Ratcliffe for the 2014 Reunion Weekend, as most of us will have just hit, or be about to hit, the 'Big 5-0'. I bade farewell to **Shiranth Fernando (82)**, who emigrated with his family to Australia at the beginning of 2013. He sold his dental practice in Kent and is now working at a large dental hospital in Adelaide."

**Patrick Farrelly (68):** "I'm writing this from Akerreta, a hamlet in Spain on The Camino (The Pilgrim's Way of St James). My wife and I started at St-Jean-Pied-de-Port in France on Wednesday, doing the thirteen and a half miles and 4500 feet ascent of the Pyrenees to the monastery at Roncesvalles. We are a day's walk from Pamplona, after which we will go on to Leon, before returning home to North Devon. We did the French section from Le Puy in May and plan to return to complete the Way to Santiago de Compostela in April next year."

**Bob Forstner (72):** "This year, we have taken on two new brands: Brabus, who build special Mercedes and Smart cars, and RUF, who build special Porsche-based cars. The Car Hotel is also thriving, with more and more Mayfair and part-time residents entrusting us with their cars."



*Bob Forstner (72) (right) with Gareth Lloyd at the Old Ratcliffians 2012 London Drinks Reception*



*Simon Fox (72)*

**Simon Fox (72):** "I recently cycled from Kingston upon Thames to Benitachell in Spain for fun, raising more than £2500 for the Alzheimer's Society along the way. In all, we rode about 2200 kilometres through Loire, Bordeaux and Rioja. It took a month (of which two hours was rain), involved ascending Everest one and a half times (figuratively speaking) and we consumed 148 bottles of wine (between six of us)!"



*Tony Ryan (41)*

**Tony Ryan (41):** "My ninety-first birthday has just passed, but nothing of great note happens to me these days, although I continue to deliver 'Meals on Wheels' from the local hospital to two different suburbs. I am still a 'subject' in the international scientific study of 'older drivers', known as OzCanDrive. This is a five-year longitudinal study which involves having a tracking device fitted in my car, periodically answering test questions and having various physical and mental tests to do. I have been a participant for about three years now. Sadly, my adopted daughter, Cathy, died in January this year (secondary breast cancer) and Jeremy, one of my grandsons (who is in hotel management in Sydney, Australia), has just been operated on for thyroid cancer. His prognosis is, as yet, uncertain."

**Amy Green (née Carter) (05):** "I left the Ratcliffe Sixth Form in 2005. I then went to Aston University and gained a 2:1 in Politics with International Relations. I started my

job at the Child Support Agency in Nottingham four and a half years ago. In 2012, I married my husband, John-Paul Green, and on April 1st this year, our daughter, Charlotte Jessica Green was born."

**Michael Powell (59):** "This photograph was taken in August 2012 in **Fr Louis Beasley-Suffolk's (60)** favourite pub (the Nog Inn, where he has his own chair!). We were celebrating the christening of our daughter's youngest boy (Archie), who had been baptised during the Sunday Mass by Louis in his church, St Luke and St Theresa, in Wincanton.



*Fr Louis Beasley-Suffolk (60) with Michael Powell (59) after his grandson's christening*

It was a lovely service, performed prior to Mass in front of the whole congregation. Nevertheless, Fr Louis may not thank me for including an extract from a webpage that nicely encapsulates his efforts on behalf of his parishioners: 'Visiting St Luke's, with its congregation of around eighty that day, its spread of people of every age and its warm, friendly atmosphere certainly gave me the impression that here is a lively and enthusiastic community who find in this act of worship something of enormous value in the living of their lives.'"

**Chris Daly (76):** "When I left Ratcliffe, I never thought I would end up doing this! In 2004, I flew my first light hovercraft and became addicted to these wonderful machines. I have since gone on and competed at three World Championships. I am also the current Chairman of the Hovercraft Club of Great Britain, as well as Managing Director of High Cross Hovercraft Ltd. Both of my sons have competed in the Junior World Championships, with Joshua achieving second place and, two years later, Angus achieving fourth. The Hovercraft Club of Great Britain is spearheading an Engineering



*Chris Daly (76) & his hovercraft*

Challenge for schools, colleges and youth groups to build hovercrafts and to compete in the National Championships. It would be great to see Ratcliffe students competing with the best in the UK."

**Keelan Kukk (10):** "I have just finished my placement year working as a Trainee Commercial Analyst at Dunelm Mill's Store Support Centre, and recently joined with work colleagues to do a ten kilometre 'Wolf Run' for charity. I would definitely recommend it to anyone looking for a challenge! Now, I'm returning to Loughborough University for my final year, studying IT Management for Business. I'm really looking forward to getting back into the societies at university; I have a black belt grading in Shaolin Kung Fu coming up and I also play first alto saxophone with the Tuxedo Swing Band."

**Jenny Batty (09):** "I work for Paragon, a Sports Management and VIP Events Company. My role is within their Hospitality and Sales sector, working at events and organising day-to-day sales and memorabilia. It is based in Richmond in London, so I am currently living in West Kensington. I am still in touch with a lot of the people from my year (mainly some of the girls) and we still have an annual holiday. In particular, I see **Hannah Rumming (09), Amy Williams (09), Roxy Hayes (09)** and **Emily Sowdon (09)**, but I catch up with everyone else in our year when we go back home for the holidays."

**Anup-Prashant Raja (04):** "I graduated from the University of Birmingham in 2012 with a degree in Economics. Since then, I have been abroad a few times on holiday and had two temporary jobs - one as a Manager at Boots in Fosse Park over the Christmas period last year, and the other working in Accounts at Art Form in Loughborough. I am currently working for my father in Leicester,

who has a textile company that also sells jewellery. I also play a lot of football and cricket. I had a fantastic season for my team, Whetstone Cricket Club, where I took twenty-three wickets during the season at ten runs a piece, averaged eighteen with the bat and was asked to captain the side twice. This was a great honour and experience, especially as I was the second youngest player both times, with some members of the team being well into their fifties. I am now planning a permanent move to France, which should be completed by the end of this year. I am looking to make a fresh start and to enjoy new challenges, as well as the opportunity to further my advanced knowledge of the French language."

**Simon Chow (98):** "When I left Ratcliffe at the end of Year 11, I then went to Loughborough Grammar School for two years. After that, I returned to Hong Kong to attend university. I met my wife there and we finally got married in 2010, having been together for ten years. We had our first son, Julius, in August 2013. I am currently working as a Sales Manager at Cloer Elektrogeräte GmbH."

**Arnold Ebrahim (92):** "My daughter, Alexia, has recently turned one and has started walking! She was born in July last year, and she now weighs around 23lbs. She loves swimming and football."

**Suzie Barlow (née Whittington) (99):** "I got married in 2010 at Beaumanor Hall and I had a little girl, Ella Charlotte, in January 2012. I am currently working at the RNIB College in Loughborough."

**Denis Desmond (68):** "I left Ratcliffe and read Philosophy and then Law at Liverpool University. I have been a practising barrister since then; my chambers are in Birmingham. I also sit as a part-time Crown Court Judge in the Midlands area. I live in a village in Worcestershire. I have two children and four grandchildren."

**Meera Uppal (02):** "After I left Ratcliffe (a decade ago!) I studied Pharmacy at university and have been working as a locum Pharmacist for the past few years. I got married last October and lived in Maida Vale in London with my husband, Davinderjit, who is a Quantity Surveyor. We loved it there, but have now moved back to

the Midlands with the hope of settling here, as we are expecting our first child at the beginning of 2014 and would like to be close to our families. I always look back at my time at Ratcliffe with fond memories and feel very grateful for the experience and the lifelong friendships that I made there."



Meera Uppal (02)

**India Hobbs-Mauger (05):** "Charlie (03) and I had a beautiful little girl, Millie-Mary, in August this year. Lucas loves his little sister and enjoys chatting to her as she gurgles and smiles away at him. He isn't too impressed that she doesn't want to swordfight with him or dress up as a Power Ranger yet, but I've told him it won't be long! We all continue to enjoy life here in Italy and most of the summer holiday this year was spent down on the beach. Lucas is now in his last year at preschool and is fluent in Italian and English. Our business, Appassionata, continues to thrive and keeps us all very busy. We are about to harvest the vineyard to get our second year's crop of red and white wine. **Camilla (05)** has just gone back to England to start a three year course at Nottingham Trent University, and **Sebastian (07)** is off to Sri Lanka next month to do some charity work, having finished his course at the University of Florence back in May."



India (05) & Charlie Hobbs-Mauger (03) with Lucas

**Philippa Gamble (06):** "I ran the Virgin London Marathon in April this year, which was my first (and, most probably, last!) attempt at this distance. Running 26.2 miles was definitely one of the toughest challenges I have undertaken, not just

physically, but mentally as well. My training began in a very cold and wet January, which involved running home from work most evenings with a very unstylish luminous backpack carrying my winter coat and heels, through Central London! After four months of training in miserable weather, the day of the Marathon was strikingly hot - ten degrees warmer than it had been for my training, which proved to be a whole new challenge! I can honestly say the first fourteen-ish miles were actually good fun; I had lots of friends and family out supporting me, which made all the difference, but at mile twenty-three, I lost all the feeling in my legs and feet, making the last three miles pretty hideous. I am, however, very proud to have run the marathon in a time of four hours and three minutes, and to have raised £1500 for Loros along the way. It was certainly a memorable achievement and it meant a lot to have raised money for such an incredible charity as well - thank you to everyone who donated!"

**Michael Evers (66):** "After leaving Ratcliffe in July 1966, I attended De La Salle Grammar School, Sheffield, to take my A Levels. I was in the 1st XV rugby team there, playing as a flanker for two seasons. From 1969, I undertook a four-year training contract with Peat Marwick Mitchell & Co, Chartered Accountants. From 1982, I was Company Accountant for an NEI subsidiary until they were taken over by Rolls Royce in 1988. I married Sarah Scott in August 1986; our son, Charles, was born in August 1987 and our daughter, Katherine, in July 1990. I was Deputy Chief Accountant with Capita plc, Sheffield until late 1993. In 1996, I became part of a successful Management Buyout (MBO) Team for Indigo 4 Systems Limited, a computer software house with forty personnel. Our products are installed in NHS, private and community hospitals across the UK. My company remains integral to my life. As a family, we've enjoyed several long holidays exploring South Africa, where my mother lived for twenty-five years until 2006. My interests include playing tennis, running, travel, classical music, following Test Cricket and Rugby Union, plus spending time with my close family, not forgetting our young black Labrador named Willow."

**Conal O'Donnell (68)** attended Magdalene College, Cambridge, from

1969 to 1972, followed by a vast and varied career in reporting. He was a BBC Producer and News Editor from 1992 to 2006 and received a Fellowship in Broadcast Journalism UCE (now BCU), Birmingham.

**Karen Grace (née Kruger) (00):** "I married Matthew Grace in 2007 and, in April 2009, we welcomed our first little girl, Olivia. In January 2013, our second daughter, Emma, was born. I have stayed in touch with many Old Ratcliffians, including **Liz Mapletoft (née Bramwell) (00)** and **Michelle Gurney (née Hall) (00)**. Life is really great thirteen years after leaving Ratcliffe - I can't believe how quickly that time has gone! Kind regards to all Old Ratcliffians; I hope to see you soon."



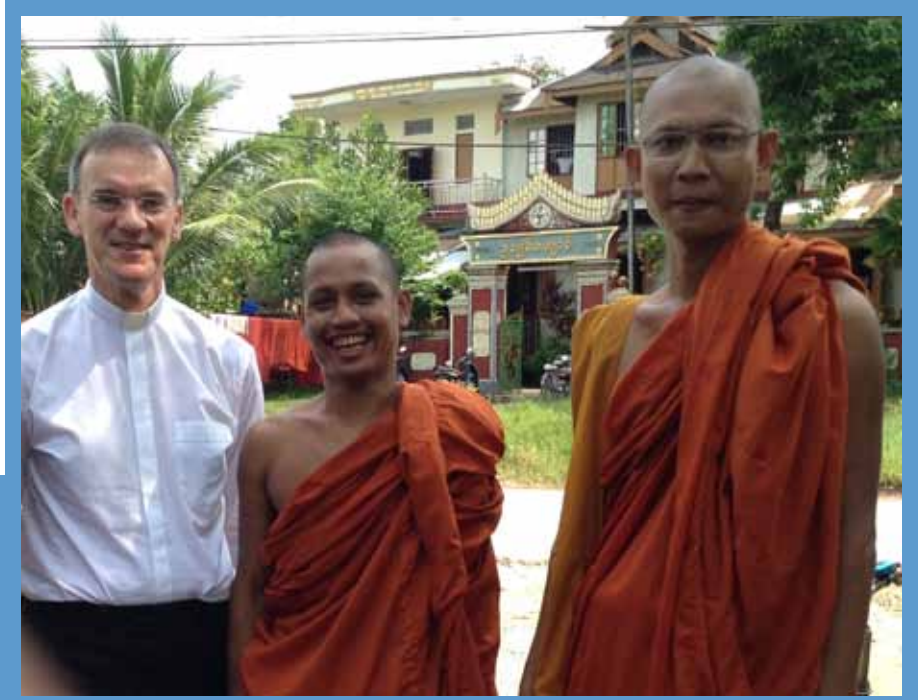
Karen Grace (née Kruger) (00)

**Michael Shipster (68):** "After leaving Ratcliffe and spending a gap year in Alabama, I went to St Edmund Hall, Oxford to read Politics, Philosophy and Economics. On graduating in 1972, I spent three years working as an economist for the Botswana Government, based in the new capital, Gaborone, on the edge of the Kalahari Desert. There, in 1974, I married Jackie, the South African sister of a close friend from Oxford. At the end of 1975, we travelled overland back to England on a motorcycle, taking a somewhat vagrant route via East Africa, India, the Himalayas, Afghanistan and Iran. After a post-graduate degree in Development Economics, I joined the Foreign Office, where I had a variety of postings, both in London and overseas, including the Soviet Union, India, Zambia, South Africa and the US. While in Washington DC, we learned to sail and, when I left Diplomatic Service in 2006, we took six months to sail back to England by way of the Caribbean, Bermuda and the Azores. In 2008, I joined Rolls-Royce (aerospace, not cars) as International Director, where I ran the company's network of overseas offices, supporting

sales, business development and corporate strategy. On retiring in 2013, the sea once again beckoned. After completing a refit of our ketch, I sailed to the Mediterranean, with the idea of continuing in 2014 to the Black Sea and Crimea before returning to home waters in 2015. When I'm not sailing, I work as International Advisor for Riders for Health ([www.riders.org](http://www.riders.org)), a UK-based NGO that provides motorcycle transport for the rural health sector in Africa. Jackie and I live in Winchester and London and we have three adult children."

*Bishop John Arnold (71) with Buddhist Monks in Burma.*

*To read about his fascinating year of travel, visit our website, [www.ratcliffianassociation.co.uk](http://www.ratcliffianassociation.co.uk)*



## An Old Ratcliffian Reunion The Class of '81: Thirty-Two Years On!

On a balmy July weekday evening, in the depths of greenest Hampshire, **Stephanie Shepherd (née Bury)** gathered together fifteen of her old classmates. Even with the internet and social media, not everyone could be contacted, and for some it was just not convenient. 1981 was the third year of girls at Ratcliffe and, of the twelve in our year, we had Stephanie, **Claire Bury, Catherine Carr, Fiona Campbell, Suzanne Buckland (née Armstrong), Michele Pathe** and **Rachel Boaler** in attendance, which was quite an impressive turnout. The boys (well, middle aged men now!) were **Sean Kelly** (and the beautiful Kate), **David Moss, Richard Wilson, Andrew Simpson, Giles O' Flynn, Peter O' Donnell, Andrew Crossley** and **Jeremy Heath**. **David Tarimo** was in Tanzania and was ready for us to Skype - sorry, David, we totally forgot! It's fair to say that no-one looked any different than they did in our graduation photo, despite the Duran Duran outfits then and the favouring of white jeans now! Simmo's hair is a different colour nowadays, but that could probably be said for a few others as well. Peter made the

comment that his face took longer to wash now that his hair was receding, but otherwise, we're doing OK!

Stephanie was a superb hostess; she put on a marvellous spread and was ably assisted by Imogen and Felix, two of her four children, who were great waiters and made sure no-one was without a drink. As it was a

Thursday night, there were late trains to catch and some long distances to drive, so the gathering finished at a sensible, middle-aged hour, with many promises to be better at keeping in touch. It was left to the five girls staying overnight to say what an enormous success the event had been. Thank you, Stephanie!



*The Class of '81: Back row, L to R: Richard Wilson, Jeremy Heath, Andrew Simpson, Suzanne Buckland (née Armstrong), Peter O'Donnell, Catherine Carr, Sean Kelly, Andrew Crossly, David Moss & Giles O'Flynn. Front row, L to R: Stephanie Shepherd (née Bury), Claire Bury, Michele Pathe, Rachel Boaler & Fiona Campbell*

## Celebrating Sixty Years as Rosminians

On 15th September this year, three Rosminian priests gathered at Ratcliffe to celebrate sixty years as members of the Institute of Charity.

On 15th September 1953, **John Bland (53)**, **Peter Reynolds (53)**, **Michael Hill (49)**, **John Daley** and five others joined the Rosminian novitiate at Wadhurst in Sussex. Peter Reynolds is in a nursing home in Cardiff, where Michael and John had the first of two Jubilee celebrations.

Unable to be with them in Cardiff, Fr John Daley joined his fellow Jubilarians, Michael and John, at Ratcliffe for this special day. They concelebrated Mass in the Chapel, following which the College hosted a delicious luncheon for them and their invited guests.

Other priests who joined the Order with them in 1953 but who have subsequently died are: **Eugene Monaghan (53)**, Chris Smith, Joe Hassett, **Michael Waters (53)** and **Michael Hare (51)**.

John Bland and Michael Hill have spent most of their ministry in New Zealand. Peter Reynolds and John Daley have been in various parishes around the UK. All four had been on the staff at Ratcliffe early in their careers.

**Fr John Bland IC (53)**



*Fr John Daley, Fr Peter Reynolds (53) (in the photograph behind), Fr John Bland (53) & Fr Michael Hill (49)*

## Update on the Tilinanu Orphanage in Malawi



*Alice Pulford (07) with the girls from the orphanage*

The Tilinanu Orphanage in Malawi, a charity founded by Old Ratcliffian **Alice Pulford (07)**, continues to go from strength to strength. This year, Tilinanu (which supports, feeds and educates thirty-four girls and feeds one hundred and seventy-five community orphans daily) has extended its outreach programmes even further! Diploma programmes have also started recently, providing the girls at the orphanage with further education. Three boys' foster homes are now up and running and, only last month, work was completed on the construction of Mkunkhu School. This school is set to educate nine hundred children in rural areas.

The link with Ratcliffe College remains strong, as it does with Grace Dieu, where the children donated 198 kilograms of old school uniforms. There were proud faces and huge smiles as the uniforms were distributed at Mkunkhu School!

Their outreach programmes also continue, as they rebuild homes for the elderly and offer medical advice and assistance; 85,000 people have received vaccinations.

To help facilitate greater change, Alice, along with her sister, Nina, have set up a foundation called 'The Love Support Unite Foundation'. Their aim is to offer diverse volunteer placements to young people in all areas, from building and teaching to medicine and media. If you are interested in a volunteer placement, go to [www.lsu.live.co.uk](http://www.lsu.live.co.uk).

None of this would be possible without the help and support of the Leicestershire community. Alice would like

to give special thanks to Grace Dieu for their uniform donation and sports fundraisers, and also to Ratcliffe for their continued support, from Anne Taylor's Colours Days to sponsorship of the orphans.

To follow Tilinanu's progress, please visit [www.lovetilinanu.org.uk](http://www.lovetilinanu.org.uk) or contact the girls at [www.lsu.live.co.uk](http://www.lsu.live.co.uk). If you have ever thought about volunteering in the UK or Malawi, please contact Alice and Nina at [lsu@live.co.uk](mailto:lsu@live.co.uk).

**Alice Pulford (07)**



## Members of the Class of '68 Revisit their Alma Mater

23rd-24th November 2013

### Ratcliffe College

Setting foot inside our old school fifty years after our starting term was always going to invoke strong emotions. That initial anxious feeling as you neared Ratcliffe and drove up that familiar tree-lined drive to start another boarding term was still there. As always, it quickly dispersed upon meeting familiar faces in the car park. No longer carrying tuck boxes, immediately recognisable, but looking a little more time-weathered, I was greeting inmates, some of whom I'd not seen for an intervening period of forty-five years: **Denis Desmond (68)**, **Michael Evers (66)**, **Patrick Farrelly (68)**, **Conal O'Donnell (68)**, **Stephen Moorhouse (68)** (communicating by text) and **Michael Shipster (68)**, who all joined the school in 1963.

The School tour, kindly organised for us by Jackie Bennett, was revealing: the cloisters, with their worn stone floors, and the quadrangle had really not changed at all, but the feeling was of much less formality in the teaching rooms, which has to be positive. The Sixth Form building was totally new and very impressive, but on visiting the Music Hall, nostalgia set in, and I could still see **Fr Morris** (Father President at the time) sweeping in at 8pm in his swirling black cloak so that an evening of classical music could commence.

The conversation was as if there had been no time gap; it was non-stop from arriving at midday on Saturday



*L to R: Michael Evers (66), Conal O'Donnell (68), Denis Desmond (68), Michael Shipster (68), Patrick Farrelly (68) & Robert Affleck (68)*

morning, continuing through lunch with Father President, and even whilst encouraging the Ratcliffe rugby team to clinch a 20-12 victory, up to departing on Sunday morning. Saturday evening in The Star at Thrussington proved to be a suitably festive occasion, including a brief meet-up with **Andrew Gamble (68)** to recall some of the Ratcliffe sporting stars of the day and a very good dinner afterwards.

One of the main highlights for me, apart from the important business of catching up with contemporaries, was meeting **Fr Tobin (59)** at his home

within the Rosmini Centre, as I could finally congratulate him on somehow getting me through Chemistry A Level in 1968!

Since returning home to my wife Lesley in Surrey, I've been brought back to earth, focusing on plans for the weddings of not one, but both of our daughters in 2014. But re-living memories can certainly be quite enjoyable from time to time.

**Robert Affleck (68)**

*To read more about the Reunion of the Class of '68, visit our website, [www.ratcliffianassociation.co.uk](http://www.ratcliffianassociation.co.uk)*

# BIRTHS

To all Ratcliffians - please let us know of any Old Ratcliffian family births for inclusion in next year's magazine by emailing your news to [jbennett@ratcliffe.leics.sch.uk](mailto:jbennett@ratcliffe.leics.sch.uk).



*Proud parents Hannah and Adrian Farnham (95) with Esme & baby Sage Katharine*

**Adrian Farnham (95)** and his wife, Hannah, have a new addition to their family. Sage Katharine was born on 21st January this year at a healthy 7lb 8oz. Sage is a sister to Esme.



*Hazel looking after her new sister, Robyn Nancy*

**Naomi Warman (née Hall) (99):** "Robyn Nancy Warman, a little sister for Hazel, was born in Brighton on August 15th."

**Louise Alton (née Ardron) (05):** "Isaac Alexander Alton, my first son, was born on February 27th 2013. This photo was taken just a few hours after he was born."



*Isaac Alexander Alton*

**Tim and Alex Slack (née Gamble) (03)** are proud to announce the birth of their son, Charles Patrick, who was born on May 20th 2013 at the Leicester General Hospital, weighing 6lbs 13oz. Charlie had a difficult start, but has since recovered and is going from strength to strength.



*Tim & Alex Slack (née Gamble) (03) with baby Charlie at his baptism at Ratcliffe College*

**Matt and Karen Grace (née Kruger) (00)** welcomed Emma Jennifer Grace into the world on January 7th 2013, weighing 8lb 3oz.



*Karen Grace (née Kruger) (00) & family at Emma's christening*



*Mike & Ginny O'Keefe (née Gamble) (98) with Persie at Ratcliffe for her baptism*

**Mike and Ginny O'Keefe (née Gamble) (98)** are happy to announce the birth of their first child, Persephone Grace. Persie was born on January 12th 2013 at St Mary's, Melton Mowbray, weighing 7lbs 11oz.



*Wilson Chiu (00) & family*

**Wilson Chiu (00):** "Baby Chiu, our little girl, was born on June 22nd at 11.42pm, weighing 3.145kg. She has been a great little girl and brought so much joy to our family. By the time this magazine goes to print, she will have a name; the Chinese naming method is a bit more challenging! This is a picture of her and my wife, **Flora**, who I met at Ratcliffe when she studied there in Year 9."



Jane Bellard (née Laurie) (01) & her son, Thomas William Edward

**Jane Bellard (née Laurie) (01):** “I had a son, Thomas William Edward Bellard, this year. He was actually born on our first wedding anniversary (5th June) and weighed 8lbs 13oz.”



Harriet Freya Gurney

**Michelle Gurney (00):** “Here is a picture of Harriet Freya Gurney at seven months old. She was born on February 22nd, which is also her daddy’s birthday – **Luke Gurney (93)**, also an Old Ratcliffian! I’m loving being a mummy!”



Nick Barker (01) with his new family

**Nick Barker (01):** “Finley Abraham Barker was born eight weeks early at 3.55am on Sunday 3rd November. He weighed 4lb 6oz and was 47cm long. He surprised us by arriving in Royal Preston Hospital whilst visiting Clare’s relatives in Lancashire. We are so proud and it is such an amazing feeling being a parent - it changes your whole perspective on the world and makes the tiny little things that seemed important before irrelevant. We are hoping that, in the not too distant future, he will get his own RC number and be part of the mighty Emery house.”



Helen Yiend (née Moir) (98) with baby Montgomery

**Helen Yiend (née Moir) (98):** “Montgomery Evan Yiend was born on January 20th this year. Monty is a delight and is such a happy and chilled little man; he loves to laugh and has been very kind to us throughout our introduction to parenthood.”



Jiten Nandha (01) with Kavach-Veer Jiten

**Jiten Nandha (00):** “Our baby, Kavach-Veer Jiten Nandha, was born on August 31st, weighing in at a healthy 7.6lbs. His name has several meanings: Kavach (‘armour’), Veer (‘warrior’) and Jiten (‘victorious over the senses’). He’s a very lively baby and, at the groups he attends with his mother, Ketki, he’s been nicknamed ‘chatterbox’! He loves socialising! It’s very exciting to become parents - life really changes for the better!”



Emily Pring (98) with Benjamin

**Emily Pring (98):** “I had my little boy on February 28th, born during the longest heatwave here in Melbourne, Australia! His name is Benjamin, and he’s a real cutie!”



Emma Trusler-Mathias (98) & family

**Emma Trusler-Mathias (98):** “I had my second baby on June 29th 2012 - Noah George Mathias.”



Millie-Mary Hobbs-Mauger

**India Hobbs-Mauger (05):** “**Charlie (03)** and I welcomed our little girl, Millie-Mary, into the world on August 1st at 3.57am, weighing 3.1 kilos. She was born in Civitanova Hospital, Le Marche, Italy. Lucas (now five years old) adores his new baby sister.”



Ethan Shaffu

**Mark Shaffu (98):** “My wife and I celebrated the birth of our son, Ethan, on November 25th 2012, weighing 7lb 7oz. I am now working as a GP in Wigston, Leicester.”



Chris Wright (97) with his son, Clark Simon

**Chris Wright (97):** "On August 21st, my wife Michelle and I had a baby boy named Clark Simon Wright. I am still working in Stamford, Lincolnshire, as an Operations Manager for an IT company."

**Mark Fogarty-Young (81):** "I married Jolanda in 2009 and we have had two children, Tristan (born on November 7th 2011) and Sebastian (born on August 9th 2013)."

**Paul Carter (60):** "I became a grandfather for the first time on September 25th this year. My daughter, Charlotte, gave birth to Beatrice Grace Margaret Slater at 7.25am, weighing in at 6lbs."

**Mark Attley (76):** "Grandson number one, Noah, was born on September 20th 2011 and we are anticipating the arrival of grandson number two on December 24th."

# MARRIAGES



Sheree Stafford (05) & James Mitchell

**Sheree Mitchell (née Stafford) (05):** "I got married on Easter Saturday (March 30th) this year. Our little boy will be five years old on October 6th this year. Time really has flown by since leaving Ratcliffe!"



Chloe Goodger (06) & Luke Crabb

**Chloe Goodger-Crabb (06):** "I got married to my husband, Luke, on June 2nd 2012 in St Peter and St Paul's Church in Syston. **Amelia Cummins (06), Lauren Coles (07), Matthew McCarthy-Young (06) and Sophie Orrel (08)** were present. We enjoyed our reception at Beaumanor Hall before embarking on a three-week honeymoon travelling around Australia. We are now expecting the

arrival of a baby boy, so there are lots of exciting times and a whole new learning curve ahead!"



Si Gamble (97) & Louise Fowler

**Si Gamble (97)** married Louise Fowler on August 3rd 2013 in Thrussington Village Church, followed by a reception held in his uncle's (**Andrew Gamble (68)**) old hen house in Rearsby. Si and Lou first met at Loughborough University over ten years ago, but didn't start courting until a few years later. Si popped the question last year while they were travelling around Thailand. The day itself was a very relaxed, fun and colourful affair - the best men's speech ended with Si having two litres of water tipped over his head! Along with a large contingent of family members who are Old Ratcliffians were ushers **Mark Wagstaff (99)** and **Jon Skinner (99)**. Si's younger sisters, **Francesca Gamble (04)** and **Philippa Gamble (06)** were two of Louise's four bridesmaids, and Si's brother **James Gamble (96)** was one of three best men, along with two of his university mates, Si Addis and Si Garner."



Roberto De Rienzo (00) & Jenny

**Roberto De Rienzo (00):** "Our wedding took place on July 13th 2013 at the Church of St Peter and St Paul in South Petherton, with the reception at Dillington House, Somerset. We were lucky enough to have a lot of Ratcliffe alumni attending, including **Giuliana Bird (née De Rienzo) (98), Sam Bird (98)** and **Maria Pastars (née De Rienzo) (96)**. The ushers were **Oliver Coomber (00), Scott Piecha (00)** and **Alistair Richardson (00)**. Other guests included **Saroj Ekanayake (01), Nicole Richardson (01), Chay Creighton (00), Tom Best (98), George Thompson (00), Andrew Espinasse (98), Nuala Barrett (née Espinasse) (96), Alison Court (née Mason) (98), Andrew Mason (96), Rob Hull (97)** and **Charlotte Hull (née Berry) (98).**"

**Wilson Chiu (00)** married **Flora Leung** in September last year in Hong Kong. His best man, **Jacob So (00)**, added: "Four other Old Ratcliffians, **Jackie Fan (00), Simon Chow (98), Chris Ngan (00)** and **Billy Lo (98)** also had important roles at the wedding. We all had some great times at Ratcliffe."



*Wilson Chiu (00) & friends*

**Lucie Gamble (00)** married Nathan Jones on June 29th 2013. The ceremony was held at St Luke's Church in Gaddesby and the marriage was blessed by **Fr Philip Sainter (69)**. Lucie had four bridesmaids, two of which were her sisters, **Jessica Jordan (96)** and **Ginny O'Keeffe (98)**. Following the ceremony, the reception



*Lucie Gamble (00) & Nathan Jones*

was held at her father's house - **Richard Gamble (64)** - in Gaddesby, in a marquee on a field adjacent to his house. There was glorious sunshine throughout the day, and guests enjoyed champagne, oysters and quail's eggs on the front lawn before the wedding breakfast. Lucie and Nathan had the best day of their lives and were so happy to have all their family and friends around them to celebrate the day.



*Holly Dolan (03) & Chris Devereaux with Harry*

**Holly Devereux (née Dolan) (03)**: "We got married on September 20th this year at Rothley Court, followed by a blessing in the Chapel. We had a perfect day surrounded by all our close friends and family, including some fellow Old Ratcliffians. It's been a very

happy time and we are very much looking forward to the future. ORs who attended were **James Eccleshare (00)**, **Ross Barber (03)**, **Lauren Hewitt (03)**, **Katie Coltman (05)**, **Emily Waez (03)**, **Olivia French-Gray (05)**, **Hollie Stone (07)** and **Charlotte Dolan (07)**. In August 2011, we welcomed our beautiful little boy, Harry James, into the world. He is quickly growing into a young man and has just started attending Frisby on the Wreake Preschool."



*Karl Smith (97) & Sarah*

**Karl Smith (97)**: "Sarah and I got married at Belvoir Castle on April 7th 2012. The weather was lovely and we shared our special day with a number of ORs, including **Jamie Hart (97)**, **Warren Birchall (97)** and **Rob Wild (98)**. Everyone enjoyed the food, and especially the drink, from the look of the bar bill at the end of the night! Although it went very quickly for us, we were thankful to all those who came to celebrate our special day. After a month on honeymoon in Thailand and Malaysia, we soon found out that we were expecting our little boy, Toby, who was born on March 24th 2013. Then, in June this year I set up KBS Living Ltd, a property development business. A very eventful eighteen months!"

**Theresa Shepherd-Kancsar (02)** married Sebastian this year; her friends from Ratcliffe, **Catherine Wakefield (02)** and **Julia Oni (02)** were at the wedding, which took place near Berlin. Theresa and her husband Sebastian are already building a house



*Theresa Shepherd (02) & Sebastian Kancsar*

and expecting their first baby at the end of February. Theresa continues as a Sales Manager for Bio-Technology for the Eastern Germany region. Her father, **Alan Shepherd (71)**, is still in IT at Deutsche Bank in Germany.

**James Gamble (94)** married Gayle Wash in February this year in the beautiful setting of Woodhall Manor in Suffolk, surrounded by friends and



*James (94) & Gayle Gamble with Ethan*

plenty of family! His sisters, **Francesca (04)** and **Philippa (06)** read a personally-written reading for the newlyweds, whilst James' son Ethan, aged eleven, captured the whole day as one of the 'official photographers'. He also acted as an usher, alongside James' brother, **Simon Gamble (97)** (also best man) and **Ginny O'Keeffe's (98)** husband, Mike O'Keeffe. The guests partied until the early hours, with **Ed Gamble (95)** leading the charge, but finding it hard to keep up with the younger element, James' other cousins, **Laura (11)**, **Sophie (10)** and **Walter Yell (13)**. However, the last man standing went to James' dad, **Mark (71)**, aged sixty-one, putting everyone to shame! Together with a fabulously cool London band, gorgeous food and perfect company, James and Gayle celebrated their wedding day in effortless style.

**Richard Draycott (92)** married Ali in the summer of 2012.



*Richard Draycott (92) & Ali*

# OBITUARIES



## IN MEMORIAM

News of the deaths of the following Old Ratcliffians has been received since the last edition of the Old Ratcliffian:

**Rev Fr Anthony Baxter IC 1932-38** (Past President)

**Fred Rushmore 1968-1973** (& Grace Dieu)

**Terence Hearne 1937-42**

**Michael Edgar 1973-78** (& Grace Dieu)

**Peter Shave 1976-81** (& Grace Dieu)

**Rev Fr Terry Watson IC 1943-48**

**Peter Lambert 1938-44** (Past President)

**Colin Evans 1954-61**

**Rev Fr Michael Hare IC 1944-51**

**Dr Peter Sullivan 1941-48**

**Steve Witty 1978-83**

**Finbarr Sheehan 1966-68** (& Grace Dieu)

**Frank Newman 1949-56**

**Frederick Dyer MA (CANTAB) FRICS 1949-55** (Past President)

**Clifford Della Porta DLC 1941-43** (Past President)

**Julien Porisse 1942-45**

**Rev Fr Tim Maloney IC 1942-48**

**Michael Banks 1949-53**

**Martin Cresswell 1927-34**

**Richard Boot 1953-60**

## Requiescat in Pace

*Friends and relatives are invited to write an obituary for the next edition of this magazine if it is not included in this edition.*

### Rev Fr Anthony Baxter IC

**Old Ratcliffian 1932-38**

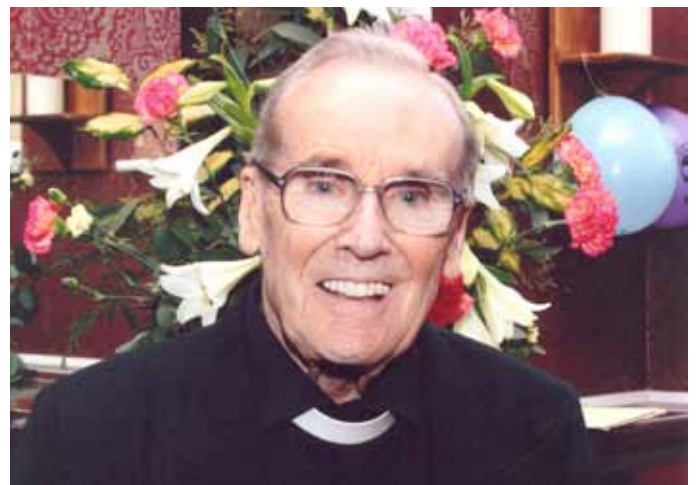
**Past President 1980**

**April 1st 1921-January 14th 2013**

Fr Anthony Baxter died on January 14th 2013 in the University Hospital, Coventry.

He was born in Nottingham on April 1st 1921. He was educated at Ratcliffe, subsequently joining the Institute of Charity, and lived as a Rosminian for seventy-four years. Fr Tony taught at Ratcliffe, firstly as a brother for five years, before studying for the priesthood in Rome (1943-48), then as a priest for three years (1956-59), and finally as Rector and President of the College for nine years (1973-82). In between times, he studied for his degree in Physics at Cambridge; this would not have been his preferred choice of subject, but the School needed physicists and he was amongst those who had a natural ability, so that was what Providence dictated. During his time as President, he saw the School through its initial transition to becoming co-educational with the arrival of Sixth Form boarding girls.

As President, Fr Tony had a pleasant and engaging personality, and seemed to win the hearts of prospective parents. I heard of many who said it was his personality and friendship that persuaded them to send their children to Ratcliffe. Years later, in 2002, he was appointed Vice Rector of the Ratcliffe community and was a devoted and attentive chaplain to the sisters at Rearsby Convent.



When the Order was asked to establish a grammar school in the Diocese of Leeds by its then Bishop, John Heenan, later to be Archbishop of Westminster, Fr Tony was amongst the pioneers who established the new school, St Gregory's, in Huddersfield. When Fr Michael McGough, the Headmaster, was appointed Provincial in 1964, Fr Tony became Rector and Headmaster for a period of nine years. He counted his time in Yorkshire as amongst the happiest of his life. It is notable that, thirty years later, nearly a dozen friends and past pupils from those days came to his funeral.

After a long career in education which, in truth, would not necessarily have been his first choice of work, Fr Tony was at last able to focus his time on a parish, spending a year assisting in St Joseph's in Cardiff. This was to be an all-too-brief spell, for he was appointed Rector and,

for a while, Novice Master at St Mary's Derryswood, near Guildford, which was over a period of nine years. This was a mixed community, providing formation for those first entering the Institute as novices, and also for those who were pursuing their studies, mainly at the neighbouring St John's Seminary. In addition, there were some retired Rosminians, as well as a number of lay brothers who worked to support the house, in the kitchens, garden and laundry. During that time, he was also much sought after for advice by members of religious communities in the Diocese of Arundel and Brighton, which he served as one of two Vicars for Religious.

Fr Tony served for many years on the Provincial Council, thus providing much appreciated wisdom and assistance to a number of Provincials; this was extended to the Institute beyond the United Kingdom. He was elected to various Chapters and was deeply involved in the development of the foundation document of the Rosminians, which was a requirement of all religious congregations after the Second Vatican Council. His excellent command of Italian and his good working knowledge of Latin, in addition to his practical experience, were invaluable in a process that was far from easy.

In due course he was, once more, able to return to parish ministry and he came back to St Joseph's, Cardiff for six years in 1990, this time as a parish priest, and became involved in the chaplaincy at the Heath Hospital.

In 1996, he went to St Mary Magdalene's parish in Bexhill-on-Sea, and was there until the Rosminians handed the parish back to the diocese in 2002. Fr Tony ended his pastoral ministry at St Marie's, Rugby, where he was Assistant Priest and where he finally retired. Almost to the end, he was esteemed for his advice and spiritual direction, and he was assiduous in visiting the sick and the housebound, even when he himself could be described as fitting both categories!

I was a boy in my first year at Ratcliffe when Fr Tony was ordained priest in Nottingham in 1952 on the Feast of Saints Peter and Paul. As it was a holiday, some of us went to serve at the ordination. This was a milestone in my life, as I was already thinking of becoming a Rosminian. Years later, in 1966, when I celebrated my first Mass in St Cuthbert's, Bradford, Fr Tony assisted me at the altar and preached. To this day, I remember just a few of his words: that a priest must not only celebrate Mass, he must live the Mass daily. Fr Tony did just that throughout his priesthood, both as a teacher and in parish ministry. For the last couple of years, he was more or less confined to the presbytery in Rugby, yet in that time he was sought after as a popular confessor and spiritual encourager.

Fr Anthony can be justifiably described as 'a model religious': he undertook works to which his natural inclination would not likely have taken him, but always tackled them, regardless, with wholehearted enthusiasm and commitment. He was loyal to the demands of the Church and to the founding principles of the Rosminians. Upon hearing of his death, Mrs Shaw (resident in Hong Kong and whose son, **Markus (79)**, was at Ratcliffe) said, 'Now we have our friendly saint in Heaven'.

**The Very Rev Fr Anthony Meredith IC (57)**  
Vicar General, Rosminian Order

## A Tribute from Fr David Myers (59), Provincial

When I was a young boy at Ratcliffe in 1953, a young priest appeared in the school and a boy whispered to me, 'That's Fr Baxter – he'll be President one day'. Having all the talents, both in intellect and personality, that so marked him out from his very earliest days in the Order was both a blessing and, for Tony himself, must also have been somewhat of a liability. Tony overcame the disadvantage of others putting him on a pedestal by not taking himself too seriously.

Many years later, and after my ordination, in 1972 I was sent to teach at St Gregory's, Huddersfield. It was then that I really got to know Tony well, both as a member of the community and as the Headmaster of the Grammar School. I was only with him in Huddersfield for two years before he returned to Ratcliffe in 1973 to be President. Tony was multi-faceted: as an extremely successful head teacher of a Catholic co-educational grammar school and a leading personality in the town, he formed friendships which lasted a lifetime. He was the genuine friend of so many people, from the retired caretaker of the school, to parents of children who were having financial and social difficulties. He ran a wonderful school and was able to bring out the best in his staff. He loved his time in Huddersfield and, in turn, was admired and respected by the people of the town. Although it is forty years since he left, Tony is still remembered with affection and respect, as witnessed by those who came to his funeral last year, and who are now organising an Anniversary Mass, which is to be celebrated for him on January 14th next year.

After his nine years as President of the College, he spent the next thirteen years working in parishes in Cardiff, Bexhill and Rugby, and then for seven years as Rector of Derryswood. Wherever Tony worked, he encouraged everyone he met - even the smile on his face was enough to make people feel better.

I worked again with Tony in Cardiff during the 1990s when he was parish priest of St Joseph's. Although twenty-five years had passed since we had last worked together, the same youthful, joyful spirit filled his life. He kept these wonderful qualities to the end, even when he was over ninety years of age.

**Fr David Myers IC (59)**  
Provincial

## Fr Anthony Baxter, the Family Man

Most people would have known him as 'Fr Baxter' or 'Fr Tony'. To his brother's children (his only nephews and niece), he will always be 'Uncle Tony'. For as long as I can remember, Uncle Tony was a key part of our lives. From all of our christenings and my parents' funerals, to my own marriage to Katy and the christening of our son, William, Uncle Tony always played an important spiritual role. However, he was more than a 'family priest'. After the death of his brother (my father), Peter, in 1981, he took on a very important role. He joined us on family holidays, helping to fill that fatherly void. He'd run on the beach, swim in the sea and play endless games of Scrabble and

Monopoly. At the dinner table, he never shied away from a challenging discussion and never once forgot an anniversary or significant occasion. For a man who lived what some could argue was a 'sheltered' life, he was also very interested in world affairs, and often surprised me when his opinion on a subject would take an unconventional stance. In other words, he was more worldly-wise than I would sometimes give him credit for.

Other happy memories spring to mind. I remember him hiding a torch in the undergrowth outside a holiday cottage, pretending he'd found a giant glow-worm. I remember us sliding down a wet hillside in Brecon Beacons, travelling home sitting on plastic bags in the car in sodden, muddy clothes. I also remember playing squash with him during the summer holidays in the Ratcliffe College Sports Hall, me in shorts, him in dark trousers and a shirt, complete with dog-collar! When he was Headmaster at Ratcliffe, we'd love nothing more than weekend visits as children, sitting in his office and playing with the traffic light system that used to appear outside his door. I recall him saying Mass in our dining room at home whilst our pet cat padded over freshly gloss-painted shelves during a solemn moment, resulting in spontaneous giggles. He was a wonderful tease, and always had a glint of humour in his eye.

When we came to sort through his personal items following his death, I realised how little he'd collected over the years. He was still using a battered old family suitcase for his travels to and from hospital. He lived a simple life, true to his vows and dedicated as a priest. He also led a full life, touching the lives of many. We miss him terribly; he was a

lovely man.

**Chris Baxter (younger brother of Anthony (86) & Mary Jane Baxter)**

## Memories of Fr Tony Baxter

I have two vivid memories of Fr Tony Baxter and these are as follows:

Our Circle Meeting was only just over when **Peter Tickle** mentioned with concern to **Mark Gamble (71)** and I that Ratcliffe was on fire! So we motored over from Loughborough using the back drive, where all the boys were outside, lining the fences and gates. Walking towards the archway, smelling the smoke and seeing the burning debris ahead, we suddenly stopped as we saw the immaculate figure of Fr President, neatly dressed in his cassock and with one hand cupped under his chin, giving his complete attention to a boy from the Lower School. This was an example of his priorities, if ever there was one.

It soon followed that the Ratcliffian Weekend had to be cancelled. However, the AGM was saved, being moved to the Rothley Court Hotel, where a small group of ORs elected the new President on time. The local vicar had secured permission for us Catholics to hold Benediction in the adjoining Crusader Chapel. Fr Tony reverently carried the Blessed Sacrament over from Ratcliffe, so that we together were able to worship and dared to sing in Latin. This became the first time since the Reformation!

**Clifford Della Porta (43) (RIP)**

## Michael Edgar

**Old Ratcliffian 1973-78**

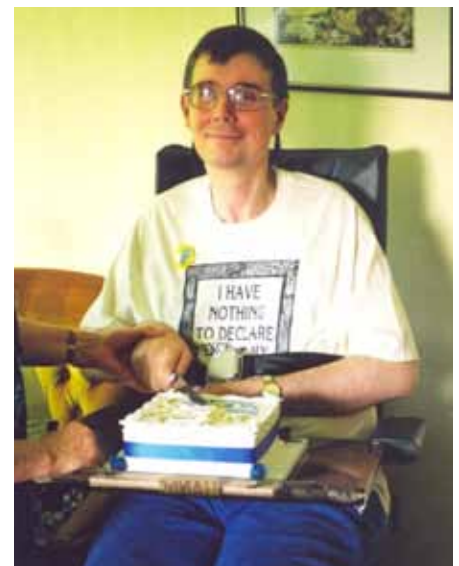
**September 11th 1960-March 9th 2013**

Michael Edgar passed away on Saturday 9th March, surrounded by his devoted parents and family.

Michael joined Grace Dieu in 1970, where he made an immediate impact with his ability to speak Italian; his parents then lived in Rome. He was a gregarious boy, intelligent and always very active. After Common Entrance, he went to Ratcliffe, where he excelled. He was a great sportsman, joining the Boat Club and competing in many regattas. He was also a great cyclist; both sports were perfect for him, as he was very tall and had long legs. His bike was state-of-the-art and so big that only he could get on it without falling off. In music, he was a renowned oboist and performed in many school and county concerts. Being in the top set, he was also intellectually gifted and shone in all subjects.

All his prospects of a brilliant future were to be cruelly curtailed with the onset of multiple sclerosis (MS). It was first evident in his music; he could no longer find the keys, his fingers having lost their sensation. He became angry with himself when he caught a crab whilst rowing and when he could no longer outpace the rest of us on bike rides. This was in 1976 and, from then until his recent death, he fought stoically against his illness, which was to become more aggressive. He graduated from Manchester University with a degree in English, but his lack of mobility made it difficult for him to work.

I will always remember him for his humour, his competitiveness and his love of music. He was one of those people whom it was easy to admire because he had so much going for him. He also had a phenomenal



memory and would recall stories and nicknames long forgotten by others. His parents, John and Kay, dedicated their lives to his care, and their devotion to him was humbling.

May he rest in peace in a much better place.

**Andrew Coker (78)**

## Rev Fr Terry Watson IC

### Old Ratcliffian 1943-48

When I visited Terry in early January, he was in great form and appeared to be in good health. But, by the end of the month, he began to suffer seriously from back pain. When I discovered that he was ill, I came up on the March 26th, the Tuesday of Holy Week, to discover that Terry had been admitted to hospital that day because they had discovered an aneurysm.

Terry's sufferings and the Golden Jubilee of his ordination took place during the Easter season. This is the time when Jesus was stripped naked and crucified and then rose from the dead. This mystery is called the Paschal Mystery and Terry shared in this mystery, even to the timing of his death, which took place on the day the Church celebrated the Ascension of our Lord.

When Terry was released from hospital on the Thursday of Holy Week, he came back to his beloved Rosmini House in Pity Me. A doctor came to visit him and she told Terry, very gently and professionally, that he was dying. Terry paused for a moment and then said to her, 'But I can't die yet, as I have to translate Rosmini's *Supernatural Anthropology*'. In the whole history of the human race, from the beginning of time until the end of time, I am sure no other human being will reply to the doctor who tells them that they are dying with those words!

Terry devoted the last thirty years of his life to translating the philosophical works of Antonio Rosmini into English. For over twenty years he did this in collaboration with Denis Cleary, until Denis' death in 2002. They were like two peas in a pod. Their daily discipleship was rigorous to the extreme. They rose early in the morning for an hour's meditation, followed by Mass. They were at their computers by 9am. At 11am, there appeared on the screen a little pop-up note which said, 'Coffee break boy-oh'. After ten minutes' break, they were back at their computers until the next pop-up note at 1pm. After a light lunch, they returned to their computers until their daily translation was completed. Terry continued with this discipline after Denis' death.

The life of any author or writer is a lonely existence; the life of a translator is even harder. Terry was devoted to what Rosmini called 'Intellectual Charity'. This is a life of study and teaching the truth in love, so that our faith does not become a mindless accommodation to the culture of our day, but is searching for the consuming truth of the Gospel. This painful search is one of the ways that the cost of discipleship is expressed and, as with all forms of love, it is marked with the sign of the Cross.

As I said at the beginning, Terry's final days were played out against the backdrop of the Paschal Mystery. One of the signs of our belief in the reality of the resurrection is joy and merriment. Even during those six weeks of suffering, Terry could continue to smile, a beautiful smile, and his flashes of humour still shone through. As St Theresa of Avila would say: 'From silly devotions and sour-faced saints, spare us, O Lord'.

Terry was born in Lincoln eighty-two years ago, the youngest of three brothers, **Wilfred (45)** and Anthony, both his elder. He was proud of his Lincoln connections and those with this part of the world through the Hinshaws on his mother's side.

He was sent to Grace Dieu and then to Ratcliffe. When he was in the Sixth Form, the Provincial of the day, **Fr Emery**, who knew Terry wanted to join the Order, asked him to join the novitiate after one year in the Sixth Form which, humanly speaking, was madness, because Terry was extremely bright and should have done his A Levels and further studies. He returned to Ratcliffe at the age of only nineteen and, despite his young years and inexperience, he became an excellent teacher and fine disciplinarian.

At Ratcliffe as a boy he had excelled in sport; he was captain of the Boxing Club, in which he got his colours, as he did in rugby, cricket and hockey. I don't think any student in the history of the College received such recognition for sporting prowess. After Ratcliffe, he studied in Rome for the priesthood, where he was ordained in 1963, shortly after the death of his



father. After ordination, he went to New Zealand, where he resumed his teaching career, both at the Rosmini College in Auckland and St Peter's, Gore.

He continued his love for tramping in the mountains and outdoor life. He came back after twenty years in New Zealand to this part of the world to take up the mission of translating the Founder into English. He must have had an incredible optimism and faith in the project, for humanly speaking it seemed a dead duck. The response that both he and Denis got was, in a sense, minimal. However, both of them were convinced that, in the fullness of time, their work would bear fruit and, during this time, we have seen Antonio Rosmini Beatified and Rosmini's work commended by John Paul II in his encyclical *Faith and Reason*, as one of the writers to guide the Church in the 21st Century.

Another of Rosmini's foundation principles was friendship. Terry had the gift of friendship which, although confined to a few, was very deep and profound. Among his Durham friends were John and Pat Doyle, who gave Terry devoted and loving care for twenty years, but especially during the last months of his life; Janet Nichols for all the administrative work she did for Terry; Susan Michiels for being such a good friend; Ann De Rick, Tom Thomas and **Robin Paulson (53)** for helping to look after Terry during those final weeks. Another dimension of Terry's gift of friendship was his relationship with the Ascribed Members of the Order and also with the number of visitors who travelled all the way up to Durham to see him during his last weeks of life.

One of our Priests visited the Beda College in Rome recently and one of the students at the College who came from Durham had heard of Terry's death. He said how much Terry was appreciated for his supplies of sermons, which were, every time, interesting, relevant and encouraging. And if I could add in parenthesis, they also tended to be on the long side, a bit like this one!

Recently, we celebrated the Feast of St Bede, who himself died on the Tuesday before the Feast of the Ascension in 735, and whose body

lies buried in Durham Cathedral. In the chapel of Rosmini House, there was a statue of St Bede that looked remarkably like Terry, and there was more than a physical resemblance between the two of them! St Cuthbert, writing about the death of St Bede, said the following: 'A disciple said to St Bede, "Dear Master, the book is almost complete, there's only one chapter to go". St Bede replied, "Take up your pen and write, and write quickly, my departure is near at hand, for I long to dissolve and be with Christ"' - just like Terry, who was

trying to work until his dying moment. St Bede also said, 'I spent the whole of my life within the monastery and gave my full attention to the study of scripture, always observing regular discipline and daily choir duties', and this could so easily have been attributed to Terry. St Bede went on to say, 'It was a joy to me to be ever studying, teaching and writing'.

#### The Very Rev Fr David Myers IC (59)

Tribute given at the Funeral at Ratcliffe College

## Peter William Lambert

Old Ratcliffian 1938-48

Past President 1995

June 8th 1927-June 2nd 2013

Peter William Lambert was born on June 8th 1927 at Goodmayes in London to William and Agnes Lambert.

After going to a local primary school in London, he was sent to Grace Dieu Preparatory School at the age of nine. Dropped off by a bus at the bottom of the drive in the dark, he felt as though he had stepped in every puddle on his way up to school. He learnt many things there, including how to manage a quiet smoke whilst on Sacristan duties!

At eleven, he went to Ratcliffe, his mother dearly hoping that he would become a priest in due course. Although the strong Catholic foundation that he received there was integral to the whole of his life, he decided to concentrate on honing his mathematical and cricket skills instead (both of which he excelled in) and, when he finished there, he went to Agricultural College at Sutton Bonington, and not into the priesthood. There, he seemed to forego work, preferring to hang out of windows and generally cause havoc with Uncle Ross and other culprits!

After that, he entered into the family farming business at Bicker with his father. Finding farming rather slow, he threw himself into the trading side at Spitalfields and Borough Markets, which he loved. He had found his true calling - business.

He was also an exotic character to me in a world that was still grey from the War. He would come and stay with us in Liverpool when it was the Grand National, turning up in a Jaguar XK120, followed by XK150s and, finally, E-Types (he owned one of the first E-Types in the country). The earliest of these supercars of their day arrived against a background of petrol rationing because of the impending Suez Crisis.

He spent his younger years working and playing very hard. He enjoyed business, and many of the men who worked for him stayed in contact after he had sold up, which was a testament to the regard in which he was held. Fast cars and skiing were favourite pastimes of his. He managed to combine the two every year by driving out to Kitzbühel and breaking down in different places along the way! He certainly pushed his cars. He owned fast cars in the days when they could be driven fast, which they definitely were! These were road vehicles, but the ditches on Lincolnshire were not out of bounds. Shooting was also a big love of his and he was at his happiest dropping his birds at other people's feet or poaching from his neighbour's gun.

The 1960s came and Peter embraced the new. As well as being at the head of the queue for an E-Type, when the Diners Club launched the first charge card in the country, he had an



early one. He explained to me how it worked. The next time I saw him, I asked to see it again. A concertinaed card-holder fell fifteen inches from his hand, full of charge and club membership cards. He was as much at home in London, or even Paris and other European cities, as he was in the country. As an urbane, urban countryman, he moved seamlessly between these worlds.

Yet, he was a confirmed bachelor for years and, as he approached his late thirties, I can remember my young mind thinking that this was a waste. Then he set eyes on Ann Griffin and, at the age of forty, on September 9th 1967 at Portsmouth Cathedral, he married her in front of friends and family. Despite the fact that she wasn't Catholic, his mother welcomed her into the family. They had two daughters, Nicola (Niki) and Nina, and last year they celebrated forty-five years of marriage.

For someone who didn't like spending too much money, his passion for horseracing overcame his prudence, and he spent many years following his

various horses round the country. His first horse (Panikin) won on his first outing at 25/1, which may have given him false hope of speedy and certain riches.

A raconteur, a fun and exciting uncle, a good Catholic, businessman, sportsman, brother (he was very good to his sisters) and, most importantly, husband and father. Although such people were few and far between, he wasted little time on those who he felt were being false, putting on airs and graces or taking unfair advantage of others. In business, you negotiate the best deal for yourself, yet he always made sure that, to the best of his ability, there was enough left in it for the other man to make a living. He had great generosity of spirit.

The world is made up of drains and radiators; Uncle Peter radiated. I am sure that his illness over the last few years did not sit at all well with him. He would not have wanted to burden Auntie Ann, and yet the love affair

between them seemed eternal - she cared for him with great diligence. I am very thankful that he had her, Niki and Nina. I am sure that he thought himself to be the luckiest of men to have had them.

Peter William Lambert, you lived life well and to the full. You shone and meant much to those who knew you. Both rest in peace and stay with us, as we will stay with you.

**Michael Lowe**  
Nephew

Excerpts taken from the Eulogy at Peter's funeral

*I remember a meeting with Peter as a fundraiser for the 150th Anniversary Appeal in the '90s, when we were raising money for new sports facilities. We knew that he was a possible major donor and so I was sent off to Lincolnshire to see if I could persuade him to part with some of his hard-earned cash. I knew that*

*it would not be an easy meeting, as Peter was not a pushover, being a very experienced businessman. I was terrified as I walked into the office. He put me through my paces but, at the end of the meeting, he said that he would donate the exact amount which I had asked him for. I went away feeling delighted with myself. Years later, when I met Peter at the London Dinner, he told me that, if I had asked him for the total amount needed for the all-weather pitch, he would have given it! He had the last laugh!*

*He and Ann became friends of mine and he is a man for whom I held huge respect. He went on to become President of the Ratcliffian Association and his advice and support was valued by Old Ratcliffians across the board.*

**Jackie Bennett**  
Editor

## Colin Edward Peter Evans

Old Ratcliffian 1954-61

24th April 1943-23rd May 2013

As **Michael Robinson (61)**, Old Ratcliffian and close lifelong friend of Colin's, recalled at the funeral service: "Colin and I started Ratcliffe together; like Harry Potter leaving for Hogwarts, we departed from St Pancras (Platform 9 ¾!) as two eleven year olds, up to the Wolds of Leicestershire - a far cry from home in Woodford Green, Essex!" Michael fondly recalled Colin being a natural sportsman, trying his hand at all the sports on offer and becoming a great rugby scrum half, a hockey forward and captain, a mean boxer and a tennis star. He played for the first teams in all of these sports and was awarded his School colours in all four of them - an impressive achievement at that time.

After Ratcliffe, Colin went on to train and graduate from The College of Estate Management in London. One of his first jobs was for Charrington Breweries in the Estates Department. He eventually established his own firm, Evans Baker Estate Agents & Chartered Surveyors, trading

successfully for over thirty years in Islington, London.

Colin married his childhood sweetheart, Lynne, in 1971 and they had their first child, Melodie, in 1972. Their second daughter, Emma, came along in 1981. The family set up home in Chigwell, Essex in a beautiful fifteenth century manor house, which Colin and Lynne spent many years restoring and which remained the family home until March this year.

Tragically, Lynne was diagnosed with multiple myeloma in 2005. Colin was a rock for her and remained by her side for the four long years that she received treatment at St Bart's Hospital in London, until her passing on November 1st 2009.

Shortly before his tragic and untimely death, Colin celebrated his seventieth birthday on April 24th this year with a small lunch party of close family and friends at Frederick's in Islington, his favourite restaurant. It was a very happy occasion.



Colin was a keen follower of the arts and often painted scenes in the Impressionist style. He was passionate about classic cars, enjoyed playing golf with his friends at Theydon Bois Golf Club and had supported West Ham since his boyhood. He loved to visit France, having driven to most parts of the country, and often holidayed in Provence with his family.

Colin was kind, caring and generous - a true gentleman. He was extremely stylish and loved the finer things in life; nothing made him happier than to share those luxuries with others. He showed great style in everything that he did and had a real appreciation for the English culture. He was a lovely guy. But above all, Colin was a wonderful father and grandfather.

**Melodie Smyth & Emma Evans**  
Daughters

## Rev Fr Michael Hare IC

Old Ratcliffian 1944-51



Fr Michael Hare died on 16th June.

He went to Grace Dieu Manor Preparatory School with his brother, **Dennis (46)**, just as war broke out in 1939. In due course, they went

on to Ratcliffe College. Both were to become priests in the Institute of Charity, a religious order founded in the nineteenth century by Antonio Rosmini. His brother, Dennis, died on October 9th 2010, but his other brother, **Patrick (53)**, is living in Worcestershire.

Following his profession in the Institute, Michael took up his scholarship place at Cambridge in 1953, where he read for the English Tripos and rowed for Gonville and Caius. One of his last excursions was in April 2013, when he went to the Centenary Celebrations of the College Boats.

The following is taken from an obituary for Gonville and Caius College about Fr Michael: 'He was a genuinely humble man, a devoted pastor, an affectionate brother and friend. He always looked for the positive and the promising in others. A prolific correspondent, he followed up his interest in, and concern for, people

with frequent handwritten letters, as well as postcards from wherever he was at the time.'

After ordination in Rome in 1966, he was posted to Auckland, New Zealand to teach in a newly-founded school. Fourteen years later, he returned to England and served in parishes in London and Rugby. Then, in the 1990s, he became a parish priest in Newport and in Cardiff.

In 2005 he moved to Loughborough to become chaplain to the Rosminian Convent, before retiring eventually to a church in Leicester the year before he died.

Like St Paul's companion, Barnabas, he was a 'man of encouragement'. The memorial photo card distributed among the large crowd of friends and old parishioners at his funeral carried, most fittingly, St Paul's own declaration: 'God loves a cheerful giver'.

**Rev Fr John Bland IC (53)**

## Frederick Darlinson Dyer

Old Ratcliffian 1949-55

Past President 1989

September 22nd 1937-July 5th 2013

Freddie died suddenly on July 5th at home, and we remember him as the connoisseur of friendship, the delighted host and the professional and passionate family man dedicated to his faith.

Many of you know snippets of Freddie's story. He was fiercely proud of his local roots. He was born in Kenilworth (where his parents, Cecil and Louisa, owned the Queen and Castle Hotel) and grew up with his sister, Christina, and his brother, Michael. His faith came from his mother and developed with the Rosminians at Grace Dieu School and Ratcliffe College. For his entire life, he remained a loyal and influential friend and supporter of both schools. He became President of the Ratcliffian Association and, for many years,

organised its Birmingham Dinner. He showed his loyalty and faith in Ratcliffe by sending both **Jonathan (82)** and I to school there.

Following service with the RAF as a Pilot Officer and Navigator in Canada, he went up to Downing College, Cambridge, to read Estate Management. It was here that his celebratory side emerged, as a founder member and, ultimately, President of the fabulously decadent Perkins Society. No one really knows (or is prepared to say), but it may have been there that he earned the affectionate nickname 'Bollinger Fred'. He always chuckled about that.

He was led to the property world by a relative who owned the South London estate agency, Dyer, Son and Creasy, and who effected an introduction to



Guy Bigwood at the Birmingham firm of Chartered Surveyors, Edwards, Son and Bigwood.

From that small beginning grew a distinguished career as a Chartered Surveyor, spanning fifty-one years. It saw him reach Equity Partnership within three years, become a Fellow of the RICS within six years and,

ultimately become Senior Partner for Birmingham of the firm in its final guise as Chesterton International. In that time, he was established as the man to go to for industrial and commercial property in the Midlands.

He founded and was the First Chairman of the West Midlands Branch of the Industrial Agents' Society and he became the British President of the International Property Federation. On his so-called 'retirement', he and Joy set up their own firm, Darlinson Dyer, which was a runaway success. This continued as a means of satisfying the demand

for his professional skills for a further fifteen years. They also established the Craft Centre and have run it successfully for twenty-five years.

Freddie was an accomplished and generous sportsman. For many years, he played cricket with the Midland Marauders, a team which matched his blend of on-field skill with off-field comradeship. He was a lifelong golfer and was particularly proud to have been elected Captain of the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors' Golfing Society. Probably his greatest passion, however, was his shooting; he was an elegant shot,

always respectful of the game and countryside, and was enthusiastic company both on and off the peg.

To those he encountered, Freddie was warm, generous and engaging. In short, he was a gentleman and a professional. He was incapable of guile. He commanded instant and lasting trust. He had a strong moral code, founded on faith. Although he loved to talk, he was really a doer, relentless until the job was done.

**Matthew Reeve (81)**  
Son

## Clifford Della Porta

Old Ratcliffian 1941-43

Past President 1978

April 12th 1927-September 12th 2013

In working out how to portray Dad's life, it became very clear that it's impossible to detail its achievements and fullness in just a few paragraphs. Even if it were possible, he definitely would not have wanted me to, as Dad never sought the limelight, preferring to accept responsibility when it was asked of him.

At eighty-six years, Dad was in full health and struck down out of the blue on September 12th 2013. This came as a huge shock to family and friends.

He was 'Clifford', 'Cliff', 'Mr C' in the old firm, 'Bill' with his brothers, and 'Dad' or 'Papa' to his ten grandchildren. What has been striking over the last few weeks is the complete uniformity of messages coming to the family. They all had the same theme, and that was that he was a man of kindness, who never had a bad word to say about anyone, nor did he judge people.

Clifford did not have different sides; he treated everyone equally, with the same warmth, the same smile. Any duplicity lay in his many talents: as an artist, a musician, an engineer. He was a doer and driver of change, often visionary, and saw way beyond what most people did at the time, with an exhausting determination to do the very best job he could. But above all,

he was a man of committed faith and devoted to his family.

Born in Wandsworth, London, on April 12th 1927, Dad's formative years were shaped by the Second World War. At an early age, he was given the responsibility of looking after his two brothers, **Gerald (49)** and **Raymond (45)**, and sister, Gloria, whilst his parents were fighting to run the family business (Premier Drum, which Dad's father, Albert, started in 1922). During the Blitz in 1940, with bombers overhead, Raymond was missing from the air-raid shelter. Dad ran back into the house to find him looking up out of the window. As he pushed him under the table, a bomb exploded in a nearby garden, shattering the window. As two other families had been lost in the street, Dad told Raymond never to tell anyone.

When the London factory was bombed, my grandfather had two weeks to restart somewhere outside London. He settled in Wigston, Leicestershire. Dad and his siblings were evacuated from London, again with Dad given charge to look after them.

Later, in searching for a Senior School, it was **Fr Claude Leatham (15)** here at Ratcliffe who offered to take the



three brothers together, where other schools would not. Dad was eternally grateful; the burden of responsibility placed on him from such an early age was now shared. During his School life, Dad spent many hours unseen, quietly in Chapel; it was here that his inner faith was nurtured.

For this, he spent his life giving back to the School. He is a Past President of the Ratcliffian Association. He has, for so many years, always been there, gently encouraging and supporting the School and its Old Boys. During the 1980 fire at Ratcliffe, Dad was the first to arrive to help and quickly set up rosters, getting boarders out to nearby families and giving the School time to organise things.

However, it was his quiet and complete support for the Rosmini Order which he held close to his heart. Dad committed himself to understanding Rosmini's articles

of faith and to living by them. He also gave a lifetime of service to the fellowship of the Catenians, following his father into the South Leicester Circle. His great enthusiasm in organising the 500th meeting celebrations at the Grand Hotel in 1978 is still remembered by many all these years later. Dad went on to co-found the Loughborough Circle, and was a Past President of both Circles.

From a young age, Dad loved making things; as a teenager, he would spend hours making battleships and tanks from scratch in his attempt to redefine the war! As Grandpa only had ten per cent vision, Dad went on to study Mechanical Engineering at Loughborough University, so that he could be Grandpa's eyes and hands, particularly at the family business, Premier Drum. There he created numerous patents in drum design, many of which are still in production forty years after he left Premier. I have early memories of Dad bringing home clay models of drum brackets to hand sculpt.

Dad often went to extraordinary lengths to perfect his work. In creating a world-class pedal timpani, he joined the Leicester Symphony Orchestra as a timpanist, just so he could understand exactly how the timpani sounded.

At home, our early childhood was filled with music; Dad loved to unwind with jazz, drumming very loudly, often competing with his favourite drummer, Gene Krupa. Often at Christmas, when Mum was busy cooking up a feast, we were entertained by Dad playing piano, saxophone, clarinet or accordion, all self-taught, and he always encouraged us to play alongside him.

Dad understood how music helps those without language to express themselves. He spent many Saturdays at Menphys, playing music with severely disabled children, seeing them open up and come alive. He discovered that eighty-five per cent of a child's brain capacity is formed in their first three years, but that, in the UK, there was no help given to children with disabilities until much later in life. So, with great vision and energy, he brought over pioneering methods from America to create the first baby centre with Menphys, stimulating these babies in order to

give them much better outcomes. It started in a portacabin outside the Premier Drum factory, then, later, moved to a dedicated building. Clifford was a founder of Menphys and a trustee for forty years. His lifelong work with Menphys was, as he once told me, his 'prayer of thanks for having six healthy children'.

In the early 1980s, my Dad lost everything: the family business, family home, his marriage, his assets. With everything gone, I remember asking him how on earth he would cope. He turned to me with a warm smile and gently said, 'No one can take away my faith'. The deep foundations in faith he had built would now sustain him.

Dad gave out to everyone with equal affection; when he remarried, without hesitation, he embraced Josie's family with as much love and joy as he had given to his own. He particularly regarded all his grandchildren as precious, and loved each of them dearly.

Dad never wasted one minute of his day, even at eighty-six years. He has gone before his time - he still had an endless list of projects to do. All these projects were about helping those around him.

Of all my father's qualities, it is his selflessness with which all that came into contact with him resonate.

As a family, we will always remember his beaming smile of unconditional love, and it's impossible to forget Dad's bone-crushing bear hugs.

Dad regarded himself as an ordinary man; what is certain, though, is that

he did extraordinary things.

Bless you, Dad.

**Louis Della Porta (81)**

Son

He was friends with everyone - a perfectionist who could not resist, in the nicest possible way, making suggestions on how to improve whatever one happened to be interested in or doing. He was always curious and interested in new ideas and how things worked, and could become so absorbed in what he was doing that time could become irrelevant, giving the air of an absent-minded professor. He constantly went out of his way to help people - friends and strangers alike - in many kind and private ways. He will be very much missed.

**Tony Daly (47)**

*Clifford's requiem and burial was held at Ratcliffe College on Saturday 28th September and was attended by members of his family and friends from across the world, as far away as New Zealand. It was plain to see the huge amount of love and respect held for Clifford by everyone he had come into contact with.*

*As Secretary of the Ratcliffian Association, I shall miss him greatly, as he was a huge supporter of everything we did. I shall personally miss him at all the events in the future.*

**Jackie Bennett**

Editor



*Clifford (43) with his sons, Chaz (80) & Louis (81)*

## Fred Rushmore

### Old Ratcliffian 1968-73

August 5th 1955-January 27th 2013

My brother, Frederick Anthony Rushmore died, aged fifty-seven, in Kent. He was in born on August 5th 1955 in Croydon, the third of what became a family of seven children. The family moved to Northamptonshire in 1958, where Fred spent the rest of his childhood.

Fred went to Grace Dieu in 1965 and then to Ratcliffe in 1968. After taking a gap year in 1973-74 and travelling extensively (including a tour of Europe with Old Ratcliffian **Mike Calnan (73)**), Fred went to Reading University to study Law. Fred's career was in the financial world, starting with stockbrokers Grenfell and Colegrave and then Laing and Cruickshank, where he was made Director in 1988. The 1990s recession led to Fred being made redundant in 1991, but he made good use of his free time, learning German and teaching himself how to get the best out of his computer. He returned to the financial world the following year and worked in London and Tunbridge Wells until 2004.

Whilst at Ratcliffe, Fred developed his four great passions in life: photography, playing the guitar, listening to loud rock music (especially the Rolling Stones and Jimi Hendrix), and drinking beer! No doubt this will ring a bell with Fred's school friends, who will also have seen Fred's great sense of humour, which he kept throughout his life.

Fred met his wife, Gillian, at university and they married in 1980. They lived in Kent and travelled extensively, visiting Kenya, India, Nepal, China and Hong Kong, as well as countries around the Mediterranean. They did not have any children, but Fred was a loving uncle to his many nephews and nieces.

In 2005, Fred was diagnosed with Pick's Disease, a rare neurodegenerative brain condition, although his decline



had started to become apparent the year before. Fred met his terminal illness with his characteristic tolerance, enthusiasm for life and good humour. After diagnosis, Fred crammed in an amazing amount of travel (mainly to South Africa and France) and special time with his close family and friends; he even took up golf. He and Gillian also bought a house in Provence, France, to which they made many happy trips.

Fred's difficulties gradually became more marked until, in the autumn of 2011, he was no longer able to enjoy as many of his activities. At times, he became frustrated when he couldn't find the right word and make himself understood, but his courage, determination and his kind and gentle nature helped him to cope with his appalling illness and the havoc that it wrought upon his final years.

Fred died with his wife, brothers and sisters around him on January 27th 2013.

**Katey Garety**  
Sister

## Julien Porisse

### Old Ratcliffian 1942-45

May 20th 1927-August 10th 2013

My father, Julien 'Jules' Porisse, died peacefully on August 10th 2013 of heart failure, at the age of eighty-six.

Many of my generation (from the '70s and '80s) will have, most probably, faced the passing of their parents, and the changes it brings to one's own reason for existing.

My father was a larger-than-life character. He was loud-mouthed and spoke his mind, but I know that, underneath his exterior shell, there was a timid person. On questions about art, he was a dictionary, and was very hard to convince that an

artist was a certain way. He had met Pablo Picasso in Montmartre in 1966, Maurice Utrillo (the son of Suzanne Valadon and his rival of the day), and Bernard Buffet, who was a year younger than him and painted like him. My father was an artist - a painter - and he sold thousands of paintings over a career that spanned some fifty years. He was a great Art teacher and he taught me how to paint. My Art teacher at Ratcliffe, **John Satterthwaite**, was another great influence on my art in my early years; they both had a similar trait, 'no rubbish', and you had to have good



work to get a nod or a 'well done'.

My father's generation was that of the 1950s and 60s. He played rugby at Sale RUFC with his brother, **Bob (46)**, travelled to Africa and lived all kinds of adventures.

He never lost his love for his School and, in the 1970s, he organised Old Ratcliffian Dinners in Paris, when

## Rev Fr Tim Maloney IC

Old Ratcliffian 1942-48  
1931-2013

Tim was born in India, the youngest of three brothers. His parents, Win and Terry, lived and worked there until after the War, when they retired to live in Ireland. In 1937, the boys were sent back to England, to the care of the Rosminians. Tim arrived at Grace Dieu at the age of five; he spent almost all of his long life of eighty-two years as a Rosminian, or under a Rosminian roof.

Tim's eldest brother, **Michael (43)**, had a brilliant career at School: a top academic, a gifted sportsman, and Head Boy for two years, before going to Cambridge to follow a successful legal career. **Bernard (45)**, the second son, was also very talented. Tim grew up in the shadow of this success, but he rejoiced in a more precious talent, which stayed with him the whole of his life. People liked him. Indeed, they loved him. He was always popular with his fellows and, in later life, he enjoyed the gratitude and warm friendship of parishioners and fellow priests.

Tim, too, was a keen sportsman, but his success was tempered by the loss of his sight in one eye as a result of an accident at Grace Dieu. It did not prevent him, however, from becoming a fiery fast bowler. His one claim to fame was capturing the wicket in an inter-school fixture of a boy who went on to become a successful international batsman and England captain. He was also a good golfer later on, and enjoyed playing for the English clergy against the Irish in their annual encounters.

Tim joined the Rosminians in 1950 and, after novitiate, he followed his older brothers to Queens College, Cambridge, where he gained a degree in Biological Sciences. He taught at Ratcliffe, both as a brother and a priest, and was an

many Old Ratcliffians travelled over from England and enjoyed a riotous time.

His schoolmates were **Ian Bannen (46)** and **Patrick McGoohan (44)**. Today, the black and white photographs that are now sepia in colour show many faces from the past. I remember a film, *The Dead*

early colleague of the redoubtable **Br Tony Primavesi (36)** in his painstaking labours of putting together the definitive flora of the county of Leicestershire.

His second period of teaching came to a halt when he asked for time off. As a result, he changed his apostolate, returning to work on parishes; this enabled his great personal gifts with people to have full rein. He was a successful parish priest for over forty years, and each of his postings was lengthy (successively, Dollis Hill in North London, Loughborough, Swansea and, finally, Hay-on-Wye, where he continued to serve his people up to the time of his death).

Tim was a man of enthusiasms. He was an enthusiastic botanist. As a student in Rome, he became a knowledgeable guide to the catacombs. His parish apostolate was successful, not because he was a gifted organiser, but because he inspired people's loyalty and love, motivating them to do what was needed to make a parish 'hum'.

Dollis Hill was largely populated, in Tim's day, by first-generation Irish immigrants, as well as quite a number of West Indians and Asians. The little church had up to nine Masses on a Sunday. Tim built an overflow chapel and, in the undercroft of the church, there was a flourishing Social Club. Immigrant Catholics soon found a home and a welcome. Like his parents, Tim had a special place in his heart for the Irish.

Another of Tim's enthusiasms in later life was learning languages. He became fluent in French; his brother, Bernard, lived and worked in France, so this was one attraction. Every year, he used to exchange with a French priest and

*Poets Society*, where Robin Williams says, 'Carpe diem - seize the day!' My father, Julien Porisse, seized his days, and his last words to me were, 'Live your life'.

Ratcliffe College taught him to live his life to the full in the light of God.

**Julien Porisse Jnr (81)**  
Son



spend his 'holiday' looking after a parish in France. Then, when he was posted to a parish in Swansea, he decided to learn Welsh, and this enabled him to be on call to celebrate Mass in Welsh around the diocese where it was spoken.

At an age when many parish priests are looking to retire, Tim took on his final posting in the little town of Hay-on-Wye. With the current priest shortage, Hay might well not have had a resident priest, had Tim not been happy to stay there for twenty years and make himself very much part of the local community.

One of his diocesan colleagues said this of him during his final illness: 'Tim was the most honest priest I have ever met'. This, surely, was the secret of his pastoral success. What you saw and what you heard was what you got. His humour bubbled up spontaneously; he was never one for standing on ceremony. A lot of this he inherited from his mother, Win, who was a great host and had a wide circle of friends, and who was ahead of her time in many of the causes she espoused, such as the rights of Indian women.

Tim will be greatly missed as a friend, a priest, and as an outstanding human being. Personally, I look back on some wonderful holidays spent in his company, and many encounters playing badminton or golf, where Tim always liked to win, but was also a gracious loser.

**Rev Fr Michael Hill IC (49)**

## Frank Newman

Old Ratcliffian 1949-56

March 7th 1938-August 14th 2013



Frank was born in Hungary on March 7th 1938 and was brought to live in the United Kingdom when he was eighteen months old.

Following his education at Ratcliffe, he gained a place at New College, Oxford, but before starting there he took a BSc degree in Chemistry within two years, instead of the normal three year period. He was at Oxford for six years and achieved a doctorate whilst he was there. He started lecturing in Computing at Nottingham Trent University and remained there until he retired.

Frank leaves a wife, Chantal, five sons and two daughters, plus six grandchildren. One of his sons, **Michael**, started teaching history at Ratcliffe College in September this year.

**John Newman (57)**  
Brother

My dad attended Ratcliffe College from 1949 until 1956. In this time, he had been given the nickname 'Tank', due to his reputation on the rugby field. If he was like a tank, then it was probably more like a WWI tank that continually broke down! Dad's sporting prowess stood in stark contrast to his academic ability. While claiming to be dyslexic, a condition probably unknown at the time, he achieved a remarkable set of results which allowed him to go New College, Oxford. He would eventually complete a Doctorate in Theoretical Chemistry which allowed him to continue a career in academia.

Dad would often tell us stories about his days at Ratcliffe. This normally involved Uncle John's smoking habits or his dabbling in boxing. A turning point in his life came when he had to choose his subjects to study after the age of sixteen. His teacher, I think **Fr Ken Casey**, called him up to the

front of the class and asked Dad what he wanted to do. He said, 'History, English and Latin.' Fr Casey replied, 'I'll put down Maths, Physics and Chemistry. Sit down, Newman.'

Dad never lost his love of the subjects which he was no longer able to study. Even convincing him that I wanted to study History came with the reply, 'I'm more interested in History than you.' This and similar accusations were always unfair, as Dad showed an insight which tested even the most ardent enthusiasts. He was interested in learning and encouraged us to continue to study for as long as possible. To date, two of his children have completed PhDs, with the other five achieving undergraduate degrees. This was ultimately the culmination of everything that was instilled into us by Dad sharing his enthusiasm and dedication for learning.

Dad lost his battle to cancer on August 14th 2013. He is survived by his wife, seven children and, at the time, five grandchildren. On September 16th 2013, my wife gave birth to his sixth grandchild. It is only fitting that Frank's passion and enthusiasm are passed on to his namesake - Francesca.

**Michael Newman**  
Son

## Michael John Banks

Old Ratcliffian 1949-53

February 3rd 1937-October 27th 2013

Michael John Banks was born in Derby, to Margaret and Frank Banks, on February 3rd 1937.

Michael went first to Grace Dieu Manor before continuing on to Ratcliffe in 1949. After leaving school and completing his National Service, he joined Stewarts and Lloyds, Corby, as a Research Metallurgist.

He met his future wife, Maureen, who was also studying Metallurgy, at this time and they married in 1962.

After several appointments within the steel industry, Michael was appointed Works Metallurgist for Corby Steel Works in 1975. After leaving British Steel in 1980, Michael took up other managerial positions before he finally founded his own company, Metec Quality and Environmental Consultancy.

Living in Northamptonshire and then Berkshire with his wife and four children, Michael spent as much



spare time as possible developing and creating a beautiful garden. His wife, too, was a knowledgeable gardener and many happy hours were spent together planning and planting for the future.

Michael's other great hobby was photography, which began during his teenage years. He photographed, printed and developed all his own work and, right through his life,

became known by us all as quite an amazing photographer.

In 1999 his wife, Maureen, died after a long illness and, in 2007, Michael moved to Earls Barton, Northamptonshire, to be nearer to his daughter and family. His friend, Kay, who had been a tremendous support to him following Maureen's death, moved with him.

Michael leaves three sons and a daughter - Michael, Richard, Caroline and Stephen - a son-in-law, daughters-in-law and six grandchildren. He also leaves a sister, Judith.

Michael will be greatly missed by us all. May he rest in peace.

**Judith Banks**  
Sister

## Denis Haines

### Teacher

September 15th 1929-December 2nd 2012

Denis died in December last year and he was carried into Loughborough Crematorium by men whom he had taught at Ratcliffe over forty years before. What was it about him that made us fight for a position under his coffin? The answer to that question for me comes, like a game of rugby, in two halves.

Denis came to Ratcliffe College in the mid-1960s, inheriting a 1st XV Rugby side that, in preceding years, had lost far more than it had won. Within a few years, he coached a side which went unbeaten for a full season. He also had narrow misses for a clean sweep in following seasons, where his teams were beaten only once or twice a year and scored lots of tries, reflecting his love of a free-flowing game. It is not easy to put a finger on the secret of this remarkable success, coaching, as he was, a school which had a potential selection panel of just one hundred and twenty Sixth Formers, whilst most of the schools in the fixture list had at least twice as many from which to choose.

Soccer supporters of a certain age will remember Brian Clough's ability to find a role within a team for those whom 'wiser' judges had cast aside. Denis shared that talent of seeing what an individual was capable of. When he knew what talent he had at his disposal, he moulded the style of play to suit the resources available to him. Whilst at Ratcliffe, he had some fine, individual talent at his disposal: **Patrick Gordon (67)**, a man amongst boys who earned an Oxford Blue; **Mick Bramall (66)**, who played centre for British Universities; **Michael Clarke**



**(67)**, who boasts the legend of having kicked a conversion for Leicestershire Under 19s with a broken leg; and his brother **Patrick (69)**, a Lancashire full county triallist until he was laid low by a late tackle whilst playing against Waterloo for Liverpool University 1st XV - an injury which nearly killed him. There was **Peter Stanton (68)** too, an England School's final triallist with a 'Sharpe-like' break (for those who don't remember Richard Sharpe, a trip to YouTube will show you what I mean). His successor at fly half, **Michael Shevlin (71)**, could accelerate out of a sidestep off either foot. **Tony Gallagher (70)**, his School Captain in 1969 also captained Leicestershire schoolboys and was proficient in the dark arts of lifting second rows long before it became legal.

Denis developed teams that would do anything for each other and everything to avoid defeat. On those rare occasions when defeat did come, it was accepted with good grace and lessons were learned to avoid its unwelcome reappearance.

He also coached the 1st XI cricket and was a skilful performer himself, with an annoying ability (speaking as an unsuccessful bowler) to avoid dismissal and score runs fluently. As Captain, I still treasure many long conversations on summer evenings in the pavilion with Denis, which covered much wider topics than just cricket. As C L R James rightly said, 'What do they know of cricket who only cricket know?'

There were many fine teachers at Ratcliffe in those days. **Jack Morris**

was an intellectual powerhouse who was more compassionate than people gave him credit for. **Mick Waters** had a genius for nurturing the character of stropky adolescents who will never forget his friendship and humour. But Denis was still my favourite.

Denis left Ratcliffe in order to progress his career and it is typical of his drive and ambition that he became one of the Open University's early graduates and achieved success and distinction in teaching elsewhere. With these happy memories, the first half closes.

Many years later, Denis and his old friend (and fellow teacher at Ratcliffe) **John Orton** visited the school one weekend at an Old Boys' Reunion. I heard of this after the event and, regretting having missed him, traced him to his home in Loughborough through the kind offices of **Bishop John Arnold (71)** and Jackie Bennett.



John Orton & Denis Haines

**John Whelan (71)** and I arranged to take Denis and John Orton to watch Leicester Tigers play and to polish off a glass of wine or two over a meal at Timo Restaurant. It was wonderful to hear that lifting Welsh accent again and he and John Orton were excellent company. All great friendships are marked by the ability to rekindle acquaintance after long absences and I felt as if I had known him for all of the intervening forty years. Perhaps I had, because he played such an important part in moulding the character that I am.

On my return home that night, my wife asked how it had gone, and I announced that Denis and Margaret were coming to visit us in Ireland that August, which they did. We had a wonderful time, blessed for the most part with fine weather. We watched the Olympics, he charmed the socks off all my relatives and he was (at his own insistence) a tireless labourer in the garden. He walked the beautiful

Bantry Bay Golf Course and marched into the clubhouse looking fresher than the rest of us. We also had guests in the house from Dublin with twin fifteen year old boys, in whose rugby careers Denis became closely interested. For their part, they could scarcely believe how much he knew about rugby. Their dad, a very cheeky Dubliner called Frank, christened him 'Denis the Menace' and, although I doubt that this was the first time he had received this title, he adopted his new moniker with good grace. We all wanted to hear what he had to say about almost any topic. We had to drag him away from his new friends after any visit to our local pub, where he played up his Welsh (i.e. non-English) roots to great effect.

Margaret and my wife Bettina became close friends and the house was enriched with the sound of our laughter. I found out more of his background, which master-pupil relationships usually and understandably prevent. His father was a miner and, yes, he did sometimes scrub his back as he sat in a tin bath in the living room of a small terraced house in South Wales. He had done National Service in the Royal Navy and boasted that he once served Lord Louis Mountbatten with a gin and tonic aboard one of Her Majesty's ships. He was just as interested to hear what had happened to me in the intervening years and could not really take in that the lad he nicknamed 'Jerk' could have become one of Her Majesty's Counsel! I wondered then and now what this intelligent man could have achieved, had he enjoyed the opportunities that I did.

Margaret and Denis' story is simple and beautiful. As a seventeen year old local girl, Margaret was walking on a footpath by the playing fields at Loughborough College, where Denis was playing football with fellow students. He took time to sneak away to talk to the pretty girl who was to become his wife for almost sixty years.

In our house on the Sheep's Head peninsula, Margaret and Denis were both fascinated by an internet gadget which enabled them to play any song they wanted to on the sound system. He loved an Austrian tenor called Richard Tauber who sang 'Open Road, Open Sky' from *The Gypsy Baron*.

They both requested Gracie Fields and we all listened to 'Wish Me Luck As You Wave Me Goodbye', which they each said they wanted to have played at their funerals.

When we took them to Cork Airport, we wondered where the week had gone and both very much wished that they were not going. We all promised that we would see each other again soon. That was not to be. Denis had a heart attack that December which killed him in his home. So closes the second half.

A collection of friends gathered at Loughborough Crematorium on December 19th 2012. A group of Old Ratcliffians were fighting for the honour of carrying Denis' coffin into the service, those being myself, **Nobby Clarke (67)**, **Bernard Murphy (67)**, **Andrew Gamble (68)**, **Tony Gallagher (70)** and **Paul Morris (74)**, and so this was agreed by the family. Denis' daughter, Denise, welcomed us all and we heard moving tributes from his old friends, John Orton and **Mike Tanner** (another teacher friend from Ratcliffe days with whom he shared a passion for horseracing on an international level, including Ireland, Paris and Kentucky). I met his son Paul who, along with Margaret and Denise, kindly allowed us to carry Denis' coffin. I have the Order of Service in front of me; it is full of pictures of a smiling, handsome Denis at various stages of his life, which included the celebration of his Golden Wedding Anniversary.

As Denis made his way along the conveyor belt in the crematorium, which is usually a rather gruesome moment, Gracie Fields broke out into her song for him as he had asked her to. We all wished him luck as we waved him goodbye and I wished that many more years could have passed until I heard that song again.

Denis, I suspect you have no need of luck, my old friend: if there is any justice in the world beyond this one, your kindness, good humour, wit and wisdom will not go unrewarded. You didn't join a profession that would bring you great financial reward, but what you have given to those in your charge cannot be repaid. As you said when we last parted company, 'Look after yourself, Butt'.

**Jerry Cahill (70)**

# NOSTALGIA

## Paul Baillon's (32) Spitfire is Retrieved!

**Paul Baillon (32)** is one of Ratcliffe's war heroes; his name is on the War Memorial on the back wall of the Chapel of the Immaculate Conception at Ratcliffe College.

Rosemary Baillon never knew her father. A pilot who flew Spitfires in the Battle of Britain, he was tragically killed, aged twenty-six, in a dog-fight over the English Channel in November 1940, four months before she was born.

It wasn't Pilot Officer Paul Baillon's first brush with the Luftwaffe. A month earlier, he had been at the controls of one of the iconic fighters when it was shot from the skies of South-West England by a German bomber's machine guns. On that occasion, the RAF ace bailed out safely, but his stricken aircraft crashed on Salisbury Plain. In an upbeat letter to his wife, Peggy (Miss Baillon's mother), he recalled the episode as



*Paul Baillon (32), whose Spitfire has been found*

'all very exciting, especially coming down by parachute, which really was not at all unpleasant!'

His words from beyond the grave were among the little Miss Baillon knew of the incident, until recently. The seventy-two year old, a research fellow in Geopolitics, was present when wreckage from the Spitfire Mark 1 (from which her father ejected unharmed) was dug up by soldiers wounded in Iraq and Afghanistan. The physically and mentally-injured troops and veterans excavated the remnants of the plane, buried for seventy-three years, as part of Operation Nightingale, an award-winning Ministry of Defence project which uses archaeology to aid their recovery.

During a highly emotional day, Miss Baillon was handed buried artefacts from the stricken, mangled plane (number P9503), including part of a propeller, a crumpled fuel gauge, a piece of windscreen and buckles from the parachute release mechanism. The trinkets were small, but meant the world to the pilot's daughter. She said: 'Seeing the Spitfire being excavated meant a great deal to me. It is remarkable to touch something that my father would have touched so many years ago.'



*Rosemary Baillon, daughter of Paul Baillon (32), at the recovery site*

## The Ratcliffe Spitfire Project



*A Spitfire in flight*

The past year has seen huge developments with The Ratcliffe Spitfire Project. We have begun to make strides in the build, with the tail section and frames coming along well, and we have been contacted by (as well as made and maintained close links with) a number of individuals and businesses who have provided us with a tremendous amount of support.

Chris Mitchell is the workshop manager at Airframe Assemblies on the Isle of Wight. One of the world's leading restorers of Spitfires, Chris has been very generous with his time and advice, both over the phone, as well as on the number of occasions I bug him by visiting!

Paul McVittie owns CAD Works Engineering Ltd, based in Carlisle. He has visited the project and has begun the very lengthy process of producing full-sized CAD drawings of the frames for us. The first of these have arrived and have saved us over two man-hours per frame!

Charles Barrie builds replica Spitfires and has come to the College on a number of occasions with parts, photographs and

drawings. He is always very inspiring and has helped tremendously. Interestingly, Charles also flies Spitfires, so he has first-hand knowledge of the aircraft in the air.

Roland Dorman (parent of current pupil, Nathaniel) runs Dorman Engineering Services Ltd, who manufacture custom machined parts. Roland has been very helpful and is currently working with us on some interesting ideas as we have no machining capabilities here.

In April, we welcomed two very distinguished guests to the College; Dilip Sarkar MBE FRHistS, an authority on the Spitfire and author of over thirty books on the subject, and Mark Postlethwaite GAvA, one of the world's leading aviation artists. Both guests gave wonderfully engaging and illustrated talks to the assembled audience. It was a great privilege to listen to such respected experts.

**Ben Jackson (88)** from BBC Radio Leicester (father of Kit, a current pupil) has a keen interest in the project and has interviewed me a number of times about its progress. In April, Ben came to the College and recorded an interview with

Ollie Foulds (Year 7), Sasha Farzin-Nia (Year 11) and me. Ben is very enthusiastic about the project and very supportive of what we are doing; it has been lovely to have the opportunity to promote the project to a wider audience.

Richard Osgood is the Senior Archaeologist from the Defence Archaeology Group. He had been working to locate and recover the remains of a Battle of Britain Spitfire on Salisbury Plain. By pure coincidence, the pilot of the Spitfire was **Paul A Baillon (32)**, Old Ratcliffian and the pilot our project is based around! Richard's team comprises ex-servicemen who have been injured in conflicts, with a remit to assist their rehabilitation. The dig was in the first week in September. The experience is one I shall never forget. I met Rosemary Baillon (Paul's daughter) at last, and spent the day excavating the remains of his aircraft with servicemen who had been injured in Iraq and Afghanistan - what an honour. Richard was kind enough to mention our project on national television, following the extensive media interest. Richard and the team will be giving a talk and bringing the finds to the College in June.

For the full story, or for further information about 'The Ratcliffe Spitfire', please contact me through the College.

**Dominic Berry**  
Head of Art



*A Spitfire cockpit*

## Memories Day

On Friday 7th December 2012, eleven Old Ratcliffians returned to the School to share their memories of life at Ratcliffe. Those in attendance were **Clifford Della Porta (43)**, **Tony Daly (47)**, **Tony Blackham (48)**, **Pat Jolliffe (53)**, **Adrian Weston (53)**, **Tony Jewell (54)**, **Nicholas Tomlinson (56)**, **Brian Coe (60)**, **Tim McConnell (63)**, **Donal Heffernan (75)** and **Peter Tetlow (78)**.

After a brief meeting with the Headmaster and Ratcliffe's Father President, **Fr Ted Mullen (60)**, the Old Ratcliffians were taken on a tour of the School, led by students from a range of year groups. During this time, they were able to share their experiences with the current students and see for themselves just how much the School had changed. Later, the ORs were divided into two groups for a question and answer session about their time at Ratcliffe. Since all these ORs left Ratcliffe between thirty and seventy years ago, there was a lot to reminisce about! The session, which was full of many heartfelt and often amusing anecdotes, was recorded and transcribed for the Ratcliffian Association (available to view on our website, [www.ratcliffianassociation.co.uk](http://www.ratcliffianassociation.co.uk)). The following are taken from the recording session, describing life at Ratcliffe:

**Clifford Della Porta (43) (RIP):** "In freezing weather, the cold water froze. Nevertheless we had to be ready and down at Mass – it was compulsory. We didn't mind, because there was a blackout on. The Father who was saying the Mass (which was **Fr Claude Leetham** mainly) had little shrouds over the candles because of the blackout, so of course, we could have a little sleep down there if the prefects didn't see us! That was pretty good!"

**Tim McConnell (75):** "It was not very pleasant at all, the food, when I was here! There were certain foods that were inedible. You had to eat it – whatever was put in front of you, you had to eat. So we used to have what we called 'liver bags' – a bag you could stuff your piece of liver in (because that was the worst, the liver), and you would quietly put it in your pocket and take it out and flush it down the toilet. That was the only way of getting rid of some of the more disgusting food that we were served with!"

All the Ratcliffians, both past and present, thoroughly enjoyed the event.

**Gemma Rumbold (01)**  
Development Assistant



*Old Ratcliffians with Jackie Bennett on Memories Day*

## DIARY DATES 2014

Friday 7th February	The Ratcliffian Association London Dinner, The Crypt, St Etheldreda's Mass at 7pm, Champagne Reception at 7.30pm, Dinner at 8pm ( <i>Black Tie</i> )
Wednesday 5th March	The Ratcliffian Association Leavers' Social, The Old Ratcliffian Bar, 6pm
Sunday 16th March	Ratcliffian Association Council Meeting, Conference Room, 11.30am Old Ratcliffians vs Old Princethorpians Rugby, 2pm The Thistlethwaite Hockey Cup, The Halley Football Cup & The Old Ratcliffian vs Ratcliffe College Netball Cup, 2pm
Saturday 5th April	Ratcliffian Association Singapore Dinner, Singapore Cricket Club ( <i>Lounge Suits</i> )
Friday 25th - Sunday 27th April	The Ratcliffian Association Retreat, Ratcliffe College
Friday 9th May	The Ratcliffian Association Paris Dinner, venue TBC ( <i>Lounge Suits</i> )
Friday 16th May	The Grafton Morrish Public Schools Qualifier, Gog Magog, Cambridge
Sunday 8th June	The Ratcliffian Association Golf Shield, Old Ratcliffians vs Parents, Staff & Students, Rothley Park Golf Club
Sunday 22nd June	Old Ratcliffians vs Old Tridents Cricket Match
Sunday 29th June	The Grand Match, Old Ratcliffian XI vs Ratcliffe College XI
Friday 4th July	The Reynard Golf Trophy, venue and time TBC
Saturday 5th July	The Ratcliffian Association Reunion Dinner, Ratcliffe College ( <i>Black Tie</i> )
Sunday 6th July	Mass for Deceased Old Ratcliffians, 10.30am The Ratcliffian Association Council Meeting, 11.30am The Ratcliffian Association AGM, 12pm. Lunch, 1pm The Rik Hughes 20-20 Cricket Cup, 2pm
Sunday 7th September	The Patch Gamble Rugby Cup & The Taylor Mixed Hockey Cup, 2pm
Friday 17th October	Past Presidents' Dinner, The Old Library, Ratcliffe College
Friday 14th November	The Yorkshire Dinner, The Bridge, Walshford, Wetherby, 7.30pm ( <i>Lounge Suits</i> )
Sunday 23rd November	Ratcliffian Association Council Meeting, Conference Room, 11.30am
Tuesday 2nd December	Old Ratcliffian London Drinks Party, venue TBC

For the details of any of the above, please contact Jackie Bennett at [admin@ratcliffianassociation.com](mailto:admin@ratcliffianassociation.com) or tel: 01509 817054

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