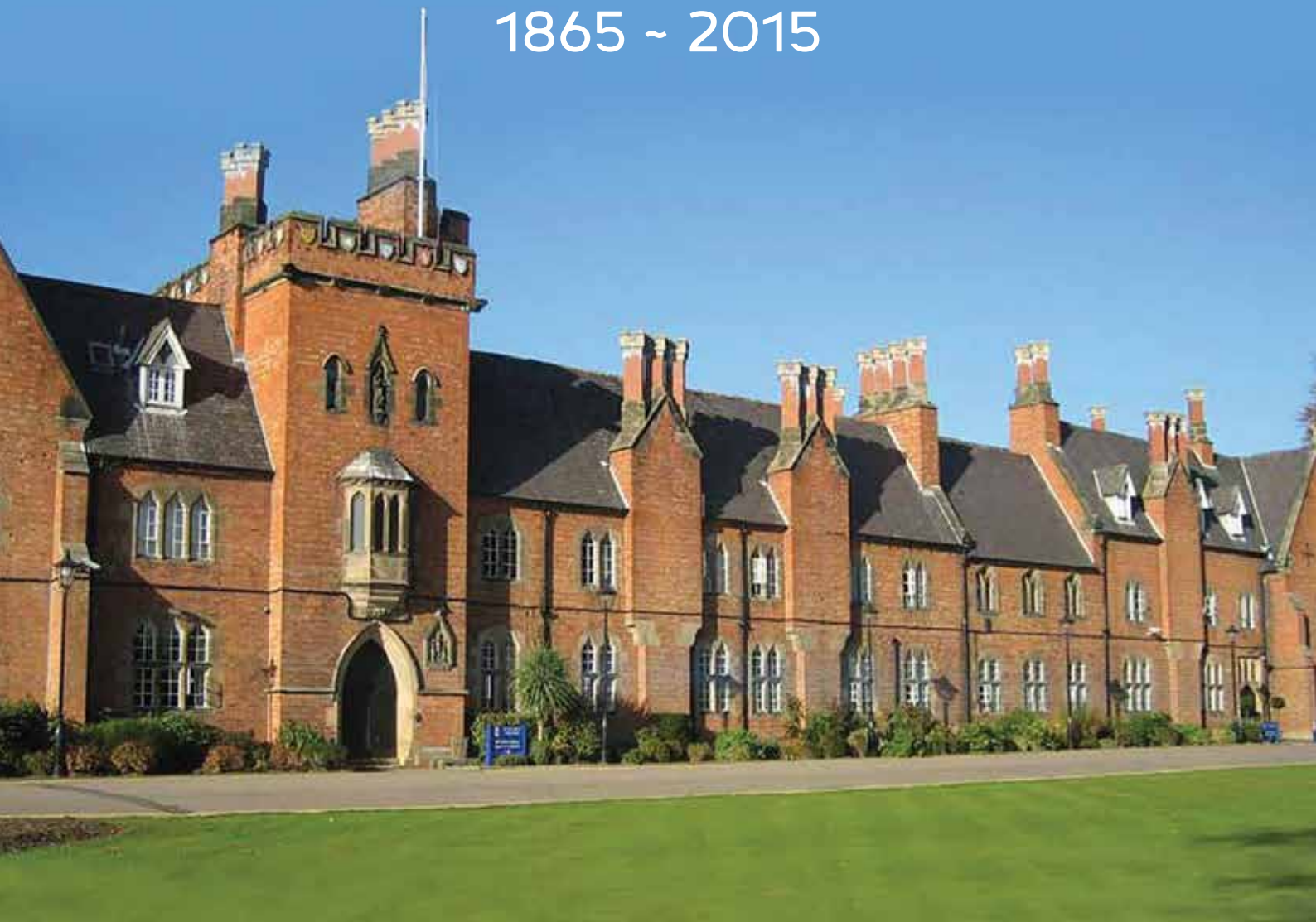




RATCLIFFIAN
ASSOCIATION
150TH ANNIVERSARY

THE OLD RATCLIFFIAN

1865 ~ 2015



150TH ANNIVERSARY EDITION

*'To the greater glory of God and in honour of the
Immaculate Virgin Mary'*



RATCLIFFIAN ASSOCIATION 150TH ANNIVERSARY 1865-2015

The Ratcliffian Association held its first meeting on July 11th 1865 with the motto:
'To the greater glory of God and in honour of the Immaculate Virgin Mary.'

The Association has continued to grow ever since. In June 1965, the Ratcliffian Association organised a banquet in celebration of its Centenary, where '300 Members of the Association and their guests sat down to the Banquet in a splendid marquee especially erected for the occasion on the Square.'

Not to be outdone, on June 20th and 21st this year, the Ratcliffian Association and the College hosted a weekend of celebrations, culminating in a Grand Luncheon in the Square with over 300 guests. A full report is on page 24.



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FROM YOUR PRESIDENT



President, Mike Meredith (89)

Dear Old Ratcliffians,

No, it's not a printing error - I'm in the seat for another year!

I am delighted to serve the Association again. As our 150th Anniversary year comes to a close, I am left with a host of great memories, as, I am sure, are many Old Ratcliffians. From an events perspective, the weekend of celebrations in June was, in the opinion of many, the best event that the Association has ever put on. The College was looking beautiful, the weather was perfect, and we had about 350 alumni, friends and family celebrating the special 'bond of unity' which links us all. Later in the magazine, you can read many kind comments (and see numerous pictures) which exist as a legacy of the weekend. Many of you were also very kind to contribute in other ways to this year of celebration:

THE OLD RATCLIFFIAN SURVEY

Through a survey of all old members, we gathered a great range of memories of the College, as well as ideas of how the Association could better serve its alumni and the School; the memories are all

included in the magazine. The ideas generated will be integrated into the plans for 2016 and beyond.

THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY APPEAL

Many of you very kindly contributed to the Association's appeal to help the College fund a new all-weather pitch. On behalf of the Ratcliffian Association, I would like to thank all of you who made a contribution. We shall be making a significant donation to the College in the near future.

As we look forward to 2016, we wish a very happy retirement to Jackie Bennett, upon whom so much of the recent success of the Association has rested. On behalf of everyone in the Association, Jackie, I cannot thank you enough for the work you have done for us. You have an incredible knack for making everyone feel special and welcome.

In her stead, however, we welcome **Alex Slack (née Gamble) (03)** as the new Executive Manager of the Association, who will carry on the best of Jackie's work, as well as bringing her own skills and enthusiasm to the role. We also welcome **Sam Bird (98)** to the role of Vice President; he will assume the presidency in the summer and be the youngest ever President of the Ratcliffian Association. With the help of Alex and Sam, I hope that this year will focus particularly on new activities which engage with the younger alumni.

Have a happy and peaceful Christmas, and I wish a successful 2016 for you and your families.

Make this the year that you reconnect with that old school friend you've been meaning to!

Mike Meredith (89)

President of the Ratcliffian Association

THE EDITOR'S COLUMN

It is with great sadness that I write my last Editor's Column for the *Old Ratcliffian* magazine. I started this column in 2007, having taken over from my predecessor, Sian Truszkowska. It was meant to be a temporary job, but somehow, I am still here in 2015!

Ratcliffe has been such a large part of my life; my three children and my brother were all educated here, and I was part of the fundraising team for the 150th Anniversary of the College in 1997. Even before that, I was part of a small committee of four, comprising of **Richard Gamble (64)**, the late **Joe Massarella (54)** and Angela Murphy, wife of **Bernard Murphy (67)**, which was responsible for organising a biennial themed Summer Ball at Ratcliffe, which became a regular fixture in the '80s and early '90s.

However, I am sure that I will not be allowed to retire completely, as my daughter, **Alex Slack (née Gamble) (03)** has been appointed by the Association to take over my post, and she will start here in January at the end of her maternity leave.



Jackie Bennett at the Past Presidents' Dinner in October with their gift to her

ALEXANDRA SLACK, THE NEW EXECUTIVE MANAGER OF THE RATCLIFFIAN ASSOCIATION



Alex Slack (née Gamble) (03)

Alex joined Ratcliffe in the Sixth Form and has a deep sense of belonging to the school that her grandfather, father, brothers and uncles attended. After Ratcliffe, Alex went to Leeds Metropolitan University, where she gained a First Class Degree in Events Management. She has subsequently worked in the events industry, both in London and the Midlands, finishing up as the Corporate Fundraiser for LOROS, Leicester's hospice. She is really looking forward to the new challenge and, in particular, helping to engage younger Old Ratcliffians. She is full of new ideas and will, no doubt, give the Association a real shake up. Watch this space!

OUR PRESIDENT

Mike Meredith (89) has agreed to undertake two years as President; his cousin, **Fr Anthony Meredith (57)** and **Anthony Jewell (54)** are the only two other Presidents who have been in office for two years. Mike has been a great asset for the Association, benefiting from the wealth of his experience in strategic business development. He has been the driving force behind the survey sent to all Old Ratcliffians earlier this year to gain more information about their views on the Association and how it could be improved. Mike's aim is to develop participation in the Association across all age ranges, but in particular, the under 40s. He has attended all the informal gatherings (known as 'Thirsty Thursdays') in the Larrik Inn in London, enjoying a few drinks with Old Ratcliffians. He is also a keen hockey player, with a Double Blue from Oxford and Cambridge, and enjoyed playing for the Old Ratcliffian side in the Thistlethwaite Cup in March. He is not a bad golfer either, having won the Reynard Golf Trophy in June. He has also helped me with the organisation of the London and Yorkshire events, and the 150th Anniversary celebrations in June. I would, therefore, like to pay tribute to him, thank him, and wish him good luck with the rest of his time in office.

His successor, **Sam Bird (98)**, will take over from Mike in July next year. I know Sam very well, as he was in the same year group as my son, **Patrick (96)**, and was a regular visitor to our home. He married an Old Ratcliffian, **Giuliana Bird (née De Rienzo) (98)**, having met at Ratcliffe as childhood sweethearts. Sam



Mike Meredith (89), winner of the Reynard Golf Trophy 2015, with Golf Captain & Past President, Abe Mee (92)

will become the youngest ever President of the Association at the age of 36, but his youth does not belie his experience and maturity. Sam has been a regular attendee at Old Ratcliffian events since leaving the School and is a keen member of the Old Rats' Rugby Team.



Vice President, Sam Bird (98), with Giuliana Bird (née De Rienzo) (98)

THE ASSOCIATION & THE COLLEGE

It is often the case within the independent schools sector that alumni organisations and schools are at odds with one other, with a different perspective of the importance of alumni to a school. However, the Ratcliffian Association and Senior Leadership Team of the College now operate as part of a team with the same goals. The Secretary of the Association is a member of a larger team, under the leadership of **Andrew Yell (82)**, the Development Director, and Louise Liston, the Foundation Manager, who shares the Association Office. However, the Association still remains an independent body, responsible for the funding of

its Secretary and its administration costs. This close collaboration of both bodies ensures that the very best outcomes are achieved for both the College and the Association. This closer relationship was very much in evidence in the planning and co-ordination of the 150th Anniversary celebrations in June. This was a team event, and I would like to pay tribute to all those who helped to make the weekend such a resounding success.

In terms of building closer relationships between the School and alumni, none of this could have been achieved without the incredible support from our Headmaster, Gareth Lloyd. He has been an outstanding leader, building close links and friendships across the Old Ratcliffian community. He has also been incredibly supportive to me in the six years since he became Headmaster. His warmth and charisma are well recognised amongst staff, parents and Old Ratcliffians alike, and I will miss our regular meetings when I leave.



Louise Liston, Foundation Manager

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to **Gemma Rumbold (01)** for her excellent and conscientious contribution to this publication over the past three years, and also for all her hard work in developing the Association database.

As I said at the beginning of this article, I will be very sad to leave Ratcliffe in January, as it has become such an integral part of my life over the past forty years. However, I am confident in the knowledge that I am leaving a healthier and stronger Association than ever before in the very capable hands of our new Secretary, our Headmaster and our President.

Jackie Bennett
Executive Secretary of the Ratcliffian Association

NEWS FROM THE COLLEGE

THE HEADMASTER'S 150TH ANNIVERSARY REPORT



Headmaster, Gareth Lloyd

Dear Old Ratcliffians,

What an auspicious year this is, celebrating 'seven score and ten years' in Biblical terms, or your 'sesquicentennial', to use the correct terminology, and to reassure you that the Classics are thriving at Ratcliffe.

It is an immense honour and privilege for me to attend Old Ratcliffian events: regional, national and even global. I never fail to be struck by the most distinguishing feature of Old Ratcliffians, and that is that decades of memories come streaming back to you as you speak and enthuse amongst one another. Friendships are renewed, while new connections are made, for age is not a barrier. You are invariably fair-minded, balanced, friendly, honest, tolerant, welcoming and charitable - you must be all those things, allowing a little Welshman in through the doors to be your Headmaster for the past six years.

And I ask myself: why? Why it is that age is not a barrier to the wonderful exchanges between yourselves and fellow Old Ratcliffians? It is very simple: the values and vision of Blessed Antonio Rosmini that launched Ratcliffe College 168 years ago still permeate the very fabric of our community, speaking across generations. Each of you left a footprint, a unique mark on the School; so, let us consider what your collective legacy is exactly.

Your contributions to Ratcliffe College, whether large or small, have resulted in a school community today that is thriving enormously happily - a school for children aged three to eighteen years old; a co-educational school since 1978; a Catholic school, universal and inclusive, serving the needs of the community; and a community that buzzes with teaching and learning of the highest calibre and in the deepest sense. Our School Roll looks set to be in the region of 825 in September 2015, with boarding at capacity, underlined by a 27% growth over the past six years, despite the recession and economic climate of austerity.

So why do parents, including increasing numbers of Old Ratcliffians, continue to choose Ratcliffe College, particularly over a wealth of competitor schools?

Our A Level results in August saw 75% of all grades at A* to B; one fifth of our students attaining at least A*, A, A; 89% of our students gaining entry to their first choice university; all of our Oxbridge candidates securing their respective places; and our AS results placing Ratcliffe College in the top 1% of ALL schools in the United Kingdom.

The Ratcliffe College Preparatory School opened for business in September 2014, to address the significant waiting list. What an

honour it was to have it officially opened in March 2015 by HRH the Duke of Gloucester.

My Staff deliver an exceptional co-curriculum, wherein our extra-curricular activities help our students to prepare purposefully for life, building resilience and offering fun and enjoyment.

- In Sport, we are proud to have currently several unbeaten sides in rugby, hockey, cricket, athletics and tennis, with many individuals distinguishing themselves at county, regional and national honours, even including world champions.
- In Music, there are now more instrumentalists than ever, enabling such performances by our Senior Orchestra and Senior Choir as Haydn's *Nelson Mass*.
- Drama engenders self-confidence, teamwork and a commitment to quality; we are rightly proud to boast school productions in every year group, not to mention moving weekly assemblies in witness to our Faith.
- Our CCF received an excellent Biennial Inspection in March of this year, and has been especially visible during the Centennial Commemorations of World War I.
- Ratcliffe's Duke of Edinburgh's Award scheme, developing skills, teamwork and a sense of care for others, has more participants than ever, with regular Ratcliffian visits to the Palace for students to receive their Gold Award.
- Charitable work, a key pillar of Rosminian philosophy, raises over £30,000 per annum, living out our School motto, 'Legis Plenitudo Caritas', underpinned by our Mission

Statement, 'Living and Growing in the Light of the Gospel'. Ours is a statement that pervades and defines the spiritual characteristics of Ratcliffe College, and that has brought Grace Dieu Manor Preparatory School back into a Rosminian Collegiate, under the aegis of Ratcliffe College - your old school, flourishing in ways unimaginable 150 years ago, when your Association was created.

All of this was recognised in our recent ISI Inspection, where we were judged as 'Excellent' in every single category. This was only made possible by the exemplary teamwork that has taken place at every level between Trustees, Governors, my Senior Leadership Team, my Staff, students, parents and alumni.

So, I congratulate each and every one of you on your collective legacy, for Ratcliffe College is truly a remarkable school. I wish you a very happy sesquicentennial birthday.

Finally, I would like to express my warmest thanks to **Mike Meredith (89)** for his sterling work as President; I would like to welcome on board **Sam Bird (98)** as President Elect and our youngest President of the Ratcliffian Association; I would like to thank **Richard Gamble (64)**, our outgoing Chairman of Governors, for his exemplary service to both the School and the Association; and the indomitable Jackie Bennett, Secretary to the Association, especially for masterminding the wonderful weekend of celebrations in June, and for all her work over the past eight years. We especially wish you, Jackie, a long, healthy and blessed retirement after your exemplary and outstanding service to the Association. Finally I thank my wife, Katharine, for always being there for me.

Gareth Lloyd
Headmaster



Gareth Lloyd with the Class of 2015 on A Level Results Day

VALETE - CLASS OF 2015

CONGRATULATIONS TO THIS YEAR'S LEAVERS

Evie Akerman	Zara Clothing	Employment and Training
Phoebe Allen	Oxford Brookes University	History
Olivia Armon	University of Exeter	English with Study in North America
David Astill	Nottingham Trent University	Media and History
Alex Beason	GAP Year	Work Experience and Employment
	Application to Music Colleges	
Anastasia Benfield-Dexter	University of Bristol	Chemistry with Industrial Experience
Francesca Beresford	University of York	English and Politics
Jacob Bird	University of Leeds	Fashion Marketing
Matthew Booth	Queen's University, Belfast	Mechanical Engineering
Eleanor Bourmes	University of Lincoln	Business and Management
Stuart Brambell	Warwickshire College, Leamington	Art Foundation
Edward Brown	Sheffield Hallam University	Business Studies
Eric Chan	Royal College of Music	Piano and Organ
Natalie Cheung	University of London, King's College	Global Health and Social Medicine
Shawn Cheung	University of Nottingham	Sociology and Social Policy
Georgia Chilton	Heriot-Watt University	Biological Sciences (Microbiology)
Alana Chin	Tung Wah College, Hong Kong	Nursing
Ron Chung	University of Southampton	Accounting and Finance
George Clayton	Nottingham Trent University	Economics
Louisa Cooper	University of London, Pearson College	Business Management
Sally Croysdale	University of Oxford, Exeter College	Engineering
Sarah Daniel	GAP Year	Employment and Further Education
	Application to Universities	History (2016)
Olivia Dexter	Manchester Metropolitan University	International Fashion Promotion
Leo Fan	University of Warwick	Biochemistry
Sasha Farzin-Nia	University of Birmingham	Mathematics
Savannah Fishel	University of Oxford, Regent's Park College	Philosophy and Theology
Jenny Hall	University of Leeds	Communication and Media
Cameron Hart	University of London, Queen Mary's College	Biochemistry
Isabelle Holford	University of Birmingham	American and Canadian Studies and History
Emily Hollis	University of Leeds	Management
Danny Hsu	University of Surrey	Chemical Engineering
Robert Hunton	University of Liverpool	Biological Sciences
Alex Jarvis	Oxford Brookes University	Business Management and Geography
Omar Khan	Cardiff Metropolitan University	International Business Management
Lewis Lancaster	University of Birmingham	Mechanical Engineering
Oliver Lawden	University of Warwick	Mathematics and Physics
Bethan Lawrence	University of Cardiff	English Literature
Martha Lewis	University of Reading	French and Italian
Bernadette Li	University of Manchester	Master of Planning
Angharad Lloyd	GAP Year	Teaching Assistant, Canada
	Application to Universities	Philosophy and Theology (2016)
Allen Loo	University of Oxford, Oriel College	Physics
James Marsh	University of Loughborough	Economics
Henry Mellors	University of Reading	French
Phoebe Merriman	University of Leeds	Fashion Marketing
Gianluca Misso	De Montfort University	Photography and Video
India Mitchell-Jarvis	GAP Year	Work Experience and Employment
	Application to Universities	Architecture (2016)
William Murray-Scott	University of the Arts, London	Games Design
Francesca Orton	University of Lincoln	Interactive Design
Charlotte Perfect	University of London, Queen Mary's College	Law
Hadrian Rigley	Oxford Brookes University	Philosophy
Sophie Riley	University of Manchester	Medicine
Lewis Smith	University of Oxford, Mansfield College	Physics
Thomas Smith	University of Derby	Sport Management
Annisia Tang	University of Leeds	Food Science and Nutrition
Melissa Taylor	University of Newcastle	Food Marketing and Nutrition
Olivia Thompson	Nottingham Trent University	Marketing
Rory Thorne	University of Cardiff	Ancient History
Annabelle Tomlinson	University of Bristol	Law
Katy Watson	Birmingham City University	Fashion Business and Promotion
Max Wemyss	Leeds Beckett University	Building Surveying
Katy Westwood	University of Manchester	Fashion Marketing
Lauren White	Manchester Metropolitan University	Business and Spanish
Millie Whowell	University of Leeds	New Media
Dick Wong	Hong Kong University of Science and Technology	Engineering

CLASS OF 2015



The Class of 2015

The proportion of students gaining a place at their first-choice university is the highest since 2007. The percentage of Year 13 students moving straight to higher education is also very high, reversing the recent trend of students seeking alternatives in light of university tuition fees. Over the past five years, the percentage of students moving to Russell Group universities has varied between 52% and 62%. This year's figure is 60%. The A Level grades obtained by the year group as a whole were very pleasing again this year. Very few grades fell below expectations, while several were significantly better than had been predicted in the light of AS results. Since Results Day, assistance has been offered and provided for those students who did not seek a university place. This support will continue in the future, not least for those who will be submitting UCAS application forms this autumn.

Graham Sharpe
Deputy Headmaster



Charlotte Perfect (15) with her mum



Sally Croysdale (15) gets her grades for Oxford



Gianluca Misso (15) looking relieved!



A Level students jumping for joy!

LEAVERS' DAY

FRIDAY 22ND MAY 2015

On their last full academic day of the calendar, Year 13 students celebrate Leavers' Day. They are all presented with a hardback yearbook, in which each student has a page with a photograph, and all their peers are invited to write comments. They are also given a coloured hoodie with their name or nickname printed on the back.

Graham Sharpe and his team put on some fun activities in the morning, followed by a barbecue lunch. Afterwards, there was a special Leavers' Mass, prepared by Paul Michel, the School Chaplain, in conjunction with the students. It was so uplifting that many of them were seen to wipe a tear from their eyes. There were some beautiful readings, one of which is printed on Page 11. The music performed by the students themselves was taken from various parts of the Picnic Concert. President, **Mike Meredith (89)**, and Headmaster, Gareth Lloyd, presented each student with a gift from the Ratcliffian Association: an Old Ratcliffian tie for the boys and a solid silver charm engraved with the Ratcliffe crest for the girls. The Mass and presentation symbolise the students' transition from Ratcliffe College pupils into Old Ratcliffians. This day marks the start of a new beginning for everyone.



David Astill (15), Tom Smith (15), Alfie Brown (15), Henry Mellors (15), Will Murray-Scott (15) & Lewis Lancaster (15) enjoying Leavers' Day



Drinks in the Woodies, courtesy of the Association

Afternoon tea was then served in the Old Library, followed by the mass exodus to The Woodman's Stroke pub in Rothley, where drinks were on the house, courtesy of the Ratcliffian Association.



Rory Thorne (15), Sports Captain, receives his Old Ratcliffian tie



Angharad Lloyd (15), Annabelle Tomlinson (15), Sally Croysdale (15) & Francesca Beresford (15) enjoying their new yearbooks



Tom Smith (15), Simon Riley (15) & Henry Mellors (15), Head Boy

YEAR 13 REFLECTIONS - 2015

Prepared by Phoebe Allen (15) and read by Georgia Chilton (15)

There is a quote from the film *Dead Poet's Society* which I would like to share with you all: 'We all have a great need for acceptance, but you must trust that your beliefs are unique, your own, even though others may think them odd or unpopular'. This message, I believe, shares a fundamental value which Ratcliffe teaches us: not to be afraid to be who we are. For God has given us all particular gifts; these make us different from one another, but equally as beautiful and valuable.

I asked a few people to write some words about what Ratcliffe has meant to them. One of the strongest ideas was that Ratcliffe has played a big part in who we've become. Through everything we can do and have done during our time at Ratcliffe, we have learnt, changed and developed into the people sitting here today. Someone described it by saying that 'Ratcliffe was the forge into which we were thrown. Instead of burning away, it tempered and created the hardened steel of us'.

It is not right to say that our time here has always been easy, or that we've enjoyed every minute. Through the smiles and tears, laughs and jeers, the School has been the great catalyst which has allowed the friends, foes and teachers to make you 'you'.

Another strong theme was that Ratcliffe is a 'home from home' to all its students in many different ways. I'm sure that many of us have felt that the School is a constant in life, even when everything around us has been turbulent and changing. As someone else wrote, 'It is where I see all my friends, catch up with the latest news, and have a good laugh about whatever has previously happened. It is where I have found out more about myself, my preferences and my abilities'.

It's sometimes easy to forget that there is a reason that Ratcliffe is remembered so fondly. That reason is that Blessed Antonio

Rosmini, our Founder, had very clear aims for education: that truth be found through honest, intellectual curiosity; that students recognise and know the significance of Love and Charity; and that the 'whole person' is developed - not just their skills or abilities, but also their hearts and actions. It is these values of integrity, compassion and justice that have developed the building blocks of our community and, as such, the building blocks of ourselves, which have shaped us in some way. Today is a key milestone in our lives, like a bud coming into blossom. Just like the blossom on a tree, each integral part is important, but they are not the same. We are that tree and we have all grown together. But a tree needs a flower just as much as it needs its roots. The various goals and aspirations of our year group display just how rich this tree is! Some of us want to be doctors and some of us want to be painters, some of us want to learn and some of us want to travel. We all have our own way and our own plan, or sometimes a complete lack of any plan. But even though each of us has our own plan, we are not alone, because we have each other, just as we are.

A fellow student wrote: 'When asked what Ratcliffe means to me, I thought of the heart. In a simple analogy, the heart is a symbol of love, the seat of the soul and the centre of profound emotion. As a heart is central to the body, Ratcliffe has been central to my life over the past four years. Through helping me to function and shaping who I am, Ratcliffe is like the heart to me'.

Not only should we be saying goodbye today, but also thank you. Thank you to our School, to our parents, to our teachers, thank you for the challenges and thank you for the victories, thank you for the lessons learnt that spread beyond the curriculum, and thank you for creating our community, our second family.

Phoebe Allen (15)

SCHOOL PROMOTION

On March 10th 2015, two then Year 13 students, **Sophie Riley (15)** and **Phoebe Allen (15)**, with the help of Jackie Bennett and Graham Sharpe, ran a promotional event for the students.

The girls put together a questionnaire which was distributed to all the students in the Upper School, and the winning entries were put into a prize draw, which was drawn at the Headmaster's Assembly in the following week. The purpose of the event was to spread the word about the Ratcliffian Association in this, its 150th Anniversary year. The students were given five simple questions to answer about the Ratcliffian Association. This event is part of an overall drive to raise awareness, in both the staff and students of the College, of the benefits of the Association.

Sophie Riley (15) & Phoebe Allen (15), Ratcliffian Association Prefects promoting the Association



THE OFFICIAL OPENING OF THE NEW PREPARATORY SCHOOL

THURSDAY 26TH MARCH 2015



A royal welcome

Ratcliffe College was delighted to welcome HRH The Duke of Gloucester to officially open the new Preparatory School on Thursday 26th March. The College has invested £4.5 million in a new, state-of-the-art building for its Junior pupils, which opened its doors last September. Ratcliffe College Preparatory School, as the new school is now known, provides the latest and best technology and teaching facilities for children aged three to eleven years, in the safe, secure and beautiful setting of the College's two hundred acre estate.

The Duke was met by Gareth Lloyd, the Headmaster, Fr Christopher Cann, the Preparatory School Headmaster, and the Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress of Charnwood, together with Governors, Old Ratcliffians and Staff, and was greeted enthusiastically by the Preparatory School pupils singing 'I Believe'. This was followed by a tour of the new building, where the Duke enjoyed interacting with pupils as they baked chocolate brownies in the Science and Food Technology classroom, designed Puginesque tiles in the bespoke Arts and Crafts Studio, and performed Samba Drums in the Music Room.



The new Preparatory School

The architect, David Franklin, who designed the new building, talked about his project with the Duke, who took a great interest, having previously trained in Architecture. The Preparatory School has been developed to be sympathetic to the original school building, opened in 1847, which itself was designed by the famous architect of the Houses of Parliament, Augustus Welby Pugin. Coincidentally, David Franklin is a descendant of Pugin. The Preparatory School, like the original College, has been designed around a 'Quad', ensuring that the new classrooms are bathed in natural light. The design was acclaimed so highly that it won an award in the Charnwood Borough Council's 'Charnwood Design Awards 2015'.

Also enjoying the occasion were many Old Ratcliffians and parents who had contributed so generously to the Paving Stones Appeal. Adding a wonderful sentiment to the front of the building, our beautifully inscribed paving stones remember Old Ratcliffians and families who have studied here, alongside names of pupils and families who are currently enjoying their time at Ratcliffe. Thank you to everyone who has supported the appeals in the run up to the opening of our wonderful new School.



Gareth Lloyd & HRH The Duke of Gloucester

RATCLIFFE ACHIEVES 'EXCELLENT' IN EVERY ASPECT OF SCHOOL INSPECTION

For the first time in Ratcliffe College's history, the Independent Schools Inspectorate (ISI) has rated the School to be excellent across all nine categories. Ratcliffe was visited by a team of inspectors at the beginning of March and its report has just become available:

'The quality of academic and other achievements is excellent. Pupils develop excellent knowledge, skills and understanding. The curriculum is appropriate at all stages and offers flexibility which meets the needs of pupils in the School.'

The inspectors reported that *'the pupils' social awareness is outstanding; their very strong affection for their school community is profound and was very strongly evident in the pupils' interviews. For example, they were drawn into the School as it felt like a family'*. The report also states that *'the quality of the pupils' personal development is excellent throughout the School. Pupils are mature, articulate and confident by the time that they leave the School.'*



THE ROSMINIAN COLLEGIATE

In wishing to build upon the many and varied successes of Ratcliffe College and Grace Dieu Manor School, and following the opening of the new Ratcliffe College Preparatory School, the Rosminian Fathers have instructed both Governing Bodies to reaffirm the unique relationship between Ratcliffe College and Grace Dieu Manor School. It is the Rosminian Fathers' wish that our three Schools jointly provide a continuous Rosminian Education from the age of three to eighteen.

As such, Grace Dieu has been reaffirmed as a parallel feeder Preparatory School to Ratcliffe College, alongside Ratcliffe College Preparatory School. Peter Fisher (Headmaster of Grace Dieu Manor School), in partnership with Gareth Lloyd (Headmaster of Ratcliffe College) and Fr Christopher Cann (Headmaster of Ratcliffe College Preparatory School) will work closely together to ensure that the same exciting curriculum and standard of academic opportunity will be enjoyed by all students attending both Preparatory Schools prior to entry to Ratcliffe College, subject to standardised assessment.

Grace Dieu and Ratcliffe College Preparatory School enjoy a close relationship, combining various cross-curricular events throughout the year. At the beginning of October, Fr Binu Palakapally, the recently-appointed Director of the Rosmini Centre House of Prayer, in conjunction with Fr Christopher Cann



Gareth Lloyd & his students proudly display the banner with the results of the recent ISI inspection

Headmaster, Gareth Lloyd, said: 'Needless to say, we were delighted to be judged 'Excellent' in every single category – a remarkable achievement. It is both a true reflection of the exceptional teamwork, collaboration and commitment of all stakeholders, and a just endorsement of the teaching and learning, in the deepest sense, that distinguish Ratcliffe College and the values that we hold dear. Of course, there is always room for improvement, and under the guidance of the Senior Leadership Team, we shall be addressing recommendations in a timely and appropriate manner.'



Year 3 pupils from Ratcliffe & Grace Dieu celebrating Holy Mass in the grounds of the Rosmini Centre

and Peter Fisher, arranged for a joint Retreat at the Rosmini Centre. The two Year 3 classes from Grace Dieu joined the two Year 3 classes from Ratcliffe to think about God's world as our common home, and how to cultivate an 'attitude of gratitude', as Fr Binu called it. It culminated in a Mass outside, in the centre of the Rosary Walk, surrounded by trees. The altar was a large granite rock, and the children all sat on the grass around the three priests, Fr Binu, Fr Christopher and Fr Denis Labartette from Grace Dieu. Fr Binu said, 'It was really joyful to spend time with the wonderful children from our two schools. They really carry the hallmark of Rosminian education; they behaved well and participated fully in everything, especially in the Eucharist'. Fr Christopher added, 'It was lovely to see the children quickly making new friends and enjoying the peace and joyful atmosphere of the day together.'

SPORT AT RATCLIFFE 2015



Ratcliffe's sports achievers at the Sports Awards Presentation Evening with Old Ratcliffian & parent, Louis Deacon (99), centre

UNDER 12 BOYS: REGIONAL HOCKEY CHAMPIONS

Following the success of Ratcliffe College's Under 12 Boys' Hockey Team at the Leicestershire Schools' County Hockey Tournament, they qualified for the Midlands Regional School Hockey Tournament, which took place on Thursday 23rd April.

They went on to win this tournament, remaining unbeaten, both throughout the tournament and the whole hockey season, winning all games played.

A CLEAN SWEEP FOR THE UNDER 12 BOYS' RUGBY, HOCKEY & CRICKET TEAMS

This year has been a memorable one for the Under 12 Boys' Rugby, Hockey and Cricket Teams. Going through one term unbeaten in a sport is an achievement of which one should justifiably be proud, but going through three terms and three different sports unbeaten is remarkable, yet this is exactly what they have just completed.

Director of Sport, Phil Gilchrist, said, 'This is something that no other group of individuals has managed in a very long time, if



The Under 12 Boys' unbeaten hockey side

ever, in the distinguished history of the College. Character, determination, team spirit and a will to never give up are traits that these boys have in abundance, and will put them and Ratcliffe sport in an enviable place for a long time to come.'

The Editor of the Old Ratcliffian would be pleased to hear from any Old Ratcliffians whose team went through an academic year undefeated in all three disciplines - rugby, hockey and cricket. Please email if your teams achieved this remarkable feat.



Beauty & the Beast

DRAMA REVIEW 2015

This year, the students have produced a number of powerful performances, ranging from *Under Milkwood* by the Year 12 AS Drama and Theatre Studies group, to *Dr Faustus* from the Year 11 GCSE students, in addition to *Teachers* and *Kindertransport*. Other year groups also had an opportunity to perform. Year 10 took part in the Royal Shakespeare Company's adaptation of *Beauty and the Beast* and a modern version of *Rapunzel*. Year 9 put on hilarious pantomimes, with the traditional 'dames' fully clad in tights and ball gowns! Under the watchful eye of Jessica Monk, Year 8 presented a full-length rendition of *A Midsummer Night's Dream* with a cast of over eighty, and Year 7 performed a delightful set of *Irish Myths and Legends*. This year also saw many new students take roles backstage, working with lighting and sound - in particular, Peter Cotter, who won the 'Ricks Prize for Technical Support'. **Megan Macmillan (née Stephens) (01)**



A Midsummer Night's Dream

managed to put together nearly two hundred costumes, which was a formidable achievement! Along with **Dave Ricks (07)**, who continues to mastermind our lighting and sound, it is most definitely a bonus to have these Old Ratcliffians working within the Drama Department.

Claudette Caven-Henrys
Head of Drama



Dr Faustus, a Year 11 production

CHARITY & CHAPLAINCY

Chaplaincy at Ratcliffe College performs three major tasks - to teach the Christian faith in light of the Roman Catholic tradition, to celebrate that faith through sacramental and liturgical experiences, and to live the faith through an active love for those around us. Although there is a dedicated Chaplaincy Team, the generous and broad involvement of staff, students and families speaks volumes of the ecumenical attitude of our school and the universal values of community and service that are at the heart of Ratcliffe College.



Shoebboxes filled with gifts for children overseas

LEARNING ABOUT FAITH

Alongside the teaching of Religious Studies in the classroom, weekly Chaplain's Assemblies and fortnightly Year Group Assemblies seek to familiarise our students with the rich heritage upon which Ratcliffe College was founded. These assemblies are led not only by members of the Chaplaincy Team, but also by other staff and students. They promote an understanding of key beliefs, as well as the work of charities supported by the School. Themes are taken from the Church calendar, United Nations days of importance, and initiatives of the student body. Thus, we have held assemblies ranging in focus from The Carpenter's Arms (our Whole School Charity of 2014-15) to Songs of Praise, from European Languages Day to the Harvest Festival. Mrs Leite and the E-Safety Committee were perhaps the highlight, with their own particular take on the 'Twelve Days of the Internet'.

CELEBRATING THE FAITH

Each half term, we celebrate important occasions, such as the beginning of the year, the Feast of the Immaculate Conception,

and the beginnings of Advent and Lent. Led by a particular year group, these liturgies allow us to meet Jesus through Word and Sacrament. Although not every student shares our faith tradition, such liturgies are marked by an atmosphere of reverence, which does not escape the notice of visitors. On a much smaller scale, individual classes celebrate an intimate Mass periodically in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel, providing an opportunity for students to pray with their classmates, and even to share some reflections alongside **Fr Ted Mullen (60)**.

Other liturgical celebrations, such as Reconciliation, Easter and Christmas services, also take place, as do short retreats for Key Stage 3 students. A most moving occasion every year is the Remembrance Day Service in November, involving members of the Combined Cadet Force and sons and daughters of serving military. 2014 marked the Centenary of the outbreak of the Great War, and was fittingly honoured. Finally, the preparation of students for First Reconciliation, Holy Communion and Confirmation begins after the Christmas break, culminating in joyful liturgies towards the end of the year.

LIVING THE FAITH

Our School motto is 'Legis Plenitudo Charitas' - 'Love is the Fulfilment of the Law'. It is a beautiful reminder that the heart of our faith is not dogmatic, but active. As St John wrote, 'No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides in us and his love is perfected in us.' (1 John 4:12). Regardless of the culture or creed of particular members of our Ratcliffe community, we are bound together by a respect and concern for those around us. Our Charities Schedule began with the Macmillan Coffee Morning in September and ran throughout the year, with each year group organising a major event. In total, over £30,000 was raised for charity, and our thanks go to our students, staff and families for their constant and generous support. This thanks is echoed by the recipients of our funds.

Alongside fundraising, community service provides an opportunity for the students to witness good works and become involved in a 'hands-on' way. There are a number of groups in which students are involved: the St Vincent de Paul Society, the Mother Teresa Club, the Year 10 Duke of Edinburgh's Award visits to the Lingdale Lodge Elderly Care Home, and the Sixth Form Voluntary Service Unit that visits the Syston Friendship Group. Community service is a growing aspect of life at Ratcliffe College, and we are proud of our students' participation.



Ratcliffe's First Holy Communicants of 2015



The Nativity at Ratcliffe

THE RATCLIFFE COLLEGE FOUNDATION

RATCLIFFIAN ASSOCIATION 150TH ANNIVERSARY: ASTRO APPEAL

In 1997, as part of the School's 150th Anniversary, the Association arranged an appeal to help build the all-weather pitch. With this year being the 150th Anniversary for the Ratcliffian Association, we have been busy leading an appeal, helping to raise funds towards the cost of resurfacing the all-weather pitch. In order to thank and recognise this year's donors, we have produced a donor pin badge, which has proved very popular with our supporters.



The donor badge

PLAYGROUND APPEAL

This summer, the Development Office teamed up with the Preparatory School to raise funds to enhance the outside play facilities for our younger pupils. Following a direct mail appeal to parents, a plant sale by pupils, a very well-attended Fun Run, and with some extra help from the Parents' Association, a significant sum was put towards the costs of a brand new playground, which our pupils are now enjoying.

LEGACY PROGRAMME

For the first time in decades, the College is mailing Old Ratcliffians to spread the word about our Legacy Programme. A legacy in your Will can significantly enrich the lives of students at Ratcliffe. We hope that those of you who are touched by your experiences at Ratcliffe, or who just want to help to give others the opportunity you had, consider making a gift in your Will to the Foundation when reviewing your financial arrangements.

THE FUTURE: RATCLIFFE 2020

The Development Team works hard to find opportunities to bring in additional funding and support for various projects throughout the School. We are fortunate that the generosity of Old Ratcliffians, as well as parents and friends of Ratcliffe College, enables us to continuously enhance the provision of educational and sporting facilities on our magnificent campus. As we move into 2016, we are looking to share with you our plan for the future: *Ratcliffe 2020*.

Ratcliffe 2020 is an ambitious five-year development plan and fundraising appeal. It aims to invest in three key areas which we believe are essential in maintaining Ratcliffe's burgeoning success: Sport and Fitness, Bursaries, and new facilities for Science and the Arts. I hope that Old Ratcliffians will support us in the coming years across these disciplines, as we look to continuously invest for our students, helping them to fulfil their potential, and preparing them to make their mark in the world after Ratcliffe.

Andrew Yell (82)
Development Director



The all-weather hockey pitch



RATCLIFFE 2020

Funding brighter futures together



Ratcliffe 2020 is our new, ambitious, five-year fundraising appeal which, with long-term support from the Ratcliffe community, will enable us to enrich the lives of today's students, preparing them to lead constructive, confident and contented lives in tomorrow's world.



Artist's impression kindly provided by Architect & Old Ratcliffian Martin Wilson (76). Fitness image courtesy of Tridel, Canada.

For more information, or if you would like to support our fundraising, please call **01509 817091** or email **foundation@ratcliffe.leics.sch.uk**

Ratcliffe College Foundation (Charity No. 1144450)



RATCLIFFE COLLEGE - SIXTH FORM BURSARIES FOR OLD RATCLIFFIANS



If you would like to send your child to Ratcliffe College for the Sixth Form, but have previously considered that the cost may prove prohibitive, then the College's Bursary scheme, supporting Gifted and Talented students, may be of interest to you.

The following places are currently being considered for one boy and one girl to gain entry in September 2016: Academic, Art and Design, Drama, Music, and Sport.

The School works closely with the Ratcliffian Association and Cunningham Fund, alongside The Peter Daley Fund, providing increased access to a Ratcliffe education for children of Old Ratcliffians.

A bursary could cover up to 50% of the day fee or 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.

For further details, please contact the Registrar on 01509 817072, email registrar@ratcliffe.leics.sch.uk, or visit the School's website, www.ratcliffe-college.co.uk.

ADVERTISE HERE

With a distribution list of nearly 3,000 people in the UK and across the world, advertising in the Old Ratcliffian makes sense!

For more information, contact us on:

Email: aslack@ratcliffe.leics.sch.uk

Tel: 01509 817054

RATCLIFFIAN ASSOCIATION COUNCIL

COUNCIL MEMBERS 2015-16

President:	Dr Michael Meredith (89)	Chairman of Bar & Social Committee & Golf Secretary:	Mr Abe Mee (92)
Vice Presidents:	Mr Gareth Lloyd - Headmaster Mr Sam Bird (98)	Clerk to the Ratcliffe & Cunningham Trust Fund:	Mr Michael Coker (52)
Honorary Treasurer:	Mr Paul Carter (60)	Chaplain:	Fr Ted Mullen (60)
Honorary Secretary:	Dr Isobel Sommerville (83)	Executive Manager:	Mrs Alex Slack (née Gamble) (03)
Membership Officer:	Miss Gemma Rumbold (01)		
Website Officer:	Mr Mark Gamble (71)		

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Mr Peter Astill (71)
Mr Richard Gamble (64)
Mr Ben Heath (87)
Mr Michael Heath (56)
Mr Richard Cunningham (59)
Mr David Robson (Director of Finance)
Fr Simon Giles (60)
Mr John Astill (89)
Mr Andrew Yell (82) (Development Director)



Sam Bird (98) leaps into action as the youngest ever President of the Association!

RATCLIFFIAN ASSOCIATION ACCOUNTS - YEAR ENDING 31ST DECEMBER 2014

PROFIT & LOSS	2014	2013		
Subs				
School	26,325.00	25,605.00		
Direct	5,815.00	6,324.00		
Other Income				
Donations	15.00	0.00		
Events Profit/(Loss)	-2,234.00	-1,150.95		
Sales of Merchandise Stock	383.00	507.50		
Movement in Stock	-211.00	-315.81		
Dep A/C Int	256.00	530.71		
			30,349.00	31,500.45
Expenses				
Website/Computer	1,715.00	1,625.08		
Old Ratcliffian - Printing	5,002.00	5,157.00		
Old Ratcliffian - Post & Packing	2,626.00	2,810.67		
Phone	90.00	373.39		
Subscriptions	304.00	178.00		
Consultants/Prof Fees	590.00	555.00		
Donations	1,095.00	750.00		
Bank/Misc Charges	300.00	121.60		
Printing/Copying	1,564.00	794.00		
Stationery	540.00	276.79		
Postage	1,791.00	747.99		
Secretarial & Temp Labour	15,842.00	15,039.57		
Travel/Subsis	1,239.00	880.40		
Maint, Bar & Notice Board	2,179.00	155.35		
Leavers' Presentation Gift	1,116.00	865.75		
Gifts & Trophies	436.00	743.57		
Hockey & Rugby Shirts	1,295.00	0.00		
			37,724.00	31,074.16
Excess Income/(Expenditure)			-7,375.00	426.29
BALANCE SHEET				
Fixed Assets				
Computer Equipment	479.00	478.80		
Current Assets				
Allied Irish Bank Investment	9,326.00	17,942.38		
Cash	30,000.00	33,115.50		
Debtors Incl. Paypal	680.00	197.00		
Prepayments	115.00	60.00		
Bar Stock	0.00	228.00		
Merchandise Stock	266.00	170.00		
	3,041.00	1,334.42		
			43,907.00	53,526.10
Current Liabilities				
Creditors			-7,862.00	-12,212.35
Accruals			-2,431.00	-325.00
			33,614.00	40,988.75
Financed by				
Accumulated Fund	40,989.00	40,562.43		
Excess Income/(Expenditure)	-7,375.00	426.29		
			33,614.00	40,988.72

RATCLIFFIAN ASSOCIATION EVENTS

THE LONDON CHRISTMAS CAROL SERVICE & DRINKS PARTY

THURSDAY 4TH DECEMBER 2014

The inaugural London Carol Service was held in the Church of Our Lady of the Rosary, Marylebone, by kind permission of Fr Michael Johnston, the Parish Priest. As promised, Gareth Lloyd conducted a small but select gathering of Old Ratcliffians, students and staff in the Old Ratcliffian Choir. The accompaniment on the organ was by Ratcliffe's Director of Music, Edward McCall, who had also taken time out of his extremely busy schedule at the end of term for this very special event. **Gerard McCloskey (64)**, one of the small group of choristers, also gave a reading which he had selected, entitled 'Christmas in the Trenches 1914', which was a poignant reminder of the Centenary of the First World War.



The Old Ratcliffian Choir in full voice

The choir sang 'Silent Night' in four parts, which was no mean feat, given that this was the first time they had met. Katharine Lloyd sang 'O Holy Night', which left hardly a dry eye in the house. This was a truly special service, and there have been several requests for a repeat performance next December.

Following the service, everyone retreated to the Larrik Inn next door, where glasses of mulled wine and canapés were served to everyone, courtesy of the London Ratcliffian Club.

THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY LONDON DINNER

FRIDAY 6TH FEBRUARY 2015

This year was another full house for the 150th Anniversary London Dinner, which, for the twentieth year running, was held in the beautiful and historical Crypt of the Rosminian-owned Church of St Etheldreda's in Ely Place, London.

After a few last-minute cancellations due to illness, 116 Old Ratcliffians and their guests assembled in the Crypt. Gareth and Katharine Lloyd represented the College, along with **Fr Ted Mullen (60)** (Father President), Jon Reddin (Senior Deputy Head), **Henry Mellors (15)** (Head Boy), **Sally Croysdale (15)** (Head Girl), and the Ratcliffian Association Prefects, **Phoebe Allen (15)** and **Angharad Lloyd (15)**.

There was Mass beforehand in the Chapel, led by Fr Ted Mullen and assisted by **Fr Simon Giles (60)**. Other diners were to be found beforehand in the extremely crowded Mitre pub next door, as is the custom for this event, or in the Melton Mowbray pub across the road. By 7.30pm, all the guests had assembled in the Crypt to be welcomed by their President, **Mike Meredith (89)**, resplendent in his Chain of Office and Old Ratcliffian bow tie.

Peter Casartelli (56) proposed a toast to Ratcliffe and its Headmaster, to which Gareth Lloyd responded with his incredible enthusiasm, outlining recent developments in the College. **Fr Anthony Meredith (57)** proposed a toast to his cousin, Mike,



President, Mike Meredith (89), celebrating the 150th Anniversary

the President, and to the Ratcliffian Association. Mike, who has been elected by Old Ratcliffians to be President for two years, as was Fr Anthony himself, also gave an inspirational and informative speech about his aims for the future of the Association. At the end of the speeches, Mike thanked Peter Casartelli for organising the dinner for the past number of years, and Jackie Bennett presented him with a framed print of the College as a thank you for his hard work.



Mark Leslie (68), Michael Shipster (68), Michael Evers (66), Stephen Moorhouse (68) & Robert Affleck (68)

At the special request of Dick Cunningham (59), the Old Ratcliffian Song was sung after the dessert, accompanied on the piano by Gareth Lloyd, with the verses sung by Paul Carter (60), the Master of Ceremonies. The sound of so many Old Ratcliffian revellers in full voice nearly raised the vaulted ceiling of the Crypt!



Robert Forstner (72) in full voice!



Patricia & Robert Edmund (60)



Peter Sutton (87) with Jamie Baird (89)

THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY BIRMINGHAM DINNER

FRIDAY 15TH MAY 2015



The Archbishop of Birmingham & guests enjoying the dinner

The Birmingham Dinner, held again at The Opus Restaurant this year, was attended by 24 Old Ratcliffians and their guests. Sadly, Ed Gamble (95) was unable to attend, as he had to attend a business meeting overseas. However, he sent a replacement in the form of his sister, Alex Slack (née Gamble) (03), who was more than a match for her brother. Alex said that, even though

she did not have her brother's banter, she thought that the guests would agree that she was better looking!

The Guest of Honour was his Grace, the Archbishop of Birmingham, the Most Reverend Bernard Longley. He was a guest of Philip Jones (59), who represented the President,

Mike Meredith (89), as he was unable to attend. Philip also invited the Archbishop's Private Secretary, Fr Dominic Cosslett, and his parish priest, Fr Brian McGinley, as his personal guests. Now that he is resident in the UK, the Very Rev Fr Anthony Meredith (57) was also able to attend, along with his fellow Rosminians, Fr David Tobin (59) and Fr Simon Giles (60).

Philip Jones spoke about the 150th Anniversary of the Association and reminisced about the Centenary, which he had attended in 1965, and the 150th Anniversary of the College in 1997. He then introduced the Archbishop to speak on behalf of the guests. Having been a student for the priesthood in Womersley, the Archbishop remembered Fr Anthony, who was then the Director of the Rosminian seminary at Derryswood. Later on, as a parish priest in Epsom, he referred to the Giles family, whom he knew very well, as they were in his diocese. As a music scholar, he also had much in common with Gareth Lloyd. He said that the Bishop Elect of the Nottingham Diocese, Monsignor Patrick McKinney, had come from the Archdiocese of Birmingham, and that he was sure that Ratcliffe and the Old Ratcliffians would get on very well with him. The Archbishop was wearing the Pectoral Cross, which was worn by one of his predecessors, Archbishop Maurice Couve de Murville, at the Birmingham Dinner for the 150th Anniversary of the College in 1997. He paid tribute to the Rosminian order and congratulated the Ratcliffian Association on its 150th Anniversary.

Gareth thanked the Archbishop and welcomed the Old Ratcliffians to the dinner, saying that, whenever he met ORs across the world, they all seemed to have the same DNA and values of respect. He said that the School motto, 'Legis Plenitudo Charitas', underpins everything at Ratcliffe. Gareth went on to say that it had been a fantastic year for the College, from the opening of the new Preparatory School by HRH The Duke of Gloucester in March, to the recent ISI schools inspection, in which Ratcliffe gained an 'Excellent' rating in every category. This is extremely rare, and he praised his teaching staff. Gareth also gave special thanks to Richard Gamble (64), Chairman of Governors, for his outstanding contribution and support.

The food was excellent, as was the wine, which Philip Jones kindly sponsored. The Opus Restaurant was an excellent venue, and everyone agreed that the Association should return there for their next dinner in 2017.

Those in attendance were: Archbishop Bernard Longley, Gareth Lloyd, Katharine Lloyd, Fr Anthony Meredith (57), Philip Jones (59), Vikki and Michael Heath (56), Nicholas Tomlinson (56), Patricia and Peter Deeley (59), Fr David Tobin (59), Fr Simon Giles (60), Fr Dominic Cosslett, Fr Brian McGinley, Stephen Moorhouse (68), Teresa and Richard Gamble (64), Maggie and Jeremy Knight-Adams (65), Michael Clarke (67), Patrick Clarke (69), David Simmons (74), Jackie Bennett and Alexandra Slack (née Gamble) (03).



Vikki Heath, Katharine Lloyd & Michael Heath (56)



Patrick Clarke (69), Richard Gamble (64) & Michael Clarke (67)



David Simmons (74), Archbishop Bernard Longley & Fr Anthony Meredith (57)

THE RATCLIFFIAN ASSOCIATION LEAVERS' SOCIAL

WEDNESDAY 11TH MARCH 2015

Introducing the current Sixth Form to Old Ratcliffians as part of their social induction into the Ratcliffian Association is an important part of the programme of events for the Association during the school year. As part of this, Graham Sharpe and Jackie Bennett organised an informal evening of football, followed by a Chinese takeaway in the comfort of the newly-refurbished Old Ratcliffian Bar, to which the current Sixth Form were invited, along with some local ORs. This proved very popular with the students and ORs alike, especially as all the liquid refreshments were on the house!



L to R: Andrew Espinasse (98), Sam Clemons (98), Sam Bird (98) & Rob Hull (97) with Graham Sharpe



Enjoying a game of ten-a-side football

THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE RATCLIFFIAN ASSOCIATION

SATURDAY 20TH - SUNDAY 21ST JUNE 2015



After months of planning, the 150th Anniversary weekend finally dawned, with the College looking resplendent, bedecked with bunting and balloons in the livery of the Ratcliffian Association. It was practically 150 years to the day that the first group of Old Ratcliffians convened to form the Association, under the chair of H J Prendergast, on 11th July 1865. This small group of ORs formed an organisation with the purpose of meeting once a year to 'foster in Old Ratcliffians a spirit of loyalty to their Alma Mater and to encourage practical interest in her welfare, and to provide a link of union and sympathy between all generations of Old Ratcliffians.' If the enthusiasm and the smiling faces of all the ORs on the 20th and 21st of June 2015 are anything to go by, this sense of belonging to the 'Alma Mater' is as strong in the 21st century as it was back in 1865, with both the Reunion Dinner and the Grand Luncheon being 'sell out' events.

THE AGM & REYNARD GOLF TROPHY

On Saturday at 12pm, a small group of ORs met for the AGM of the Association. After lunch, the annual Reynard Golf Competition took place at Rothley Park Golf Club. There was a good turnout, organised by the Golf Captain, **Abe Mee (92)**, who, even though he was 'hors de combat' due to a knee injury, spurred all the golfers on and organised the groups of four. **Bernard Murphy (67)** was keen to defend his title, as was **Ed Gamble (95)**, who was looking for a third title! The new Provincial of the Rosminian Order, Fr Joe O'Reilly, played, being a keen golfer. However, in the end, much to the delight of everyone concerned, **Mike Meredith (89)** was declared as the winner, which was only fitting in this, his second year as President of the Association. The presentation was made outside the Clubhouse just before the start of the Reunion Dinner, where the guests were set to enjoy a great evening.



Mike Meredith (89), winner of the Reynard Golf Trophy, with Golf Captain, Abe Mee (92)

THE 2015 REUNION DINNER

Sam Spillane (née Murphy) (91) kindly agreed to help Jackie Bennett with the organisation of the Reunion Dinner, held at Rothley Park Golf Club. Sam has her own very successful events company, S J Events, so this was no problem for her. She was a godsend, leaving Jackie more time to concentrate on setting up the marquee for the Grand Luncheon the following day.

There were 112 Old Ratcliffians at the Reunion Dinner, which was completely sold out. Well-known Leicestershire chef, Paul Leary, produced a delicious meal of smoked salmon mousse, beef Wellington and crème brûlée, which everyone agreed was absolutely splendid!

The newly-elected Bishop of Salford, **John Arnold (71)**, was also a guest at both the dinner and the lunch, and started off the proceedings by saying grace. Gareth and Mike (both having been prompted not to speak for too long!) gave heartfelt and moving speeches. Gareth spoke with great passion about the recent successes of the College, including the recent inspection, in which Ratcliffe was awarded 'Excellent' in all categories, being one of only three schools in the whole country to attain this. Mike spoke about the Association and how there were plans to develop the younger membership. He also toasted Jackie Bennett, and everyone rose to their feet with huge applause, much to her embarrassment.



The Class of '95



The Class of '91



The Class of '65



John Astin (61) & Bishop John Arnold (71)



Eric Ciambra (79) & Leo Biles (79)



Rob Williams (95), Gianpaolo Mantini (95), Adrian Farnham (95) & Mark Simmonds (95)



Jamie O'Donnell (60) & Paul Carter (60)



Michelle Massarella, Gareth Lloyd, Caroline Mohan & Emma Mee

THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY MASS



Fr Ted Mullen (60), Bishop John Arnold (71) & Fr Joe O'Reilly, Provincial of the Rosminian Order



Leo Biles (79), Jamie O'Donnell (60), Paul Carter (60) & Patrick Clipperton (64) in full voice

On Sunday morning, John Arnold and a large group of Rosminian priests concelebrated a Solemn Mass with a packed congregation. Gareth Lloyd and his Director of Music, Edward McCall, chose the music for the Mass. With the newly-restored organ, the roof was raised, and the singing could have been heard in Thrusington! Gareth also invited ORs to join the Choir to sing the 'Ave Verum Corpus' during the communion, and a small group, including **Paul Carter (60)**, Treasurer on the Council, took him up on this offer.

The overall feeling by most people after Mass was that this had been a truly memorable service, and one which was fitting for such an important occasion. **David Thistlethwaite (50)** was seen to wipe the odd tear from his eye!

After Mass, coffee and refreshments were served and there were some exhibitions around the School. These included an exhibition in the Old Library of the construction of a life-size model of a Spitfire by the School's Spitfire Club, under the careful guidance of Ratcliffe's Director of Art and Design, Dominic Berry.

At 12pm, guests were ushered onto the Headmaster's Lawn in front of the College for a glass of Prosecco before lunch.

Old Ratcliffians came from all ends of the globe; from New Zealand, **Fr Aidan Cunningham (58)** and **Eddie Meredith (93)**, from New York, **Eric Ciambra (79)**, and from Dubai, **Leo Biles (79)**, not to mention those who travelled from all parts of the United Kingdom and Europe. 320 guests eventually sat down to the Grand Luncheon.

The Toastmaster called guests in for lunch, and parents with children under the age of five were relieved of parental responsibility by a group of three nursery nurses who manned a crèche in the Nursery School, leaving them time to enjoy their meal in relative peace.



Drinks on the Headmaster's Lawn

THE GRAND LUNCHEON



The Marquee in the Square

The Grand Luncheon was held in a huge marquee in the Square, which looked stunning, carrying the colours of the Association in the bunting and flower arrangements. As the guests entered the marquee, they were serenaded by a quartet comprising of **Angharad Lloyd (15)**, Headmaster Gareth Lloyd, Lissi Walker, a teacher from the College, and **Eric Chan (15)**. As it was Father's Day, families were also invited. Whilst the adults were treated to a delicious meal of melon and Parma ham, salmon parcels with dill sauce, and lemon tarts with raspberry sorbet, the children enjoyed bangers, mash and beans, and ice creams.

Once again, Bishop John Arnold said grace, and the proceedings started off with a rendition of 'Wishing You Were Somehow Here Again' by **Alex Beason (15)**, granddaughter of Past President, **Michael Heath (56)**. After the main course, Angharad Lloyd, daughter of Gareth, played the First Movement of the *Sonata in E Major* by Handel on her violin.

After the children had consumed their ice creams, the Toastmaster called them to attention, and they were led off to a magic show provided by Paul Marsden, a children's entertainer, especially brought in for the day.

Once the children had departed, it was time for the serious part of the day – the speeches. Gareth Lloyd spoke once again in some detail about the School and its position today, and Mike Meredith's speech, outlining his plans for the future of the Association, was spoken from the heart. Mike's whole family was present, including his mother, Mary, having celebrated her seventieth birthday earlier that weekend up in Yorkshire. All of his brothers also attended, including **Paddy (91)** and **Eddie (93)**, who had travelled over from Singapore and New Zealand respectively. Gareth ended his speech with a forceful rendition of 'Love Changes Everything' by Andrew Lloyd Webber, enforcing the theme of his speech, 'Legis Plenitudo Charitas' – 'Love is the Fulfilment of the Law'.

Following the speeches, an auction was held; items included an original Old Ratcliffian blazer, donated by Celia Sharman, widow of the late **John Sharman (80)**; a china coffee set from the 150th Anniversary of the College in 1997, donated by the late Monica Marriott; a signed Tigers rugby shirt, donated by the Jelly family (parents at Ratcliffe); and a ticket for six for dinner and drinks at a local restaurant and comedy club, donated by Past President **Louise Marsden (née Bullen) (91)**. **Ed Gamble (95)** stepped up to the plate, after much persuasion by his mother, Jackie Bennett, and acted as auctioneer for the day; he caused hilarity by trying to don the size 36" blazer on his rather large torso! The auction raised £800, which, added to the raffles on Saturday and Sunday, made just over £2000; this helped to lessen the deficit on the running costs of the weekend sustained by the Association, much to the delight of the Treasurer, Paul Carter!

After the auction, Gareth and Mike both cut the 150th Anniversary cake, and as it was Father's Day, a final toast was made by Past President **Michael Heath (56)** to all fathers!



Simon Burns (83), front left, with John Plumb (53) in his OR blazer, amongst others



Eric Chan (15) & Gareth Lloyd performing



Brian Carol (47) & his daughter



The Class of 2015 helpers



The staff & ex-staff table



The Toastmaster



Dougald McGregor (64) with Patrick Clipperton (64)



Alex Beason (15), granddaughter of Michael Heath (56)



Ronnie Wong (88) with Vincent Langfield (88) & his daughter



Ed Gamble (95), the auctioneer



Alison Court (née Mason) (98) with her daughter & Annabelle Hull



Gareth Lloyd & Mike Meredith (89) cutting the 150th Anniversary cake



Fr Aidan Cunningham (58), Jonty Myles (57) & Jamie O'Donnell (60)



Brian Murphy (58), Peter Tams (56) & Peter Casartelli (56)



The Class of '83

THE RICHARD HUGHES T20 CRICKET MATCH & AFTERNOON TEA

After lunch, everyone went outside to watch the Richard Hughes T20 cricket match, which was organised by the OR cricket captain, **Ben Stephens (96)**. He had drawn together enough players for two teams, so the match was played between the 'Oldies' and the 'Youngsters' - the 'Oldies' won! There were also tours of the School, which were led by **Andrew Yell (82)**, as well as a tour of the Rosmini Centre. Edward McCall also performed a short recital in the Chapel, playing well-known classical pieces on the newly-restored organ. Meanwhile, afternoon tea was served in another marquee on the Cricket Square, where guests mingled, exchanging memories of their past days spent in Ratcliffe in the warm June sunshine. All in all, it was a fantastic way to celebrate such an important occasion in the history of both the Association and the College.

On a personal note, I would like to thank everyone who has helped me to organise this huge event - in particular, Louise Liston and Andrew Yell in the Development Office, **Helen Baird (14)** (who was fortunately on a work placement week with the Development team in the run up to the event), **Alex Slack (née Gamble) (03)** for all her event management advice, the catering staff, Shaun Walker for helping with the setup of the bars, the team of Year 12 and Year 13 leavers, the photographer, **Gianluca Misso (15)**, and also the videographer, **Alex Butler (14)**, whose film of the weekend can be found on the Ratcliffian Association website. I would also particularly like to thank Gareth Lloyd and his Senior Leadership Team for supporting me in the planning of the weekend, and for allowing us to hold this event during the busiest part of the school year.

Jackie Bennett
Editor

FEEDBACK FROM OLD RATCLIFFIANS FOLLOWING THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY WEEKEND

"What a triumph! I have just got home from the best OR weekend that I have ever experienced. The organisation was great, the luncheon was superb, and the musical accompaniment was of real quality. What else can I say? I was also able to tour the new Preparatory School, which impressed me no end. Jackie, I am sad that I will no longer have you as my 'main' contact for OR things, but I am sure that all future communications will be in good hands."
Alasdair MacMillan (58)

"Firstly, our thanks for organising a splendid 150th Anniversary Luncheon; it was first class! The food was excellent, the service outstanding, the occasion gleaming, and the memories magic. The weather was perfect, too. If I make the 175th, I will especially remember the 150th!"

Clem Maginniss (74)

"I was chatting to **Andy Yell's (82)** sister, and we were talking about the School; it is unlike any other 'public' school, with its foundations based firmly on family values. Anyone that has been to Ratcliffe or worked there will have that association and the DNA it brings."
Chris Della-Porta (79)



Chris Della-Porta (79)

"Thank you for inviting me to the lunch - it was great. Many thanks for all the work that must have gone on to make it so successful."

Jane Friendship, Ex-Staff Member

"I just wanted to say that I had a fantastic time meeting up with everyone again. Congratulations to you for doing such a brilliant job."

Vince Langfield (88)

"Thank you so much for organising such a fantastic day on Sunday for the Ratcliffian Association's 150th Anniversary. It was a total triumph! It was wonderful to catch up with lovely old friends in the beautiful Ratcliffe environment. Thank you for everything you did to create such a memorably special day. I am sure that everyone who attended felt the same."

Louise Shore (née Jackson) (91)



Lee Buckby (97) with Rik Hughes



John Plumb (53)



Afternoon tea by the Cricket Square



Relaxing over a cup of tea & reminiscing

"A brief, but sincere, note of thanks for a wonderful day on Sunday, which went SO well, thanks to all your hard work and detailed input! Good luck to Alex, who is following a very hard act indeed!"

Sir Anthony Holland (56), Past President

"Thank you - what a marvellous time we had! To see Ratcliffe in the sunshine and thriving as a 21st century school and, in particular, to enjoy such a beautiful Mass. We also danced and ate far too much! I met and re-met really lovely and interesting people. Thanks for all your hard work!"

Clare Reynolds (80)

"Thank you so much for arranging such a fabulous weekend. The twelve members from the Class of '83 all agree that it was a superb celebration. There have been a number of messages flying round the internet commenting on what a great time we all had!"

Isobel Sommerville (83), Honorary Secretary of the Ratcliffian Association

"I shall remember last Sunday's 150th Anniversary celebrations for the rest of my days. It was probably the best OR event that I have ever attended. The concelebrated Mass was, of course, at the heart of the celebrations. My wife, Lyn, and I were both so impressed by the atmosphere, the organisation, the events, the fantastic luncheon, the exhibitions, and, of course, the people. Thank you, Jackie, and your team, for all the hard work and organisation."

John Hearson (58)

"I just wanted to say how much Mel and I enjoyed yesterday. You must have worked so hard, Jackie, because it was just a fabulous event. It makes you proud to be a Catholic, and also glad of the ties that link us to Ratcliffe. Do pass on our thanks to Superman Gareth!"

Hilary & Mel Hann

"I have been to a great many good OR 'do's over the years and enjoyed them all. However, I think yesterday was probably the best - it really was a thoroughly super day. Thank you very much for all your hard work and commitment - the outcome was spectacular. They say it's always good to go out on a high note, and you certainly did that!"

Simon Burns (83), Trustee of the Ratcliffian Association & Cunningham Fund

"Many thanks for organising a great weekend for all of us. It was very clear from the start that you had put a great deal of work into making it such a great success. I really enjoyed meeting everyone again - my, how time flies! I thought the College looked very good and was presented extremely well."

David Gallagher (65)



David Gallagher (65)

"Many thanks to you and the team for a lovely day yesterday. I thought the marquee and luncheon in the Quad was wonderful. Lovely to see old chums again, many of whom I didn't know were attending. Jackie, good luck, and enjoy your 'retirement'. Thanks for all you've done for the Association."

Anne De Graeve (79)

"You were absolutely brilliant, and it was all absolutely brilliant on everyone's part! Thanks very much indeed. Love from This 1 and 2."

David (50) & Mark Thistlethwaite (78)

"Just a line to congratulate you and your team on a very successful day. It must



Michael Heath (56) toasts his fellow fathers on Father's Day

have been a lot of hard work. Hopefully, it was rewarding for you to see so many ORs meeting up, catching up on the past, and thoroughly enjoying themselves."

Peter Casartelli (56), Past President

"Everyone I spoke to (and I spoke to lots) thought Saturday night and Sunday were wonderful events that had generated a huge 'feel-good factor'. On behalf of everyone involved in the weekend, I wanted to thank you for your own efforts in making it feel very special indeed."

Andrew Yell (82), Development Director

"A very good table, thank you, and a very good lunch and day! I hadn't seen **Clipperton (64)** and **O'Donnell (50)** for half a century or so!"

Paul Rudd (60), Governor

"Words can hardly express my joy at such a wonderful day spent at Ratcliffe on Sunday. I know how much devoted work you put into all the organisation. Everything was great, from a most prayerful and musical Mass, down to the cup of tea later. The meal was absolutely delicious - I think the caterers deserve a huge thanks for that, too."

Margaret Mary Burns, mother of Simon Burns (83)

"Well done! Last Sunday seemed to me to be a very good 'do', and a great success. It was good to see so many there."

Jonty Myles (57), Past President

"Although I was only there for the Sunday, it was a great opportunity to catch up with my contemporaries and old masters alike; the luncheon was a splendid setting and the high-quality menu was much enjoyed."

Nicholas Plumb (79)

"What a fantastic weekend to celebrate our Association's 150th Anniversary! My family group had a wonderful time, not least because there were activities organised to occupy all ages during the day. I felt very proud of the Association and the School. To me, the organisation was impeccable, with great attention to detail; I am aware that you had a great team to deliver such a successful event, with a huge amount required behind the scenes. I do hope that you found some time to enjoy things with your own families. Well done! Jackie, you deserve a medal as big as a dustbin lid!"

Michael Heath (56), Past President

THE ROSMINI COLLEGIATE GROUP LOURDES PILGRIMAGE

FRIDAY 24TH – FRIDAY 31ST JULY 2015



Lourdes 2015

We travelled to Lourdes as a group of forty-four pilgrims in July 2015, and we were well represented by students, staff, governors, Old Ratcliffians, and other members of the Rosminian family. A total of five ORs joined the Pilgrimage: **Danielle Fairbrother (02)**, **Richard Gamble (64)**, **Donal Heffernan (75)**, **Fr Anthony Meredith IC (57)** and **Fr Philip Sainter IC (69)**.

Underground Basilica, and we were able to participate fully in a beautiful liturgy celebrated by Cardinal Vincent Nichols.

Teresa Gamble
Group Leader



Donal Heffernan (75), Fr Anthony Meredith (57) & Richard Gamble (64)

We are an HCPT (Hosanna House and Children's Pilgrimage Trust) Summer Pilgrimage Group. We stay at Hosanna House in Bartres, near Lourdes, and, as a group, we are able to look after both children and adults who are disabled or have special needs. It was a really joyful week, and everybody in the group contributed to the family atmosphere.

One of the highlights of the week was the Torchlight Procession on the evening of Sunday 26th July. For the first time, our group was selected to lead the procession. Nick Walsh and the students led with our Group 512 banner, and we were clearly visible with our 'hi-vis' jackets!

Another first for our group was the International Mass on the morning of Wednesday 29th July. We had prime position in the

LOURDES: A REFLECTION

During our week in Lourdes, we tried to follow the instructions which Our Lady gave to Bernadette in 1858: Process, Do Penance and Bathe.

PROCESS

One of the highlights of the week, as always, was the Torchlight Procession. The group joined pilgrims from all over the world in processing around the area in front of the churches, which were built on the side of the rock where Our Lady appeared to Bernadette in 1858. This place is now known as the Grotto. During the procession, we spoke and sang the words of the Rosary, which was said in many different languages.

DO PENANCE

Just as Bernadette was aware of her failings, we are aware that we need the healing power of God in our lives. As a group, we walked the Stations of the Cross and reflected on Jesus' sacrifice, which was for the sake of our sins.

BATHE

Many of our group took the opportunity to visit the Baths, so that they could be placed in the water, which is from the springs of Lourdes. This is a reminder of God's cleansing power and that our relationship with God can always be renewed.

The theme of the week was joy, and we were reminded that, even in repentance, we can be joyful. There was a great sense of community within our group, whether we were praying at the Grotto, meeting for Mass, eating, socialising or relaxing at Hosanna House.

A STUDENT'S PERSPECTIVE:

"The Lourdes trip with HCPT is all about helping others, as well as gaining a personal, spiritual experience of the healing powers of Lourdes. Through pushing wheelchairs, assisting at mealtimes, and chatting with the group members, I gained a valuable

insight. As I want to study and practise medicine, the trip provided me with valuable first-hand experience of the process of healthcare. The Torchlight Procession is my best memory of the trip; although I am not a Christian, people's devout prayers make me feel humble and emotional." (Helena Yu, Year 12)

Nick Walsh

Head of Religious Studies
Ratcliffe College

Next year's Pilgrimage will take place on the 22nd – 29th July. If you would like to attend, please contact the Association Office.



The Ratcliffian group leading the famous Torchlight Procession

THE RATCLIFFIAN ASSOCIATION 150TH ANNIVERSARY PAST PRESIDENTS' DINNER FRIDAY 16TH OCTOBER 2015



The Ratcliffian Association Past Presidents' Dinner 2015



Gareth & Katharine Lloyd performing

The 150th Anniversary celebrations continued in October at the Past Presidents' Dinner, held in the College at the start of the half-term break. A highlight of the evening was the presentation of a parting gift to our Secretary, Jackie Bennett, in celebration of her outstanding contribution to the Association and inspired work on our behalf. The presentation was made by **Paul Rudd (60)**, and Jackie was later serenaded by Gareth and Katharine Lloyd, who sang an impromptu operatic duet from *Don Giovanni*, to great acclaim from all present. Following Mass, celebrated by **Fr Simon Giles (60)** in the Chapel, and a champagne reception, our distinguished guests and fifteen Past Presidents dined in the Old Library with current President, **Michael Meredith (89)** and Vice President, **Sam Bird (98)**. A superb meal had been prepared by the College catering team to mark this special year. Michael

Meredith proposed a toast to Ratcliffe, the Association and its former Presidents. Many thanks to all for a memorable event.

Those in attendance were: **Michael Meredith (89)**, Gareth Lloyd, Katharine Lloyd, Jackie Bennett, **Alex Slack (née Gamble) (03)**, **Sam Bird (98)**, **Br Nigel Cave (72)**, and Past Presidents **Michael Coker (52)**, **Patrick Jolliffe (53)**, **Anthony Jewell (54)**, **Sir Anthony Holland (56)**, **Michael Heath (56)**, **Dick Cunningham (59)**, **Philip Jones (59)**, **Paul Carter (60)**, **Fr Simon Giles (60)**, **Paul Rudd (60)**, **Richard Gamble (64)**, **David Jolliffe (64)**, **Peter Astill (71)**, **Cathy Ross (née Dodson) (79)** and **Abe Mee (92)**.

Michael Heath (56)

THE OLD RATCLIFFIAN AUSTRALIAN DINNER SATURDAY 13TH JUNE 2015



Old Ratcliffians at the Sydney Dinner in June

We met in Sydney at Ripples Restaurant, right by the water, in Chowder Bay. In attendance were **Mike Dyer (53)**, **Alan Oakey (69)**, **Peter O'Donovan (83)**, **Peter Tarimo (84)**, **Piers Brogan (64)**, **Tim Starling (00)**, **John Ward (00)** and **Rachel Anderson (née Boaler) (81)** – a somewhat motley crew! Apologies were received from **Lawrence Norton (68)**, who had injured himself and had been advised not to fly, and from **Richard Parnell (81)**, who, by his own admission, had 'man flu'. We did give Dick a bit of a hard time in his absence, but Jill Brogan pointed out that the flu had actually claimed a local life recently, so we backed off. Most of us were Sydney based, but Mike Dyer and his wife, Sandra, had come all the way from Perth (a five hour flight), and Alan Oakey had driven from Yass.

There were forty-seven years between the oldest OR, Mike Dyer, who left in 1953, and the youngest two, Tim Starling and John Ward, who left in 2000, so a fair bit of Ratcliffe history was covered. Discussions about the College ranged from when it was predominantly a boys' boarding school to the admission of a few girls, right the way through to being completely co-educational. We chatted, and then changed places, so that everyone talked. We were all English, attended Ratcliffe and

ended up in Australia, but Alan was the Aussie boy who ended up at Ratcliffe. We also discovered that three of us had lived and been part educated in Africa; Piers and John came from the same village in Nottinghamshire and realised that they actually lived in houses next door to each other; John and Tim came from the same village, went to the same schools, the same university, and are now both in Sydney; Piers and his wife, Jill, were revelling in being grandparents; and John was discovering the joys of having a toddler and a newborn. We shared memories of meals in the Refectory, jam roly-poly and custard (which was, apparently, called 'dead man's leg'), schoolboy pranks (supergluing another boy's possessions onto the ceiling), going to the TV room for a good snog (post 1977), and the teachers – the ones who were memorable, the good ones, and the ones who fell from grace. Not all memories were good ones, not everyone was happy there, but for some, being there was preferable to being at home. Regardless, Ratcliffe played a role in shaping each one of us and, despite being a random group who just happened to attend the same school, we did have much to talk about. We enjoyed each other's company and were keen to meet next year.

Rachel Boaler (81)

OLD RATCLIFFIAN NEW ZEALAND DINNER

In typically casual New Zealand fashion, an informal gathering among the bright lights of the small city took place on a cool Auckland Thursday evening in late October. Not an inaugural OR gathering in New Zealand, but the first in the 21st century and probably for 25 years or more. To coin a local term, the night was 'choice bro' for many reasons, but especially to marvel at the many and varied quirks of fate that had led this gaggle of ORs to be in Auckland. To be absolutely sure about the quality of the craft beer on offer, an extensive and meticulous sampling took place. **Andrew Box (91)** and **Ed Meredith (93)** marvelled over a picture of the Ratcliffe first XV, circa 1991, and recalled the historic Pete Banks' hockey tours to Holland. **Charlie Meredith (98)**, resplendent in an OR bow tie, remembered the Bar Nights

in the Union, drinking cans of Ruddles or Red Stripe, whilst being watched by those entrapped in the smoking room. But, mainly, the deeper we got into our due diligence on the local brew, the better at whichever sport we became in our time at Ratcliffe.

A great night was had by all, and we very much look forward to next year's Auckland OR Dinner.

Ed Meredith (93)

Ed Meredith (93) with his cousin, Charlie Meredith (98)



RATCLIFFIAN ASSOCIATION SPORTS EVENTS



David Thistlethwaite (50), centre, with the OR team

THE THISTLETHWAITE HOCKEY CUP SUNDAY 22ND MARCH 2015

Old Ratcliffians: 1 Ratcliffe College: 2

On a beautiful, sunny afternoon in March, Old Ratcliffians and their friends returned to Ratcliffe for this year's event. It was a great honour to welcome **David Thistlethwaite (50)** and his son, **Mark (78)**, back to Ratcliffe. David, who was a talented hockey player in his day, had donated the Thistlethwaite Hockey Cup to the Association, and so it was very appropriate that he was there to present the trophy to the winning team after the game. The match was also particularly significant, as the recent Astro Appeal, launched by President, **Mike Meredith (89)**, in January is to raise funds for the resurfacing of the existing all-weather pitch. David Thistlethwaite was responsible for instigating the original appeal to build the pitch for the 150th Anniversary of the College back in the early '90s.

The President, Mike Meredith, wishes to thank all those who have donated to the new 150th Anniversary Appeal, which is ongoing; in the meantime, the School has committed to building a second all-weather pitch in 2016.



The presentation of the Thistlethwaite Cup: James Taylor (04), captain of the OR team, David Thistlethwaite (50) & Sam Nightingale, the Ratcliffe captain

THE SUE ROBERTS NETBALL CUP

SUNDAY 22ND MARCH 2015

Old Ratcliffians: 14 Ratcliffe College: 16

A fabulous end-to-end netball match resulted in a close 16-14 win for the School. OR captain, **Hannah Tyler (11)** and **Milly Wemyss (09)** made it difficult for the School's shooters, Charley Flowers and Holly Blount, to settle into their usual routine, taking many rebounds and starting the counter-attack. 1st Team captain, Adelaide Muskwe, and fellow defenders, Nima Patel and Megan Vincent, caused problems for the OR shooters, **Roxy Hayes (09)** and **Rose Borrajo (13)**, who showed that they had lost little of their skills. Some fine centre court play from both teams



Sue Roberts presents the Netball Cup to the Ratcliffe captain, Adelaide Muskwe, with Hannah Tyler (11), the OR captain

created many attacking moves, but the School's team hung onto their narrow lead. Players of the Match were Adelaide Muskwe and Emma Furlong for the School, and Hannah Tyler for the ORs.

Anne Taylor
Sports Staff
Ratcliffe College



Back: Jenny Baker, Milly Wemyss (09), Lucy Mason (11), Hannah Tyler (11) & Roxy Hayes (09). Front: Katherine Threadgold (13) & Rose Borrajo (13)

OLD RATCLIFFIAN GOLF 2015

PUBLIC SCHOOLS OLD BOYS'
ANNUAL MATCH

FRIDAY 24TH APRIL 2015

In April, we entered a team in the Public Schools Old Boys' Annual Match at Luffenham Heath Golf Club. This is a 36-hole pairs competition, with this year's teams being Ratcliffe College, Oundle, Stamford, Loughborough Grammar School and Wellingborough School. Our pairs were **Andrew Yell (82)** with **Myles Halley (75)**, **Abe Mee (92)** (team captain) with **Dominic Howkins (00)**, and **Oliver Wright (07)** with **Joe Birtwhistle (10)**.

We played well in very tough, windy conditions on a course that was in fabulous condition, as it was then being prepared for the Open Qualifying. The highlight was the 41 points recorded in the morning round by Ollie and Joe. Sadly, we were not good enough to win, with the Old Oundelians picking up the trophy. It is encouraging that Ollie and Joe were able to represent the younger ORs, and we are very keen for more young members of the Association to get involved.

THE RATCLIFFIAN ASSOCIATION
GOLF SHIELDOLD RATCLIFFIANS VS RATCLIFFE COLLEGE
STAFF & STUDENTS

FRIDAY 12TH JUNE 2015

In June, the annual golf match against past pupils took place at Park Hill Golf Club in Seagrave, where the School were defending the trophy. Heavy rain, sadly, meant that the competition was reduced to 9 holes, and the match was eventually won by the Old Ratcliffian team, scoring 62 points to 57 points. The leading scorer for the ORs was **Sean Kelly (81)** (10 handicap) with 15 points.

Many thanks to Jon Reddin and Paul Michel for their support with the School team, and to the ORs, some of whom had travelled from Birmingham and Stratford to be at the event. ORs in attendance were **Sean Kelly (81)**, **Andrew Yell (82)**, **Donal Heffernan (75)**, **Matt Lavelle (75)**, **Lindsay Buckenham (00)** and **Paul Neilson (90)**.

THE REYNARD GOLF TROPHY

SATURDAY 20TH JUNE 2015



Competitors for the 2015 Reynard Golf Trophy

As usual, it was a Stableford points competition played off the yellow tees, with golfers receiving $\frac{3}{4}$ handicaps. The College has a long-standing and harmonious association with Rothley Park Golf Club, with many of us having played school golf there as boys, and with many ORs being members. It was extremely kind of the committee to allow us the courtesy of the course on a Saturday afternoon, and it was much appreciated by all.

We were joined by Fr Joe O'Reilly, the Provincial of the Rosminian Order. He is a keen golfer and proved to be excellent company out on the links. Twelve players competed in total, the others being defending champion **Bernard Murphy (67)**, **Donal Heffernan (75)**, **Paul Reynolds (76)**, **Chris Della-Porta (79)**, **Sean Kelly (81)**, **Andrew Yell (82)**, **Mike Meredith (89)** (President of the Association), **Edward Gamble (95)** (three times prior champion), **Varinder Gill (99)**, **Ben Surtees-Smith (97)** and **Saroj Ekanayake (01)**. Association Golf Secretary, **Abe Mee (92)**, and **David Brunton (79)**, a talented all-rounder, were off games that afternoon, but Abe was able to act as the official starter, and David followed the first four ball and acted as match referee.

After a little shyness at the presence of the official photographer, we were immensely proud to see all of our players blasting fine drives down towards the ridge and furrow short of the first green. Many duly enjoyed a solid start on their scorecards. Thereafter, the narrow fairways, deep bunkers, testy undulations, local brooks and other strategically-placed hazards in windy conditions proved a stern test of patience and courage to our 150th Anniversary celebration cohort.

Nevertheless, some very good golf was played. Varinder Gill won nearest the pin, narrowly squeezing out a fine stroke played by Chris Della-Porta, and Ben Surtees-Smith hit the longest drive, just eking his ball past the marker recorded earlier by Sean Kelly. Champagne was duly presented to celebrate this exhibition of high-quality golf.

The stand-out golfers on the day were Michael Meredith and Ben Surtees-Smith. Ultimately, Michael won the Reynard Trophy with 34 points, playing off a handicap of 15 (12 strokes received), pipping Ben's 33 points off a handicap of 8 (6 strokes received) at the post.



Number 1, Mike Meredith (89) & his fellow golfers!

RATCLIFFIAN ASSOCIATION GOLF
FIXTURES 2016PUBLIC SCHOOLS OLD BOYS' ANNUAL MATCH
LUFFENHAM HEATH GOLF CLUB

FRIDAY 29TH APRIL 2016

This is a 36-hole competition played in pairs in a Stableford points format. We need a team of six with a maximum handicap of 18. Players are expected to play 36 holes and stay at Luffenham for dinner in the evening. Jacket and school tie are required for men, eveningwear for women. The cost is usually £75 per person for the day, including golf, lunch and dinner.

There are many good golfers whose names are missing, above, this year, and it would be great to have your support again in the future.

Abe Mee (92)
Golf Captain

ALL OTHER GOLF FIXTURES FOR 2016 ARE LISTED
ON THE BACK PAGE OF THIS MAGAZINE.



The teams for the Richard Hughes T20 Cricket Cup

OLD RATCLIFFIAN CRICKET 2015 THE RICHARD HUGHES T20 CRICKET CUP

SUNDAY 21ST JUNE 2015

Father's Day 2015 saw two teams of Old Ratcliffians (the Over and Under 30s) get together for the annual Richard Hughes T20 match. The Over 30s captain, **Ben Stephens (96)**, won the toss, and chose to bat in beautiful, sunny conditions; **Darryl Abeysondera (96)** batted well, making 34 and, with the help of **Mark Snutch (97)**, who scored 19, and guest, **Reg (38)**, the Over 30s made it to 150-7 from their 20 overs. **Joe Hesketh (12)** was the most successful Under 30s bowler, taking 3-23. The Under 30s got off to a wobbly start, with Ben Stephens (1-8) and **Warren Birchall (97)** (1-2) taking wickets as they fell to 9-3. **Will Gent (12)** (39) and **Anil Ekanayake (01)** (28) put together a 62 partnership, but the Under 30s scored their runs too slowly, leaving themselves too much to do at the end of the innings and falling 17 runs short.

The trophy was presented to Ben Stephens, captain of the Over 30s team, by the Headmaster, Gareth Lloyd, who was delighted to see the 150th Anniversary celebrated with such a game.

Players: **Josh Simpson (09)**, **Tom Smith (11)**, **Luke Welch (09)**, **Will Gent (12)**, **Joe Hesketh (12)**, **George Santaney (14)**, **Saraj Ekanayake (01)**, **Ben Stephens (96)**, **Darryl Abeysondera (96)**, **Warren Birchall (97)**, **Lee Buckby (97)**, **David Robson** (Director of Finance, Ratcliffe College), **Louis Massarella Jnr** (current student) and his father, **Louis Massarella (92)**, **Ed Gamble (95)** and **Mark Snutch (97)**.

Richard Hughes
Ex Staff



The winning captain, Ben Stephens (96), right, receives the Richard Hughes Cup

THE GRAND MATCH

RATCLIFFE COLLEGE VS OLD RATCLIFFIANS

SUNDAY 28TH JUNE 2015

For the first time in a decade, this fixture was cancelled due to heavy rain.

Please note the fixture dates for 2016 in the calendar on the back of this magazine.

OLD RATCLIFFIAN NEWS

Nicole Parry (00): "I am currently getting back into work after having my first child, Antonia. I previously worked as Richard Branson's chef on Necker Island for two years, and I also ran a restaurant in Kent called Frankie's, which served beautiful, seasonal food. I am currently starting my own catering business with my sister and trying to get a new, unique baby food line off the ground, inspired by my daughter."



Nicole Parry (00)

David Lester (10): "After leaving Ratcliffe, I continued my education, gaining many higher qualifications in the automotive industry. This then led me into employment as an Automotive Trainer with EMTEC Colleges Ltd in Nottingham, who work on behalf of Aston Martin, Ferrari, Hyundai and KIA Motors. During this time, I met my now fiancée, Leah, and we have just bought our first house together in Leicester. We are now planning our wedding for the summer of 2016."

Adrian Fidler (98): "Currently, I'm fifty miles off the shore of West Africa, near Mauritania. I've been sailing this year around the Isle of Wight with **Ginny O'Keeffe's (née Gamble) (98)** husband, **Mike O'Keeffe, Rob Hull (97), Andrew Espinasse (98), Sam Bird (98)** and **Roberto De Rienzo (00)**. I am getting married on January 30th and expecting a baby on November 20th, so it's all go!"



L to R: **Adrian Fidler (98), Andrew Espinasse (98), Rob Hull (97) & Sam Bird (98)**

Diana Ashley (86): "I recently watched the new aerial video of Ratcliffe. I was lucky enough to see the College from the skies in a Chipmunk aircraft in 1986. Being in the Combined Cadet Force (CCF), I was asked what I wanted to do for my last flight before leaving. I said that I would love to fly over the School, and this was duly granted. I remember waving to fellow pupils as we circled around! I was glad to be the first girl to join the CCF and I loved it; I had to put up a bit of a fight to get us girls accepted, though! As part of the CCF, I was also lucky enough to go on a ten-day gliding course at RAF Henlow. It was in a Venture, which is a powered glider. By the end of the course, I flew solo; this meant that I had learnt to fly before learning to drive, and all my parents had to pay was 71 pence a day for food. The CCF is such a great organisation and I was proud to be a part of it."

Adrian Smith (03): "In May 2015, **James Jelley (03), Nick Jelley (01)** and I completed a John O'Groats to Land's End bike ride, which raised over £2,500 for the Bone Cancer Research Trust in just nine days. In September 2015, I also competed in a charity bodybuilding show. My brother, **Karl Smith (97)**, has recently had a second child - a daughter called Evie."



Pit stop for the cycling boys, **Nick Jelley (01), Adrian Smith (03) & James Jelley (03)**

Catherine Campbell (née Burns) (96): "Don and I cleverly decided to move house into a complete wreck when I was seven months pregnant. So, when the builders moved in, we moved back to stay with my parents in Leicester. We thought it would

be for eight weeks, but Mum and Dad had to put up with us for five months in the end! In the middle, we had a daughter, Cara. She's a sunny smiler, and Paddy loves his little sister."

Georgia Thompson (03): "I've just moved to London after living in Sydney for three and a half years, sneaking in a little trip to Europe, Japan and the Philippines on the way home. My brother, **Oliver (01)**, has recently set up his own business, TDB Real Estate. He lives in Leicestershire with his wife, Franny, and his lovely baby, Poppy. **Harriet (05)** also lives in London and works for Knight Frank in Wimbledon."

Corinne Northover (08): "Having spent eight years at Ratcliffe, I went on to study at the University of Leicester, reading Business and Finance. After graduating with a 2:1 degree, I moved to London to pursue a career within buying. I am currently buying menswear for BHS, where I have been for the past five months. Prior to that, I bought womenswear for River Island. I'm now looking forward to upcoming trips to Shanghai and Mauritius."



Corinne Northover (08)

Ian Law (76): "I was made redundant in January 2015, having worked in envelope manufacturing and printing for some thirty years; now that my wife, June, has taken early retirement, I have decided to do the same! Although retiring at 57 seems too early to stop working, I have been very busy, both in and around the house, catching up with long-overdue jobs and general maintenance. I still play hockey regularly for Leigh Hockey Club, and have already enjoyed several fabulous holidays this year. In July 2016, it will be forty years since I left Ratcliffe, and I plan

to attend the Old Ratcliffian reunion next June. It would be terrific to meet up with as many contemporaries as possible from the Class of '76, and Fifth Form leavers of 1974. Special thanks must go to Jackie Bennett for all the work that she does on behalf of the Old Ratcliffians."



Chris Siddall (11)

Chris Siddall (11): "I've been working as a presenter for Sky Sports News Radio in Leeds since October 2011. Sadly, the station was closed last August due to budget cuts from Sky (most likely to help fund the Premier League bid!). This meant that I had to apply for a new job in London at HQ. Thankfully, I was successful, and I was given the opportunity to join the television channel Sky Sports News HQ. I ended up living in a hotel for over a month before I found living accommodation, which was quite an experience! I'm very fortunate to be working alongside Kirsty Gallacher, Jim White and many more presenting talents as a TV producer. It's a challenging job, but equally, very rewarding, and I'm loving every minute of it. I've also been given several presenting opportunities, and I recently hosted a preview show ahead of The Open."

Ian Potts (62): "I stood down as a local councillor here in Ealing last year and ended up acting as agent for the Conservative parliamentary candidate in Ealing Southall in this year's General Election. I am now a volunteer guide at Osterley House, a National Trust property, amongst much other volunteering. Although it's almost a year off, it will be our Golden Wedding Anniversary on September 3rd next year. I am now in Ealing Abbey Parish and see **Terry O'Neil (61)** on most Sundays (we usually go to different masses and he's arriving as I depart). I also meet **Chris Sutton (62)** at Lourdes, where I help with the Westminster sick and he goes with Oxford and Cambridge and helps at the baths."

James Northover (06): "I attended Ratcliffe for seven years as a boarding student under the tenure of Nigel Taylor, Head of Boys' Boarding. I then studied Aviation Technology at the University of Leeds from 2006 until 2009, and joined the RAF and flew the Grob Tutor from 2007 to 2009. Following that, I am now in the Irish Air Corps. I completed officer training, ground school and flying training, and won the ARCO Sword for achieving the best results in all three. I currently fly in a maritime role, mainly in the North Atlantic, operating in counter-narcotics, counter-smuggling, search and rescue, and air ambulance. I live in Dublin, and in the future, I would like to return to the flying training school to train the future pilots of the Irish Air Corps. I am very grateful for the seven years I spent at Ratcliffe, particularly to Nigel Taylor, who provided excellent support. I wish all the best to those who have attended Ratcliffe."



James Northover (06), left

Johan ten Houten (00): "I am currently employed by Libertine, an advertising agency, working with Matalan and British Airways as a Business Director."

Simon Mace (04): "I am working as a Research and Development scientist for Mars Petcare and am looking forward to marrying Claire Oxley in September 2016."



Simon Mace (04) & his fiancée, Claire

John Finnigan (57): "After Ratcliffe, I undertook a full career in the Royal Navy, embracing a wide range of disciplines, including logistics, law and intelligence,

and concluding as the Defence Attaché in our embassy in Santiago, Chile. Then followed a second career in the Magistrates' Courts Service as Justices' Chief Executive, first in Hertfordshire, then in Gloucestershire. I am now 'retired', but helping the family to run the very large property in Herefordshire that we are privileged to live in as a wedding venue."

Martine Warmann (née George) (02): "My brother, **Zack (08)** and I both went to Ratcliffe. We now own a gym together, the Be-Fitter Gym, which has been selected by the National Fitness Awards for their 'Newcomer of the Year' award. I recently started powerlifting training to prove a point to our gym members; being quite petite myself, I wanted to show other women that you don't have to be big, bulky and masculine to be strong and confident when lifting heavy weights. In less than six months, I won two gold medals, making me British Champion. I was also selected to represent Great Britain as part of Team GB, and I won a bronze medal at the WPC World Championships in Prague, where I was very honoured to be able to represent my country. Of all the nations competing at the World Championships, Team GB came second, with Russia taking first place, having double the amount of athletes. England did an amazing job, and I hope that, with more publicity, this will become an Olympic sport. These past few months have been a whirlwind and a truly amazing journey."

Manuel Herder (85): "This year was our 30th Anniversary OR reunion, which we very much enjoyed. I am a publisher at Herder Publishing House, a German company which is more than two hundred years old. One focus of our work is religion and theology. We are also the publisher of the Pope."



Manuel Herder (85) with the Pope

Nicole Richardson (01): "It's been another wonderfully busy year for the family business at The Star Inn 1744 in Thruslington! We are very pleased to have increased our bedrooms from seven to nine, now including an accessible ground floor 'Superior Room'. It's proving to be very popular! Along with this, we have also given the building a little makeover, with a fresh coat of paint and change of colour scheme. 2015 has also seen us launch our new website, a la carte menu, and an extended classics menu. It's also been a great year for our football team, The Star FC, which saw them promoted to Division 3 of the Alliance League. This team of finely-tuned athletes comprises of some renowned Old Ratcliffians, so we will no doubt see them storm to the top of the league in no time: **Scott Piecha (00)** (captain), **Alistair Richardson (00)**, **Iain Laurie (99)**, **Will Coupland (01)**, **Joe Coupland (09)**, **Patrick Coupland (10)**, **Saroj Ekanayake (01)**, **Kristian Richmond (98)**, **Ollie Mills (10)**, **Ed Stokes (08)**, **Dan Disarra (08)**, **Charlie Barre (10)**, **Joe Madden (09)** and **Dan Jelley (09)**. We always love to see a friendly Ratcliffian face at The Star, so be sure to come and see us very soon."



Etienne Vicariot (67) with his wife, Catherine

Etienne Vicariot (67): "I spent one year at Ratcliffe in the Fifth Form, leaving in July 1967. This was, by far, the best year of my teens, and I have many good memories of it. After this, I went back to France to study Agronomy at university. I then married Catherine, and we spent two years in Dakar, Senegal, where I was teaching Agriculture and Economics. Back home, I started working in the farm machinery business, while Catherine was graduating as a gynaecologist. We settled in 1983 in Orleans, where I joined John Deere France. We have two sons and a daughter who all live and work in Paris in the advertisement industry. I will retire in February 2016 and I am looking forward to this new life. I have many activities planned, such as helping the schoolboys and girls of the small town that we live in with their homework (as their parents do not even speak French), as well as playing

golf, flying, sailing and travelling."

Fr John Gott (55): "I celebrated fifty years of priesthood in the Diocese of Leeds on June 12th 2015. I have been parish priest in the Upper Calder Valley of The Good Shepherd Church, Mytholmroyd, in the South Pennines for the last thirty-six years. The parish covers ninety-eight square miles of wonderful walking on the Pennine Way over the hills, valleys, rivers and reservoirs. If you come this way, drop in and have a cuppa, or something stronger!"

Keelan Kukkk (10): "Since leaving Ratcliffe, I have graduated from Loughborough University and am now working full-time as a Commercial Analyst. The biggest news, I suppose, would be that I gained a First Degree Black Belt in Hung Kuen Kung Fu whilst at university."



Keelan Kukkk (10), furthest on the right

Frank Nieuwenhuys (68): "My goodness, it's forty-seven years since I left Ratcliffe! It always seemed that, like my father and older brothers, I would end up working in the fashion industry, but after a brief period of training, I was ready to break the mould and go to new pastures, somehow ending up in transport logistics. The international freight scene appealed and took me all over Europe and Scandinavia, managing projects and developing business opportunities through a network of agents, from Turkey in the East to Norway and Finland in the far North. In 1977, I married Jill, a teacher. Together, we have three wonderful children, all of whom now pursue successful careers of their own in London. A career in transport was always going to see a degree of turbulence, which proved to be the case, but the challenges it provided meant that successes were always particularly sweet. By the late 1990s, I was ready for a new experience, and in January 2000, I joined Stena Line AB, the Swedish ferry and shipping company, being appointed as Regional Freight Manager for the UK and Republic of Ireland. In 2013, the opportunity to 'retire' arose, which I

jumped at. However, having no job at all seemed a bit too big a step, so I decided run my own consultancy business, which is something that occupies me when I am not cycling, skiing, walking or enjoying motorsport, all of which keep me both fit and busy. Happy days!"



Frank Nieuwenhuys (68)

Hayley Marvin (12): "I have just returned to Sheffield Hallam University for my final year, studying Marketing Communications and Advertising. I spent my third year on placement at Robert Bosch Ltd, where I had the pleasure of organising and also representing Bosch at this year's RHS Chelsea Flower Show. Whilst living in London, I participated in the London Moonwalk, raising money for the Walk the Walk breast cancer charity. Following my placement, I had an incredible, once-in-a-lifetime experience on the East Coast of Australia, travelling from Sydney to Cairns!"



Hayley Marvin (12)

John Arnold (71): "The last twelve months have seen great change for me. It was in September 2014 that I was appointed as Bishop of Salford, which, after more than thirty years in London, has meant a big change. I was installed in my new diocese on the Feast of the Immaculate Conception (the 'Immac' of Ratcliffe days), and must say that people have been very welcoming. There is much to do in the sense that many of our priests are retiring, and there needs to be a plan for the future, so I must learn a lot before I can make decisions. However, there is

great energy and initiative here, and I am convinced that we can find a good way ahead. It is good to be back in the North, even though it is the other side of the Pennines from my family roots. Missing London? Not so much. I miss the people, but a change is good. This summer, I have done a good deal of travelling. As Chair of CAFOD's Trustees, I went in August to Zambia and Zimbabwe to visit CAFOD partners and to see various projects. In September, I spent two weeks in Myanmar, giving retreats to priests and seminarians. Although so very different, these young churches have an energy to be celebrated. They are growing fast. They still represent small minorities, but provide schools and clinics that are so vitally important for all. What a privilege it is to see how the work of missionary priests and nuns has flourished; we have much to learn from their commitment."



Bishop John Arnold (71)

Sam Coulton (12): "Since leaving Ratcliffe, I have experienced three transformative years (and far too many sleepless nights!) at the Bartlett School of Architecture at University College London. Life has changed in many ways; a world of new friends and connections has opened up, and I (somehow) managed to graduate with a First Class Honours degree. I am now employed at Rogers Stirk Harbour and Partners, the architects behind (and soon to be tenants of) the 'Cheesegrater'. I am excited to be working in the City, but leaving our current office atop the River Cafe will definitely embitter the 80mph scenic lift ride up to the office. Now in my fourth year of grappling with the horror that is the London rental market, I find myself living with a fellow Old Ratcliffian, **Felicity Norris (12)**, in Camden Town. For those that know her, it won't be a surprise to hear that she is an appalling housemate, so our other four cohabitants provide welcome distraction. Keeping in contact with the people I spent so much time with before leaving school is one of life's great pleasures, and I am proud to say that we try and meet up frequently.

However, there are some old friends who I would love to catch up with, but I have not been fortunate enough to do so, so please don't hesitate to get in touch."

Stan Collins (03): "During my years at Ratcliffe, I fell in love with the sports on offer, as well as the Drama classes, and I was lucky enough to have some really inspirational teachers. However, not being great at learning lines and not being able to run much faster than a herd of turtles going up a hill made me realise that I was going to have to get creative if I wanted to pursue a career in this area! At school, my sports teacher taught me to juggle; two was easy, three took me a few days, four took several months, and after a good year's hard work, I could juggle five. Once I'd got that far, I started to experiment; to everyone's horror, I used a lighter and fuel to set my juggling props on fire! But could throwing things up in the air, even if they were on fire, make me money? Well, as it turned out, it could. A few burns and some scorched arm hair later, I got offered a job as a fire-eater! (Yes, you heard right - that is, apparently, a real job.) My first day was spent performing in front of two thousand people whilst I had fire breathed over my head. I'm not sure who was more scared - me or the audience! After a few months, I went on to learn to still-walk, eat fire and snake charm, doing shows all over the country. That led me on to work in America as a flying trapeze instructor and eventually helping to set up an entertainment company with my friend. I still can't run and I still can't remember lines, but the moral of the story is to go out and have fun in what you do - who knows where it might lead you?!"



Stan Collins (03)

Damien Walmsley (76): "I am Professor of Restorative Dentistry at the University of Birmingham; I have many roles in the dental school and university, from teaching undergraduate and postgraduate students to research on

dental instruments. It is in my external roles where Old Ratcliffians may have seen me in action. I have been President of the Association of Dental Education in Europe, and this has involved travel to many different parts of the world representing dentistry. It is not all work, though, as you can see (below). At home, I am the Scientific Advisor to the British Dental Association and I am quoted in national media outlets, including newspapers, magazines, radio and television. My influence extends outside dentistry into photography, where I have had many of my photographs published, both on television and in magazines. Living in Knowle, Solihull, I am married to Sandy, who runs a regional team on respiratory nursing, and we have three daughters and one granddaughter. I am always meeting Old Ratcliffians in both my work and hobbies, and I am happy to meet up with anyone reading this as well."



Damien Walmsley (76)

Felicity Bainbridge (06): "A lot has happened over the past year! In December, I was promoted to Senior Consultant in Capgemini Consulting's Business Model Transformation practice, working on Financial Services engagements in Programme Management and Change. In June, after almost five years in consulting, I decided to take the plunge into industry, and was offered a position at Citibank as a Vice President in Programme Management within their Global Investor Services division. I've been here for a few months now and am very much enjoying the role, the team, and the new challenges. This is in addition to having my own desk and not living in hotels every week - a total rarity in consulting! My brother, **Freddie (08)**, has just started his final year of medical school and is due to qualify in June next year. He will be off to Zanzibar in January for his elective placement, before returning for his finals and, hopefully, becoming a doctor! My youngest brother, **William (12)**, graduated from the University of Birmingham with a 2:1 in

Law earlier this year. After graduating, he started applying for training contracts, and has just been offered a position with RadcliffesLeBrasseur, starting in 2017, which he will commence upon completing law school next year. All in all, it has been a pretty successful year, and we are all looking forward to what 2016 has in store for us."



Freddie (08), Felicity (06) & William Bainbridge (12)

Francesca Gamble (04): "After working for a couple of big, international agencies for the last six years, at the start of 2015, I decided to set up my own communications consultancy, Twenty-Nine London (www.twentynine.london). This specialises in luxury and lifestyle brands within the PR, digital and marketing sectors, both for some of the biggest brands in the world, as well as ones that are just starting out. I recently completed our first sponsorship deal with a soft drinks brand, which replaced Coca Cola as Official Sponsor of London Fashion Week; we don't just work in fashion, but sport, music and film as well. I'm always on the hunt for talented people, so get in touch!"



Francesca Gamble (04) with her boyfriend, Nathan

Gerald Della-Porta (49): "In September 2015, a group of great Old Ratcliffians of senior vintage, along with their kind, gallant and wonderful wives, came to Edinburgh for their 10th Anniversary gathering. This year, there were four couples: Jennifer and **Douglas Chamberlain (50)**, Trish and **Tony Fearn (50)**, Margaret and **Paul Simmons (51)**, Eileen and **John Wolfle (49)**; missing

due to temporary health hazard were Elizabeth and **Nicholas Mayne (49)**; Gerald Della-Porta, one single, was the host. The group stayed for four nights at The Royal Scots Club (RSC) in Abercromby Place, and they enjoyed the great comfort of the bedrooms, dining room, and the all-important lift. The RSC was definitely a five-star of superb value, and a quality match for the best in Edinburgh; the cleanliness and service were impeccable, and it was altogether a perfect stay. A comfortable coach trip to The Burrell Collection at Glasgow was especially appreciated, as was lunch at the Kelvingrove Museum. Next year, on to Cambridge, when we hope to be back to full strength, with five couples and one single! Our group is heavily weighted with senior medics, including two professors - not all of us have retired! Several are engaged in charity and caring, both for parish and family; another runs a bed and breakfast 24/7. We do not all know of each other's families, but the group owns (or owns up to) many children and grandchildren, whom we believe are doing good works."



Gerald Della-Porta (49), far right, with friends in Edinburgh

James Heathcote (75): "On leaving Ratcliffe, I went into medicine, as planned, and am still enjoying a long and interesting career as a GP in Bromley. The NHS may be going through a difficult patch, but it's still a very rewarding job. This year, Barbara and I celebrated our Silver Wedding Anniversary, and the eldest of our four children has now qualified as a doctor and is working in Liverpool. In 2017, health permitting, we plan to semi-retire home to Bury St Edmunds, where we have bought the house that I grew up in. We plan to run a small bed and breakfast there, and I also hope to keep doing locum work as a doctor to stop me getting bored!"

The following picture shows, from the left, **Jonty Miles (57)**, former Chairman of the Association, **Anne Simmons-Walder**,

mother of **Mark Simmonds (95)**, and her brother, **Ewan Simmonds (59)**, pictured at Anne's home in Canford Cliffs, Poole. The photo was taken the morning after having been to Brownsea Island to watch the last night of Shakespeare's *The Tempest* by the Brownsea Players. Unlike last year, which produced a tempest, the weather was fine, and a great time was had by all.



L to R: Jonty Miles (57), Anne Simmons-Walder & Ewan Simmonds (59)

Sam Clemons (98): "I've had a busy life since leaving Ratcliffe. After university, I set up my own carpentry and joinery business, Hortus Ligneous Ltd, specialising in oak frames; this allowed me to follow my dream of working for myself, doing something I love. The biggest thing that I brought away from university was my beautiful wife, Charlotte. We married at Christmas time in 2004 and now have four amazing children: Claudia (9), Beatrix (8), Barnaby (6), and Diggory (3). We live happily in the house in which I grew up and have spent the last few years renovating it to meet our own family's needs. The project continues, but I can safely say that we are 'getting there'. Now, nine years on, we have finished building our Clemons workforce of the future, and we have embarked upon a new venture, 'From the Oak Tree'. We have been investigating many possibilities to do with our waste (offcuts of timber) and green issues that affect us all, so we now 'up-cycle' these offcuts into unique and



Sam Clemons (98) & his family

bespoke personalised gifts, ranging from chopping boards, swings and welly boot racks to iPad stands and coin stash trays! We thoroughly enjoy working together in our workshop and office, designing our products, and the children love to get involved, too. The work-life balance is good; wine, the odd game of rugby, family holidays and time with friends and family keep me sane!"



Sophie Riley (15)

Sophie Riley (15): "In early August, I began my ascent up Kilimanjaro, the highest free-standing mountain in the world, and the highest point in Africa. I had decided to undertake this challenge in aid of Love Support Unite (LSU), a charity that not only founded the Tilinanu orphanage, but which now facilitates even greater, long-term, sustainable changes throughout the local community in Malawi. The reason I chose this charity was because I had visited Tilinanu as a volunteer in the previous year, and knew that it was an organisation that really focused on putting the money where it was needed most. The trek was a total of seven days' hiking; it involved five days' ascending (which allowed you to acclimatise) and then two days of descent. Although I started the trek with another group member, unfortunately, he had to descend after two days, owing to altitude sickness. So, after the third day, I found myself walking alone with just a guide. This certainly put me outside my comfort zone, but I soon became adjusted to mountain life and managed to get into a routine, even if it meant waking up at 6.30am every day. It was certainly a different feeling being at such a high altitude for that length of time, because you could never move faster than a slow walking pace. However, the most surreal day, without a doubt, would have to be the summit night. This involved waking up at 11.00pm to have breakfast and then, from midnight, walking for seven hours in the pitch black, with only a small head torch to see the way. Reaching the summit is definitely one of the hardest, but most

rewarding, things I have ever done. I would just like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who has sponsored me so far to complete the climb, as well as for all the support I have received from the staff, students and parents at Ratcliffe. To date, I have raised an amazing total of £1,360, and I hope to visit Malawi next summer so that I can work directly with Love Support Unite and have an input into where the money is spent. Complementing my own endeavours to support LSU was Mr Lloyd's 100 kilometre ultra-marathon at the start of the summer holidays, so between us, we have covered a fair amount of land!"

David Thistlethwaite (50): "The Arctic Convoy Medal has been awarded, posthumously, to **Rex James Rothwell (40)**. His daughter, Lucy, was presented with it at an award ceremony in London. Lucy and her two brothers were unaware, until recently, that their father was at Ratcliffe; the subject came up in her conversation with Anne, David Thistlethwaite's daughter and **Mark's (78)** sister, who informed her of the connection and said that 'Dad could sort out information' for her. Dad duly has, in conjunction with the fair Lucy, and this demonstrates the value of having the Ratcliffian magazines on the internet. Well done to Ratcliffe and the Association."

Sir Anthony Holland (56): "I am now in my second year at Heythrop College and, thankfully, I finish next summer with a trip to Rome. Canon Law has been a real eye-opener, however, as to some processes in the Church, and I recommend the course to anyone who wants to add an MA to their CV! I had a really great evening at Ratcliffe recently for the 150th Past Presidents' Dinner. The highlight for me was Gareth and Katharine's duet from Mozart's *Don Giovanni*."



Sir Anthony Holland (56) & Michael Coker (56)

Georgia Thorne (11): "I graduated from Ratcliffe in 2011 and I now work as an

Account Manager at BMS Sales Specialists. BMS is a sales recruitment expert with a wide range of blue-chip clients and national coverage. Established in 1990, we operate in six specialist divisions, offering a transparent, reliable and dynamic service to both salespeople and companies looking for them. At BMS, as well as placing professional salespeople, the BMS Graduate wing assesses and aids the placement of graduates into sales jobs. We work alongside big companies such as Lindt, Red Bull, Ferrero, Avon and Bidvest Foodservice. BMS Graduates can help you to showcase your potential - something that can be difficult to do from just a CV. If this is of any interest to Old Ratcliffians who are looking for an exciting career in sales, please contact me via the Ratcliffian Association."



John Jolliffe (48) & Archbishop Peter Smith

Patrick Jolliffe (53): "John Jolliffe (48) was presented with the Benemerenti Medal by the Archbishop of Southwark, Peter Smith, in November 2014. The presentation took place at a special celebratory Mass to mark the Diamond Jubilee of the opening of the Church of St Ambrose in Wye, Kent. The medal is an honour awarded by the Pope to members of the clergy and the laity for long and exceptional service to the Catholic Church. John moved to Wye in April 1966, while working for Unilever, and involved himself with the fledgling St Ambrose Church, which is served from St Teresa of Avila in Ashford. On retirement from Unilever, he was appointed as Bursar at Ratcliffe (from 1989 to 1991), during a period of great change, leaving his wife, Mary, sister of **Adrian Balmforth (46)**, to look after a now large family in Wye. On his return to Wye, both he and Mary continued to work tirelessly on behalf of the church to ensure its successful and continued existence."

Jaideep Nanwani Lachman (87): "After I left Ratcliffe, I returned to Spain and read Law at Barcelona University. Since 1996, I have had my own private legal practice, specialising in Private International Law. Married to Divya in 1999, we have two children - Rahul, who is fourteen years old, and Rohit, who is nearly twelve. I have a profile on LinkedIn if any of you would like to get in touch. I cherish the memories of my two-year stay at Ratcliffe!"



Jaideep Nanwani Lachman (87) & his family

Hollie Stone (07): "For the last four and a half years, since finishing university at Leeds, I have been working for Macildowie, a recruitment business in Leicester, where I now lead a small team. As a side project and for something a little different, I also hire out vintage china and props for weddings and other special events. The collection started several years ago, when hosting annual afternoon tea fundraisers to support **Alice Pulford's (07)** African orphanage, Tilinanu, in its early years; the collection has continued to grow, now allowing us to cater for up to 150 guests!"

Julian Orford (62): "I completed a degree in Civil Engineering and have lived in Cape Town for the last forty-two years. I also own a small construction company. I have been married to Wendy for forty years and have three children - two sons and a daughter. My sons live in Cape Town and my daughter lives in London."



Julian Orford (62)

Mark Stephens (88): "I am building technology solutions for the recruitment marketplace, and we are about to start looking into establishing an office in

Santa Clara in the USA. Our product is called Smart Recruit Online and it helps companies to do all their own recruitment in house; it's smarter, faster, and keeps things at the lowest possible cost. My brother, **Richard Stephens (90)**, has just won another Gazelle Award for his promotion and display design company, Mintpad, and it has been recognised as one of the fastest-growing companies in Denmark. **Ben Stephens (96)** runs a successful design and print business called M-Print in Leicester, and Michael Stephens is the Head of Digital Design at Liberty, the London department store."

Basil D'Oliveira (44): "Due to limited mobility and transport issues, perhaps the greatest disappointment this year was my inability to participate in all the wonderful celebrations taking place at Ratcliffe. It simply was not practical to attend. The organisers of such an event deserve great credit." (*Basil has included a Christmas greeting - a cartoon of his precious Comet, which he used to fly as part of the RAF Transport Command.*)



Season's greetings from Basil D'Oliveira (44)

Holly Allison (12): "I have just graduated from university and I am currently fundraising to travel to Malawi to teach people there about HIV and AIDS. I am going at the start of October with a charity named Progressio, which was founded by Catholics in response to the amount of poverty that they saw in the world. Progressio is part of the ICS (International Citizenship Service), which is a government-funded initiative that sends 18-25 year olds to areas of the world that need help. It helps developing countries and communities to improve their lives through the sharing of information and skills. While I am in Malawi, I will be working with a team of local volunteers, as well as other UK volunteers. I have been set a fundraising target of £1500 and, in order to meet this, I will be doing a 10k run, along with organising a coffee morning and possibly

a quiz night for this very worthy cause. Any support is greatly appreciated!"

Katey Tebbutt (née Atkinson) (94): "I am married to Ben Tebbutt and have four children. I'm currently on maternity leave; however, I work with my brothers, **Patrick (85)** and **John Atkinson (87)** in the family businesses, Semloh Electrics and Crusader Products."



Katey Tebbutt (née Atkinson) (94) & her family

Old Ratcliffian and Past President of the Ratcliffian Association, **Leo Simmonds (49)**, has been awarded Life Membership of the Catenian Association for his considerable contributions over many years. Over fifty years ago, Leo was enrolled into the City of Westminster Circle, whose then president was Allan Davies, who was later to become Lord Mayor of the City of London. Leo has since held numerous roles, including Circle President, Secretary, Provincial Councillor and Circle Chamberlain, a position he still holds today. Whilst serving a successful tenure as Editor of the *Catena*, the magazine for the Association, Leo founded a Bursary Fund by asking for annual subscriptions from members. The aim of this fund was to help secure young people to do good works, helping self-development and Christian communities. Leo served as Chairman of the fund from when it was officially established in 1990 until May of this year, when he retired from the position. In Leo's own words, "It's been a privilege to serve, but all good things have an end. It is one of my principles that I never volunteer to do anything. If others think I can be of use, then I find it difficult to refuse."



Leo Simmonds (49), left, being awarded Life Membership of the Catenian Association

Samantha Piecha (02): "The last year has been full of lots of exciting things. The best, by far, was my boyfriend, James Quemby, deciding that he could put up with me for the rest of his life and proposing earlier this year. We will be having a winter wedding next November in Derbyshire, and so far, there is no 'bridezilla' in sight! As well as my left hand looking a bit different these days, I have also embarked on a new career. After just over a year of training in Neuro-Linguistic Programming (NLP), Life Coaching, Emotional Freedom Technique (EFT) and Hypnotherapy, in March, I was offered a position as a practitioner at The Optimum Health Clinic. We specialise in working with people suffering from ME; after battling the illness for just over seven years, and thanks to the clinic's expertise coming out of the other side, it is most rewarding to now be helping others on their own recovery journey."



Samantha Piecha (02) & her fiancé, James

Sophie Yell (10): "Since graduating from university with a First Class Honours degree in Sport and Social Science, I have been travelling for a year around Australia and New Zealand with my boyfriend, **Gus Kelly (10)**. We are now living in gorgeous Auckland in New Zealand, and I have recently secured a job with a major sports event company, with an office overlooking the beach!"



Gus Kelly (10) & Sophie Yell (10)

Katie Lumb (03): "After I finished my A Levels, I then started my dream job as a member of cabin crew, initially for Ryanair for five months, then Emirates

Airlines for six and a half years, based in Dubai. I spent those years travelling the world, experiencing different cultures and sampling different cuisines! I am now working as a receptionist at Ragdale Hall Health Hydro and Thermal Spa, where I have been for the last two years."

Peter Fraser (71) achieved his 'Bucket List' ambition to travel to the rainforests of Madagascar with his eldest daughter, Holly, in search of the smallest and largest chameleons in the world. After thirty-eight years in the electronics and aerospace industry, Peter retired in April, and he and his wife, Leslie, have moved to Great Linford in Milton Keynes to be near Holly, who is having their first grandchild in December.



Peter Fraser (71) in the rainforest

Stefan Gackowski (12): "After leaving Ratcliffe, I was lucky enough to be accepted into the prestigious East 15 Acting School, and have recently graduated with a First Class Honours degree. However, it wasn't about the grades - it was about learning self-discipline, using your body as your tool for acting, and growing so much as a human, being surrounded from 8.30am until at least 6.00pm every day by people as devoted as you in this field. On my course, we studied a lot about world theatre, and I am now trained in many styles and techniques that I had never heard of before I started, including Balinese dance drama, kecak, puppetry, gamelan and tai chi, to name a few. I now reside permanently in Lewisham, London; I have an acting agent and am auditioning for television, film and theatre roles. I'm also continuing with my singing, having signed a recording deal with a central London-based record company; working with a producer, I have co-written two singles which will have been released on iTunes and in other formats by the time you read this, so check them out! I perform and release music under the name Stefan Taylor. Living in London as a self-employed performer is hard, but hopefully, it will ultimately be rewarding."



L to R: Stephen Moorhouse (68), Vance Hall (68), Mark Leslie (68), William Fenton (69), Patrick Donaldson (72) & Richard Tweed (69).

Stephen Moorhouse (68): "The reunion of the 'A Team' gathered pace with a meet up at the London drinks party in the summer. Skilfully marshalled by **Richard Tweed (69)**, those members attending ensured excellent photographic posing. Further attendances planned include substantial presence at the forthcoming London Dinner in February 2016. Richard added, 'I reconnected with Stephen and **Mark Leslie (68)** last February at the OR London Dinner. We were together up to O Levels, which I fluffed badly, so I had to repeat the year, hence I finished in 1969, alongside **William Fenton (69)**, **Vance Hall (68)**, **Patrick Donaldson (72)** and I were at Soni, so we have met up at Soni reunions many times in recent years."

Andrew Benjamin (64): "I left Ratcliffe in the mid-1960s due to the ill health of my father, who died shortly afterwards. I had a great time there and enjoyed playing sports. I have lived in Maryland, USA for thirty-five years, and I am now retired with two children and two identical twin seven year old granddaughters. I came across this photo of my colleagues and I (front left, below) when clearing out our house in Maryland to move to Florida. I remember the faces, but struggle to remember the names, and I would enjoy hearing how my fellow tennis players and other friends are. Life has been good to me and I still treasure my time at Grace Dieu and Ratcliffe."



Andrew Benjamin (64), front left, with his teammates

In 1950, the year after leaving school, **Martin Middlebrook (49)** fell in love with Anne, a young girl of seventeen from Boston in Lincolnshire. He had intended to marry her, but was called away on National Service. Whilst he was away, someone else had stolen her affection, and he came back to find that she was engaged. Martin went on to marry another lady from Boston, Anne married her fiancé, and both had families. Martin's wife died in May 2014 and Anne's husband died five weeks later. An intermediary put them in touch with each other, and they are now both living happily together in Cavendish in Suffolk. Martin is a close friend of **Mike Harden (50)** who lives in Boston. Mike lost his leg in Korea and is still suffering from this. Martin and Mike both travelled on the same train when they were called up for National Service in 1950. Martin would have gone to Korea with Mike, who became a second lieutenant, but for Martin's colour blindness. He was transferred from the Infantry and finished up as a second lieutenant in the Royal Army Corps, serving with 'No Distinction at All' in the Suez Canal Zone, at Aqaba, Jordan's only port on the Red Sea. Martin became a military historian and has written sixteen books, from the First World War to the Second World War, meeting many interesting people and visiting many interesting places.

David Tarimo (81): "Recently, I caught up with **Julian Coker (81)** in Dar es Salaam. It was Julian's first night in Tanzania, and he was passing through on his way to work on an exploration rig off the shore of Tanzania, which has recently seen very significant gas discoveries. By way of a career update, I have been appointed Country Senior Partner of PwC Tanzania with effect from July 2014. I also see other Old Ratcliffians based in Dar es Salaam, including **Mark Stanley**, **Alex Hughes (née Jansen) (82)**, **Christel d'Mello (83)** and **Wilfred Nyakyi (89)**."



Julian Coker (81) & David Tarimo (81) at the Dar es Salaam Yacht Club, just about to have a 'sundowner'!

Laura Warren (née Middleton) (03): "Lots of exciting things have happened in the last two years. I got married last summer down in Dartmoor, Devon, to my husband, Damian. We met in a climbing and mountaineering club whilst studying at Nottingham University, and we have now been together for nine years. Damian is an officer in the Royal Engineers and, therefore, since finishing university, we have lived in multiple locations in the UK and have spent quite a lot of time apart. We are currently living near Sevenoaks in Kent while Damian is working in London. I work as a Languages teacher at a Catholic girls' boarding school in Surrey; however, I am currently on maternity leave, having just given birth to our beautiful baby girl, Juliet Alba, in October."



Laura Warren (née Middleton) (03) & her husband, Damian

Jan Chudzynski (62): "After leaving Ratcliffe, I went to the CEM in London and qualified as a Chartered Surveyor. Having worked predominantly in the London residential market, but with a knowledge of Polish, I went to Poland in 1991 to open Pizza Huts and KFCs, petrol stations and supermarkets, and joined JLW as a partner. In the early 2000s, I joined a UK developer and built out warehouses. I am still involved in a semi-retirement role. I have met with a number of Old Ratcliffians, including **Chris Smith (63)**, **David Phelan (62)**, **Pat Morrissey (62)**, **James Fletcher (62)**, **Ian (65)** and **Peter Wagstaffe (64)**. I am now living in Wimbledon with my wife, having five children between us and eight grandchildren."

Tony Ryan (41): "I am, I believe, one of the oldest ORs. My 93rd birthday was in October, and I am still 'in good working order'. I live alone and fend for myself; my wife died nearly five years ago, after sixty years of marriage. My local parish, earlier this year, was amalgamated with three other parishes at the southern end of Lower Hutt city, and these three have been assigned by our Cardinal

Archbishop, John Dew, to be run by the Holy Spirit Fathers (SVD). The SVD is a missionary order originally formed in Germany, but many of their priests now come from the various countries of Southeast Asia. Those in our parish are Vietnamese and Korean. I still drive my own car and I am a volunteer driver for the 'Meals on Wheels' scheme, delivering hot meals from the hospital kitchens to people in one of the other suburbs of Lower Hutt. I do this every Tuesday. For a time, I was driving meals to a different suburb on Mondays as well, but I found two days a week was a bit too much for me. Currently, I am following the progress of the Ratcliffe Spitfire project with interest, as aviation has been a keen interest for all of my life; I was at Ratcliffe when the ATA were using the Aerodrome next door in their work of moving military aircraft around Britain for the RAF. Both I and other boys who were interested used to spend some of our spare time lined up along the boundary fence looking at aircraft parked on the other side, and watching the movements of aircraft in and out. This included one instance of a twin-engine aircraft - I think it was an American-made 'Maryland' - which attempted takeoff, but the starboard undercarriage leg collapsed before flying speed was achieved; the plane swerved across the field in front of us, to the sound of crumpling aluminium, before disappearing down the slight slope (away from the Fosse Way) to end up on its nose, poking through the fence on that side of the Aerodrome."



Tony Ryan (41)

Paddy Scannell (62): "I am returning home to the UK in June 2016 after spending ten years working in the Department of Communication at the University of Michigan. It has been a wonderful experience working in a great American university, and I have enjoyed every minute of it. I am particularly glad to have lived in America during the era of Barack Obama's presidency. He will

surely come to be seen as one of the greatest occupants of America's highest office. I'm stopping work in the USA (not retiring!) in order to reconnect with my family and friends and, frankly, to enjoy the pleasures of being home. After living abroad for a long while, it's the small, everyday things you miss, like listening to Radio 4, English mustard, your favourite daily newspaper, public transport, pubs - you know what I mean!"



Paddy Scannell (62)

Karen Grace (née Kruger) (00): "I have been married for eight years now to my amazing husband, Matt Grace, and we have three gorgeous children together - Olivia (6), Emma (2), and James (6 months). Life is crazy and busy, but I am loving every single second! After being a stay-at-home mum for the past two years, I will be launching my own business in December 2015. Having spent much of my life either in or next to a swimming pool with my children, I wanted a portable, reusable towel warmer to help them to get warm quickly after their lessons, and so 'The Towel Cozy' was born eighteen months ago. It has been a massive learning curve setting it up, but the new challenge is brilliant. I still see many of the guys and girls from my years throughout Ratcliffe, and it is great to catch up and see those who are now married and having babies!"



Elisabeth Barker-Carley (10)

Elisabeth Barker-Carley (10): "Since leaving Ratcliffe, I've had a whirlwind adventure. After graduating from university, I couldn't get a job, so I took

a leap of faith and started my own company! It's called Dreaming in Colour Productions, and within it, I manage bands, tours, run a few festivals (including the infamous Oxjam Takeover Festival), and put on multiple events around the country. This year, I also opened my own rehearsal rooms and recording studio in Leicester city centre."



David Meredith (92) with Orea

David Meredith (92): "After leaving Ratcliffe, I spent an enjoyable gap year swanning around the US on an ESU scholarship. At Oxford, I read Philosophy, Politics and Economics, before spending a fourth year running a student society. I then moved to the US for seven years, initially enjoying the (first) 'dot-com' boom and the (first) 'dot-com' bust, then spending two years studying in Boston, where I met my wife, who was doing her PhD at Harvard Medical School. After MIT, I spent an enjoyable stint as the Finance Director for the grassroots fundraising effort of John Kerry's Presidential Campaign. I've never worked harder. When Kerry lost, we decamped to the UK; Dory went to Oxford as a fellow at St Johns, and I went to McKinsey & Company as a consultant. I was fortunate to be elected a partner, and have found that the prize in that pie-eating contest is actually more pie! I now focus primarily on healthcare, and have spent most of my time recently in Sierra Leone, helping with the Ebola response. Nothing endears you to the mother-in-law like having the CDC show up at her house, demanding to know where her 'person of interest' son-in-law is! I hope that, by the time you read this, Sierra Leone will be at a sustainable zero. Dory is now at Imperial, where she's on faculty and runs a structural Biology lab. We have a lovely little girl, Orea, who delights us and is developing strong views on science ('Science is good, Mommy, I want to be a scientist') and nationality ('Daddy is different from us. We're American and he's English'). I hope that the rational side to her character

triumphs over the nativist, otherwise we'll have a Trump voter on our hands. I see various Ratcliffe friends on a relatively regular, if not very frequent, basis, and family ties mean that I'm never far from an alumnus (or alumna)."

Laurence Edwards (03): "Holly Axelrad and I are living and working in Hong Kong, and I recently proposed to her in Vietnam! We're hoping to get married next August and, all being well, we will have the wedding reception in a marquee at Ratcliffe College."



Laurence Edwards (03) with his fiancée, Holly Axelrad

Congratulations to distance runner **Sam Stabler (10)**, who gave a tremendous performance in the 5000 metre event at the Stanford Invitational, California, in April. Sam smashed his personal record by almost 25 seconds, completing it in a time of 13.30.50, and taking the top spot from Samuel Kosgei, who had held it since 2010 with a time of 13:35:75. Sam was named as the Division I Men's National Athlete of the Week by the US Track and Field and Cross Country Coaches Association. Sam has shown an outstanding level of ability in this field, having competed alongside Olympians and national champions.



Sam Stabler (10)

ALICE PULFORD (07) & HER SISTER, NINA, GAIN TOP AWARD FROM DAVID CAMERON FOR THEIR WORK IN MALAWI



Alice Pulford (07) with the children in Malawi

Having won the much-coveted National Volunteer of the Year award last year, Alice and her sister, Nina, have recently received the Prime Minister's Points of Light award, which recognises outstanding individual volunteers - people who are making a change in their community.

Alice set out for Malawi on her gap year in 2009, initially as a volunteer teacher, not knowing precisely where in Africa she was going. Deeply affected by the poverty she saw, she became dedicated to getting help and support to the children who needed it the most, and was later joined by her sister, Nina. She used a small legacy left to her by her grandfather - a great influence in her life - to build the first stage of the Tilinanu orphanage on a clearing donated by local landowner, Mercy Mkandawire.

The sisters returned after Alice had finished her first year at university, with funds raised at home in Leicester, to extend the orphanage. It is now home to thirty-six of the most vulnerable girls, giving many of them their first opportunity to attend school. It offers medical support, skills and educational workshops to all, and day nurseries, micro-loans and business advice to young parents, with a view to increasing employment in the community.

Through the formation of the orphanage, Alice and Nina set up the Love Support Unite Foundation. The Foundation and volunteers provide much-needed support and further development projects within the Lilongwe region, reaching out to thousands of families; a team of volunteers recently built the first sustainable school, which now educates over six hundred children. To date, they have recruited over one hundred volunteers and are working with the Malawian government to make lasting change.

Prime Minister, David Cameron, said: "Alice and Nina have turned a gap year project into a Foundation that has transformed the lives of communities across Malawi. The orphanage they support gives dozens of girls the chance of a better start in life, and the opportunity to get an education. Their innovative approach sees

them inspire volunteers to support local projects across the country, and I am delighted to recognise them as the UK's 396th and 397th Points of Light."

Alice said: "We feel it is our duty to ensure that all humans have fair and equal rights. We see ourselves as a helping 'leg up' to those that are suffering through lack of education and nutrition. We look at our work and projects as an empowerment of people. Our story and journey is of transformation, and we have been allowed to accelerate, purely through the belief and support of the people who surround us; without them, we wouldn't be able to do all that we do."

Alice said that this would not have been possible without the support that she and Nina have received, not only from friends, family and the local community in Leicestershire, but also from further afield, including support from the international band, Rudimental. In addition, 'Love Specs' helps to fund and support the Foundation. They have launched a range of men's clothing, made by Hype, that is stocked and sold in Topman, and there is even more exciting news in the pipeline!

Alice said: "We're growing at an organic, but really effective, pace - the younger generation will make the change! We have now had several Ratcliffe students over to visit, including the amazing Monaghan family, Lilly Thomas (14), Alice Gilbert (14), Ryan Hughes (07), Sophie Mulligan (09), Laura Birtwistle (09), Hollie Stone (07), William Bentley (06), Katie Gerighty (11), Sophie Riley (15), Emma and Kate Scarborough, along with many members of the Leicestershire community, ranging from eleven to seventy years of age! We are also very grateful to P H Construction for all their help. We work directly with communities and local resources to create projects that are sustained and maintained by local people, and we provide much-needed healthcare, education and skills training to those who need it most. We create small-scale projects to trigger large-scale change in Malawi and, in the near future, across Africa. We are Love Support Unite. Join us on our mission."



Nina & Alice Pulford (07)

MARRIAGES



Leigh Wells (OO) with several fellow Old Ratcliffians

Leigh Wells (OO): "Emily and I got married on September 5th 2015 at St Mary's Church in Warwick. Our reception was held at the Rose and Crown on the Square in Warwick - we all walked from the church to the pub! Our MC was **Dom Howkins (OO)** and our ushers were **Scott Piecha (OO)**, **Will Coupland (O1)**, **Steve Jelley (OO)** and **Saroj Ekanayake (O1)**. We had a lovely, relaxed day celebrating with our closest friends and family."

Sean McAuley (O5) married Kelly on May 30th 2015 at Coltsfoot Country Retreat in Hertfordshire.



Sean McAuley (O5) & his wife, Kelly

On August 27th 2015, **Angus Stephens (93)** was married to Tania Cappelluti in Tuscany, forty miles south of Florence, in a magical wedding attended by nearly two hundred people. Many of the guests had made their way over from the UK,

including a handful of Old Ratcliffians, such as Angus' brothers, **Mark (88)**, **Richard (90)**, **Ben (96)** and Michael, and his friends **Joe Walkden (93)**, best man **Simon Billsberry (93)**, and **Daniel Pallet (93)**. The wedding took place in a secluded retreat often visited by yoga enthusiasts. The ceremony was performed in a stone amphitheatre hidden away in the woods, and the fantastic meal and celebrations were typically Italian, situated outdoors with lots of speeches, music and entertainment that went on into the following day. Angus and Tania will be heading back to their home in Costa Rica in October, where they run yoga retreats and group excursions for nature and photography enthusiasts.



Angus Stephens (93) & Tania with the wedding guests

Dominic Howkins (OO) married his long-term girlfriend, Faye Weston, at Grafton Regis Church near Silverstone on August 3rd 2014, followed by an Olympic-

themed reception at the family farm. Dom eventually proposed in London over Christmas, after more than a decade of procrastination. Immediately, plans were set in motion for a summer wedding, which would take place two weeks after Jennifer and **Stephen Jelley's (OO)**, as a number of Old Ratcliffians were to be guests at both weddings and had to traverse the globe to attend. Stephen and **John Ward (OO)** were the best men, supported by the attentive **Saroj Ekanayake (O1)** and **William Coupland (O1)** as ushers. Overall, fifteen Old Ratcliffians and partners were present, making it quite a reunion! **Rob Wild (98)** even took the photos! The bride and groom were lucky with the weather, as the sun shone for most of the day, from the quick nine holes in the morning until the last shot of port in the early hours. Dom and Faye honeymooned on a cruise and now live in Stratford-upon-Avon.



Dominic Howkins (OO) & Faye

Laura Thompson (née Frame) (O4): "I married my husband, Adam Thompson, on June 6th 2015 at Calke Abbey in Derbyshire."



Adam & Laura Thompson (née Frame) (O4)

Gemma Jeffrey (née Pike) (O1): "Alasdair and I were married in a church in Bibury, in the heart of the Cotswolds, on Friday 23rd October, followed by a reception at Cripps Barn. It was wonderful to have all of our family and friends with us to share our special day, including Old Ratcliffians **Georgia Thompson (O3)**, **Alicia Saunders (née Palmer) (O3)**, **Emily Pepper (O3)**, **Suzi Dyer (O3)** and **Katie Lumb (O3)**. It really was the most perfect day."



Gemma Jeffrey (née Pike) (O1) with Alasdair

Daniel Miller (99): "I married Alice on June 20th 2015 in Brighton. **Iain Laurie (99)** was my best man, **Michael Bramwell (97)** and **Tom Joannou (97)** were ushers, and **Charlotte Burns (99)** was a bridesmaid."



Daniel Miller (99) with Alice & the bridal party

Paul Ricks (O3): "It gives me great delight to tell you all that Dawn and I finally got married on July 11th this year. We've been together for eleven years and have two wonderful children, Oscar (7) and Charlie (4). We got married at Loughborough Registry Office and had the reception at Seagrave Village Hall with so many of our friends and family members. We also had quite a few Old Ratcliffians present: myself, my brother **Dave (O7)**, **Danni Isbell (O4)**, **Matt Isbell (O7)** and **Gemma Rumbold (O1)** (whose pub, The White Horse Inn, provided the outside bar). It was a very enjoyable day and the weather was perfect! For our honeymoon, we went camping with the kids and had a great time relaxing with the family. I am still working for Barratt Homes in the Swindon area as Site Manager."



Paul Ricks (O3) & Dawn

Megan Macmillan (née Stephens) (O1): "I married Calum Macmillan on August 22nd 2015 at Holy Trinity Church in Barrow-upon-Soar. Three of my five bridesmaids were Old Ratcliffians: **Clare Stephens (99)**, **Gemma Rumbold (O1)** and **Alice McKenna (11)**. Also present were **Kate Rumbold (97)**, **George Hamlyn Williams (O1)**, **Tom Foster (OO)** and **Alex Robinson (O1)**. We had a wonderful day."



Megan Macmillan (née Stephens) (O1) with Calum & the bridesmaids



Alix Farquhar Taylor (99) & Scott's carnival-style wedding

Alix Farquhar (99) married an Englishman, Scott Taylor, in a field in Windsor on July 4th 2015. The pair met and live in Hong Kong and, fortunately, brought the tropical weather with them for the hottest week of the year. They created their own 'carnival' wedding, with highlights ranging from getting their friend to marry them, to building the bar out of crates! One hundred and seventy of the most wonderful family and friends came together to celebrate love and have some fun in the process. The day consisted of an old London Routemaster and 1965 VW campervan, a large field minus the cowpats, a uniquely-crafted ceremony, a very familiar celebrant, a homemade altar, four giant tipis put together, two hundred metres of bunting, fifteen crates of flowers, two jardinières, twenty picnic baskets, thirty-five hay bales, nine barrels, one homemade bar, egg and spoon races, a singalong with a banjo and kazoo, three best men, two masters of ceremony, six ushers, two page boys, one queen of treats, three fairy bridesmaids, two flower fairies, wedding tattoos, pimping of cupcakes, love cookies, a coconut shy, balloon wishes, a wishing tree, cider, real local ale, a leg of Iberico ham, sausage rolls, Scotch eggs, two roast hoggets (that's lamb), two roast pigs, three side-splitting and tear-jerking speeches, eleven kilos of cheese, animal masks, toasted marshmallows, ties around heads, the UK's best wedding band, a lot of glitter on the dancefloor, and some incredible dancing...oh, and a bride and groom!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

If you would like us to publish your news, please send your item, along with a relevant photo, to us before November 1st 2016

BIRTHS

Roberto De Rienzo (00): "My daughter, Anna De Rienzo, was born on June 26th 2014. She is now seventeen months old and keeping my wife Jenny and I very busy!"



Anna De Rienzo

James Jelley (03): "2015 saw the arrival of my beautiful daughter, Annabelle Eleanor Jelley, in February."



Annabelle Eleanor Jelley

Simon Gamble (97): "Lou and I have found parenting a doddle since welcoming our first child, Dixie Ophelia Fowler Gamble, into the world. She was born on June 12th 2015, weighing in at 8lbs 2oz. The three of us couldn't be happier together!"



Simon Gamble (97) with Lou and baby Dixie

Karl Smith (97): "Evie Smith was born on September 29th at 11.42am, weighing 8lbs 5oz. Toby is very excited to have a little sister to look after."



Karl Smith (97) & his family

Catherine Campbell (née Burns) (96) is happy to announce the birth of her daughter, Cara, born on May 12th this year, weighing 8lbs 11oz.



Baby Cara Campbell

Jessica Jordan (née Gamble) (96) and her husband, Tom, welcomed their baby girl, Phoebe Felicity, into the world on October 10th 2015 at 5.18am, weighing 7lbs 12oz. Arnie is already a doting big brother!



Jessica Jordan (née Gamble) (96) with Phoebe & Arnie

Laura Warren (née Middleton) (03): "Damian and I are happy to announce the birth of our beautiful baby girl, Juliet Alba, in October."



Juliet Alba Warren

Nicole Parry (00): "Antonia Pixie Mary Ainger was born in Tunbridge Wells, Kent, on February 1st 2015 and weighed 2.97kg."



Nicole Parry (00) with Antonia

Ben Feasey (03): "Noah Paul Feasey was born on June 20th, weighing 3.17kg and measuring 51cm. He is a very happy baby and laughs a lot!"



Noah Paul Feasey

James Gamble (94): "Gayle and I are thrilled to introduce our son, Stanley James Gamble, born on October 11th 2014, weighing 6lbs 5oz. He is keeping us busy and he will soon have another brother or sister in 2016."



Stanley James Gamble

Katey Tebbutt (née Atkinson) (94): "On June 4th 2015, fourteen days overdue, but with a very speedy birth (which Daddy almost missed), we welcomed our fourth child and our first son into the world. We named him Edward James Gordon Tebbutt (Teddy). He was born at 3.22am and weighed 9lbs 10oz! Teddy is a little brother to Alina (17), Amelia (10) and Alice (3)."



Katey Tebbutt (née Atkinson) (94) & Teddy

Karen Grace (née Kruger) (00) and Matt Grace are delighted to announce the birth of their third child, James Henry Grace, on April 28th 2015. James joins his sisters, Olivia (6) and Emma (2).



Karen Grace (née Kruger) (00) & family

Michelle Gurney (née Hall) (00): "Our son, Ralph William, was born on August 2nd 2015, and he is baby brother to our two year old daughter, Harriet. Luke (93) and I are busier than ever and loving every minute!"



Ralph William Gurney

Louise Alton (née Ardron) (05): "On November 14th 2014, I gave birth to my second son, Hugo Arthur Alton, weighing 7lbs 5oz."



Hugo Arthur Alton

Ed Gamble (95) and Harri are pleased to announce the birth of Cora Florence May Gamble, born on September 30th at 6.50am, weighing 9lbs. Her brothers, Huw and Wilfred, were hoping for another boy to start their own rugby team!



Ed Gamble (95) with baby Cora



Tim Cabrelli (03) with his wife, Jenni & their daughter, Sofia

Tim Cabrelli (03): "Jenni and I are pleased to announce the birth of our beautiful baby daughter, Sofia May Cabrelli, born on May 20th 2015."



Alex Slack (née Gamble) (03) with Tim, Kitty & Charlie at Kitty's christening

Alex Slack (née Gamble) (03): "Kathryn (Kitty) Evelyn Slack was born on February 18th this year. Her brother, Charlie, gives her a few sly hits from time to time, but he loves her dearly. We had her christening this summer at Ratcliffe College, led by Fr Sainter (69)."

Kayleigh Brown (née Underwood) (04): "Paul and I welcomed our baby girl, Poppy Grace Brown, into the world on August 12th this year. She weighed 8lbs 4oz."



Kayleigh Brown (née Underwood) (04) with Paul & Poppy

OBITUARIES



IN MEMORIAM

Notification of the deaths of the following Old Ratcliffians and associates has been received since the last edition of the Old Ratcliffian:

Alfred Ferreyros (33)

John Sweeney (57)

Prof Robert Leaper (40)

Christopher Morris (58)

Michael Congdon (42)

John 'Nick' Chabrel (61)

**Monica Marriott,
wife of Patrick Marriott (42)**

Richard Wheeler (62)

John A Dunn (46)

Neil Stokes (63)

Rev Fr Anthony Dewhurst IC (48)

Robert James Galvin (68)

Dr Peter Michael Sullivan (48)

Anthony Edwards (69)

Alfred Peter Reynolds (51)

Anthony Richard Burdon (76)

John Bernard Richardson (52)

Susan Walker (née Geraghty) (81)

Peter James Clark (54)

Lt Col Johnathan Dyer (82)

Michael Stokes (55)

Martin Needham (86)

REQUIESCAT IN PACE

NEIL STOKES

**OLD RATCLIFFIAN 1960 - 1963
DECEMBER 26TH 1946 - JULY 18TH 2013**

Neil was born on Boxing Day in 1946 into a loving family, where he was the sixth of eight brothers and sisters. Like all of us, he drew short and long straws as he went through life, and, though many of his were short straws, he was never once heard to complain about his lot; instead, he always worked very hard to support himself and his family, seeking no help from anyone, and especially not the state. Not long ago, he wanted to buy his own medicine from the chemists, rather than rely on the prescription to which he was entitled, and this was quite typical of him.

When he was four years old, he jumped out of the greengrocer's van into the path of a passing car. He was in hospital for a long time, and remained in a coma for a week. The sequel of this was that his difficulty with learning was attributed to the accident, rather than to dyslexia, which would probably have been diagnosed in a later decade. This made the achievement of his



Law degree in later life quite a remarkable achievement, and you can discern something of this in the photograph taken at his graduation (left).

When he was just twelve years old, his father died, leaving his mother to make decisions about the family on her own. Neil and his brothers and sisters were fortunate that she was such a strong and capable

lady. She decided that he should follow his older brothers to the boarding school which they had already left, hoping that Ratcliffe College would provide the best learning environment for him.

Despite enjoying his time at Ratcliffe, he left with few qualifications, and returned to Cardiff, to a job in a timber yard in Cardiff Docks. The next short straw was his very unhappy marriage, which lasted but a few months, and left his bride with most of his possessions. However, Neil picked himself up, and busied himself with charitable activities, helping at the Citizens Advice Bureau as a volunteer, and driving minibuses for a charity for the disabled. This led someone in the CAB to say that they didn't know why he didn't study Law properly, and this planted a seed which bore fruit. It wasn't easy. Neil would get up very early, walk three miles to Jury's Hotel (where he washed breakfast dishes) before catching the train to the University of Glamorgan in Treforest, studying all day and into the evening, and then travelling back to Cardiff on the train and walking three miles home. He was never afraid of really hard work, whether it was unloading horrible cargoes from ships in the docks, cleaning offices, or delivering milk in the early hours of the morning.

But then, in the midst of all this, he was dealt the best card of his life when he met June (or 'Bert', as she was diplomatically known until he had established that his mother was going to have a supportive attitude to his new relationship). With June came the daughters, Karen and Lynne, who provided a new, loving family, and then their children, Colin, Annette, Martin and Helen. Neil was

MICHAEL STOKES

**OLD RATCLIFFIAN 1951 - 1955
1939 - 2015**

Mike was born on July 28th 1939 into a loving family, where he was the third of eight brothers and sisters. Following his two older brothers, he was sent to boarding school at Ratcliffe College in Leicestershire, where the Rosminians did a pretty good job. Possibly with the aid of boxing lessons, this red-faced, short-fused child grew into a kind, calm and thoughtful adult, with an ability to appreciate the funny side of life, however difficult the circumstances. He was forced by ill health to return home before completing his schooling, and for some years to come, he had to cope with serious asthma attacks.

When he was just eighteen years old, his father died, leaving his mother to take decisions about the family on her own. The expectation that Mike could continue in the family garage business was not fulfilled when it had to be sold, and he went to work with a firm of motor factors in City Road in Cardiff. However, his love of vehicles continued throughout his life, from his solo motorcycle tour of Europe and the kit car of his later teenage years to the much more complicated machines that he acquired and operated later on. Once, when the kit car was to be used for a camping trip, his sisters remember the discussion around the kitchen table as the list of provisions was drafted; it was decided to take baked beans, because no one was sure how to spell 'spaghetti'!

He continued his working life with plant, a tradition which was continued by his sons. He worked with County Diggers, Mid Glamorgan Engineering Services, Cosletts and Horans, and was proud to have become the Chair of the Contract Mechanical Plant Association. Later in life, knowing all the wrinkles of engineering

always talking to his old family about his new family with evident delight and pleasure, and was looking forward to the imminent birth of the first grandchild. With June's encouragement and support, they moved from Cardiff to Felinfoel and made many new friends in this friendly and supportive community, and in Neil's new workplace at Mitsui.

The worst card of his life was when, just six years ago, June's cancer returned, and Neil had to watch her brave, but ultimately unsuccessful, efforts to defeat it again. So, when his own recent diagnosis was made, he had few illusions about what was in store, and was anxious to protect his family from distress. He never lost his excellent sense of humour, though; when he was explaining what he wanted done today, he reflected with a smile that he had obtained a Distinction in Will Writing at Treforest.

Well, Neil, it has been a privilege knowing such a thoroughly decent, caring and hardworking man, and I hope your example will inspire the rest of the family. I hope that for you, the horizon has cleared, and that you can see again those that have gone before.

Eulogy



contracts, he became an invaluable Clerk of Works to Cardiff Council. He showed great attention to detail; I vividly remember a holiday in Paris a few years ago where Mike was more interested in taking pictures of paving slabs and manhole covers than of the usual tourist sights! He continued as a Clerk of Works into his seventies, and even after he reluctantly retired, he was called back, because he was the only person who really knew where various services had been buried in the middle of the city. When

he finally, finally retired, his colleagues gave the sort of party that demonstrated real affection. Throughout his working life, he was a real grafter, determined to get the job done, and he made many staunch friends who remained in touch all his life.

But the centre of his life was his family. He met his beloved Dorothy in the early 1960s; being a reticent man, the family has never been certain quite how or where. Suggestions include Bindles Ballroom at Cold Knap, and the Heathcock pub in Llandaff. Anyway, in 1964, they were married at St Patrick's Church in Grangetown, near Dorothy's work as a nurse at the Royal Hamadryad Hospital. They set up home together at Dol yr Erw in Llantwit Fardre, and this was the centre of family life until very recently. When Dorothy became ill, Mike looked after her in the most exemplary way for some five years, juggling care with a full time job; when she died, something of his purpose in life died with her.

But before that, there were lots of happy times. In 1966, their first son, Sean, arrived, followed by Charles in 1968 and Jason some years later. They remember family holidays as children, in Spain (Dorothy loved the sun), in a caravan at Broad Haven, and on the Llangollen Canal. Later on, Mike and Dorothy enjoyed playing golf together at the Whitehall Golf Club near Abercynon. Mike was never a man for haute cuisine; his daughters-in-law, Viv and Amanda, remember how, at Sunday dinners, his plea was always 'not too much'. It is a measure of the affection with which they regarded Mike that Viv and Amanda, with Sean and Charles working abroad, stepped up to the mark and did so much to care for Mike in his final years.

In due time, and to his utter delight, Mike was presented with grandchildren: Emma and Chloe, and Rhiannon and Hannah.

JOHN BERNARD RICHARDSON

OLD RATCLIFFIAN 1946 - 1952

JUNE 11TH 1934 - FEBRUARY 1ST 2012



John Bernard Richardson was educated at both Grace Dieu and Ratcliffe. He was called up for his National Service in 1953 and served for two years, before going to Christ's College, Cambridge, where he read Natural Sciences.

John returned to Coventry for a short while, before moving to Cambridge permanently in 1960, taking a post with Pye Telecom, whose main business was mobile two-way radio. He stayed with them through various name changes, after they were taken over by the Dutch multinational, Philips. During his time with

He was always delighted to see them, loved talking about them, and was always interested in what they were up to - a proper grandfather. The icing on the cake was the recent arrival of a great granddaughter, Olivia Grace. When she came to see Mike in hospital, he was so very pleased, and his face lit up. And so the cycle of family life goes on.

Well, Mike, it has been a privilege knowing such a thoroughly decent, caring and hardworking man, and I know that your example will inspire the rest of the family for many years to come.

Eulogy

(Mike was the older brother of Neil Stokes, who died in 2013)

them, he travelled extensively in Europe, and a little outside, visiting Canada, Australia, South Africa and the USA. He took early retirement in 1995, after which, he became a member of the University of the Third Age, and wrote and maintained HTML webpages for, amongst others, the St Philip Howard Roman Catholic Church in Cambridge.

John leaves a widow, five children and two step-children.

Peter Richardson

Son



CHRISTOPHER MORRIS

OLD RATCLIFFIAN 1954 - 1958

APRIL 28TH 1942 - MARCH 11TH 2015

On 28th April, which would have been his 73rd birthday, a Requiem Mass was celebrated for Christopher Morris at his favourite church, the Brompton Oratory, in London. The setting of the mass was Mozart's Requiem Mass in D minor, with full choir and orchestra. An estimated four hundred attended the Mass at the Oratory to pay their last respects to Chris, followed by a buffet luncheon at the Garrick Club near Covent Garden, of which he was a well-known member. Old Ratcliffians **John Hearson (60)** and **Brian Coe (58)** were both present; they knew Chris well and met frequently in the early years after leaving Ratcliffe. Chris was John's best man at the marriage to his wife, Lyn, in 1967, and later became godfather to their son, Daniel. Another related connection with Ratcliffe was that he was a cousin of **Mark Galliano (60)**.

Chris had a distinguished career as a chartered accountant and, after qualifying, recognised a 'niche' for specialist liquidation and insolvency practitioners. He achieved recognition as one of the country's leading insolvency accountants, heading the Insolvency Department as a Senior Partner of Deloitte and, later, as a Senior Partner and Consultant of Begbies Traynor.

Chris will be remembered by many as a 'bon viveur', and for his love of London and country life. His favourite 'haunts' in town included the 'Cheshire Cheese', Simpsons-in-the-Strand, and some of London's best wine bars along Fleet Street and the Strand. Other venues that he most frequented were the 'Yorker', as it was in Piccadilly, and the 'Vine' in Piccadilly Place. A perfect day for Chris would be a good day at the races followed by fine cuisine at dinner, enjoyed with family or friends, and excellent wine.

Chris leaves two sons, Anthony and Dominic, who wish to remember their father as 'a great man, a special friend, and a beloved father and godfather'. Others will remember him as sympathetic, compassionate and sharp-witted, and a champion for the cause of justice. May God grant unto him eternal rest.

Anthony Morris

Son

PRESS RELEASES

Christopher Morris, who has died aged 72, was London's most formidable liquidator and receiver of bankrupt businesses. Morris had a hand in many of the most controversial financial cases of the past half-century. As a young accountant in the late 1960s, he dealt with Dr Emil Savundra's fraudulent Fire, Auto & Marine Insurance and the collapse of John Bloom's Rolls Razor washing machine empire; later he was involved in the unwinding of Banco Ambrosiano and Bank of Credit & Commerce International. But perhaps his most celebrated interventions were in the bankruptcies of Laker Airways and Polly Peck.

Sir Freddie Laker's "Skytrain" service started a revolution in low-cost transatlantic travel which Sir Richard Branson and others would take forward, but his company was effectively driven out of business by more established competitors in February 1982. As liquidator, Morris's firm, Touche Ross, was tasked with recovering as much as possible of the \$350 million owed by Laker to banks and other creditors - and Morris was persuaded that the way to do so was to launch an "anti-trust" suit against a list of transatlantic carriers, including British Airways, alleging a price-fixing conspiracy. The US authorities then threatened criminal indictments against BA, whose privatisation could not proceed until the Laker cases were resolved. This provoked



PROFESSOR ROBERT LEAPER CBE, MA, DR HC

OLD RATCLIFFIAN 1936 - 1940

JUNE 7TH 1921 - DECEMBER 22ND 2014

As a schoolboy, Robert Leaper took the lead role in many Drama productions and was a very active member of the Literary Society, where, amongst many other qualities, it seems that he excelled at making speeches.

Upon leaving Ratcliffe as Head Boy in 1940, he received a scholarship to read English at St John's College, Cambridge. He left after just one year to become a coal miner in the pits, from 1942 to 1945, as part of the Bevin Boys scheme; however, he did manage to complete his degree at Cambridge before becoming a Civil Service Cadet in 1949. He also completed a Postgraduate Diploma at Oxford in 1960.

hostile interventions from Margaret Thatcher, who was fiercely proud of BA's transformation, under her friend Lord King, into "the world's favourite airline". By one account the prime minister left the US ambassador "quite shaken" after an audience at No 10, as well as making her views plain to President Reagan. "I don't think the reigning monarch was brought into it," Morris recalled, "but everyone else was." The criminal case was dropped, but Morris's civil action - which took three years, requiring more than 40 trips to the US - was ultimately successful, collecting compensation from the rival airlines of almost \$300 million.

Morris was a modest, unflappable operator, of great tenacity and integrity. His special skill was in the pursuit of complex legal actions in multiple jurisdictions - and leaving no stone unturned in his search for assets hidden in the world's financial havens. In the case of Polly Peck, the conglomerate assembled by the Turkish Cypriot entrepreneur Asil Nadir, which collapsed in 1990 with debts of £1.3 billion, Morris's work included collecting cars, watches and credit cards from a number of ladies kept by Nadir in flats in Kensington at the shareholders' expense. Nadir became a fugitive from British justice, but when he returned to face trial in 2012, Morris's extensive testimony was crucial to his conviction for the theft of some £29 million.

Having tried his hand as a sole practitioner after qualifying in 1967, Morris sought a steadier livelihood in the Insolvency Department of Touche Ross, where he became a Partner in 1972 and rose, after its merger as Deloitte & Touche, to be Senior Partner in charge of corporate recovery. Having passed the firm's mandatory retirement age, in 2004 he found a new berth with Begbies Traynor. His final case was the liquidation of Carlyle Capital Corporation, a Guernsey-registered offshoot of the powerful US private equity firm Carlyle, in which European investors lost some \$600 million on investments in US mortgage-backed securities after the financial crash. He had secured the right to have the case heard in the Channel Island courts, defeating moves to have it transferred to the US.

A prominent member of the Garrick Club, Morris relished the pleasures of the table. When another accountant working on the Nadir case was allegedly mistaken for him in Istanbul and shot in the leg, Morris recalled: "My immediate reaction [was] let's go and have some lunch." He also loved the Turf, and was attending the Cheltenham Festival at the time of his death.

Robert went on to lead a busy working life; his posts included Adult and Youth Education Officer at the Co-operative College in Loughborough, Principal of the Social Welfare Training College in Central Zambia, Senior Lecturer at Swansea, and Professor at Exeter and Roehampton Universities. He also held many chairs for various organisations and charities throughout his life, receiving honorary doctorates from Rennes University and Surrey University, and he was awarded a CBE in 1975.

Upon retirement in 1999, Robert became a consultant to Devon County Council Social Services; he helped to found, and chaired for three years, the Action Group In Later Life (AGILE). Before his passing in December 2014, he was a reader and extraordinary minister of Holy Communion at the Sacred Heart Church in Exeter.

Robert leaves a wife, Elizabeth, and a son, Peter.

Louise Liston
Ratcliffe College



L to R: P Hughes, P Watts, R Leaper & P Tabor in 'The Late Christopher Bean' in 1940 at Ratcliffe College

MARTIN NEEDHAM

OLD RATCLIFFIAN 1982 – 1986
DECEMBER 30TH 1968 – MARCH 14TH 2015

Friends, loved ones and family, it is an honour and privilege for me to pay tribute to a very special person – a husband, a father, a son, and my brother. As I look out at the faces in this beautiful church, I see many family members, friends and business associates. I know that you, too, will miss the friendship and laughter that Martin brought into your lives. I'm sure you will all remember him in your very own special way, as I do.

Now I will open the book on Martin's life. He was born on December 30th 1968. I know this date so well, as it was my opportunity to remind him that I was the younger brother! In reply, he always reminded me not to make his birthday and Christmas presents a joint affair!

As I continue to turn the pages on Martin's life, I remember our school days. At the tender age of eight, Martin attended the School of Our Lady of Good Counsel in Sleaford. Within a couple of years, he had the unenviable task of keeping an eye on me, as I also joined the school.

Within a few years, he was on his way to Grace Dieu Manor, near Coalville, as a boarder. Waving goodbye on his first day of term, he probably thought that he should make the most of his time before the part of playing big brother started all over again. It was at Grace Dieu, a few years later, where we grew much closer as brothers, with Martin being the listener when things got a little tough, and then providing a shoulder to cry on when they really hit rock bottom.

Just two years later, he was off again. The next stop was Ratcliffe College. Again, as a full-time boarder, you had plenty of time to make mischief, and that is what he did. I recall a few days after arriving for my first term at Ratcliffe, a guy came up to me and said, 'Is that your brother up there on the water tower roof?'



and I told him that I'd never seen him before. Shortly afterwards, I heard that Martin and Simeon had managed to drown nine Sixth Form girls, two prefects and one teacher with over twenty-five gallons of water as they came out of the classroom below. A school record to this day!

Martin left Ratcliffe in the Fifth Form and went on to Shuttleworth Agricultural College. There, he spent three years honing his skills in milking cows and chasing rabbits across the Headmaster's lawn with the farm tractors. It was at Shuttleworth that Martin's love of farming took hold, and it was natural that, after Dad's passing in 2002, he would take up the reins of the family farm and continue Dad's legacy. Tom, we look to you now to make Dad proud.

Martin was not academic and never really the sportsman, but he was a man with friends, and those friendships have remained as strong now as they were during our days at school.

As I turn the next page, I see Martin as a family man. Martin met Lisa in Sleaford in 1989. I remember him saying, 'You know I'm going to marry that girl', and so he did! A few years later came William, and then Thomas. Martin, being the family man, always made sure that he never missed a game of rugby at Oakham, or any sporting event. Come rain or shine, you could always bank on Martin being there to support the boys!

I turn another page and see Martin the businessman. I recall the day in 1990 when he said to me, 'I'm thinking of starting a business and I'd like you to work with me'. From humble beginnings to an enviable multi-branch business spanning over twenty-four years, I can honestly say that it's been a pleasure to have worked with him, as both a brother and a business partner. Yes, Martin, we sure did silence the sceptics!

At Kiowa, Martin shared his expertise with anyone who would listen, he worked hard consistently, and he remained a student of life. My brother never stopped learning, especially through his loving wife and children. He never sat back and became complacent. He led by example as he mentored both William and Thomas through their school years. You can say that he was, and will always be, an inspiration to them.

As I turn the next page, I see Martin as the pilot who always claimed to have 'one less landing than takeoff'. In October 2007, he had a serious accident. I remember helping him from the wreckage with severe injuries. Later, in hospital, Martin, who was never worried about his own injuries, was more concerned with those of his friend. I recall him asking me, 'How was my

landing?', or, 'On a score of one to ten?', to which I replied, 'Three'. Never to be deterred, Martin soon returned to the air, honed his skills and became an excellent pilot, although he never understood why there were no takers for a trip in the plane with him! Thereafter, we shared many memorable trips down the Norfolk coast, landing on remote beaches and chasing clouds.

Martin was remarkable in so many ways. He lived his life to the fullest and touched so many people during his time here with us, as is evident by so many of you being here today.

Martin's book is an enviable one, full of stories, laughter and joy. But, before I go, there is just one final page. They say that 'the good die young', and never has a truer word been spoken. Martin, you were all that you could be, and then some. To all of you here in this church, I say, if you ever look skyward and see those white fluffy clouds, think of Martin, the family man, our friend, my brother, and my wingman.

Eulogy
Justin Needham (87)
Brother

REV FR ANTHONY DEWHIRST IC

OLD RATCLIFFIAN 1942 – 1948
DECEMBER 9TH 1929 – JULY 10TH 2015

I first remember seeing Tony in a Gilbert and Sullivan operetta at Ratcliffe in about 1948; he was quite musical. He left Ratcliffe that year and joined the Rosminian novitiate. He went on to study at Cambridge and then returned to Ratcliffe to teach Biology. Tony undertook his priestly studies for three years at St John's Seminary, Womersley, and then spent three years in Rome. He was ordained at Ratcliffe College in the new Chapel only a week after it was opened.

Tony spent many years in New Zealand. He taught at the Rosmini College in Takapuna from 1964 until 1969, when he returned to the UK and re-joined the staff at Ratcliffe. After this, he spent four years at Derryswood, where he became Director of Studies and worked with the Rosminian Ascribed.

Tony then returned to New Zealand and taught at St Peter's College, Gore, in the South Island. Again, he was very much involved with the Rosminian Ascribed, as this was something that he was very devoted to wherever he went. He then returned to Auckland, where he spent many years working on the Marriage Tribunal for the Diocese of Auckland.

In 1998, Tony came back to the UK and joined the Parish of St Etheldreda's in London, where he worked on the Marriage Tribunal. He returned to Derryswood in 2001, where he studied, in depth, the writings of Antonio Rosmini. Tony published quite a number of books about him, including, whilst in New Zealand, a brief booklet on the history of the Rosminians throughout the world. It was a very popular and colourful piece.

Tony was a Yorkshire man, and he was very keen on both playing and following cricket; he was even an MCC umpire of some sort!

I think that Tony will be remembered for many things, but, above all, for his dedication to the works of Antonio Rosmini and his work with the Ascribed members.

Fr John Bland IC (53)



(ALFRED) PETER REYNOLDS 'AP46'

OLD RATCLIFFIAN 1945 - 1951
APRIL 9TH 1932 - FEBRUARY 28TH 2015

Peter was born in 1932 in Boston, Lincolnshire, the eldest child of Alf and Flo, who were well-known grocers and wine merchants in the town. **David (53)**, his brother, followed five years later.

When the war years arrived, Peter's parents entertained many of the bomber pilots stationed close by; one particular young pilot, Ernest Deverill, became 'Uncle Dev' to Peter, whom he looked up to as a real hero. When Peter started at Grace Dieu in 1942, Deverill 'buzzed' the school and dropped sweets on them from his Lancaster. Although, unfortunately, he did not survive the war, Peter was inspired by Deverill for the rest of his life.

Peter enjoyed his years at Grace Dieu, from 1942 to 1945, where he made an impression from the start. 'Grace Dieu Notes' at the back of the *Ratcliffian* for that period make specific reference to his first History exam, in which he explained that 'Tommy guns were first used at the Battle of Crecy'. The teaching he subsequently received obviously had a beneficial effect, as he won the school's History Prize in his last year.

His years at Ratcliffe were equally fruitful. He took part in the school plays, played hockey for the College and was a contemporary of **Mike Harden (50)**, **Gerald Della-Porta (49)**, and **Martin Middlebrooke (49)**, to name a few. As there was already another Peter Reynolds at Ratcliffe, he was given the nickname 'AP46', taken from his school number, which his contemporaries still called him years after they had left.

After successfully completing his School Certificate, and following a school cycling trip to Ireland (which he still remembered with a great deal of affection many years later), he joined the RAF to complete his National Service, finishing in the dental and medical section of RAF Coningsby.

The Dental Faculty at Guy's University Hospital was the next logical step. As an undergraduate, he successfully fine-tuned his golf game, representing the university; he nurtured his skill at cards; he courted and married Gill, with Gerald Della-Porta as his best man; and he and Gill had their first child, Susan. It was then that he realised that he had better pass his finals! This he did, with his new wife, Gill, as his live finals patient. As a newly-qualified dentist with a young family, they soon returned to Boston, where Peter became a partner in a local surgery with two others, one of which was Old Ratcliffian **Paddy Lynch (39)**. Two more children, Caroline and **Chris (78)**, arrived in quick succession.

Peter was a very successful and popular dental surgeon in Boston, buying out the thriving practice during the 1970s and retiring in 1995, aged 62. During these years, as the family grew, so did his pastimes. Having gone 'solo' whilst on National Service with the RAF, he took up flying again in the 1970s, and he mostly flew to



and from various racecourses up and down the country! He once called up Air Traffic Control to ask where he was, to which a droll reply came: 'If you don't know where you are, you shouldn't be up there!'

Peter was a talented golfer, and he played from an early age. In 1961, he sat on the committee that built the current Boston Golf Club, and was elected captain in 1965. In 2004, he was elected captain of Woodhall Spa Golf Club, which he deemed a great honour. He played and won many tournaments and, with his wife Gill, was only very narrowly beaten in the Central England Mixed Foursomes at Woodhall in 1988. As recently as April 2014, Peter scored a hole-in-one on the fifth at Woodhall. The following week, he played what his friends describe as 'some incredible golf', as he got another hole-in-one on the fifth, a two at the eighth and a three at the twelfth - not bad for a man of 82! He followed this epic achievement by winning the Seniors Cup at Woodhall in September 2014 with 36 points (playing off 14). Peter was so thrilled - he rang all of his family gleefully with the news that he had beaten someone thirty years his junior!

Always active, Peter was a regular snooker player, being captain of his team. He was also a bridge Master and played at least weekly. Other hobbies and interests included painting, the cryptic crossword, horse racing, birdwatching, and especially music. Music made up a great part of who Peter was. An accomplished pianist, we grew up listening to him playing everything from classical, jazz and swing music, to numbers from musicals and the Hit Parade. He loved a good voice, too, and numbered Nat King Cole, Frank Sinatra and the Beatles among his favourites. Peter also remained very much attached to Ratcliffe, attending several of the London Dinners with Gill in the last few years. They travelled to the Paris Reunion in 2009, where they recounted having a fabulous time, full of laughter, and were especially looked after by Jackie Bennett.

Peter was a shining example of how to live life to the full, even more so after suffering a severe illness in 2010, from which he made a pretty miraculous recovery. He was a larger-than-life character in many ways, touching many hearts and entertaining all of us with his dry wit and lovely sense of humour.

He adored his and Gill's nine grandchildren and recently became a great-grandfather. He was a huge part of their lives, and they share many wonderful, happy and very funny memories of their legendary 'Pop'. Among other activities, he delighted in introducing them all to the joy of catching crabs on the Lincolnshire Marshes with a slice of bacon attached to a piece of string on a bamboo stick.

Peter was immensely loyal to his friends and showed real care for them as they approached their elder years. He was a true professional and a gentleman - warm and kind, fun, generous, loving and hospitable, and a happy man, thanks to his wife Gill, with her never-failing strength and ever-present love. For all

ALFRED FERREYROS

OLD RATCLIFFIAN 1928 - 1933



I first met Alfred in Lima, Peru, in early May 1968. It was my first ever contact with Latin America. My wife, Mandy, and I were about to start an overseas volunteering assignment in Peru. The initial introduction had been made by **Fr Claude Leetham (15)**, former Headmaster at Ratcliffe and a 'peritus' at the Second Vatican Council; he had known Alfred and his younger brothers, **George (38)** and **Ernest (33)**, since their days at Ratcliffe in

the early 1930s. Alfred had kindly agreed to finance our first 'exposure' to Spanish at a language school in Lima. It was a first acquaintance that was to be the beginning of a long friendship with Alfred and his family that lasted nearly half a century.

PETER JAMES CLARK

OLD RATCLIFFIAN 1950 - 1954



My brother, Peter, was the youngest of the three of us, with Margaret and myself. He was born in 1937 at Colwick, near Nottingham. He had timed his arrival, therefore, to coincide with a world of imminent war, ration books, fasting and abstinence. This was further complicated by an internal marital breakdown in the family. The omens were inauspicious, but he survived. He attended Grace Dieu, where he excelled both in the classroom and in sporting activities, and then went to

Peter's interests and hobbies, of which there were many, his first and greatest passion was Gill. His love for her knew no bounds, or hers for him; they had an incredible sixty-two year love affair and he cherished every minute.

Peter's funeral took place in March 2015, and we were fortunate that **Fr David Tobin (59)** and **Fr Simon Giles (60)** were able to concelebrate the Requiem Mass with the local Catholic priest in Boston, at the church where he was baptised, married, and where his mother had been the organist for many years.

Chris Reynolds (78)
Son

By the late 1960s, and thirty years after leaving Ratcliffe, Alfred was already an established businessman. He was well known throughout Peru and had served as the head of Peru's Central Bank under President Belaunde. We had never met before 1968, our only common link being Ratcliffe, and even that being over a generation apart.

Alfred was a kind and generous person with impeccable manners and courtesy. His memories from his years at Ratcliffe in the early 1930s were especially fond ones, and he was always interested to learn how the School had developed after he had left. We kept in touch following my return to the United States in 1969. I have since made numerous visits to Peru, most recently in August 2015, when I visited his widow, Rosita, and their home in Lima. Alfred's final years were difficult ones. During a lengthy illness, with his health steadily declining, he was looked after with great affection and devotion by Rosita and their children. Alfred died on May 7th 2015 at the age of 98, and he was buried in the British Cemetery in Callao, the port of Lima. We extend our deepest condolences to Rosita, as well as to Alfred's surviving children and families, following his passing.

Eugene McCarthy (61)

Ratcliffe, where he, again, did well academically and on the sports field. He had now successfully shaken off the legacy and scars of his turbulent family upbringing.

Peter left Ratcliffe to become apprenticed to Ericson's Telephones in Basford, Nottingham, which provided him with a sound background in electrical engineering. This stood him in good stead for his next employment at Hudson and Carter in Chilwell, Nottingham, which specialised in the world of commercial camera surveillance systems. This saw him travelling the world in pursuit of sales. Then came Peter's master stroke. He indulged himself in a management buyout and, a few years later, sold out to another firm. He told me that, during his train journey from Nottingham to London to meet the new Board of Directors, his shoes started to feel uncomfortable. When he looked down at his feet, he saw that he was wearing one brown shoe and one black shoe. On emerging from St Pancras, a rapid appointment with a shoe shop was in order!

Peter was now able to retire and indulge his passion for Jaguar classic cars. He also owned a boat and sailed extensively on the

River Soar. I heard that he managed to persuade a team of police frogmen to recover his boat's propeller from the riverbed when it fell off!

It was in August 2013 that he first experienced the internal pains which would eventually lead to a diagnosis of inoperable cancer of the pancreas. This was difficult news to bear. Only two and a half years separated us. We had happily shared mutual interests together and never crossed swords. Peter stoically endured his affliction for two years and finally left us on September 19th

ROBERT JAMES GALVIN

OLD RATCLIFFIAN 1963 - 1968
MAY 22ND 1950 - JUNE 30TH 2015

Robert was born in Sierra Leone, West Africa, in 1950, and was the second son of the then Captain Peter William Galvin and his wife, Joan Mary Galvin. At the time of Robert's birth, his father was serving with the British Army and was posted in Sierra Leone, then part of the British Empire. With his father being a career soldier, Robert and his older brother, John, led somewhat of a nomadic existence; home was always where their father was serving, wherever this took them around the world.

Robert's early schooling in Cyprus took place during the 'Cyprus Emergency' in the 1950s, when the troubles were at their peak; as a result, Robert travelled each day to school by bus, accompanied by armed guards. Robert remained unfazed by this experience, just as he was by the soldiers and machine gun emplacements on the roof of the school itself!

During this time, while his father was out patrolling the streets, Robert understandably became particularly close to his mother. This is where his life-long interest in good food and cooking may have developed. In many ways, Robert led an idyllic existence, with schooling in the morning and afternoons spent on the beach; no doubt the origin of his love of the sun and sea developed as he played amongst the other Forces children.

As the years went by, Robert continued his love affair with all things maritime, taking sailing lessons whilst staying in Singapore with his parents during the long school holidays. In due course, his passion for sailing saw him become the proud owner of a motorsailer and a variety of powerful motor cruisers. It was not all sand and sea, though. As the years passed, there was a growing need to secure continuity of his education, and boarding school was an obvious option for the son of a military man. It was at the early age of eight that Robert headed down the long driveway, at the top of which stood Grace Dieu Manor.

In 1963 came a change of school; at the head of an even more imposing, tree-lined entrance stood Ratcliffe College, where Robert remained until 1968, before heading for Nottingham University, where he obtained a degree in Economics. He will always be remembered, both at school and at university, for his good humour and friendly disposition, as well as for his involvement in a variety of sports, debating societies and clubs. At the age of eighteen, shortly after leaving school and before starting his university studies, Robert had earned a part in a

2015. However, one small, but vital, part of Peter Clark lives on. A few years before his passing, his wife, Sylvia, suffered life-threatening kidney problems. Peter donated one of his kidneys.

Peter is survived by his wife, Sylvia, his two children, James Clark and Helen Acton, and four grandchildren.

John Clark (52)
Brother



major film, *The Virgin Soldiers*, starring Lynn Redgrave, amongst others; he was proud to have been picked for a close up of a fresh-faced charging soldier with bayonet fixed. No doubt his father's son!

During his time studying in Nottingham, Robert met his wife, Alison. In 1976, he and Alison married, setting up a permanent home near Nottingham.

After completing his degree, Robert initially worked for a trading company, importing from the Far East; having picked up on how things worked, he decided to go it alone and set up his own fashion accessories business. That was his moment to shine; he was an astute predictor of fashion trends and was always ahead of the market with his colours and stylish jewellery, which saw him as a top supplier to even the biggest high-street retailers. Robert had business acumen, he had flair, and he had a natural ability - something that cannot be taught, something that you have or don't have, and Robert had it in abundance.

His love of speed took him to the ski slopes and, very soon, he became an accomplished downhill skier - fast and fearless, or so he thought! Robert's love of all things fast continued, and his fleet of cars over the years all had speed in common.

So, how can we sum up this great guy? Robert was a brother to John and a great friend to all that knew him, but that apart, he was also a teacher, having briefly taught at Grace Dieu after leaving school. He was creative, wrote articles for a sailing magazine, and he tried his hand at short-story writing. He was also an accomplished artist and painted colourful Mediterranean scenes. He was a skier and a sailor, a businessman and an entrepreneur. At one time, he even aspired to a career in politics and stood for local elections. He was a generous godfather to our son, also called Robert. He was a dog lover, especially golden retrievers, having rehomed three, and supporting Guide Dogs for the Blind. He was all of these things and much more, but above all, he was a wonderful husband to Alison for thirty-nine years.

Frank Nieuwenhuys (68)

LIEUTENANT COLONEL JOHNATHAN FREDERICK DYER

OLD RATCLIFFIAN 1977 - 1982
DECEMBER 4TH 1963 - AUGUST 19TH 2015

Lieutenant Colonel Dyer was also known as Johnathan, John, Johnny, JD, JFD, Beaky or the Bald Eagle.

John's early years were spent in Warwickshire, where the family ran the Queen and Castle Hotel in Kenilworth. His parents were **Freddie (55)** and Mandy. From a young age, Johnny had a wicked and subversive sense of fun - the beginnings of the later wry sense of humour which we all loved. Fortunately, he was also blessed with an angelic face and manner, which usually got him out of the trouble he created. But not always. As an altar boy at Mass at St Augustine's in Kenilworth, he was holding a candle behind another server. He could not resist testing the flammability of the other boy's white surplice, and set him alight. The Mass came to a halt, with the priest beating out the flames. Freddie was unamused to say the least.

John went to school at Arnold Lodge, before going to Grace Dieu, following his father, Freddie. John and I then both went to Ratcliffe, he a year after me. Ratcliffe proved to be particularly important in Johnny's life. He formed extraordinarily close friendships with a group in his year (**the Class of '82**), **James Della-Porta, Andrew Hudson, John Armstrong, Mark Steele, Brian McGrath, Warren Standerwick and Andrew Finan**, which have lasted and developed over forty years. The loyalty and comradeship of the group is amazing. Every year, they meet and have a new experience, which they call their 'rat runs'. They have climbed Snowdon and Scafell Pyke, and mountain-biked in the Brecon Beacons. Insults would fly for the whole weekend, with JD loving the banter and always adding his dry wit to the fun. Johnny treasured their friendship and those trips. We were glad that they could act as pallbearers for John, and that another Old Ratcliffian, **Nicholas Moser (82)**, read at the funeral.

The Cadet Force at Ratcliffe gave Johnny his first, somewhat languid, experience of the military. I cannot remember him paying special attention on Tuesday afternoons to Colonel Robinson, nor of him spending a lot of time shining his boots; however, something must have inspired him, because he had decided on an Army career long before he left Ratcliffe. After that, his Economics degree course at Queen Mary College proved to be little more than an interlude for him before he could start his Army career. He spent far more time at the OTC than in the lecture room, and enjoyed the social life to the full.

Johnny entered Sandhurst on September 4th 1987, and was an immediate success. As Colonel Charlie Thackway, one of John's contemporaries, said at the funeral, 'He thrived on the military training. With skin as thick as rhino hide, the rants of even the most demented colour sergeant washed right over him, and he flew through the intense training and was commissioned a lean and lanky JD, ready to join the Queen's Regiment.'

In the late 1980s, the infantry battalions were bouncing in and out of Northern Ireland on roulement tours of Belfast,



Johnathan with his late father, Freddie Dyer (55)

Londonderry and the rural border areas. This was where John cut his teeth as a platoon commander, and he quickly grew up to be a tough infantry officer. Charlie Thackway remembers 'one particularly fierce firefight on the border, from which he was lucky to escape with only a few bullet holes in his basher.' Having survived the rigours of Northern Ireland, John emerged a laid-back and unflappable infantry officer, and was quickly promoted to captain and appointed as adjutant of 3 Queens in Cyprus. Subsequent staff postings included HQ ARRC (Allied Rapid Reaction Force) and Deputy Chief of Staff, 1 (UK) RECCE Brigade.

In May 2008, John was in Iraq as the British Army's Liaison Officer at the Coalition Corps Headquarters in Baghdad. Charlie was also in Baghdad, and he recalled that, 'Suddenly, all hell broke out when the Iraqi prime minister decided to expel the militia insurgents from Basra city with his divisions, without informing the US or Brits. The US led coalition was totally surprised, and British officers were summoned to the Corps headquarters to explain what on earth was going on. JD was the most senior Brit in Baghdad at the time, and had to face the maelstrom from some very irate US generals. Again, his unflappable nature came to the fore, and he had also fostered good relations with the many senior officers that he had hung out with for a crafty smoke!'

John served as an Army officer for twenty-eight years, but in all the ways which most mattered to John, his most crucial posting was with the Queen's Regiment in Cyprus. It was there that he met with a captain in the Queen Alexandra Nursing Corps and fell in love. Anne and John were married in July 1993; their relationship has been an inspiration to many, and their kindness and devotion to each other was obvious. They survived and thrived during difficult times of separation enforced by conflicting postings, for John in the Army, and for Anne, as a military and civilian midwife. They have two children, Charlotte and Harry, of whom John was inordinately proud.

John was known for his quiet, but monumental strength of character, his steadfastness, his sense of loyalty and his

disinterest in judging others. Those qualities were most evident in the last couple of years, which were undoubtedly tough. John adored his parents; his father, Freddie, died in July 2013, and soon afterwards, his mother, Mandy, was struck down with illness. He spent months, with his sister Cathy, 'zig-zagging' across the country every week to see Mandy.

John found happiness easily, in the simple pleasures of family, friends and home life. He was at ease with the younger generation and generous in conversation. He was gentle, patient and consistent. He was as steady as a rock.

At his funeral, Cathy read from *The Thousandth Man* by Rudyard Kipling:

*One man in a thousand, Solomon says,
Will stick more close than a brother.*

RICHARD WHEELER

OLD RATCLIFFIAN 1955 - 1962
1943 - 2015

Many of you will have read in the newspapers of the tragic death of Richard Wheeler, one of the finest all-round sportsmen that Ratcliffe has ever produced. Richard and his wife, Grace, were murdered at their home in Tobago in what appears to have been a botched robbery.

Richard will be remembered by his Ratcliffe contemporaries as an outstanding sportsman who captained both the rugby and cricket teams, and was hockey vice-captain. He also enjoyed athletics, and played a mean game of tennis for Lockhart. He won School Colours for rugby, cricket and hockey, and was Captain of Lockhart, as well as being awarded House Colours.

Throughout his time at Ratcliffe, Richard was at the very heart of school life. He was an active member of the Scout Troop, before joining the CCF and becoming a corporal. His talents even extended to music and theatre. He was a member of the Music Society, played in the Band and the Concert Band, as well as taking leading roles in *A Midsummer Night's Dream* and *Ruddigore*.

Richard was an amazing, larger-than-life character with tremendous dynamism and good humour. I knew Richard from my earliest years, as our families holidayed together in the Lake District in the 1950s. He was a few years older than me, but I remember his enormous energy during long days on the beach, where the sun always seemed to shine. He was never without a bat or ball, and rarely had time for sandy tomato sandwiches between furiously competitive games of cricket involving every member of our families who could stand.

Richard was born in Sheffield and qualified as a solicitor in 1973. We became good friends in the early 1970s and spent many happy evenings enjoying a glass of wine and listening to Rolling Stones records. I gave Richard and Grace two Rolling Stones LPs

*And it's worth while seeking him half your days
If you find him before the other.
Nine hundred and ninety-nine depend
On what the world sees in you,
But the Thousandth Man will stand your friend
With the whole round world agin you.*

*'Tis neither promise nor prayer nor show
Will settle the finding for 'ee.
Nine hundred and ninety-nine of 'em go
By your looks, or your acts, or your glory.
But if he finds you and you find him,
The rest of the world don't matter;
For the Thousandth Man will sink or swim
With you in any water.*

Matthew Reeve (81)



Richard Wheeler (62) with his wife, Grace

as a parting gift when they set off for Trinidad and we sailed forth for a year travelling around the United States.

Richard initially went to Trinidad, where Grace was born, to work for the government there. He later set up his own firm, Wheeler and Co, in the 1980s, selling it in 1988 to move back to Britain. After a brief stint working in Hong Kong, he moved to Tobago with his family sixteen years ago. He was deeply attached to Trinidad and Tobago, where his big personality suited the lifestyle of the Caribbean.

In recent years, he was a partner in Lex Caribbean and specialised in property development and conveyancing. He was also a member of the Tobago Chamber of Commerce. He remained a keen rugby player and is thought to have played for Trinidad and Tobago before becoming a referee.

Richard leaves three sons: Geoffrey, who lives in Hong Kong, Simon, who lives in China, and Michael, who lives in Tobago.

Alistair Macdonald (67)

JOHN DUNN

OLD RATCLIFFIAN 1940 - 1946

John Dunn was born in Boston, Lincolnshire, in 1930. He was the cousin of brothers **Martin (49)** and **David Middlebrook (52)**. They were all at Ratcliffe at the same time, and in the same form as **Ian Bannen (46)**.

John was a quiet individual with a dry sense of humour. He came from a banking family. After leaving school, John went to India

to work in a bank, where he fell in love with a lady of Chinese background. He returned to England and was married to her in Nottingham.

John worked in the Accounts Department of a stationery firm until his retirement. He lived, for the most part of his life, in West Bridgford, Nottingham; this was very convenient for him, as he had a keen interest in cricket, with his home being a stone's throw from Trent Bridge.

John had no family and is survived by his widow, Celine.

Martin Middlebrook (49)

DR PETER MICHAEL SULLIVAN

OLD RATCLIFFIAN 1941 - 1948
JUNE 23RD 1930 - MAY 31ST 2013

Peter Sullivan was born in Bilston in 1930 to Gladys and Dan Sullivan. He went to St Mary's Primary School in Wednesbury with his older brother, Pat, and his sister, Maureen.

He went to Grace Dieu and Ratcliffe College, then on to Birmingham University to study Medicine. After university, he was called up for National Service, joining the King's African Rifles in Kenya and becoming a captain.

In 1960, Peter returned to Bilston to join his father in general practice. He worked as a doctor there for thirty-five years until his retirement. Dan and Peter worked together for several years and, until his retirement at 65, Peter was known as 'young Dr Sullivan' by many of his patients.

He maintained connections to Ireland and, on one of his many visits, in 1962, he met Carmel O'Connell. They were married in 1969 and went on to have four children. The family lived in Wolverhampton, visiting Ireland every summer to spend time with both families.

As a young man, Peter was an active member of the Wolverhampton Lawn Tennis and Squash Club, and, later, of the Wolverhampton French Circle and the Guild of Catholic Doctors. He enjoyed travel and was able to speak enough French, German, Italian, Spanish, Polish and Swahili to get by. He and Carmel often welcomed overseas visitors into their home, showing them Irish hospitality. In 1989, he taught himself Russian before he and Carmel visited three of these friends in post-perestroika Russia.

Peter stayed busy in retirement. He took up golf, Spanish evening classes, and was often out and about with his faithful dog, Stan. He sidestepped the digital age - programming the video remained a mysterious activity best left to others.

In 2008, Peter suffered a stroke. He made a good recovery, and although his power of speech was affected, he and Carmel both appreciated the fellowship and support offered by the Wolverhampton Stroke Club.



Peter enjoyed the arrival of his four grandchildren, Erin, Noah, Katy and Ellen, who brought a lot of laughter and colour to his life.

He will be missed by his family and friends, and remembered for his integrity, his interest in people, and his ideas.

Eulogy

RATCLIFFE'S PAST

THE 2015 SURVEY OF OLD RATCLIFFIANS

The Old Ratcliffian Survey was sent out by email to 2063 ORs in April of this year. We had a response rate of over 11%, with 239 people completing all or part of the questionnaire. We have collected some remarkably useful information about how people like to be contacted and how they'd like to receive the magazine; all of this is useful for us as we continue to shape the Ratcliffian Association events programme and work on how we share and collect information from our alumni. It will not be instantaneous, but we will be working to deliver information more effectively as we move into 2016. We were astounded by the generous responses from those who were happy to assist Old Ratcliffians and students with their careers, either by offering to become mentors or providing work experience. Again, this is all wonderful information which we will be using as we progress next year. Included towards the end of the questionnaire was a section asking people to share their memorable moments from Ratcliffe, to which some interesting and funny answers were given. Some ORs remember the fire in 1976, whilst others recall memories of teachers who made an impact on their lives; some share stories of sporting heroism, and others talk of fun activities and unusual events that you might not expect!

MEMORIES OF RATCLIFFE

ONE OF THE QUESTIONS ASKED WAS, "WHAT SIGNIFICANT MEMORIES DO YOU HAVE OF YOUR TIME AT RATCLIFFE?" HERE ARE SOME OF YOUR RESPONSES:

John Plumb (53): "Staying in the aircraft hangars on the airfield during the Reunion Weekend."

Mike Meredith (89): "I was singing 'Once in Royal David's City' as a duet with Gerard Ainsworth (89) at the beginning of the annual Carol Concert. Spotting that we were nervous, Fr Monaghan (53) took us, beyond usual limits, into the Staff Room and fed us both a medicinal brandy."

Brendan O'Reilly (72): "I was fortunate to be part of the Ratcliffe team that worked for Mother Teresa in Rome, and I was the lucky one who met the Pope. I even have the photo to prove it!"



Brendan O'Reilly (72) meeting the Pope

James Della-Porta (82): "So many! Skiving Benediction on Sunday evening and being chased down by the prefects. Commander Marron was standing on the roof of his car, trying to identify us with a huge pair of naval binoculars, but we were one step ahead, wearing stockings on our heads!"



The fire in the South Wing in 1976

Mark Sloan (80): "The day of the big fire in 1976!"

John Sweeney (57): "When I arrived at Ratcliffe from Kenya, I turned up with a snake under my arm, which I kept under my bed in Our Lady's Dormitory. Over the years, I came back from holidays with my parents in Kenya with many chameleons, which were (mostly) kept in the Biology Lab. I also set up a radio system in the evening, using very thin motor armature wire, to send Radio Luxembourg to other friends' rooms, with the earth path being provided by the metal radiators. We used World War Two microphones and headsets to talk to each other at night over this comprehensive network, before I switched in Radio Luxembourg. What fun it was! I left Ratcliffe to study Electrical and Electronic Engineering at Bath University, and I became Engineering Director at BAE Systems!" (Sadly, John has died since sending in his survey.)

Alan Oakey (69): "Having the privilege of being taught History by the two best History teachers I have ever known - the late 'Doc' Orton and P Daniels, known as 'PD' to his Upper Sixth Class."

Andrew Coker (78): "Fr Slack's (59) scooter being parked on the High Altar!"

John Hobday (56): "Winning every rugby match in a season."

Ian Gill (63): "Teachers who had an important influence on me included 'Doc' Orton and Br Adrian Smith. Doc brought history to life - for example, by standing in a wastepaper box and delivering a Hitler speech - and Br Smith imbued us with the need for critical thinking in a brilliant diatribe against misleading advertising."

John Challoner (72): "A group of us were caught trying to make wine from oranges when in the Fifth Form. We had put the bottle behind a panel against the hot pipes and, when it began to ferment, it stank the place out, and was a bit of a giveaway!"

John Terence Conran (59): "There was a search conducted for magazines of a saucy nature, which resulted in my CCF kit bag being emptied. It contained all the empty beer bottles from the away fixtures in the Boat Club; I was deputed to keep them, so that I could redeem the bottle deposits from the pub in Cossington, to add to the Boat Club beer kitty. The bottles were confiscated and I was reprimanded. I was not Head Prefect at the time!"

Richard Mascari (67): "The ghost of Lady Mary Arundel in the Old Library." (Editor's Note: Lady Mary Arundel was born in July 1787. For much of her life, she had to keep secret the fact that she was a Catholic, otherwise her property would have been confiscated, and she would most likely have been deported. Following the Catholic Emancipation Act of 1830, her husband was one of the first Catholics to take his place in the House of Lords. After his death in 1838, Lady Arundel did a lot to help Antonio Rosmini to establish religious houses in England. She also supported other Catholic orders, and funded many of the churches designed by Pugin (the designer of the first buildings of Ratcliffe College). She lived in Loughborough and personally oversaw the establishment of the Rosminian convent there. Lady Arundel died in 1845; two years after the first buildings of Ratcliffe College had been completed, in accordance with her wishes, she was buried under the College church of the time. This is now the Old Library.)



Lady Mary Arundel

Douglas Chamberlain (50): "The excitement of D-Day, with many aircraft overhead."

Guy Carter (61): "Undoubtedly, the most memorable time was when we went on one of 'Butch' Tedesco's Grand Tours, particularly London-Paris-Genoa-Sardinia-Sicily-Rome-Paris-London, all for £50!"

Paul Rudd (60): "Locking Simon Giles (60), now Fr Giles, in his wardrobe, facing the wall of his room!"



Paul Rudd (60) with Philip Jones (59) & Fr Simon Giles (60) in 2015

Donal Heffernan (75): "Our Lady's Dormitory had two rows of about fifteen beds along each wall, with toilets and washbasins through a door at the far end. After lights out, I visited the toilets and filled a Fairy Liquid bottle up with water; on my way back, I squirted every boy in bed. Because of the darkness in the dormitory, I did not notice Fr Ted Mullen (60), Dormitory Master, standing at the end in his black cassock. I was duly dispatched to the Discipline Master, Fr Keith Tomlinson (52), to receive four or six of the best, which was the accepted punishment of the day. However, for some unknown reason - maybe because I didn't tell him the full extent of why I had been sent down (oops, mea culpa!) - Fr Tomlinson was in good humour that evening, fortunately for me, and I was let off with a warning!"

Andrew Harris (00): "Mr Lillywhite not noticing that the 'on call' room was on fire!"

Etienne Vicariot (67): "The day in the Fifth Form when the English Master, 'Pee Wee', explained to us that, in the past, 'monsters' were exhibited at fairs, such as midgets and bearded women. One of us (I can't remember his name) said, without raising his hand, 'Sir, we have one such woman in the Ref - Mrs B!'. He got a 'note' for that!"

John Hearson (58): "Richard Meyer, serving at Mass, discovered that he had no bell to use at the elevation. He improvised by singing 'ding a ling'."

David Taft (57): "On my first night in the Dormitory, we looked out of the window and a huge Saint Bernard dog was walking past. We were told that the dog was there to ensure that we did not escape. We were terrified! Only later did we find out that the dog belonged to Brother Primavesi (36) and was very old and completely benign."

David Thistlethwaite (50): "The 'egg-splish' mutiny - this was a mixture of powdered egg and water, which was spread about one inch deep in trays and baked in the ovens with, sometimes, a light brown (even black) crust on top. The trays were delivered to the head of each house table by Br O'Brien and Br 'Speedy' McEwen, and the senior Sixth Formers, usually the House Captain, cut the 'splish' into squares, slapped them onto dinner-sized plates, and they were delivered to the house members down the table. 'Egg-splish' was served up twice a week as a main meal and it

was ghastly, but we were always hungry, so we ate it reluctantly. Circa 1947, on one momentous occasion, it came up for the third time in the week! This was too much for the Arundel House Captain and senior Sixth Formers, and so they decided that the whole house would send it back untouched. They walked down each side of the table and instructed us all to refuse it - back it all went, via 'Speedy', to the kitchen. The prefects' table was across the Refectory, above the house tables, and **Fr George (Horse) Richardson (28)**, who was Upper School Master, sat in the centre looking down on the assembled company. It suddenly

A CLASS APART

The death of **Richard Cunningham (48)** last year nearly draws a line under an especially brilliant generation of Old Ratcliffians. I knew them well, because they were a year or so ahead of me, and they were the role models that I and my contemporaries aspired to follow.

The ones who hit the headlines were, of course, **Norman St John Stevas (46)**, **Ian Bannen (46)** and **Gordon Reece (47)**. Stevas was always that little bit different. Slightly outrageous, extremely witty, loving the limelight, it was no surprise that he rose to the political heights, being the first Catholic since Thomas More to lead the House of Commons.

Ian Bannen was the born actor and a natural humourist. He could never quite make up his mind whether he wanted to become a Cistercian monk or the next Gielgud. He probably would have succumbed to the monkish profession if they had allowed him his evening cigar and liqueur in the monastery. No one who saw it will ever forget his final portrayal of the dotty Irish schemer in *Waking Ned Devine*, released just before his untimely death.



Gordon Reece (47) & Norman St John Stevas (46) in The Gondoliers.

Gordon Reece was the world's supreme party organiser. He followed me to university after National Service, and became the catalyst for all our social celebrations. It was a natural progression for him to move into the business of discovering TV stars like Dave Allen and recreating Margaret Thatcher's television image. Gordon was, in later years, a loyal servant of the Ratcliffian Association.

The cleverest of this very bright bunch was **Patrick Nuttgens (48)**. He loved to provoke Stevas in school politics and he was never bettered in an argument. In his School Certificate, he passed with Distinction in all subjects - the only Ratcliffe boy of that generation to achieve the 'grand slam'. His academic career was long and glittering, in spite of the physical handicap of polio and, later, multiple sclerosis.

dawned on him that a most heinous crime had been committed by Arundel, so he rose from his chair and, with a furiously purple face, he stood at the head of Arundel table and dished out a fairly coherent rollicking to the 'sheep of Arundel' (never, ever forgotten by me) for following the lead of the senior house members! The House Captain and senior Sixth Formers were marched off to the Headmaster, **Fr Claude Leetham (15)** and, as far as I remember, they got 'six of the best'. However, we never got egg-splashed three times again!"

Richard Cunningham was also a member of this eclectic and brilliant galaxy of talent. He was the supreme academic, the totally dedicated thinker and planner. At school, he once sat behind me in a public exam, and I can still hear the constant scratching of his pen as he covered acres of exam paper. Even though, in childhood, he had quite a fierce temper, by the time he reached the top of the school, he had become imperturbable in the face of the Stevas scorn in debates. I think it was his serene 'stickability' that later carried him to the top of his profession.

Richard's career in charge of Catholic education may not have had the public éclat of his contemporaries, named above, but during his time at the helm, there was tremendous development in Catholic education. If genius truly is 'an infinite capacity for taking pains', then Richard Cunningham was a genius. His life was utterly focused on the service he gave, over thirty years, to the Catholic community.

What was it that produced this amazing crop of talented people? One name at once springs to mind: **Fr Claude Leetham (15)**. Fr Claude had the happy knack of encouraging talent and challenging boys to perform to the best of their abilities. He ran the Debating Society, which gave his students the confidence to express themselves on their feet and enjoy the cut and thrust of debate. He also loved producing plays and operettas. These gave full range to the talent and eccentricity of all of the above, with the exception of Richard, who was musically tone deaf and also had difficulty remembering his lines. However, I recall that he once totally stole the show as the performer with two left feet in a mock gym display.

Fr Claude had a unique gift of drawing forth talent, especially eccentricity, because he was, himself, eccentric. He also loved young people and, like a good educator, gave his life to help form their characters. Ratcliffe and all those highly successful men owed much to that very great Rosminian.

Fr Michael Hill IC (49)



Eugene McCarthy (61) with Fr Michael Hill (49) on Skyline Drive in the Blue Ridge Mountains, Virginia, last October

BR JOHN TEDESCO (38) & THE ROSMINIANS IN NEW ZEALAND

Brother Tedesco was christened 'John', but no one ever called him that. For all the years I knew him, which was much of his life, he was always known as 'Ted', or to parents and pupils, he was 'Brother Ted'. He was born in Edinburgh to Italian parents, who had originally come from Naples. They moved south to London, where he lived when he was young. He was the only boy in the family, but he had several sisters, some older and some younger.

He went to Ratcliffe for his secondary education, and he had ideas that he might become a Rosminian. When he told this to **Fr Claude Leetham (15)**, who was in charge of the Senior Boys, he said to him, 'What makes you think we'll have you?!' An encouraging thing to say to a young man thinking of a vocation! However, Ted did not go straight to the novitiate. He got himself a job in London in a factory which made springs. After a whole day manipulating springs, which tore his hands to shreds, he reflected that there must be an easier way to get through life, so he went to the Rosminian novitiate at Wadhurst in Sussex. The story about the springs comes from his own account of his vocation, which he used to tell when trying to encourage in his students the ambition to serve the Lord. In fact, avoiding hard work was simply the last way you would describe Ted's long career as a teacher. He was a dynamo, and was never happier than when he was trying to balance half a dozen jobs and schemes at once. He starting teaching at Ratcliffe in 1944, and was soon making his mark as a Science teacher, then as a Geography teacher, which he loved.

Outside class, he introduced hockey as an alternative to rugby as a winter sport. He coached boxing, and his boxing teams became the terror of the local schools, against which Ratcliffe competed. He also coached gymnastics, and put on a gym display for the parents at Exhibition Day each summer. The boys he coached performed stunts which, if done today, would give the Health and Safety Inspectors nightmares. Another of his enthusiasms was the annual gymkhana, which was also a sort of fundraising event run by the Old Boys. It was there that he first discovered the tombola, a stall which produced quite obscene profits for the least effort by conning people into gambling to win a vast array of useless prizes.

After seventeen years at Ratcliffe, Ted was nominated as a pioneer to go with **Frs Philip Catcheside (37)** and **Bill Curran** to establish a new boys' secondary school in Auckland, New Zealand. The school, named Rosmini College, caters for the area of the city north of the Harbour Bridge, known as the North Shore. He set up the Science Department at Rosmini College and he was outstanding as an ambassador for Rosminian education. Eight years later, he, again, became a pioneer to launch a second school: this time, a co-educational high school in Gore, at the far south of New Zealand - as far away from Ratcliffe as it would be possible to get.



His career as a teacher simply continued in Auckland and Gore as it had been at Ratcliffe. He worked hard, set up a Geography Department, started hockey, and even became a girls' hockey coach; some of his stars even went on to play for the national side. He also started teaching Agricultural Science for the farmer's children who came to the College. Doing this subject enabled many of

them to get lucrative scholarships to board in Gore. He claimed to know nothing about agriculture, but simply got the students to teach each other, as they were the experts!

I had been Br Ted's Chemistry pupil at Ratcliffe in the 1940s. We then taught together at Ratcliffe and in Gore, and finally, I was his Rector and Headmaster. He was the perfect staff member, as he was willing to have a go at any job that he was asked to do. For instance, he taught Fifth Form Religious Education, although he pulled a very long face when I asked him to do it. His classes were pitched battles, as he wrestled with the supposed agnosticism of the pupils. In fact, they loved his classes and never forgot them. Once, he came to me and told me he was about to set an examination for the Fifth Form. I said that we didn't give RE exams during their School Certificate year. 'Oh, no,' he replied, 'it isn't for the pupils. It's for them to take home and get their parents to do.' Needless to say, that was a roaring success with the students.

Ted was still on duty with the Senior Boarders on the day of his death. He literally died with his boots on. His funeral was more of a triumph than a time of sorrow. Literally hundreds of his past pupils travelled from around the South Island to be present. To his brethren, however, his loss was a great sadness, but we lived in the certainty that we had known a saint. Br Tedesco was the most generous human being I have ever known in my life.

Fr Michael Hill IC (49)

ROSMINIAN PRIESTS WHO SERVED AT ST PETER'S COLLEGE, GORE, NEW ZEALAND

John Bland (53)
John Buckner
Aidan Cunningham (58)
John Daley
Tony Dewhirst (48)
Bill Harwood (44)
Michael Hill (49)
Larry Hogan
Lance Hurdidge (40)
Jim Mallon
Sydney Marriott
Ernie Milne

Joe Mullen
Neal Murphy
Robin Paulson (53)
John Quigley (59)
Bernard Rumsey (65)
Tony Russell
Terry Watson (48)
Bernard Widlake
Eric Willett (55)
Brothers:
John Hughes
John Tedesco (38)

75 YEARS ON: RATCLIFFE COLLEGE & THE BATTLE OF BRITAIN

This year, 2015, sees the 75th Anniversary of the Battle of Britain. We have a lot to be proud of at Ratcliffe College, not least those young heroes who fought so hard on the front line to protect our country from hostile attack, one such being **Paul Baillon (32)**. Here at Ratcliffe, we also remember those who made an enormous contribution to victory on the ground, just a few yards away in adjacent fields, at the Ratcliffe Aerodrome, which is now part of the Rosmini Centre.



Ratcliffe Aerodrome during the war

THE RATCLIFFE AERODROME

Ratcliffe College was in a pivotal position to watch the goings on of aerial movements in the country. Adjacent to the School grounds (and now part of them) was the Ratcliffe Aerodrome. For the duration of the war, it was seconded to the Air Transport Auxiliary (ATA) and renamed 'No. 6 Ferry Pool'; it was part of a network of around fourteen ATA ferry pools, stretching from Hamble in the south to Lossiemouth in the far north, with White Waltham as the headquarters to the west of London. This meant that it was one of the major hubs in the country for aircraft movement between factories and air bases, and, during hostilities, it alone accounted for in excess of fifty thousand flights.

Those stationed within the ATA were mainly non-service personnel, who were tasked with taking over, from service pilots, the duty of ferrying RAF and RN warplanes between factories, maintenance units and front-line squadrons. All this was done without radios, with no instrument flying instruction, and all at the mercy of the British weather. Often, they were presented with a type of plane that they had never seen before. The first recruits, though widely experienced, were either too old or unfit for active service, with some having served in the First World War. So, the boys of Ratcliffe College would have had aircraft flying directly overhead all day, every day. With the intensity of the air war during the summer and autumn of 1940, Ratcliffe would have certainly seen its fair share of Spitfires and Hurricanes during the weeks that would soon become known as the Battle of Britain, which would forever have its place in history.

REMEMBERING THE FALLEN

Many Old Ratcliffians went on from Ratcliffe College to serve as military personnel, but one of them, in particular, was to have a lasting impact on the College, his fellow ORs and current pupils alike. If you have read other editions of the *Old Ratcliffian*, you will know about the role that **Paul Baillon (32)** played in the Second World War; how he was hit by enemy fire and had to bail out, watching his plane crash in flames close to a small wood near Upavon in Wiltshire. Very sadly, almost exactly a month later, in November 1940, Paul was shot down by Helmut Wick in a dogfight near the Needles on the Isle of Wight.

THE HISTORY OF THE BAILLON FAMILY

Historian and airline pilot, **Steve Clark (79)**, has been delving into the history of the Baillon family, researching back as far as 1813, when Louis Augustin Baillon, Paul Baillon's grandfather, was born. Steve has kindly written some detailed articles for the Association, which we have published on the Ratcliffian Association website; please do take a look at www.ratcliffianassociation.co.uk/news.



Paul Baillon (32)

The Association would like to thank Steve for his time and research into the historical links of the Baillon family.

REMEMBERING OLD RATCLIFFIANS AT BRISTOL POPPY DAY



One of the hand-crafted Spitfires

Paul and his comrades, who fought during the Battle of Britain, have recently been remembered in various commemorative events across the country. One Old Ratcliffian, **Chris Della Porta (79)**, who co-ordinated the MOD Bristol element of the Bristol Poppy Day on Thursday 29th October, gives us his account of the day:

"The event is organised by the Royal British Legion in memory of the fallen and to support the living. We based the event on the 75th Anniversary of the Battle of Britain, which took place between July 10th and October 31st 1940. MOD staff made over two hundred and fifty Hornby Mk1 model Spitfires and Hurricanes, mostly in Battle of Britain colours. However, others were painted in a variety of fun, but respectful, designs, from pink ones to gold ones, and from sparkly ones to ones covered in poppies. The planes were displayed at the MOD in Bristol amongst a 'field of poppies' created by six local schools.

Each model had a parcel tag attached to it. On one side were written the names of some of the 2900 aircrew that took part in the Battle of Britain, of which 1542 were KIA. Of these 544 were RAF Fighter Command, 718 RAF Bomber Command and 280 RAF Coastal Command. On the other side of the tag were written the famous words of Winston Churchill: 'Never in the field of human conflict was so much owed by so many to so few.' Each person that made a plane also wrote their name on the tag, and a brief message.

Johnny Anwyl (79) wrote Paul Baillon's name on one of the tags and tied it to a Spitfire Mk1. Paul was an Old Ratcliffian, having attended the College from 1924 to 1932. He joined 609 Squadron at Middle Wallop in September 1940. On October 27th 1940, his Spitfire, P9503, was severely damaged by return fire from an enemy aircraft engaged over Andover. Paul bailed out, unhurt, near Upavon. In combat with ME109s over the Channel, in the late afternoon of November 28th 1940, Paul was shot down into the Channel, in Spitfire R6631. His body was later washed ashore on the French coast, and he is buried at the Bayeux War

Cemetery. His headstone has the following inscription: 'Pilot Officer P A Baillon. PILOT Royal Air Force. 28th November 1940. Age 26. One of the Few'.

In addition, George 'Johnny' Johnson, one of the two remaining Dambusters, was present. Johnny was the bomb aimer in the nose of one of the famous 617 Squadron Lancasters, call sign AJ-T. The raid took place on May 16th and 17th 1943, with significant losses. Most of the Lancasters used the bouncing bomb, designed by Barnes Wallis, to attempt to destroy the dams along the Ruhr Valley. However, Johnny's Lancaster was assigned to destroy the Sorpe Dam, which required a direct hit from above. Johnny told me that they made five attempts before he gave the go-ahead to drop the bomb, by which time, the rest of the crew were getting slightly edgy, as they were under fire on each approach.

A model Lancaster was made and presented to Johnny on Bristol Poppy Day. The wing was signed by both Johnny Johnson and Air Marshal Simon Bollom. The model Lancaster will be taken to BBMF RAF Coningsby and presented to the aircrew for safekeeping, and to make a little piece of history.

At the close of the day, four balloons were released: one red, one white and one blue, to commemorate the 75th Anniversary of the Battle of Britain. The fourth balloon was pink, to pay tribute to Olive Cooke, who had been selling poppies outside Bristol Cathedral for seventy-six years and who, tragically, died in May this year. Olive was a submariners widow, and many serving submariners were present, to show their respect, when the balloons were released. This was done by the cutting of a ribbon by Johnny Johnson and, as he did so, the 'Last Post' was played.

It was a very moving and poignant day."

Chris Della Porta (79)



Releasing balloons of remembrance on Poppy Day

THE RATCLIFFE SPITFIRE

On September 15th, Battle of Britain Day, the College launched a brand new website dedicated to the Ratcliffe Spitfire project (www.ratcliffespitfire.com). Many of you will have read about the building of the replica Mk1 Spitfire at Ratcliffe, which has been an ongoing project for over three years, but now we have a wonderful new website which we will continue to update as our work progresses. Please do take a look and sign up for our regular updates.

The project has continued to make steady progress, with a number of key purchases made recently, following the extremely generous donation of funds for them. Perhaps the biggest of these has been the purchase of the full canopy set - this being the front wrap-around screen, main flat-sided canopy with correct knock-out panel, and rear perspex canopy. This extremely expensive purchase, from the company who supply the canopies to the Battle of Britain Memorial Flight, was made possible by a donation from The Spitfire Society, and the project is indebted to them for such generous support.

In terms of the build itself, parts do continue to be drawn and cut, but the pace at which we are working has had to be slowed considerably. This is due to the fact that we have almost done everything we can do, until we can start to fully assemble the fuselage, and this will only be possible in a hangar. At present, the project has been built entirely in the Art Department, which some of you would remember as dormitories, and it is simply



Ratcliffe students with the tail section of the model Spitfire

THE RATCLIFFE 'SPOTTERS'

During the years 1943 and 1944, as far as I can see, there has been no mention in the Ratcliffe media about the activities of the 'Aeroplane Spotters Club', which was a National Government organisation under the control of the late Sir Peter Masefield.

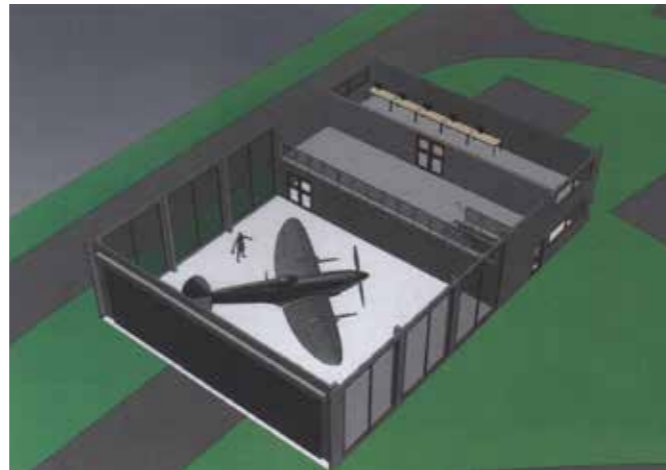
The purpose of the club was to supplement the activities of the Observer Corps, by providing aircraft recognition, height and speed. The Ratcliffe team operated from the tower, which was an excellent vantage point. The number of aircraft flying in the Ratcliffe area was quite high, as a result of all the Ratcliffe airfield movements. I wonder if any members of the 'Spotters Club' are still alive. **Paul Burdon (40)**, for one, was a leading light.

Wg Cdr Basil D'Oliveira OBE (44)



not possible to assemble any large parts whilst the project remains upstairs in this location. We have hopes to build an Education Centre dedicated to the project, to the history of the Aerodrome, and to the memories of all ORs who have paid the ultimate sacrifice for their country. We have an exciting proposal for this, and more details can be found for the Spitfire Education Centre on the website. The building will allow us to begin, and subsequently complete, the construction of the Ratcliffe Spitfire. This will be a very exciting time, because we have the parts ready, and it will not take long for a full-size Spitfire to begin appearing. Please consider making a donation to support the continuation of such a unique project. Every penny counts, and helps the project to get that little step closer to completion.

Dominic Berry
Head of Art
Ratcliffe College



The proposed Spitfire Education Centre: an artist's impression (courtesy of CAD Works Engineering Ltd)



HRH The Princess Royal with Basil D'Oliveira (44)

There is no finer inheritance



than the gift of education

Legacy Giving

Ratcliffe College has been shaping the lives of its students since 1847. With the help of generous benefactors, we continue to improve our buildings and teaching environment, as well as giving students extra support when they need it, through much-needed bursaries.

By remembering Ratcliffe College in your Will, you can help to give the gift of education to many more bright students in the future.

Legacies of all sizes play a significant role in the future of our School; with your help, we can continue to empower our pupils to learn and grow, as you once did, at Ratcliffe College.

If you would like to leave a gift in your Will to the Ratcliffe College Foundation, please contact Mr Andrew Yell, Foundation Director, at ayell@ratcliffe.leics.sch.uk, by telephone on 01509 817000, or visit our website www.ratcliffecollege.co.uk/legacy-giving for more information.



The Ratcliffe College Foundation is a registered charity, number 1144450

DIARY DATES 2016

Friday 5th February	The Ratcliffian Association London Dinner, The Crypt, St Etheldreda's Mass at 7pm, Champagne Reception at 7.30pm, Dinner at 8pm (Black Tie)
Wednesday 2nd March	The Ratcliffian Association Sixth Form Social
Sunday 13th March	The Ratcliffian Association Council Meeting, Conference Room, 11.30am The Thistlethwaite Hockey Cup, The Halley Football Cup & The Sue Roberts Netball Cup, 2pm
Friday 1st – Sunday 3rd April	The Ratcliffian Association Retreat, The Rosmini Centre, Ratcliffe College
Friday 29th April	Public Schools Old Boys' Golf, Luffenham Heath Golf Club
Thursday 19th May	'Thirsty Thursday', The Larrick Inn, Marylebone, London
Thursday 19th May	The Ratcliffian Golf Shield (ORs vs Staff & Students), Rothley Park Golf Club, 4pm
Friday 27th May	2016 Leavers' Mass & Presentations
Saturday 9th July	The Reynard Golf Trophy, Rothley Park Golf Club, 2pm The 2016 Reunion Dinner, Ratcliffe College
Sunday 10th July	Mass for Deceased Old Ratcliffians, 10.30am The Ratcliffian Association Council Meeting, Conference Room, 11.30am Annual General Meeting of the Ratcliffian Association, 12pm The Richard Hughes T20 Cricket Cup, 2pm
Sunday 11th September	The Taylor Mixed Hockey Cup, 2pm
Thursday 15th September	'Thirsty Thursday', The Larrick Inn, Marylebone, London & The Royal Oak, Quorn
Friday 14th October	Past Presidents' Dinner, The Old Library, Ratcliffe College
Friday 11th November	The Yorkshire Dinner, The Bridge, Wetherby, 7.30pm
Sunday 20th November	The Ratcliffian Association Council Meeting, Conference Room, 11.30am
Thursday 8th December	The London Christmas Carol Service & Drinks Party, Church of Our Lady of the Rosary & The Larrick Inn, Marylebone, London
Sunday 11th December	The Ratcliffe Community Carol Service, Ratcliffe College, 6pm

For further details of any of the above, please contact Alex Slack at aslack@ratcliffe.leics.sch.uk or on 01509 817054

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