

RATCLIFFIAN ASSOCIATION



THE OLD RATCLIFFIAN 2010

Edition XIII

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A Letter from your President

Dear fellow Old Ratcliffian,

It is my great pleasure to greet you all as your President in this year, 2010-11. It is an added pleasure as this year marks my 50th year since leaving Ratcliffe and 50 years as a member of the Institute of Charity or the Rosminian Order.

The Papal visit has taken place and Pope Benedict has confounded all his critics and everyone agreed that it was an outstanding success. 2010 will be remembered for his visit. I was happy, as your President, to be present at Crofton Park, Birmingham, for the Beatification Mass, where I helped to concelebrate with over 1000 other priests.

I now find myself back at Ratcliffe as a member of our small community based up at the Rosmini Centre, which many of you will remember as the aerodrome or the farm that it became after the Second World War.

At the College, my work is with the Chaplaincy Team. This means that I am not on the teaching staff – much to the relief of the Health and Safety Department which seems to have heard of my reputation from Grace Dieu days! I get to know the students outside class time in the Chaplaincy Room (the top of the old church) and around the school. I am a keen watcher of sports so can support the various home games for both boys and girls.

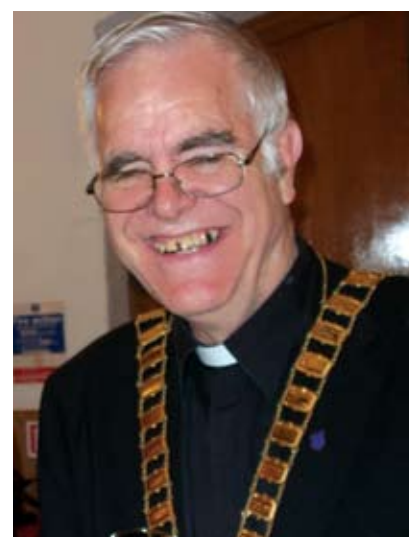
Now that I am at the College during the day I am available to meet past students when they visit the college with family and friends. This can be any time when you are passing – just call in at Reception and ask for Fr Simon or Jackie Bennett, the Association Secretary.

Has Ratcliffe changed? This is a question I am often asked and usually answer by saying 'Come and see for yourself!' Of course there are building changes with the presence of the new Rosmini Sixth Form Centre but there is an indefinable something that stays the same even though we have students from ages 3 to 18, boys **and** girls, day and boarding students, with a current total of 680.

Your support for the Association is a support for the College and I would encourage all Old Ratcliffians to get in touch and renew their membership. It would be good to have a year representative from each year group who could actively keep in touch with his/her year. If you feel you would like to do this, please let us know.

Greetings to you all and I hope to see you at Ratcliffe before long.

Fr Simon Giles (60)
President



A Letter from the Headmaster

Dear Old Ratcliffians,

It has been a great pleasure to meet many former students of Ratcliffe College over the past year at various functions. Whether such students have been recent leavers or those with a great deal more experience (and wisdom, no doubt!), your company has been hugely enjoyable, your reminiscences entertaining and your continued support of the College greatly appreciated. If we have not yet met each other, then I hope and pray that we may do so in the near future.

Much of my first year as Headmaster has been consolidating the successes of the past while looking forward confidently to the future. Through this, we have maintained and developed yet further the unique sense of community which clearly defines Ratcliffe College. Blessed Antonio Rosmini's vision of educating children through intellectual, spiritual and charitable pursuits continues to underpin all that our twenty-first century community aspires to achieve.

My personal call to arms to our students – work hard, play hard and look after each other – complements this aspiration. Our students do work very hard indeed, as our excellent

public examination results this summer testify. They play hard in sport, music, drama, art, the Duke of Edinburgh Award scheme, the Combined Cadet Force, the Young Enterprise organisation, academically related clubs and societies – the list is almost endless, but confirms our commitment to developing the whole person, in skills of teamwork, leadership and charitable fundraising, always inculcating a desire to achieve one's best.

And they most certainly look after each other, in a truly Catholic and altruistic sense, welcoming all with a universality of warmth and respect, whether in the Boarding House or as Day Students.

The new academic year has started very well, with a record high of 683 students on roll, including the healthiest number of boarding students (103) for a decade. At the centre of all that we do remains love, for, as I quoted Blessed Rosmini in this same introduction last year,

“Love is the Fulfilment of the Law”. Love for our Church, love for each other, love for our work, love for our immediate community and beyond – love provides the cornerstone for all that I aim to achieve with the



Mr Gareth P Lloyd

excellent support of my colleagues, and in particular my senior staff, Governors, Trustees and of course, my wife Katharine. May this love – God's love, by Christ's example – sustain each and every one of us, through challenges and prosperity, during the forthcoming year.

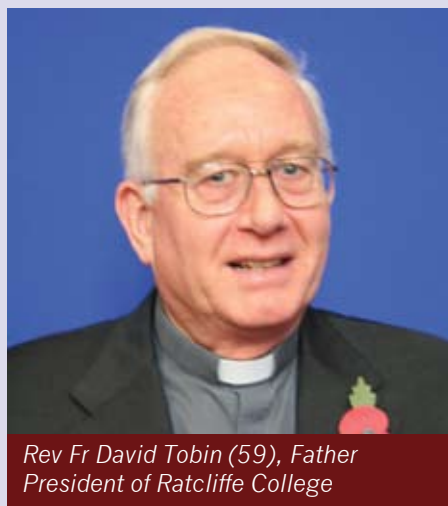
I do hope that I shall have the pleasure of welcoming you and your families to Ratcliffe College at any time, and to meeting you at Ratcliffian Association events.

God bless

With warmest wishes

Mr Gareth P Lloyd
Headmaster.

40 Years On... Memories of our Father President



Rev Fr David Tobin (59), Father President of Ratcliffe College

In September 2009 I celebrated my return to Ratcliffe after leaving in 1969. I did spend two terms on the staff from September 1974 before going to Grace Dieu in April 1975, but that was a temporary appointment. This return was with a greater sense of permanence and

to be greeted with such courtesy and warmth was a most pleasant surprise. There was a tangible sense of family and friendliness seen and felt in all relationships of the College life. Whatever was Rosminian in the past was still there and in some ways even more so. ‘You must notice many changes’ has been repeated many times as I have begun to meet different members of the wider College community. Yes, this is true. There have been great changes in the physical layout and expansion of the buildings and facilities. They are all fine and wonderful. The grounds, so well kept by Mick O'Hara and his team, show off Ratcliffe in a magnificent way. Graham Studd and his chefs provide a feast of varied meals which was unimaginable in the 1950s and '60s. And the long corridors bedecked with flowers soften the institutional stamp of my earlier years at Ratcliffe. The other massive change is the feminine presence among the staff and students which

is, I am sure, the greatest contribution to the better balance of life at Ratcliffe.

The other huge change is the shift from all boarding to a largely day school. One aspect of this is a greater contact and relationship between the families and the school.

Meeting Ratcliffians of my time in the 1950s and before, and of the many years since, has been another great delight. Soon I will have a study in the area near the Chapel. If you are passing and, more particularly, if you are passing through the United Kingdom after being away, do pop in and come and show to your children the place that was significant in your earlier years. If you have been away a long time you may, as I was, be very pleasantly surprised.

I look forward to welcoming you. May our loving Lord bless you and your families.

Rev Fr David Tobin (59), Fr President

The Editor's Column

This year has passed by so quickly that the deadline for publication of this magazine seems to have crept up on me. However, I am hopeful that the new format will be worth waiting for, even though you have had to wait a little longer than in previous years.

The reason for this change of style is because for the first time ever, the Ratcliffian magazine will not incorporate the Old Ratcliffians' section. Gareth has opted for a completely new style of magazine for the College, which is shorter with more photos and less text, and to accompany it, the Ratcliffe Recorder. This will contain all the contextual information about the College, sports results, exam results, etc. If any Old Ratcliffians would like to subscribe to this, please let me know and I can arrange to send you a copy. Also, if you wish to catch up with news from the College, then you can visit the new website:

www.ratcliffecollege.com

The Ratcliffian Association is now free to produce a magazine, using its own style and format. I have tried to produce a publication which appeals to all ages. Obviously, there will be some who would prefer the old style. However, if you do have any suggestions on how to further improve this for next year, please do let me know and I will try and accommodate your ideas.

With the digital age and social networking sites such as 'Facebook' and 'Linked-In', keeping in touch is so much easier. At the Ratcliffian Association, we endeavour to keep pace with these developments. The Ratcliffian Association now has its own page on Facebook, where all our events will be posted alongside other news items concerning Ratcliffe and its alumni. Before Christmas, I attended a seminar on this topic which brought home how quickly these sites are developing and completely altering the way in which people communicate with each other. The Ratcliffian Association website, **www.ratcliffianassociation.co.uk** has been developed as a result of a tremendous amount of hard work by the Association's Website Officer, **Mark Gamble (71)**, in conjunction with **Alex Currie-Clarke (02)**, as the Website

Administrator and myself. However, with these other fast-changing online communication websites, keeping the information up to date on our website is a huge task which requires input from other members and not just from the administrators.

As Old Ratcliffians, if any of our members would like to contribute to this website or if anyone would like to volunteer to be a co-administrator alongside Alex and me, please do get in touch and we can enable this to happen.

The Association continues to develop closer links with the College, students and staff and this has been particularly aided by the continued support of Graham Sharpe, the Assistant Head and by Gareth Lloyd, the new Headmaster. It is most important that Ratcliffe's current students are completely familiar with the Ratcliffian Association and how it

works and how it can help them when they leave school, if they are to benefit from it.

Finally, on a personal note, I would like to pay tribute to Gareth Lloyd and his wife, Katharine, for their warm and friendly support throughout the past year. I would also like to thank our outgoing President, Peter Astill, for his contribution to the Association, and also to our current President, Fr Simon Giles. It is a great honour and pleasure for me to work alongside such a charismatic and committed Old Ratcliffian and I wish him well for his year as President.

Jackie Bennett

Executive Secretary of the Ratcliffian Association



The Hon Secretary, Isobel Summerville (83) (left) and Jackie Bennett, Executive Secretary

NEWS FROM THE COLLEGE



Year 13 Students Celebrate their Success

Year 13 Leavers Celebrate Record A Level Results

We are very pleased with this year's A Level results, with a record number of students achieving a 100% pass rate. Several students were delighted to be awarded straight A*/A grades, while 54% of the year group achieved all A*/A and B grades in their three or four subjects. Many students also obtained additional AS qualifications.

Year 13 Mass Of Thanksgiving Friday 10th September 2010

A group of 40 of this year's leavers came back to celebrate their departure from Ratcliffe at a special Thanksgiving Mass on Friday 10th September which was celebrated by **Fr David Tobin (59)**. The 2009–2010 President of the Association, **Mr Peter Astill (71)** attended the Mass on behalf of the Association to make the presentations of Old Ratcliffian ties to the boys and Old Ratcliffian silk pashminas to the girls. Parents and students retired to the Old Library for refreshments after the Mass.



Year 13s Receive their Ratcliffian Association Gifts



Simon Astill (85), Partner at a Local Firm

Ratcliffe College Careers Convention

A Careers Convention was held in Ratcliffe College Sports Hall on the evening of Thursday 30th September. 40 delegates represented a range of professions and careers. These representatives came from local universities, companies and career organisations, and included several members of staff and Old Ratcliffians, though the majority were parents of children currently attending the College. The event was very well attended, with around 350 parents and students from Years 9 to 13, including several from local schools. We were very pleased to receive positive feedback from everyone involved in this, our fourth biennial Careers Convention.

It is always nice to meet Old Ratcliffians returning to the College, and if any readers are able to help at our next Careers Convention, in Autumn 2012, you would be most welcome. Details will be circulated nearer the time.

Graham Sharpe
Assistant Head

Howard Midgley Retires after 24 Years

Mr Midgley has worked at Ratcliffe for 31 years, in 2 spells, the second of which has been 24 years' continuous service. During these years he has been a teacher of Geography, Head of ICT, a member of the SLT, Examinations Officer and also in charge of the timetable, duties and standbys.

Out of school he is a magistrate and has recently been re-elected as Chairman of Syston Town Council.

He also chairs the Horace Taylor Fund which distributes money to good causes in Syston, so it is a wonder that he has ever found time to come to school!

On Thursday 10th December, Howard underwent a sponsored beard shave, with all the money raised going to his chosen charity, SSAFA (Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Families Association).



Nick Walsh Shaves off Howard's Beard in Aid of SSAFA.

Valete

Daniel Amies	GAP Year
Alexander Amlani	Nottingham Trent University
Elisabeth Barker-Carley	University of Plymouth
Charles Barre	Leeds Metropolitan University
Helen Beresford	GAP Year
Harriet Bird	Liverpool John Moores University
Joseph Birtwistle	Leeds Metropolitan University
Samuel Brunskill	University of Birmingham
Kitty Burrows	GAP Year
Katy Campbell	University of Warwick
Stephanie Carpenter	Employment & Training
Leo Chak	Leeds College of Art
Nicholas Charlish	University of East Anglia
Arjun Chawda	Nottingham Trent University
Lucy Clark	University of Plymouth
Thomas Collins	Nottingham Trent University
Patric Coupland	Manchester Metropolitan University
James Dearson	University of Nottingham
James Dunn	University of Hull
Lottie Fenton	Further Education – Employment
Clare Ferrar	GAP Year – University of Lancaster
Ruby Finnegan	University of Lincoln
David Forry	University of Dundee
Samuel George	Sheffield Hallam University
Lewis Goodger	GAP Year – York St John University (2011)
Ciaran Grant	University of Lincoln
Liberty Gray	GAP Year
Peter Griffin	University of Manchester
Adam Guo	Queen Mary College, University of London
Tom Guo	Imperial College, University of London
Hollie Haines	GAP Year
James Hassall	Further Education
Thomas Hazell	GAP Year
Robert Herrick	University of Glamorgan, Cardiff & Pontypridd
Rebecca Hesketh	University of Chester
Jessica Hick-Taylor	University for the Creative Arts
Edward Holland	University of Reading
Callum Houston	University of Lincoln
Sumeya Ibrahim	University of Manchester
Richard Jee	GAP Year – St Kevin's College, Australia
Charles Jones	Sheffield Hallam University
Oliver Jones	GAP Year – University of Plymouth
Fergus Kelly	University of Bath
Alexander Kerridge	University of Bournemouth
Alexander Keyworth	GAP Year – Manchester Metropolitan University
Keelan Kukk	University of Loughborough
David Lester	GAP Year – Employment



Jacky Leung	University of Loughborough
Oliver Lin	University of Edinburgh
Sharmila Malla	University of Bangor
James Marvin	GAP Year – St Kevin's College, Australia
James Mason	University of Westminster
Calum McWhir	University of Glasgow
Sophie Montgomery-Stuart	University of Surrey
Max Noss	GAP Year – Leeds Metropolitan University
Thomas Musson	Sheffield Hallam University
Tina Newton	GAP Year
Hannah Nutter	Writtle College
Sian Orrell	University of Northumbria
Benjamin Palmer	GAP Year
Kerrie Patrick	University of Leeds
Stanley Pearce	Employment & Training
Ryan Punia	GAP Year – Further Education
Michael Rayns	University of Bedfordshire
Mathew Rees	Kingston University
Lorna Rowley	GAP Year – Further Education
William Sear-Mayes	Sheffield Hallam University
Feng Ming Shi	University of Warwick
Anna Spillane	University of Leeds
Hugh Spillane	Leeds Trinity University College
Samuel Stabler	Lamar University, Texas
Joseph Stone	GAP Year – Further Education
Gregory Straw	York St John University
Katharine Stubbs	University of York
Emily Taylor	Harper Adams University College
Lisa Wallesch	Oldenburg University
Nathalie Weber	University of Leeds
Cellan Williams	University of Aberystwyth
Kelvin Wu	University of Hertfordshire
Aaron Yau	University of Southampton
Sophie Yell	University of Bath
Jasper Yu	GAP Year – Foundation Degree in Translation

Ratcliffe College's Remembrance Day Service

The annual Senior School Remembrance Day Service was held this year in the Chapel of the Immaculate Conception on Thursday 11th November. **Fr David Tobin**, Fr President, led the service. The names of all the Old Ratcliffians who died during the two World Wars, as listed on the back wall of the church, were read out by the Head Boy and the Head Girl, whilst votive candles were laid on the altar.



Cdt Sgt Major C Sheehy, Corporal J Ham, Corporal, J Adcock (Standard Bearer), Sgt C Gerighty

THE RATCLIFFIAN ASSOCIATION

New Council Members



John Arnold (71)

Bishop John Arnold (71), Auxiliary Bishop of Westminster, has agreed to join the Council and has been elected Vice President to take over from Fr Simon Giles in July. This is a fantastic honour for the Association. Bishop John will be taking over as President and will celebrate 40 years since leaving Ratcliffe at the AGB Reunion Weekend.

Antonia Flockton (nee Sheratt) (91) has joined the Council to become Membership Officer. Antonia is the daughter of Bernard

Sheratt who used to teach at Ratcliffe. She is full of ideas on how to boost membership of the Ratcliffian Association. She is also giving up her valuable Sundays to travel up from London to attend Council meetings.

Abe Mee (92) has joined the Council and is Chairman of the Social and Bar Committee.

Louis Massarella (92) has resigned from Council due to work commitments. Louis is already a Governor at Ratcliffe.

The Ratcliffian Association's New Chair of the Social Committee

Abe Mee (92) has taken on the role of Chair of the Social Committee. In the short time since he has taken office, Abe and the committee have had several helpful meetings with Gareth Lloyd and the Senior Management Team at the College with an aim to get the school and the Old Ratcliffians working together to plan social events for Old Ratcliffians.

The Social Committee, whose members include **Louise Marsden (nee Bullen) (91)**, **Alex Gamble (02)**, **Charlotte Hull (97)**, **Robert de Rienzo (00)** and **Guiliana Bird (97)**, have been able to put a programme of new events together.

The first new event planned is a Sporting Dinner on Friday, 18th February, in the Refectory at Ratcliffe College and tickets are already on sale on the Association website.

Another new event for 2011 will take place in the Autumn Term and is a Rugby Lunch at which we hope that people who enjoyed playing rugby at school will be able to come back to watch the 1st XV play and catch up with old friends.

The date for the next Grand Summer Ball is 14th July 2012.

These new events are, of course, in addition to the

successful established annual events that are being run such as the London, Yorkshire and Paris Dinners, the Retreat and the Reunion Weekend.

Abe is a partner at Harvey Ingram Solicitors in their Leicester office, is married to Emma and has two young children. Abe is also the Association's Golf Secretary.

For further information on all the events mentioned here go to www.ratcliffianassociation.co.uk.



Abe Mee (92), New Chair of the Social Committee

Tony Blackham Retires After 40 Years

The Headmaster and the Trustees of the Ratcliffian & Cunningham Trust Fund invited Tony & Rosemary Blackham to attend a luncheon at the College on Friday 30th April as a token of their appreciation for over 40 years of service to the Trust.

Tony (48), who lives in Staffordshire, hardly missed a meeting over the years and was a truly valuable member of the committee.

Having conquered the Friday traffic on the M6, Tony and Rosemary were eventually treated to a delicious lunch in the Old Library, followed by a presentation, made by Gareth, of a glass decanter engraved with the school crest. They were then taken on a tour of the school by Kerrie Patrick and Hannah Bird, the two Ratcliffian Association Prefects. They thoroughly enjoyed this and Tony remarked on how incredible the school was looking and how different it was compared to his time at school.

The lunch was also attended by **Michael Coker (52)**, Clerk to the Trustees, Dr Colin Draycott, Chair of

Governors, **Mark Gamble (71)**, **Richard Gamble (68)** and **Fr Aidan Cunningham IC (58)**, Graham Sharpe, Assistant Head and David Robson, Director of Finance.



Tony Blackham (48) Receives a Gift from Headmaster, Gareth Lloyd.

Fr Philip Sainter Celebrates his Silver Jubilee!

Friday 2nd July, 2010 at St Marie's, Rugby

Fr Philip (69) celebrated his 25th Anniversary of Ordination with a special Mass at St Marie's in Rugby and a celebratory lunch in the nearby village of Ashby St Ledgers. The Mass, at which he presided with a number of his fellow Rosminians concelebrating, was accompanied by an excellent choir and wonderful music. There were about 50 guests to the party afterwards which included his mother and members of his family from all over England and Switzerland. It was a splendid affair and Philip's health was toasted by his twin brother, Charles.



Fr Philip (69) and Guests at St Marie's Church, Rugby

EVENTS

ANZOR Old Ratcliffian Dinner 2009, Sydney, Australia

It was that time of year again, when a random group of people, all of whom at one time attended the same school on the other side of the world, got together to celebrate this curious fact. It was decided this time that there was nothing more traditional nor more English than a good curry, so the renowned 'Nilgiri's' was the venue and this year, our only competition was Simon & Garfunkel which lost us **Phil Lim (81)**.

In our own private dining room, at a very low table (one of those where your legs are actually in the sunken floor), it was touch and go for one guest who had recently had a hip operation and was dubious about being able to sit down at all. However, all boots and shoes came off, exposing some interestingly worn socks. Wholesome curries and Indian

delicacies were appreciatively downed at some speed. Dick was apparently on a diet and had a personal trainer on his back – so he just watched the food and chose to appreciate the variety of Indian wines on offer. Piers recalled how, when he was first sent to Australia by his company at the ripe old age of 24, he was offered a variety of Australian wine on the flight. Travel fatigue, jet lag and the joys of discovering a new country were all put on hold whilst he spent the first couple of days recovering from a sky high hangover! Someone recalled that at Ratcliffe, there were many overseas students who were unused to a Western boarding school diet and exploded with acne by the end of the first term!

We all felt we knew each other well enough by now, not to have to rely on

old school anecdotes for conversation. We talked about our children, our parents, whether Deb would ever get her boots back on, the NRMA (equivalent to the RAC) and how exorbitant their fees were – Piers subscribes to a dodgy outfit which charges him just \$50 per year, and by now I imagine he is still waiting for them to respond to his call. We laughed, we drank, we added a few more names to the Australian database and split the bill ('Treat Dick and me as a couple,' said Peter!) and all said we'd do it again next year.

Rachel Boaler (81)

Attendees: Deb and **Peter Brown (74)**, Jill and **Piers Brogan (64)**, **Dick (Richard) Parnell (81)**, **Peter Tarimo (84)**, **Rachel Boaler (81)** and **Jonathan Anderson (63)**.

Past Presidents' Annual Dinner, 23rd October 2009

By kind permission of the school, the Past Presidents of the Ratcliffian Association met once again at Ratcliffe on Friday, 23rd October 2009 for their Annual Dinner.

The evening commenced with Mass in the Chapel, concelebrated this year by **Fr Simon Giles (60)**, the Vice President of the Association for 2009/10 and **Fr Tobin (59)**. Prayers were said for **George Plowman (38)** who, unbeknown at the time, was to die the following day.

After Mass, the Past Presidents enjoyed a champagne reception in the Old Library, followed by an excellent dinner prepared and served to a high standard by the College catering staff. **Paul Carter (60)** was delayed by a puncture en-route and sadly missed the dinner.



This year we were privileged to welcome Ratcliffe's new Headmaster Gareth Lloyd, his wife Katharine and Ratcliffe's new President **Fr David Tobin** to the dinner. Current President **Peter Astill (71)** offered the Association's congratulations and full support to Gareth and Fr David on their recent appointments. Gareth Lloyd, who had cut short a family holiday to attend the event, replied and outlined his vision for the wider Ratcliffian community in which past pupils and the Ratcliffian Association will have a key role.

After a long and enjoyable evening sharing information on current events and past reminiscences, all present retired to bed apart from one unfortunate Past President who mislaid the key code to his bedroom and had to be rescued early the following morning!

Michael Heath (56)

Present were:

Fr David Tobin (59), Ratcliffe's new Father President, Ratcliffe's Headmaster, Mr Gareth Lloyd and his wife Katharine, the Association President, **Peter Astill (71)**, Association Vice President, **Fr Simon Giles (60)**, Association Secretary, Jackie Bennett.

Past Presidents:

Paul Rudd (60), **Michael Coker (52)**, **Michael Heath (56)**, **Patrick Jolliffe (53)**, **Sir Anthony Holland (56)**, **Richard Gamble (64)**, **Phillip Jones (59)**, **David Jolliffe (64)**, **Peter Casartelli (56)**, **Jonty Myles (57)**, **Dick Cunningham (58)**, **Michael Heath (56)**.

The Ratcliffian Association London Dinner

Friday 12th February 2010, The Crypt, St Etheldreda's, Ely Place, London

This year's dinner was yet another outstanding success, with excellent food and wine, and was enjoyed by over 70 guests in the beautiful surroundings of the medieval Crypt of St Etheldreda's in Ely Place.

The Class of '79 was well represented again as was the Class of '61. This year a group of more recent leavers, mostly from the Class of '05 attended. **Jonjo Henry (05)** decided that he would address the guests with an interesting speech on his impressions of Ratcliffe. A great time was had by all.



Mary-Anne Pilkington (79) with Peter Tetlow (78)



From left to right: Peter Maddon (05), Chris Lutterodt (05), Chiara Raine (05), Jessica Armitage (05), Gareth Lloyd, Jonjo Henry (05) & Jack Harty (05)

The Ratcliffian Association Reunion Weekend

Saturday 26th June and Sunday 27th June



Class of '60: JT Curran, Fr Louis, Brendan Corrigan, Paul Carter, Pat de Burca, Fr Simon Giles

Peter Astill (71), in his year as **President of the Association**, was **blessed with glorious weather for the weekend**.

The evening started with a champagne reception on the front lawn and a piano accompaniment by two of the school's students. This year was the 10th Anniversary for the Class of '00 who put in a good attendance. They really enjoyed the atmosphere. This was down to the persistent hard work of **Dominic Howkins (00)** who, fired by his 'hole in one' in the Reynard Golf Trophy the night before, came well prepared to get everyone in the mood. They retired after dinner to watch their own Leavers' Video in the Conference Room. There were more than a few very embarrassed giggles from some of the girls who were filmed whilst being unaware that there was a camera nearby. After a few more drinks in the Old Ratcliffians' bar, they persuaded Shaun Walker, the

Association's adopted minibus driver, to take them in to Loughborough to dance the night away.

This was Gareth's first Reunion Weekend which he marked in his own inimitable way by agreeing to sing the Old Ratcliffian song with **Paul Carter (60)** whilst being accompanied by his wife, Katharine, on the piano. This was a truly rousing rendition which got everyone singing at the tops of their voices.

The food was excellent once again; in particular the duck with cranberry sauce, produced by Ratcliffe's excellent catering team and the Tartes aux Pommes, made by Old Ratcliffian, **Dominic North (85)**, whose patisserie in Rothley is famous nationwide.

On Sunday, the day began as usual with Mass in the Chapel. This was concelebrated by **Frs David Tobin (59), Louis Beasley-Suffolk (60), Simon Giles (60)** and Tony Furlong. As always, this mass was offered for the repose of the souls of all the Old Ratcliffians who had died during the year. The list was read out solemnly by **Peter Astill (71)**, the outgoing President.

After Mass, members of Council and other members of the Association met for the Annual General Meeting of the Association. The formal business having been completed, everyone went



Class of '72: Nigel Cave, Simon Fox, Charlie Weidner, Marcus Langer

outside for lunch which, for the first time, was a delicious hog roast with salads followed by fresh strawberries and homemade ice-cream. Tables and chairs were set up outside the Old Ratcliffians' Bar and everyone settled down to a relaxing afternoon watching the cricket in the Grand Match, whilst chatting and sipping their drinks.

To add to the excitement, Robert **Forstner (72)** turned up in his state of the art Lamborghini which he proudly showed to anyone who was interested. The Executive Secretary of the Association was even treated to a 'burn' up the A46.

Jackie Bennett
Editor



Class of 2000

The Ratcliffian Association Retreat

Led by Bishop John Arnold (71), April 9th - April 11th 2010.

Friday evening: When we arrived we were greeted warmly by **John Arnold (71)**, whilst reminiscing with those of us whom he remembered. After Supper at the Prefect's table in the Ref, we all repaired to the Old Library for an introductory discussion.



John Arnold (71) and Peter Astill (71)

John, relaxed, asked, 'What is the purpose of our coming here?' He had not come to tell us what to do or how to do it at all, or demand any answers from us. John then gave some anecdotes of what he described as his spiritual journey into high places, with its amazing turns and learning experiences, as he had no plans of personal expectancy or for achievement. He learned that it is best to adapt to circumstances. For his part, he had enjoyed happy years at Ratcliffe after which he studied Law in Oxford and qualified as a lawyer. Some of the group at Oxford were noisy, including Tony (Blair), with whom he is dining next week.

Following his vocation, he was ordained a priest and was then attached to the Cathedral of Westminster under Basil Hume and, subsequently, his successor Cormac O'Connor. One day, he was swiftly transferred to the very large and dynamic parish at Enfield. No doubt, he figured, in a support role as a Curate – only to discover on the first day that it was as Parish Priest. This was to be his first ever experience of parish work!

Fortunately, on arrival, a senior parishioner took him aside and said 'This Parish has been here long before you arrived, and will still be here long after you have gone, but we would really like your help while you are with us.' It is a wonderful parish which the lay folk organise and run. Every need

is attended to; it is an ideal model of a modern parish. He just loved being there and was sad to leave.

When he heard that his name had been put forward as a candidate for a Bishop, he was concerned and so he wrote five good reasons why he would be unsuitable. Cormac dismissed them, saying, 'We'd all had those!' Following on from this, the Pope had already signed his approval, and from that moment he was then a Bishop. So he was now responsible for 47 Parishes – each one being quite different. John found himself involved in Church issues, both ecumenical and relevant to the State. His fellow Bishops are a really great group, whose company he really enjoys. He rates John Nichols very highly.

The Church in England is in really good hands to handle the difficult times being experienced right now. John told us how Cardinal John Newman must have had tremendously difficult challenges, but, with the help of God, won through. We were each given a copy of 'A Meditation by Cardinal Newman' to read for the morrow – for it was now past midnight.

Saturday: As has become the custom, other guests joined the Retreat on Saturday. There was a group of 28 during the day. It started with a Mass followed by a talk by John which was fascinating.

In the afternoon after lunch the Retreatants processed along the Rosary Way to the Rosmini Centre saying the Rosary as they walked. When they arrived at the Rosmini Centre, they went into the little Chapel for Benediction.

In the evening, the overnight guests had a discussion group with John which went on into the small hours.

We were blessed and privileged to have such a keen intellectual and most holy member of the clergy as our leader for this Retreat and we are very grateful to him.

Clifford Della Porta (43)

If you would like to attend next year's Retreat, it will take place on Friday 29th April – Sunday 1st May. Fr David Tobin will be giving this Retreat.

For further information, contact **Jackie Bennett**



Setting off on the Rosary Way

The Ratcliffian Association Biennial Yorkshire Dinner

Friday 19th November 2010, Monk Fryston Hall, Monk Fryston, Yorkshire

This year's dinner was held in the historic manor house known as Monk Fryston Hall. We had exclusive use of a panelled dining room with a blazing fire from the inglenook fireplace. A real Yorkshire welcome was given to 29 of us including **Frs Tobin and Giles** (Presidents both of the School and Association respectively) and the Headmaster and his wife Gareth and Katherine Lloyd.

The food and service were excellent and the wine and conversation flowed all night. After dinner Gareth gave us a passionate and enthusiastic report about the School and his hopes and aspirations for the future. The writer believes Ratcliffe is in good hands. Simon Giles brought us all up to date with Association affairs and it was good to see him revelling in his role as our President.

The evening was concluded by Gareth and Katharine, upon request, serenading us with a duet from Mozart's Don Giovanni. A simply sensational and a fitting way to end a convivial evening in the country's premier county!

Thank you to all who attended and please spread the word to other ORs about how enjoyable evenings with the Old Ratcliffian Association in Yorkshire can be.

Pierre Bouvet (71), Yorkshire Secretary



Fr David Tobin (59), Peter Meredith (60), Fr Simon Giles (60), John Kelly (62) and Paul Radd (60)

LOURDES 2010

23rd-30th July 2010

This year for the first time we formed our own Ratcliffe College and Rosminian Parish Family Group. The group has been named as Hosanna House Group 512 and was approved by the HCPT Trustees last year. The Trustees have encouraged me to continue recruiting Pilgrims from Ratcliffe College and Grace Dieu and to expand to include all the surrounding Rosminian Parishes.

I was delighted that we were a good 46 in number and we were able to fill St Bernadette's side of Hosanna House. St Bernadette's had just been refurbished and we were one of the first groups to make use of the excellent new refurbishment.

A total of 7 ORs joined the Pilgrimage and hopefully this number will increase as year on year more students want to come back and relive the wonderful experience of their week in Lourdes.

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

Mr Tom Foulds (07) came for the first time as a helper. He worked as a Night Carer to a boy with learning difficulties and as a Day Carer to a disabled gentleman. In both these roles Tom worked with great empathy. He is just completing a Gap Year between school and university.

Mr Richard Gamble (64) went for his fifth time with the group. His support with driving minibuses and running the bar was invaluable!

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

Mr James Morley (08) is now in his third year with the group. James looked after a young boy at night and looked after a disabled lady in the day. He has gained a great deal

of confidence in his caring skills and is very much part of the team.

Fr Philip Sainter IC went as the Group Chaplain. I was delighted that Fr Philip Sainter brought with him 5 of his parishioners from St Marie's, Rugby. This was an added bonus for the group as a whole and it was good to include more of the Rosminian Family! It was wonderful for him to lead the group spiritually once again and to benefit from his compassionate care for the sick and disabled. The theme of this year's Pilgrimage was 'Come to me you who are thirsty' and during a very beautiful healing service he invited the entire group to come and be blessed with Lourdes water.

Mr Peter Tetlow (78) has been coming to Lourdes ever since his visits when he was a boy at Ratcliffe. He was HCPT Chief Brancardier for many years, so we were very privileged to have Peter spend two days with us at the beginning of the week. He writes 'Thank you very much for letting me join the Hosanna House Group in July. It was a great experience. I enjoyed it a lot and had a 'new' Lourdes experience – even with my years!'

Mr Bernard Sherratt (52) and Mrs Pat Sherratt were also able to join us during the week in Lourdes. They are now living in Orthez near to Lourdes and called in for lunch at Hosanna House. In their letter they write 'Many thanks for the warm (could have been alcoholic!) welcome extended to us yesterday. It was great to meet old friends and acquaintances. We both admire the work you are doing and the experience you offer to the young helpers.'

I would like to thank the Ratcliffian Association for its

support over the last 16 years and for their annual donation of £500 given to support OR student helpers. This has been an invaluable support to ORs at university who wish to offer themselves as helpers to the sick and disabled in the group.

Now we have our own group, we have spaces for more ORs to go on The Pilgrimage. There are spaces for ORs who are sick or disabled and spaces for those who would like to go as helpers. We are very much in need of a Group Doctor to work alongside Dr Sheelagh Bolt and learn from her many years of experience before she retires. We are also in need of helpers who are qualified nurses or carers. If you are in the medical profession and able help in this way please do not delay in contacting me.

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

The Pilgrimage to Lourdes next year will take place on 15th-22nd July 2011.

Any OR wishing to take part next year in the Pilgrimage to Lourdes should contact the Association Office at Ratcliffe College.

Mrs Teresa Gamble, Group Leader



Fr Philip Sainter (69), Richard Gamble (64), Danni Fairbrother (02) and Fr Anthony Meredith (57)

THE RATCLIFFIAN ASSOCIATION SPORTS EVENTS

The Thistlethwaite Cup Hockey Match

Sunday 7th March 2010

Old Ratcliffians: 5 Ratcliffe College: 1

With the sun shining and the school team looking eager to regain the trophy, the Old Ratcliffians were looking worried as only 8 players had shown up! Many thanks to two school pupils, **Ciaran Grant** and **Ciaran Sheehy**, who came out and showed the depth of talent available to the school.

As Mr Taylor said afterwards: 'This was the most one-sided contest there had been in years in the school's favour.' No wonder he wasn't impressed with the 5-1 score line to the Old Boys. A determined performance in the first 10 minutes to keep the school at bay showed that the Old Boys weren't going to lie down easily and if **Symon Smith (06)** had not popped up on the line to clear a goal-bound shot, the match might easily have taken a turn for the worse for the ORs.

With the 'Bold Boys' starting to get into their rhythm and finding some slick passing moves, combined with strong running from **Freddie Bainbridge (08)** and **Will Harrison (08)** on the wings the chances started to come, but didn't manage to ripple the back of the net. Eventually the opening score came after a decisive run from Freddie who managed to feed **James**

Taylor (04) in the 'D' who unleashed a reverse stick strike into the top corner (thanks for the deflection Arjun!).

This buoyed the Old Boys' spirits and they continued to pass the ball around and find gaps for the dynamic midfield duo of **James Charnock (09)** and **Tom 'Duracell Bunny' Foulds (07)**.

The school were looking quite solid at the back but always knew a second goal was needed, and after a quick free hit, **Tom Foulds** found space in the 'D' to slide the ball past the school keeper and give the Old Boys a 2-0 lead going into half time. We knew that the school would come out of the blocks in the second half and look to get back on even terms, but thanks to some more solid defending from **Alex Currie-Clarke (02)** and his young prodigies, **Phil Lawton (08)** was on the verge of a clean sheet. A third goal came for the Old Boys as **Tom Foulds** latched onto a weighted pass from Charnock and dispatched a first-time shot across the keeper into the bottom corner.

From here the game became very open and with the ORs down to nine due to injury a fourth goal came after a hard cross from **Bainbridge** was easily deflected in by **Taylor**. After all



Peter Astill (71), Ratcliffian Association President, Presents the Thistlethwaite Trophy to Winning Captain, James Taylor (04)

his hard work, **Bainbridge** finally got himself on the score sheet with a neat deflection over the keeper after **Will Harrison** found time and space to send a cross straight to him 5 yards out. The school finally got themselves on the score sheet towards the end of the match but this was not enough and the Old Ratcliffians came out on top with a convincing 5-1 demolition. Thanks to all those who played.

Old Ratcliffian Team:

Philip Lawton, Alex Currie-Clarke, Symon Smith, Ciaran Grant (guest), Ciaran Sheehy (guest), Freddie Bainbridge, James Charnock, Tom Foulds, Will Harrison and James Taylor.

James Taylor (04)
Sports Secretary

Old Ratcliffians Football Match Sunday 7th March 2010

Ratcliffe XI: 3 Old Ratcliffians XI: 1

Like a punch drunk boxer, it might have been right for the old Old Boys to call time on their footballing exploits.

For 10 years, since the Old Boys Football matches started, the year of '00 have been dominating the line-up and usually the result. However in the last two encounters the countdown clock has been ticking and it seemed after a 3-1 loss this year time could be called. It was time for the younger generation to take over. It was time for the older to rest. It was time for some of the teachers to enjoy watching the players that turned up each year.

That was the initial consensus of the wheezing bunch of '00, but after a few months to reflect, like that punch drunk boxer, some have decided to come out of retirement for one last fight next year.

Determined not to receive the battering scoreline of last March and clinging to the fact that only a couple of lucky blows won the fight they'll be back firing on all cylinders. However not without the help of **Joe Coupland (09)** who is now in charge of recruitment for the younger generation (the players who haven't yet had the hammer blows and still manage to run 20 yards without getting cigarette ash in their eye).

The mix of young and old, youthful enthusiasm and wise heads or maybe just dumb and dumber!

All the credit must go to the Ratcliffe team for putting



The Ratcliffian Association Football XI

these doubts in the minds of the Old Boys. It was their organisation and relentless pressure that saw the cracks start forming. As always it was a last minute ring round to get 11 players for the Old Boys and thanks must go to the Jelley twins having driven straight from the airport to make it at short notice.

Back to the match and apart from a goal courtesy of **Joe Coupland**, who once again put his older brother **Will (00)** to shame, there was no reply to the Ratcliffe side's onslaught. Maybe a scoreline of 2-1 would have been a better representation of the difference in the sides but as the tired legs of the Old Boys pushed forward with only seconds remaining, the third was slotted home due to a leaky back line.

Time ran out on the day, but the Old Boys aren't ready for time to be called... especially not at the Old Boys' bar!

Scott Piecha (00), Captain

Ratcliffian Association Golf 2011

Grafton Morrish Trophy

East Midlands Qualifying Round

Sunday 15th May 2011, The Leicestershire Golf Club

A team of 6 single figure handicap golfers is required. Competition to be played as scratch foursomes. Dress for formal luncheon is jacket and tie. Finals will take place from Friday 7th October to Sunday 9th October (Practice Day 6th October) at Royal West Norfolk GC and Hunstanton GC (if we qualify).

Details to be given to team members nearer the time.

Reynard Trophy

Friday 1st July

The Leicestershire Golf Club

Individual Stableford. Tee booked 5pm to 6pm. Dinner will be at 9.30pm. Dress in the clubhouse after the golf is strictly jacket and tie.

NB – 1st July is Day of Feast of Antonio Rosmini and there is a Celebratory Mass planned at Ratcliffe at 3pm.

The golf AGM will follow the meal.

Old Ratcliffians' Autumn Golf Meeting

Saturday 10th September

Rothley Park Golf Club

Pairs Betterball Stableford. Tee booked from 2pm to 3pm. Dinner 7.30 for 8.00pm. Dress in the clubhouse after the golf is strictly jacket and tie. There will be limited spaces available for Old Ratcliffians to bring family member guests to the golf and dinner at this event.

NB – We are looking for a donation of a suitable trophy for this event.

For information on all these events please contact abe.mee@harveyingram.com or visit www.ratcliffianassociation.co.uk

The Reynard Golf Trophy

18th June 2010 at the Leicestershire Golf Club, Leicester

The Reynard Trophy was held on 18th June 2010 at The Leicestershire Golf Club. This year the Old Ratcliffians were very pleased to welcome along Mr Taylor and Mr Gilchrist from the College. Sam Bird (98), Rob Williams (95), Ollie Coomber (00) and Will Severn (00) also supported the event for their first time.



Abe Mee (92), Golf Captain, John Astill (89), Last Year's Winner, Phil Gilchrist & Nigel Taylor, both on the PE Staff at Ratcliffe

The match was played under the Stableford Points scoring system, with players receiving an amount of shots representing $\frac{3}{4}$ of their handicap. The golf was of a consistently good standard again, with half of the contestants scoring 30 points or more.

Dominic Howkins (00) scored a hole-in-one at the eighth hole using a 7 iron then went on to win the event for a second time with a score of 37 points (receiving 9 strokes). Dominic was presented with the Reynard Trophy and an attractive tankard by our President,

Peter Astill (71). I understand Dominic was also congratulated on his hole-in-one and his victory at the Reunion Dinner on 26th June.

John Astill (89) (receiving 5 strokes) was runner up with a score of 35 points and **Abe Mee (92)** came in 3rd place with 32 points (receiving 10 strokes).

We enjoyed a lovely meal of chicken pie with seasonal vegetables followed by bread and butter pudding with ice cream and cheese and biscuits after the golf at the Club.

The Reynard Trophy Match for 2011 is to be played at The Leicestershire Golf Club on Friday 1st July 2011, with the tee booked from 5pm to 6pm and a meal in the clubhouse afterwards. The cost is expected to be £35 again to include 18 holes and the meal. Anyone wishing to play should contact either Jackie Bennett or Abe Mee. A booking form is on the Ratcliffian Association website.

The Grafton Morrish Trophy East Midlands qualifying round is to be played at The Leicestershire Golf

Club on Sunday, May 15th, 2011. The finals are then in Brancaster from 7th to 9th October if we qualify. Details can also be found at www.GraftonMorrish.org. Any single figure handicap golfer wishing to be considered to play should contact Abe Mee. abe.mee@harveyingram.com

Many thanks to everybody who supported the ORs golf in 2010.

Abe Mee (92)
Golf Captain, Social Secretary



Dom Howkins (00), 'Hole in One' and Winner of the Reynard Golf Trophy

Grand Match Report

Ratcliffe College 1st XI v Old Ratcliffians XI

Sunday June 27 2010 at Ratcliffe College – Match Drawn

Under clear blue skies and in sweltering heat, the ORs batted and condemned the school to two and a half hours of hard toil. After **Tom Foulds (07)** was unluckily run out,



Back Row L to R: Martin Foulds, Daniel Sleath, Karl Smith, David Cox, Luke Welch, Freddie Bainbridge, Front row L to R: Tom Foulds, James Taylor, Louis Massarella

Karl Smith (97) and **Freddie Bainbridge (08)** put on a century partnership before Bainbridge fell four runs short of a half century. Sadly for the school, this was their final success as **Smith** and **Luke Welch (09)** got the ORs score up to 219-2; **Karl Smith** in particular treating everyone to a display of brutal hitting that left the school's fielders chasing far and wide in a game attempt to stem the flow of runs. **Smith's unbeaten** 130 came in just 68 balls, allowing **Martin Foulds (71)**, who knew that the Old Boys needed to win to regain the trophy, to make a most equitable declaration. In reply, **Luke Welch** removed **Tom Smith** early, but captain **Hugh Spillane (10)** and wicketkeeper **Mike Phillips (65)** dug in and started to accelerate

the scoring. However, just as people started to wonder if the school could pull off a shock victory, **David Cox (08)** snared **Hugh Spillane** and **Tom Foulds** removed **Phillips** and the school's ambition turned to securing a draw. Wickets continued to fall as only **Rishi Soni**, a Year 10 making his 1st XI debut, was able to stem the flow. However, when **Dan Sleath (10)** removed **Soni** the game seemed up for the school, but despite **Martin Foulds** trying everything to wheedle out the last wicket, **Ed Stiven** blocked bravely and gained the draw which meant that the grand match trophy stayed in the school's hands again.

Richard Hughes

Old Ratcliffians' Mixed Hockey Match

Sunday 19th September 2010

Old Ratcliffians: 5 Ratcliffe: 5

With 16 Old Ratcliffians spanning a number of years turning up, and a guest appearance from one of the Australian GAP students to once again take up the challenge of the young Ratcliffians, another enthralling match was produced.

Given that a number of the ORs hadn't picked up a hockey stick in a number of months/years, it was inevitable that they would make a cautious start, but knew that when a chance came it had to be taken. After a couple of wasted chances, a 'well-worked' short corner routine was expertly tapped in by **Alex Currie-Clarke (02)** to give the ORs a worthy lead. With a large squad on the sidelines for the score, the ORs realised that the school would have the legs on us for the whole game, so needed to play sensible hockey. However, this didn't happen and the school came back strong and took a 2-1 lead shortly before half-time.

An excellent through ball was calmly finished by captain, **James Taylor (04)**, to put the ORs back in with a shout at half-time with the score at 2-2. Apart from everyone taking on much needed fluids during the break, the message was to let the ball do the work and keep possession for longer periods to frustrate the school team.

The second half began as frantically

as the first with the school continuing to use the fresh legs on the sideline. The back and forth battle of the scoreboard continued with the school going up 3-2 from a good deflection at the far post before another through ball from **James Charnock (09)** sliced through the school's midfield and defence. This found **James Taylor** free in the 'D' to bring the ORs level with a reverse stick shot from the edge of the 'D'. However, the ORs were once again unable to hold on to their lead and the school side went 4-3 up until a clever passing move between **Alex Currie-Clarke (02)** and **James Taylor (04)** tore the school side apart and Alex was able to slide the ball between the goalkeeper's legs.

Again the ORs were unable to hold onto the lead and entered the last couple of minutes 5-4 down. With a short corner won with seconds to go **Alex Currie-Clarke (02)** kept his composure and slotted home the equaliser with the last hit of the game. With four substitutes to the School's XI, it was pleasing to see everyone put so much effort in, especially for a couple of the girls, **Holly Houghton (10)** and **Emily Harrison (09)**, who were playing against people in their year group. After an enthralling game, a well deserved draw meant that the ORs kept the trophy for another year. The boys now look ahead



Gareth presents the trophy to both captains, James Taylor and Laura Yell

to keeping the Thistlewaite trophy in March whilst the girls look to regain control of the netball trophy.

Thanks to everyone that played, from the most recent leavers to those that left before most of the people on the pitch were born (sorry Andy!).

For the second year in a row, Old Ratcliffian **Andy Yell (82)** played with his 2 daughters; **Sophie (10)** for the Old Ratcliffians this year, and Laura for the school. Not a bad effort!

Old Ratcliffians' Squad: Phil Lawton (08), James Charnock (09), Alex Currie-Clarke (02), James Taylor (04), Nick Charlish (10), Ben Palmer (10), Alex Keyworth (10), Andy Yell (82), Gus Kelly (10), Lorna Rowley (10), Sophie Yell (10), Holly Houghton (10), Emily Harrison (09), Charlotte Dolan (07) and Sarah Wynn (GAP Student).

Thanks also to **Freddie Bainbridge (08)** for umpiring.

James Taylor
Hockey Captain



Both Teams- no hard feelings!

OLD RATCLIFFIAN NEWS

Mark Fisher (92) has been working for the Virgin Group for over ten years now. He is currently focused on developing Virgin's international music radio business and has helped launch Virgin radio stations in North America, Europe, the Middle East and Asia. He lives in Singapore.

Jonty Myles (57) was 70 last December. To celebrate this momentous occasion, he and his wife Gill held an Old Ratcliffian lunch party at their home. The photograph records the happy event and pictures **Peter Casartelli (56)** and Sue, **Nigel Jewel (58)** and Myrna, **Alasdair Macmillan (58)** and Maggie, **Mike Waldron (58)** and Sue, **Dick Cunningham (59)** and Terrie and, of course, **Jonty** and Gill.



Celebrating the big 70!

George Marriott (07): "I have returned from my year studying abroad at the University of North Carolina Wilmington (UNCW) and have now started my job at the University of Hertfordshire in the Study Abroad office. This is a placement year before going on to complete my degree in Business Studies at the University of Hertfordshire."

Louise Jackson (91): "I am living and working in the heart of the Cotswolds (Broadway) and have two beautiful little daughters, Daisy (5) and Jemima (2). I'm recently divorced but am happier than I have been in a very long time! I am still in touch with a few people from school - Facebook is a marvellous invention!"

David Gallagher (65) who has been suffering from cancer writes: "I am in Monaco, and I had my first check up scan a week last Monday. The CT scan showed that I am completely clear of the disease at the moment, and I have monthly blood tests which, again, are totally normal. The CT scans will continue for the next three

years at three-monthly intervals, and then go to every six months for the next three years, and then to once a year for the rest of my life. The blood tests will continue on a monthly basis until I am informed otherwise. My hair has now grown back completely, and I swim for two hours every day. Although I continue to suffer various side effects of the chemo (numbness in my toes and feet, feeling very cold at times, tiredness, etc.), I feel that my life is back to normal, and am looking forward to going to my villa in Phuket very soon. I have regained a lot of the weight that I lost during the treatment, i.e. twenty kilos."

Hope McClean (nee Sture) (91): "After Ratcliffe I did a BA Honours Degree in English Literature and then went on to do a Diploma in Librarianship. I'm now a librarian working in Kent and I'm married with two children."

Sophie Yell (10): "Since leaving Ratcliffe, I have been studying Coach Education and Sports Development at the University of Bath, which I am really enjoying! I am continuing to play sports and have got involved with some new ones since being at the university, which are so much fun! Over the next year I hope to get a good mark in this year's units and have a lot of fun on the way!"

Bishop John Arnold (71) sees a number of Old Ratcliffians in London on a fairly regular basis. There is a group made up of **Charles Dewhurst (71)**, working as a lawyer for the MDU, **Jeremy Casson (71)**, a partner with Deloitte, **John Heaps (71)**, now Chairman of Eversheds Solicitors and **Andrew Pepper (71)**, now running his own business after a career with Tesco. They have been joined on occasion by **Martin Foulds (71)**, a solicitor in Nottingham. Bishop John also meets with **Adrian Toote (71)**, now retired from the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, doing consultancy work and working with Marriage Care, **Joe Manero (71)**, retired from Diageo and doing consultancy work, and **Nick Briant (71)**, retired from work as a solicitor and now in his final year of a degree in Theology at Heythrop College. He has also met with **Peter Hurrell (67)** and **Bill Hurrell (71)**, both in business with their brother **Gerard (74)**.



John Arnold (71)

Peter Bankart (43) wrote: "Hello from New Zealand! The Bankart family is still going strong over in this part of the world. I'm now 85 years old and still in my photographic practice. Keeping fit too and visiting my family wherever they are. My Ratcliffe days are well remembered and have always had a special place in my life. My regards to all my old friends and I'll catch up more later."



Peter Bankart (43)

Clem Maginniss (74) is serving at HQ Land Forces with the Army Medical Directorate. He keeps in touch with other 74-ers: **Paul Morris**, **Chris Parker** and **David Simmons**. Victoria and Edward Grundy, currently at Ratcliffe, are relatives.

Paddy Scannell (62): "After many years working at the University of Westminster, I crossed the Atlantic in 2006 to join the Department of Communication Studies at the University of Michigan in the pleasant town of Ann Arbor, twenty or so miles west of Detroit. I have been an American professor for the last four years and I'm enjoying it enormously. I hope to continue full time through to my mid seventies. At the moment (Fall semester 2010), I'm in Philadelphia as a visiting fellow at the Annenberg School of Communication, University of Pennsylvania. I have two sons, Leo and David (both in their thirties) by my first marriage and a daughter,

Sonia (24) by my present marriage. My wife, Suzanne, is from South Africa where we'll be spending Christmas 2010."



Paddy Scannell (62)

Martin Cresswell (34) wrote: "I have had a fall and broken my hip and now stagger about with two sticks. My 93rd birthday was a few days ago. I have kept in contact with Brother **Tony Primavesi (36)** who is in a care home in Rugby. We went through Ratcliffe together from 1927 to 1934 in my case, but Tony stayed on, entered the Order and taught at Ratcliffe for many years. I am expecting my second grandchild in January. Another contemporary is **Peter Gould (36)** who was in a care home in Virginia Water but I have not heard from him for some time. The rest of us, e.g. **Wing Commander Ted Donovan (33)**, I look forward to meeting again in Heaven in the not too distant future, and may God please bless us all."

Patch Match 2010: In order to commemorate the 10th Anniversary of the death of **Patrick 'Patch' Gamble** a special Golf Day was arranged at Rothley Park Golf Club on 20th April. It was attended by a host of Old Ratcliffians, many of whom came from Patch's year (97).



Andrew Espinasse (97), Sam Bird (97), Mike O'Keefe & Jordan Price (97) at the Patch Match

Peter Coxe (72): "This year was a sad one for our family as Dad died on July 28th and Mum on November 10th.

Her Russell brothers and some of her Russell nephews and Gamble cousins were also Ratcliffians. May they rest in peace."

Richard Lyons (78): "I'm still working for Reuters. I returned to Surrey in 2008 after a four year stint in Geneva. I kept the house in France, where we now spend all school holidays. The kids are fluent in French and skiing! I continue to enjoy a healthy work/life balance, although I'm finding the prospect of redundancy/early retirement increasingly inviting. I still hear regularly from **Phil Daly (78)**."



The Lyons Family

Julien Porisse (81) wrote: "I have lived in Sao Paulo, Brazil, since 2008. I am an artist and I paint in Sao Paulo (www.corcoranart.com.br). I also own Irish pubs in Paris. I went to the Florence Biennale last December and also the Salon des Indépendants in Paris. I see **Tim Livesey (81)** every so often when he comes to Paris for the Autumn International Rugby matches, and speak to **Fred Coombes (80)** on Facebook. My father is living in Cannes and in Ireland (**Julien Porisse (45)**). He is also an artist, as is my twin **Liam (80)**. **Michael (84)** and **Vivienne (80)** are both involved in the five pubs we run in Paris. I was informed of **John Satterthwaite** having passed away recently. He was a truly inspiring art teacher and I consider myself very lucky to have crossed his path."



Julien Porisse (81) Junior

Mark Cleary (73): "I was at Ratcliffe from 1969 to 1973. I have been

Vice Chancellor of the University of Bradford since 2007. I have two boys (aged 17 and 23). One other item that might be of interest is that my mother (Dorothy Orton), who was married to **Herbert Orton** (a History teacher at Ratcliffe for some thirty years), died last year and is buried at Ratcliffe with Herbert."

Richard Draycott (90): "I left Ratcliffe in 1990, having spent three years there and two years at Grace Dieu prior to that. I completed my Sixth Form at Rugby before heading to Edinburgh University (where **Dom Magee (92)** and I shared a flat when he arrived from Oxford). Subsequent studies took me to the Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst (where I linked up with contemporaries **Ed Belderbos (92)** and **Duncan Cradden (92)**, and Cambridge University for a Masters in Land Economy. Much of my spare time was spent on the rugby pitch, as it had been at Ratcliffe, and I turned out for Edinburgh, Sandhurst, Cambridge and Scottish Students, as well as an interesting spell representing Hong Kong in the Rugby World Cup qualifiers.

Work has taken me to a number of different places, from London to Asia and the Middle East. Having worked for a number of corporates, I am now Managing Director of Stonehaven Advisers, which is a boutique investment firm which I co-founded. I split my time between Abu Dhabi, Qatar and London.

My passion is a charity called Future Hope, which provides a home and schooling for street-children in Kolkata, India. I stay in close touch with a few old boys, in particular **Abe Mee (92)**, **Chris Gallagher (92)** and **Dom Magee (92)**."



Future Hope, the Cricket Charity in India which Richard Draycott (90) Supports.

Catherine Burns (96): "I'm getting married at Ratcliffe in July, and cannot wait. My sisters will be my bridesmaids, as well as **Nuala Barrett's (nee Espinasse) (96)**

gorgeous little girl Caitlyn. My sister **Charlotte (99)** has just moved to New York, and is having the time of her life. She managed to emigrate and then run the marathon there in less than a week. **Maria (02)** has been promoted in her very glamorous job at Fred Perry, and is getting to travel all the time."

Fr Louis Beasley-Suffolk (60) came to Ratcliffe on 8th December to preach at the Mass for the Feast of the Immaculate Conception: "I arrived on the Vigil of the Immac and dined at the Rosmini Centre with the community, where we reminisced and had a drink or two, or more! It was lovely to see Ratcliffe in all its winter frost rising out of the mist the next morning and driving past the fields where once we had picked potatoes for our dinner. Every time I arrive back at Ratcliffe I have an overwhelming sense of delight and gratitude, not only for the years I spent there, but also because it has coped with the social demographic shift in culture so well. Being able to walk around the Junior School and the Nursery School was a joy. The highlight of the day was celebrating Mass with Fr Tony Furlong and Fr **David Tobin (59)**, Father President, and then unbelievably preaching to the whole school community. It was certainly a far more difficult task than preaching to a Parish, I must admit!"



Fr Louis Beasley Suffolk (60)

Paul Whitmore (91): "I have four-year-old twins (Maia & Layla), but sadly separated from their mum, moving back to London from Surrey in January. I did hear, though, that **Danny Bunnag's (91)** wife gave birth to another daughter, and also **Rob Urwin (91)** and **James Passingham's (89)** wives both gave birth to other children this year. In June, we all got together in London, which was fun. Dan came over from Luxembourg, Rob was over from Australia, and **Alex Astwood (89)** came down from Leicester to meet James and I. I also met up (the week

before, I believe) with a guy I hadn't seen in 22 years, **Humberto Faraco (88)**, who was in the Fourth Year with us, was over from Mexico, via Paris, and we met up in London. I also met up with **Natacha Bilinski (91)** and **Samuel Jesne** in Paris. Career-wise, I have been working for Standard and Poor's, a rating agency for banks and corporates, for about eight years or so in Canary Wharf. I see **Paul Ferguson (91)** occasionally, since he works next door at Citigroup."



Paul Whitmore (91) with twins, Maia & Lara

Liz Winterton (04): "After leaving Ratcliffe, I went on to complete a BSc (Hons) in Bio-Veterinary Science at the University of Liverpool, graduating in 2007. In 2008, I travelled to Borneo to volunteer at the Sepilok Orangutan Rehabilitation Centre for two months, where I helped care for orphaned orangutans, before travelling around South-East Asia. I am currently undertaking an MRes in Primatology at Roehampton University, London. In September 2010, I will be moving back out to Borneo to work as a liaison officer for the Orangutan Appeal UK for three months, before returning to the UK and hopefully working in the field of primate conservation."



Liz Winterton (04) Looking After One of Her Special Friends in Borneo

Matthew Doyle (99) wrote: "My wife gave birth to our second child, Louis Peter Conan Doyle, in January. I am busy with membership exams for my chosen medical specialty of Psychiatry, but also find time to promote Catholic Tradition in the

Latin Mass Society of England & Wales."

Mark Snutch (97): "I ran the London Marathon earlier this year in memory of my friend and father-in-law who sadly died at the start of the year after suffering with Motor Neurone Disease for just 14 months. A knee injury actually forced me to pull out with six weeks to go but I had raised over £8000 so I had no choice but to proceed, and after numerous pain-killing injections, I made it round in 4 hours and 1 minute. (My original goal was to run sub 4 hours - so close!) Thanks to everyone who sponsored me for such a great cause."



'Snutchy' (97) runs the Half Marathon in aid of Motor Neurone Disease

Guy Moser (51): "We went to Denmark on the weekend of the Old Ratcliffians reunion to celebrate my brother's 50th wedding anniversary. **Hugh Moser (49)** was at Ratcliffe from 1944 to 1949. He married Ruth Lind in Vinderup, West Jutland, Denmark on 2nd July 1960."

Simon Payne (98): "After leaving Ratcliffe I went on to Sheffield University to do Software Engineering and graduated with a First and a prize for Best Student. During that time I did some research in speech recognition and built a speech recogniser. I then moved to Cheltenham where I have built huge databases and other things."

Ian Law (76): "I am still living near Bolton and working for a small printing company in Leigh near Wigan. I still play hockey regularly and I'm also a qualified hockey umpire. I frequently visit Leicester to see my parents and family who still live there. Sadly, I never seem to have the time to revisit my old alma mater, but I always look forward to receiving my Old Ratcliffian magazine every January."

Tomasso Leonetti (84): "I have been living in Japan since 2001, where I invest in the real estate and equity markets. I also sit on some Boards of Advisors of large equity firms. I

travel to Europe monthly and I am not married (but still chasing Russian girls off the catwalks!).”

Amy Lang (08): “I only left Ratcliffe in 2008 but since then I’ve done heaps! In 2010, I went to France to make wine for a boutique vineyard and worked my way up to Third Winemaker there, taking tourists around and making eight different types of wine. After four months, I came back and had Christmas at home. On a very drunken Christmas Day, I asked my mum for her credit card and booked a flight to New Zealand! Nobody believed me, but here I am, almost a year later, teaching Early Childhood on the other side of the world!”

John Ward (00) wrote: “Having taken my leave of AIB, I now work for National Australia Bank in Sydney. I am living in Manly and loving every second. I have taken to the lifestyle down under with ease! The weather is helping (30 degrees in December is certainly agreeable!) and being next to the beach makes it feel like being on holiday 24/7!”

Matthew McMahon (98): “I’m now back out in Thailand working as a primary teacher in an international school in Bangkok and as a divemaster in Koh Tao! Life is good!”

News of the Stephens family (courtesy of Mark, the eldest):

Mark Stephens (88) wrote: “I am still living in Derbyshire with my partner Jacqui and two kids. This year has been another tough working year, especially in our recruitment businesses, but also a year for restructure and starting some new projects. I have mostly been developing a Social Media platform this year called ‘Ask The Experts’, which is a professional social media platform for the technology sector.

Richard Stephens (90) is living in Copenhagen with his wife Christal and three kids. Business is doing very well and he has expanded his design company into major retail market sectors for brands such as Hugo Boss.

Angus Stephens (93) finished building his house in the Costa Rican Amazon jungle this year. He came back to the UK for four months this year to get treatment on a back problem caused by a rugby incident last year in Copenhagen. He is still running a kitchen/restaurant in Costa Rica six months a year and also spends a few months in New York cooking at private

parties for Rupert Murdoch.

Ben Stephens (96) has finally settled down with his partner Clare Walsh in Quorn and they are expecting their first child in March. His design business and the bar/restaurant have both been doing very well.

Michael Stephens is completing his languages degree at Newcastle University, having just returned from a placement year working in Paris for a number of leading fashion magazines.”

Katjana Cleasby (09): “After leaving Ratcliffe, I spent a summer working as a riding instructor and councillor at a Camp America before going to King’s College London to study History and Portuguese. Last January, after receiving the Duke of Edinburgh Gold Award at St. James’ Palace, I auditioned for the London Philharmonic Choir and was recruited as a second soprano, now performing in a wide variety of concerts at the Royal Festival Hall and Royal Albert Hall. Having successfully obtained a 2:1 in my first year, I am continuing my studies with the hope of attending the University of Lisbon next year and finally obtaining my Grade 8 Voice certificate.”



Katjana Cleasby (09)

Miles Latham (03): “Despite the continued economic challenges for small business, especially in the creative industries, **Tim Cabrelli (03)** and I are continuing to grow Affixius Productions in number and stature. In the last year we’ve added four more members to our team and are continuing to produce video and design work for customers like The Leicester Tigers, Caterpillar, Royal Mail and The Guardian. We’ve recently launched our new website - www.affixius.com - and are looking forward to more growth for our Sileby base in 2011, after a bit of a rest over Christmas!”



Miles Latham (03) & Tim Cabrelli (03), of Affixius

Alix Farquhar (99): “I’m now in Hong Kong, having moved out here in June 2010 to work for Australia New Zealand Bank. The best bit about my job is that I get to travel all over Asia: Shanghai, Cambodia, Vietnam, Philippines and more. I’ve had a lot of help getting to know Hong Kong from our very own **Eric Tang (01)** - he’s shown me all the best places to eat, including Daniel’s Restaurant in Lamma Island. Daniel’s place is undoubtedly the best seafood in Hong Kong. **Billy Yung (01)** also dropped by a couple of months ago for the National Day fireworks. As Christmas approaches, it’s the usual Christmas parties and decorations are up everywhere. Hong Kong’s not that much different to the UK! There are some great jazz bars here too and next week I have my first Hong Kong gig, so I’m very excited about that. After that, we’re off to the Philippines for Christmas on the beach.”



Alix Farquhar (99) enjoying life in Hong Kong

Nick Jelley (01) wrote about his recent fundraising efforts: “Starting out from Old Newts Rugby Ground, we had great enthusiasm for the journey ahead. Each day provided different distances, routes, weather and inclines to make a challenging ride, but there was fantastic camaraderie throughout. As we were riding, **AJ Smith (03)** and his parents in the support vehicle did a fantastic job

providing assistance for repairs, giving route guidance and motivational support when required. They even struggled to keep up with some of the bikes at times, being beaten to some of the campsites. They regularly managed to appear near each finish point to provide a false indication of how far and what hills were left with the intention of providing motivation for the final miles! Carrying out a ride of this distance makes the idea of spontaneously biking 60+ miles feel effortless at present. On the final day, we all stopped at the Last and First Pub in England allowing all to regroup so that we could finish the journey to Land's End together. Riding into Land's End was brilliant and a big relief, with numerous people at the finish to cheer us over the line. The celebratory champagne was opened soon after! The whole experience was absolutely brilliant, and for such a great cause, chosen by AJ, raising near to £10,000. The intention next year is to get AJ on the bike as well to step it up for the entire Land's End to John O'Groats ride, which will certainly require a more rigorous training programme than previously carried out. I would recommend it to anyone!"



Team Jelley on the Sponsored Bike Ride

Paul Spencer (98): "The only news from my side is that my wife and I had our second child on 16th December 2009 - Edward William Spencer. I myself still work for the Lufthansa Group as a Key Account Manager for the UK."

Alain Gavin (83): "We had what we call our 'Badgers Night Out' – we meet up about 3-4 times a year. In July 2010, **Gerard Pinto (85)** joined us from Florida. We hadn't seen him since leaving. But then there are quite a few others we still have not been able to meet up with. This time we met up in Potters Bar. We had a meal and then went out clubbing. In the picture you can see **Eddie Cinquini (85), Gerard (Gerry), James Crossley**

(85), Joe Askew (84), Tim Dillon (85) and myself."



Eddie Cinquini, Gerard (Gerry) Pinto, James Crossley, Joe Askew, Tim Dillon and Alain Gavin (not in order)

Paul Rudd (60) writes of his sons: "**James (87)** and Emma had baby girl, Sophie, in October 2009. **Adam (88)** is now working in Los Angeles as a film editor and **Jacob (90)** has left VSO and is now training to be a teacher in London."

Gemma Lord (03): "**Alex Gamble (03)** and I competed in the Holme Pierrepont Nottingham Triathlon back in August (Sprint Distance - 750m open water swim, 20km bike, 5km run). It was a last minute drunk decision to compete which we made back in January last year, and I don't think either of us knew what we were really letting ourselves in for. However, after a few mock attempts at some training, myself only getting into open water once three days before the event and Alex not even that, we managed to finish it and my time was under 1 hour 30 minutes which I was hoping for. We loved it and both of us got the bug a little bit and are hoping to do more next year!

I started up my self-employed mobile massage work over a year ago, offering a range of therapies to clients, such as sports massage, lymphatic drainage massage, aromatherapy and reflexology, in the comfort of their own homes. It was slow to start but I now have a solid base of regulars from all ages, some wanting a pure relaxation massage and others a more deep, remedial treatment. Through a few contacts I have been very fortunate to get a foot in the door treating some of the elite triathletes based at Loughborough. These include Stu Hayes, who gained first place at the World Championship Series in Kitzbuhel earlier this year and Will Clarke, U23 World and European Champion. Treating athletes is always interesting and presents challenges, enabling me to learn and utilise new skills which I can adapt to non elite clients of mine who do sport.

If anyone is interested in having some massage treatment without having the hassle of travelling anywhere, please contact me on 07821 198951."



Gemma Lord (03)

Robert Leaper (40) is married to Elizabeth and has three children and four grandchildren. The couple celebrated their Diamond Wedding Anniversary this year.



Prof Robert (40) & Elizabeth Leaper Celebrate their Diamond Jubilee Wedding.

Alex Gamble (03): "This year has been an eventful one for me. I recently became engaged to Tim Slack. We were on holiday in Biarritz where he proposed to me on the beach at sunset. We are getting married next year. I have recently swapped jobs and I am now working



Alex (03) & Tim

as a fundraiser for LOROS, the Leicestershire & Rutland Hospice, three days a week. The other two days, I work for my own company, Arbonne Int., a pure, safe and beneficial skin care company."

Sebako Siame (91) is a Director of Goldman Sachs and is currently working out in Bangalore, India.

Mike Merriman (75) sadly lost his wife Rose on Friday 10th December after a long battle with breast cancer. The funeral took place on Monday 20th December at Rothley C of E Church, Leicestershire. Mike is brother to **Kevin (78)**, who died in a car crash 26 years ago, and **Chris Merriman (83)**.

John Plumb (53): "During the only warm weekend in May 2010, Jean and John Plumb were fortunate enough to celebrate their Golden Wedding Anniversary at their home over two days, with family and guests totalling a busy but happy 210!

Family included their precious children, **Nicholas (79), David (80), Michael (82) and Anne-Marie**, together with their respective spouses and grandchildren, with John's only sister Anne and Jean's 97 year-old Uncle Ron. John, who was born in Switzerland, was delighted to welcome from that country his only Aunt Frieda, together with Cousins Erna, Alberta and Xavier. Friends from as far away as South Africa included Old Ratcliffians **Michael Scott (53), Eric Hew (79)** with newly married wife LiLian, both from Selangor, Malaysia, **Anne De Graeve (79) and Simon Burns (83)**.



Back Row(L to R): Jo Plumb, Anne De Graeve, Nicholas Plumb, Michael Plumb, David Plumb. FRONT ROW (L to R): Anne-Marie Plumb, LiLian Hew, Jean Plumb, John Plumb, Eric Hew

Whilst **Bishop John Arnold (71)** was unable to attend our celebrations, he kindly invited us afterwards for tea and a blessing at Archbishop's House, Westminster, on Friday 28th May (the actual day of our marriage in 1960!). This followed our attendance in the morning at the AGM of the bankers HSBC at the Barbican Centre, where I was successful in making known verbally and in writing to a Main Board Director my concerns about the nature and conduct of British banking! What a day, linking up with Mammon and then God's Representative!

Victoria Meynell (nee Illingworth) (00): "Well, I have had a busy few years! After studying at De Montfort University for my nursing qualification, I started work at Glenfield Hospital within the Coronary Care Unit. After a couple of years there, I left the acute setting for pastures new in Primary Care. Only a short while after that, I obtained a Deputy Sisters post back within Glenfield Angio-Cather Suite. I am now currently working as a Cardiac Research Nurse for the University of Leicester and the University Hospitals of Leicester. I got married at Ratcliffe College to Matthew Meynell in December 2005. I am also a mummy to my two boys – Austin, 4, and Tobias, 2. I am also expecting our third child in early March, 2011. I hope all the other 2000 leavers are doing well."

Oliver Caven (99) is a Corporal in the Queen's Royal Lancers and has just returned from a tour of Afghanistan. He is off to Canada in 2011 for training, and will be returning to Afghanistan in 2012. He did a Peace Tour of Bosnia and has received two medals for the Iraq war, and a further medal for his involvement in Afghanistan. His regiment was recently on parade in Nottingham and Stafford.



Oliver Caven (99)

Tom Hazell (10) was recently sworn in as a Police Officer for Leicestershire Constabulary.



Thomas Hazel (10)

Jordan Boon (05): "Well, a lot has happened in the world of Jordan Boon since last year, with

the purchasing of a yacht (which I plan to sail around the Med next summer for a while) to the increased activity at TheTShirtMan.co.uk. This is as well as two new businesses, one in print management (PrintingSolutionsUK.com) and the other, website esign and management (TheAffordableWebsiteCompany.com). We have finally moved from our office space into commercial premises and have started trading under Inorbit Resourcing Ltd. The future is bright. Still living in Portsmouth, the winter weather is terrible, although the summers are beautiful. Long term plans are not set yet but 'I do like to be beside the seaside'."

Saraj Ekanayake (01) wrote: "I moved back to Leicester in 2006, and started working for Mattioli Woods, where I have recently become a qualified Financial Consultant. I also finally succumbed to getting married to Katie Orange in May this year."

Gemma Rumbold (01): "After graduating from Durham in 2004, I worked in various posts in primary schools for four years, before taking on a fantastic new challenge: renovating our run-down old village pub! We spent four months totally gutting the place, and then another two years building up trade. I'm pleased to say that The White Horse in Seagrave, Leicestershire is now thriving, and there are already new projects afoot! With a bit more time to spare, I'm now also working part-time back at Ratcliffe as a Development Assistant, helping with fundraising for the college, not to mention being roped in to help with this magazine! My sister, **Kate Rumbold (97)** is now working as a lecturer in English Literature at Birmingham University, and is enjoying living in Leamington Spa."



Kate (97) & Gemma Rumbold (01)

Tony Gibbons (53) now lives in Australia: "I have spent most of my time down here teaching Philosophy and practising as a barrister. But,

come the age of 70, enough was enough, for the moment anyway, and I retired. I just supervise some Ph.D. candidates nowadays and my main intellectual activity is writing.”

George Atkins (01) told us that building work has recently started on a two-storey recording studio in Manchester for his company, 80 Hertz. A record producer, George has worked with famous artists including Lily Allen, The Twang, Twisted Wheel, Dizzee Rascal’s label and Nigel Martin Smith’s management company. The studio is due for completion early in the new year.

Fr Michael Hill (49) has a new job as Editor of the Dunedin based magazine, Tui Motu. This independent Catholic magazine was first published in 1997. It is a ‘not for profit publication’ with a huge readership in New Zealand. Fr Michael has already changed the publication to colour but it still retains the original editorial directive. The magazine has a reputation for courting controversy and for tackling issues which changes as New Zealand changes. We wish him luck.

Daniel Bunnag (91) has recently become a father for the second time to his daughter Esther in November 2010.

Aisling Mitchell (nee Murray) (92) moved to Singapore in April 2010 with husband, Jim and son, Oisín and is expecting her second child in June 2011.

News from the **Classes of '97 and '98:**

Alison Mason: “I got engaged to Ben Court (not an ex-Ratcliffian, although a primary school friend of **Dom Brucciani’s**) on the 18th November. We have set the date for 27th August 2011 at Ratcliffe church and are having a reception at my parents’ house. We have been together for six



Alison Mason (97) and Ben Court

years. We’re both very happy and looking forward to the big day!

Emily Pring has left London this week to live in Melbourne, Australia with her new partner, Chris Thurlfield.

Adrian Fidler is currently training to become a Captain in the Merchant Navy.

Giuliana & Sam Bird are expecting their third baby, due in May.

Robert and Charlotte Hull (nee Berry) now have two beautiful daughters, the elder of the two, Annabel, is in the Nursery at Ratcliffe..

Andrew Espinasse is still working and playing in the East Midlands region!

Maxine Creighton is still living in Galway, working hard and studying for her Accountancy exams.



Gemma Kirk (02), Alex Gamble (03) and Gemma Lord (03)

Gemma Kirk (02): “I am currently working in South Yorkshire as an Equine Vet. Spending most of my time driving around the countryside tending to anything from miniature Shetlands to Thoroughbreds! Exciting highlights to date have been helping the Fire Brigade to cut a horse free from a trailer, making foals by the means of artificial insemination, putting a plaster cast on a Shire horse’s foot and stitching up a pony that had been attacked by a dog! More recently I have become accustomed to digging myself out of snowdrifts and skidding around the roads in the attempt to get to horses in the foot and a half of snow that has graced us! “

Patrick Galey (04) writes of his experiences as a journalist in Lebanon.

If you ever find yourself having tea with Hezbollah, don’t ask for sugar. Whatever other worldly delights members of the Shiite militant group eschew in the name of Islamic resistance, a sweet tooth isn’t one of them.



Patrick Galey (04)

Sipping the resulting diabetes-inducing brew, I am asked by a man who features prominently on most governments’ most wanted terrorists lists why I’ve come to Lebanon to be a journalist.

As a hack, it’s usually me who asks the questions, so it’s difficult to offer anything terribly insightful. I was a journalist back in London, I reply. I’m in Lebanon because it’s where my job is. I’m also here to get interviews with people like yourself, I offer, reverently.

The flattery seems to work and my Hezbollah official smiles back, almost as sweet as the tea I’m struggling to finish. I leave with a decorative, hand-woven bookmark – a gift bearing a gold-leaf insignia of the party of God – and a piece of advice which subsequently serves me well: “If you are ever in the wrong place at the wrong time, call us. We don’t want you to get in any trouble.” So ends another morning in Beirut.

I’ve been here for 18 months and I’m still no closer to answering the Hezbollah question: why Lebanon?

I won’t lie. The job is glamorous; one moment you can be interviewing landmine victims in the country’s conservative and war-ravaged south, the next you’ll be talking politics with UN officials and international ambassadors at a lavish Beirut cocktail party.

I’ve reported on assassinations, plane crashes, elections and torture trials. I’ve met heads of state, “terrorist” leaders, world-renowned academics and career journalists. I’ve worn body armour in the morning for work and a dinner jacket in the evening for pleasure.

Beirut still holds that oriental mystique; the one-time ‘Paris of the East’ became the Stalingrad of the Levant and is currently rebuilding itself as the playground of West Asia.

It's one of those places that's forever being "reborn". With the powder blue Mediterranean, golden beaches, soaring snow-capped mountains and verdant cedar forests, Lebanon is the Bible's land of milk and honey. It is also a place torn apart by war, by the fecklessness of politicians and the vicissitudes of religion.

My first apartment stood next to a lighthouse destroyed by an Israeli helicopter gunship 24 months before; my favorite café was the recipient of an RPG attack just 12 months before. Six days into the job I was covering on the roof of an apartment block as "celebratory" gunfire rang across the Corniche in response to an election win.

Learning journalism in London, I had often daydreamed of adventure

such as this. I came to Lebanon not knowing the first thing about the country, my research reading never completed. All the books on Beirut scared me.

Now I can speak Arabic (badly), I know my Hizbullah from my Hamas and I know what hard work it can be eking out a living as a member of the news media. Some people, when they hear you're a journalist, clam up. Some go silent, some tell you where to stick your notepad. You're either viewed with suspicion or courted with obsequiousness.

You never leave your job behind; the secrets you know, the traumas you witness, the risks you run, stay with you 24/7. But with the responsibility comes the satisfaction that it is you who is telling the world what's going

on. You're holding politicians to account; you're exposing truths that would otherwise go unheard.

It's a tough gig, but I've no plans to leave the Middle East. I came out here planning to stay three months but I'll soon be entering my third year in Beirut.

I have a friend who's been in Lebanon for 15 years, having literally fallen into a journalism job (she broke her ankle tripping down stairs and took up a sub-editing role to pay for medical bills.) I like asking her what will happen in Beirut tomorrow. Her favourite response pretty much encapsulates the place: "It could be sunny...or there might be war."

Tilinanu Another Year On!

This is the continuing story of what one Old Ratcliffian has managed to achieve in Malawi by the age of 21.



Alice's Princesses

Alice Pulford (05), now in her third and final year at Liverpool University, has devoted every waking moment to creating an orphanage in Llongwe, Malawi for the orphaned (mostly girls, as a result of Aids), in that area. You will have read that last year, as a result of the huge amount of effort and fundraising by Alice and

her family, the first stage of development was completed. However by August 2010 Tilinanu had TREBLED in size. There is now a greater living and sleeping space and the number of girls staying in the Orphanage has increased to 34.

They also feed 175 village children



Tilinanu Today

5 days a week and support them as much as possible. Their weight, height and health are monitored regularly and it is fantastic to see the benefits which regular meals and a dry bed can make to a child. This is a vital part of the support at the Orphanage and for this comes through the Porridge Fund and ultimately from the donors back home.

There is a fantastic large communal space where children, adults and grandparents can go to receive education, guidance, help and support, as well as providing the space and structure for a medical clinic, which will be up and running within a year.

Whilst Alice was out in Malawi last Summer, she and her other volunteers wrote a travel blog, which can be followed at: www.travelblog.org/Bloggers/Alice-Pulford/. Here is a

quote from her blog: 'When the girls moved in to Tilinanu, - their faces lit up so bright and their smiles were so wide. The girls were trying to take their mosquito nets down and hide them under their beds because they had never had one... they were trying to hide their individual towels because they had never personally owned anything... they immediately all showered, for the first few days they showered at least 4-5 times a day as most of them had never had running water. I am telling you - these children were so HAPPY!'

Alice went off to Malawi straight after her exams had finished in June with a group of volunteers, one of whom was **Hollie Stone (05)**. This summer a shell has been built for the Medical Clinic which is situated at the front of the building. It has been approved, supported and funded and will be open and running for the thousands

of villagers free of charge by this time next year. This has been a fantastic and magical step for Tilinanu and its community as this is what the villagers really need to improve their standard of life and health. They are also in the process of building a chicken hut which will hold over 70 chickens and planting more fruit trees in the hope of making Tilinanu sustainable.

None of this could have happened without the support of the fundraising team back home. Alice's mother, Yvonne, and sister, Nina, have been tireless with their fundraising efforts. There have been several events throughout the year. During May, Gareth Lloyd and the school gave the use of the huge marquee used for the Picnic Concert for a lunch, 'A Party for the Princesses', to raise money for the Orphanage. This was a splendid affair with over 600 guests and it raised just

under £16,000.

If you are touched by this story and would like to help Alice to continue to fulfil her dream for these girls, please go to www.lovetilinanu.org.uk where you will find all the information you need on how to donate to Tilinanu.

Jackie Bennett,
Editor



One of the Beds in the Girls' Dorm

BIRTHS



Joe Maskrey (60) & Sophia Maskrey-Segesman

Joe Maskrey (60) wrote: "Joan and I had our first grandchild born to our daughter Georgy Maskrey-Segesman and son-in law Tim Segesman on June 21st 2010 in Thousand Oaks, California. Her name is Sophia Grace Maskrey-Segesman and she was one month premature. She is absolutely beautiful, just like her mother, and as you can see from the photograph, she is the apple of her grandpa's eye."



Kelly Eaton (00) with Baby Marcella Brooke Eaton-Reynolds

Kelly Eaton (00): "Both Ben and I are proud to announce the birth of our beautiful baby daughter on the 28th October 2010. Marcella Brooke Eaton-Reynolds weighed 6lb 8oz."



Team Belderbos

Katie and James Belderbos (89): "We had our third and final (!) child, Felix, who was born on 31st August, bringing Mum and Dad's total grandchildren to ten. **Chris & Maria Matthews' (nee Belderbos) (95)** second, Ella, was born about two weeks earlier."



Mr & Mrs Andrew Mason (96) with Tomas and Baby Lucy

Andrew Mason (96): "We have a daughter called Lucie, who is 9 months old now - time flies! Tomas is starting in the nursery - I put him on the waiting list earlier this year, but we didn't expect we would get a place so soon. The school looks great now. We saw a little bit at **John Yates' (95)** wedding, but I had a good look at the Nursery and Junior School at the last Open Day. I hope that I will get a chance to look at the new Union, etc, in the New Year."



Ed Gamble (95) with Baby Wilf

Ed Gamble (95) and Harri are pleased to announce the birth of their son, Wilfred George, a brother to Huw, who was born in August.



Adrian Farnham (95) with Baby Esme

Adrian Farnham (95) and Hannah are pleased to announce the birth of their first baby this year, a daughter, Esme.



Gianpaolo Mantini (95) with Baby Albi

Mr and Mrs Gianpaolo Mantini are delighted to announce the birth of their first baby, Albi.

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

MARRIAGES



Mr & Mrs John Yates (95)

John Yates (95) and Laura Heppinstall

The wedding of **John Yates** and Laura Heppinstall took place in the Chapel at Ratcliffe College on July 24th 2010. John met Laura on the same Art course at Sheffield Hallam and was delighted to discover that she was from Burbage, Leicestershire. From then on, Laura was a permanent fixture in John's life and a large group of friends and family gathered to enjoy the long-awaited day. Fr Belsito celebrated a Nuptial Mass and a number of John's Ratcliffian friends were on hand to assist. **Luke Spencer (95)** came to play the organ, **Gianpaolo Mantini (95)** did the job of best man and **Ed Gamble (95)** read the Bidding prayers. Also there to enjoy the day were Amy and **Andrew Mason (96)**, Sarah and **Michael Murphy (95)** and **Malcolm (93)** and **Nadia Hawes (nee Chbat) (91)**. The Reception was at the College and thoroughly enjoyed by all.



Mr & Mrs Gary Tse (95) Pictured with John & Merrick Yates

Gary Tse (95) and Merry Lo

Gary Tse came to Ratcliffe from Hong Kong for his Sixth Form course and, whilst at the school, was in the care of Mr and Mrs Merrick Yates. The friendship continued through Gary's time at Oxford and the promise was made that Mr and Mrs Yates would one day visit him in Hong Kong. This year, Gary invited them to join him in Hong Kong for his wedding to Miss Merry Lo on November 21st 2010 and they were delighted to accept. The wedding took place on Hong Kong Island and then the bridal party transferred to The Shangri La Hotel in Kowloon on an open top bus for a traditional wedding banquet of 12 courses! At the reception, Gary spoke fondly of his memories of life at Ratcliffe and amongst the photos flashed up on screen of his life, there were a number from that time. Gary and Merry will live in Hong Kong but hope to visit England next year when a trip to Ratcliffe will be high on the 'to do' list.



Ginny and Mike make their vows with the help of Father Philip Sainter

Michael O'Keeffe and Ginny Gamble (98)

Ginny married Michael O'Keeffe from Botswana at Ratcliffe College's Chapel of the Immaculate Conception on Saturday August 7th. She was given away by her father, **Richard Gamble (64)**, in a beautiful and joyous ceremony conducted by Father Philip Sainter. Over 200 guests joined the couple from as far away as Australia, Malawi and Mauritius to celebrate their marriage. The reception was held at the family home in Gaddesby; the marquee was decorated in a British Colonial style which combined the couple's backgrounds. **Richard Fairhurst (93)** played the grand piano inside the marquee during a drinks reception and, later on, bongo drummers captivated the party with their infectious rhythm, whilst those present enjoyed what can only be described as a perfect wedding day.

The bridesmaids were **Jessica Jordan (nee Gamble) (96)**, **Lucinda Gamble (00)**, **Amy Clear (98)** and Hannah Farnham. There were also a large contingency of Old Ratcliffians in attendance, including **Alison Mason**

(97), Emily Pring (98), Maxine Creighton (98), Sam Bird (98), Giuliana Bird (nee De Rienzo) (98), Rob Hull (97), Charlotte Hull (nee Berry) (98), Andrew Espinasse (98), Ruth Jones (96), Rachael Mackenzie (nee Jones) (96), Lesley Parry (98), Nicole Parry (00), Samantha Spillane (nee Murphy) (91), Adrian Farnham (95) and Kathryn Jones (nee Farnham) (97). The Gamble family included Richard, Tim, Mark, Andrew, Charlie, Teresa, Edward, Alexandra, James, Simon, Francesca, Phillipa and James Browne.



Mr & Mrs Mike French-Gray (06)

Mike Gray (06) and Olivia French (05)

Olivia wrote: "On the 23rd January 2010, Mike and I got married at Ratcliffe College Church. Fr Belsito conducted the ceremony, which began at 12pm with Liam Devlin as Best Man, **India Hobbs (05)** as Maid of Honour and **Carly Wholton (05)** as bridesmaid. We were very happy that many other Old Ratcliffians from 2005 and 2006 could come back to Leicestershire to share our happy day, including **Katy Coltman (05)**, **Holly Dolan (03)**, **Jo Goodwin (05)**, **Tom Sleight (05)**, **Harry Murphy (05)** and **Symon Smith (06)** to name a few. After the ceremony and photography at Ratcliffe, friends and family made their way to Prestwold Hall for the reception, where we were met with mulled wine and a roaring fire to warm us up on a very cold winter's day. Mr and Mrs. Dziemianko, Mr and Mrs Taylor, Sister Vicky and Sister Lindy came to the service and reception. It meant a lot to us both for you all to be there and thank you again for your very thoughtful gifts.

Our wedding day finished with everyone waving us off as we were driven to Rothley Court Hotel for the night, before travelling the next day (Mike's birthday) to Dubai and the Maldives for two weeks on our honeymoon. Mike and I, as well as my parents Lynne and Steve French (nee Rowlinson) would like to say thank you to Sean Walker and all other staff at Ratcliffe College for contributing to make our wedding day so special!"



Mr & Mrs Saroj Ekanayake

Saroj Ekanayake (00) and Katie Orange

Saroj and Katie were married on 14th May 2010 at St Margaret's Church, Horsforth, Leeds. This was followed by a Sri Lankan Wedding at Hazlewood Castle, where the reception was also held outside among the blossom trees. It was attended by Old Ratcliffians, including **Helen McVeigh**, **Dominic Howkins (00)**, **Karen Grace (nee Kruger) (00)**, **Elizabeth Mapletoft (nee Bramwell) (00)**, **Scott Piecha (00)**, **Samantha Piecha (02)**, **Leigh Wells (00)**, **Oli Coomber (00)**, **Nicole Richardson (01)**, **Steve Jelley (00)** and **Roberto de Rienzo (00)**.



Mr & Mrs Jordan Price (97)

Jordan Price (97) and Michelle Card

Jordan married Michelle on 26th June, 2010 at a stunning ceremony at Stapleford Hall. **Andrew Espinasse (98)**, **Robert Hull (97)** and **Ian Fisher (96)** were all best men.



Mr & Mrs Ross Yiend (98)

Ross Yiend and Helen Moir (98)

Helen wrote: "I got married to Ross Yiend on 2nd October 2010 after eight

and a half years! The wedding took place at Bromsgrove School with a lovely surprise from Ross - he had secretly booked the Kidderminster Male Choir for the ceremony, which was amazing. Our reception was at Ross's family home just outside Bromsgrove with a marquee in his parents' paddock. The whole day was absolutely perfect, with the rain subsiding for us all day and a pretty good party afterwards. **Sam Clemons (98)** and his wife Charlotte were a big part of the day, with their two daughters being bridesmaids. **Georgina Spencer (nee Brittain) (98)** was also a bridesmaid, along with my sister **Sophie (03)** and best friend from university. My sister **Kate (96)** was also part of the wedding party so there were a good few Old Ratcliffians involved."



Mr & Mrs Ali Hall (93)

Ali Hall (93) and Katie

Ali wrote: "On Friday 27th August 2010 I married Katie. We had a small wedding at a local village church in Claypole, Nottingham, followed by a reception at Stubton Hall. We celebrated our special day with my two children, Jade (13) and Joshua (8), my new stepson Kerim (10) and all the usual family and close friends. Amongst the 200 or so guests were a few old boys including **Richard (64)** and **Andrew Gamble (68)**, as well as **Dan Rutherford (93)**, who was in my year and whom I hadn't seen for almost 10 years.

After an all too brief magical honeymoon in Thailand it was time to settle in to married life and reality. I am currently the Director of MediChecks.com, a health screening and blood testing company based in Nottingham."

To all Ratcliffians -

please let us know of any Old Ratcliffian weddings for inclusion in next year's magazine by emailing your news to jbennett@ratcliffe.leics.sch.uk.

OBITUARIES



Rev Fr Dennis Hare

Old Ratcliffian 1942-46

Dennis Hare came to Ratcliffe as a boy in 1942 and left in 1946. He was the eldest of three brothers: Dennis, Michael (51) and Patrick (53). He was a bright and serious student, not a boy who sought the limelight, but he was greatly appreciated by his contemporaries.

In sport, he became a stalwart member of the Boat Club. On leaving Ratcliffe, he joined a firm of accountants. On being called up for National Service, he joined the Royal Army Pay Corps. He enjoyed his time in the army, but on being de-mobbed in 1956, he joined the Rosminian Order. After a period of initial training, Dennis studied in Rome and was ordained in 1964. With his qualifications and his experience it was perhaps inevitable that he was called to look after the finances, first of all as bursar at Ratcliffe, then of the English Rosminian Province and finally, of the whole Order as its Administrator General. But Dennis was always first a priest and a warm, very cheerful member of the community he served.

During his years at Ratcliffe great improvements were made. The antiquated heating system was replaced, the kitchen and dining areas were modernised and expanded, the Sports Hall built and many other parts of the College were upgraded. Although his time was occupied with his administrative duties, Dennis ran the Boat Club for many years (including first aid repairs to some of the ageing boats!) and was happy to run the daily tuck-shop as this enabled him to get to know many of the boys. Later he organised the liturgy of the Chapel as sacristan and he trained the altar servers.

A great blow to the College occurred in 1978 when the South Wing was extensively damaged (almost destroyed) by fire. Dennis, with Fr Keith Tomlinson, set to work to oversee the repair and extension of the South Wing. Amazingly, within an extended half term break, temporary dormitories, classrooms and common rooms were erected and the school was able to resume normal activities ten days after the fire. A year later, the South Wing was reopened with its considerable number of Sixth Form study bedrooms. Further building works and alterations were directed towards the new Junior School and study bedrooms for the girls. With all of these concerns, Dennis always had time for everybody and never lost his inner tranquility.

Meanwhile, he was in increasing demand to advise in and direct the financial affairs of the other Rosminian works throughout England and Wales. This was followed by his appointment to oversee the accounts of the Italian province and to help in supporting the financial need of the burgeoning communities in Africa and India. Eventually he became the General Administrator of the Order.

In 1989, Dennis was appointed Provincial Superior for the English-Welsh province and took up residence in Derryswood Manor near Womersley. His great qualities enabled him to live serenely through difficult times. His outstanding virtue was his utter faith in Divine Providence, which was never shaken, even in times of great stress. He used to say in dark moments, 'When things like this happen, we know that God has great things awaiting us around the corner!'

After his years as Provincial, Dennis retired to Grace Dieu, where he became a much loved figure as a spiritual director to the young boys and girls for thirteen years. This was a period of his life which was particularly dear to him.

Dennis was a great example and kindly friend to his brethren and a devoted pastoral priest. The very large number who attended his funeral at Ratcliffe included Old Ratcliffians, parents of many generations and members of staff who had worked for both schools over the years. These were people who had experienced his kindness, his wise counsel and his priestly support.

May he rest in peace.

Fr Austin Baxter (38)

Remembering Fr Dennis Hare I.C.

My first impression, in the early forties, was that he seemed to be a quiet, yet observant youngster in shorts beholding the 'cabbage patch' as his new territory, having arrived from 2nd Division. It was only many years later that it became evident that Dennis was another Ratcliffian who had joined the Order.

The catastrophic fire in the College happened whilst Fr Dennis was Bursar. At that time, quite a number of Ratcliffe Old Boys, now Rosminians, were on active service in Rosmini College, Takapuna and St Peter's Gore in New Zealand. Being so far away, they could not join in the mainstream life of the Association, so the notion of a visit to New Zealand was born. Fr Provincial, Tom Kearns, was approached to endorse the visit of the President of the Association to go out there, accompanied by a member of the Order, free of charge, who would plan the itinerary and accommodation. Dennis was selected as having most need of a break. Dennis felt uplifted as he would see his brother, Michael, again, then at Rosmini College, as well as his Rosminian brothers throughout. His bespoke plan of action – so beautifully thought out – included the twinning of Rosmini College and St Peter's alumni with the Ratcliffian Association, as well as a Reception we hosted, to meet Ratcliffians and parents living in Hong Kong. I recall Peter Tabar, who was himself a Head Teacher, coming along to celebrate the occasion. The Premier agent for Musical Instruments was pleased to be honoured with an invitation. He was Chinese and Methodist and confided that he felt Dennis was indeed a holy man. Certainly, he has consistently remained thus – and a good companion, too!

May Dennis rest in peace.

Clifford Della Porta



Fr Dennis Hare with pupils from Grace Dieu during a Service of First Holy Communion



THE RATCLIFFIAN ASSOCIATION AND CUNNINGHAM FUND MAYBE ABLE TO HELP IF YOU ARE HAVING DIFFICULTY IN FUNDING YOUR CHILD'S EDUCATION!

Would you like to donate to this fund to help future generations have the benefit of an education at Ratcliffe?

It goes without saying that the trust would welcome gifts, donations or legacies to further its work. Michael Coker would be happy to advise on this.

As a registered charity such gifts would be made by Gift Aid and legacies are deductible for Inheritance Tax.

The fund is a registered charity and the amalgamation of four separate funds founded on the donations and legacies of Old Ratcliffians who wished to assist pupils to have the benefit they had of being educated at Ratcliffe.

At the present time the fund is capable of making grants to 25 pupils in any one year of between £2,100 for day pupils and £2,700 for boarders.

These grants are based on need, but having regard to the high cost of education this is not difficult to establish.

It was embedded in the Trust that preference should be given to the children of former pupils or to those of Irish decent. Therefore the Trustees welcome and encourage applications from former pupils, but also anyone who requires financial assistance.

The Trust also prides its self on helping in emergencies—for instance, the unexpected death of a parent or redundancy. We have found that we can usually help until the emergency is over or at least until the student's current course is completed.

Anyone who feels that they would be eligible for a grant should contact one of the following:

- *The Headmaster*
- *The Clerk to the Trust, Mr Michael F Coker, Field Overall, 42 Warwick Street, Leamington Spa (01926 422101) or email: michael.coker@warwickdc.gov.uk*

Both would be happy to discuss an application informally.



Roger Peter Carron

Old Ratcliffian 1945 - 1951

13th June 1932-18th October 2009

Born in Eastbourne, Sussex on June 13th 1932, Roger attended Grace Dieu Manor and Ratcliffe College.

He studied law at Cambridge and the Inns of Court, London. He was a barrister-at-law and a member of Gray's Inn, London.

He served as a Second Lieutenant with the Sixth Queen Elizabeth's Own Gurkha Rifles towards the end of the guerrilla emergency in Malaya. On completing his National Service, he returned to London to sit his Bar Finals at the Inns of Court. He was called to the English Bar in 1962.

It was during this period that he met his future wife, Eileen Dupuch of Nassau, Bahamas, who was also preparing for her Bar Finals. After a short stint in chambers in London, he joined East Midland Allied Press' Peterborough Evening Telegraph to prepare himself for a career in journalism.

He and Eileen were married in Nassau on January 13, 1963. He joined the family newspaper, eventually becoming its managing editor and a director, and with his wife, who became the third generation publisher of The Tribune, the Bahamas' leading newspaper, headed a media group that included the newspaper, radio and the Internet. In his spare time he enjoyed his weekly game of golf.

He was taken suddenly ill in October last year and died a week later on October 18, 2009 of complications from a heart attack. He was 77 years old.

Eileen Dupuch Carron

The following obituary was published in the funeral booklet.

"Roger Peter Carron, only child of the late Penry and Muriel Carron was born in Eastbourne, Sussex, on June 13, 1932.

For the rest of his life, the number 13, marked many milestones in his life. He considered it his lucky number. Not only was he born on the 13th, but his wife was also born on the 13th and was called to the Bahamas Bar on the 13th. He always said that all good things happened to him and his wife on the thirteenth.

He grew up in London during the dreadful bombing of that city and recalls as a little boy being hurriedly zipped into his little jump suit and, with Grandma Hanbury tightly holding his small hand, running to the nearest air raid shelter when the sirens started to drone and the V-1 appeared in the night sky to buzz bomb London. For Gran and Roger the nearest shelter was a cavernous bank vault.

He was only eight when Hitler decided to pulverize London with day and night bombing — the Blitz of London had started. He remembered the fires. He had nightmares of a magnificent city reduced to rubble. Fear was his constant companion.

His mother had joined the Women's Army Corps (WAC). His father was cut off in Sri Lanka, where he had a law practice and extensive estates. Roger was raised by his grandmother during those terrible years. As the bombing worsened, he was sent as a boarder to Grace Dieu Manor Preparatory School, located in the lovely Charnwood Forest in the Midlands. It was a safe haven for young boys during the war years — a home away from home. Many years later his son, Robert, followed in his footsteps as a boarder at the school.

From Grace Dieu he graduated to Ratcliffe College in Leicester, Grace Dieu's upper school. He excelled in sports at both schools, heading the cricket team, and setting records in track and the high jump. It was then on to Christ College, Cambridge, and the Inns of Court, London. However, between Cambridge and the Inns, he did his National Service. After basic training, he chose a regiment stationed in Germany so that he could be nearer his mother and grandmother.

However, a select few from his group were invited to join the elite Gurkha regiment. He was one of them. Commenting on how staggered he was to read of Roger's death last week, Sir Jack Hayward, honorary chairman of The Grand Bahama Port Authority, wrote: "I am sure you know that to be selected as a Gurkha officer was very special. Officers were chosen to lead this magnificent fighting force only if they possessed extraordinary leadership and courage."

He served during the Malayan Emergency, which was a guerrilla war fought between Commonwealth armed forces and the Malayan National Liberation Army. It ended in a British victory against an attempted Communist revolution in Malaya.

It was this training that helped him face without flinching the challenges that he was to encounter in the Bahamas during his 47 years here.

It was during his preparation for the Bar finals that he met his future wife, Eileen Dupuch of Nassau. She was also doing her Bar finals. A member of Gray's Inn, he was called to the English Bar in 1962. The couple was married on January 13, 1963. They have one son, Robert.

Roger Carron suffered a heart attack on Saturday, October 10, and died in the Cleveland Clinic, Fort Lauderdale, Florida, on Sunday, October 18th."

Major Robert Tomlinson

Old Ratcliffian 1957 - 1960

1st August 1942 - 26th February 2010

George Robert Tomlinson died on 26th February 2010. He was born in Leicester on 1st August 1942, the youngest of four children, educated in Leicester and at Ratcliffe College until 1960, when he became an Officer Cadet in the Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst, from where he was then commissioned into the 2nd Royal Tank Regiment.

After further studies at the Royal Military College of Science at Shrivenham, he served with his regiment in Germany, with later attachments to the Ulster Defence Regiment in Northern Ireland, the Sultan's Armed Forces in the Oman, the United Nations in Cyprus and Sinai and the Ministry of Defence in London.

On leaving the army he settled in Hindon in Wiltshire, where he worked briefly for Allied Dunbar. He married Jocelyn who predeceased him.

There followed short tours with the British Red Cross in Central Africa, the United Nations in the Balkans, and security assignments in Papua New Guinea, Zaire and Kashmir.

Latterly he was an active member of the Royal British Legion. He attended Mass regularly in Tisbury near his home in Hindon. He was a keen horseman and winter sportsman. He leaves a sister and two brothers and more than a few good friends. His funeral at Wardour was attended by 300 mourners. The Mass was concelebrated by 4 priests, 3 of whom were Old Ratcliffians; **Fr Simon Giles (60)**, **Fr Louis Beasley-Suffolk (60)** and **Fr David Tobin (59)**.

May he rest in peace.

Nicholas Tomlinson (56)



Fr Tony O'Dowd

Old Ratcliffian 1942-47

1st September 1929 - 15th August 2010

Fr Tony was born on 1st September 1929, a native of Hyson Green, Nottingham. He was one of three brothers, Mons Peter O'Dowd (43) and Fr William O'Dowd (43), who were priests of the Nottingham Diocese, along with their nephew Fr Philip O'Dowd. May they all rest in peace.

Prior to attending the Seminary, Fr Tony was educated at Ratcliffe College. He trained for the priesthood at the English College, Valladolid and St Edmund's Ware. He was ordained for the Diocese at St Barnabas' Cathedral on 13th May 1956.

Fr Tony died peacefully at St Mary's Nursing Home, Ednaston in the early hours of Sunday 15 August 2010.

Fr Simon Giles (60)



Major George Friendship

1939-2010

I always think it best to write one's own obituary - at least you will get your facts right. Thankfully, George Friendship agreed with me and the first part of what follows is George's view of himself, which appeared in the December 2010 addition of Catena, the Journal of the Catenian Association. It is reproduced with the permission of the Editor.

George wrote: 'George Friendship is a Cornishman, whose father was also a Catenian. Born 1939, he was educated at Chaddesley Corbett, Worcestershire and at Downside School, Bath. He first spent just over a year as a Benedictine monk and when sacked from the Abbey, became a regular soldier for twenty-five years, serving overseas in Malta and three times in Germany. In 1983, believing that it was time to grow up and do something more worthwhile, he became a schoolmaster and a housemaster at Ratcliffe College, finally as Head of the Junior School. He taught Religious Studies, History and Theology and was the Colonel commanding the Ratcliffe College Combined Cadet Force. Joining the Catenians in 1984, he was at some time Circle Secretary, President in 1990/1 and later Provincial Secretary and Provincial President in 1996/7. Married to Jane, they live in Rearsby although their son and two daughters have long flown the nest. They have two grandchildren. Interests: Season ticket at Tigers, WW1 enthusiast. Francophile, ecumenism.'

Very few words to describe a full life but they epitomised all that was typical of George: modest to a fault, self deprecating, completely lacking in fuss and straight to the point.

It could be said that when George came to Ratcliffe, he had a culture shock. His man management skills, honed by his dealings with the British soldier, were not the most effective with the more sensitive Ratcliffe pupil, especially one who, when being told to do something, asked, "Why?". But George hadn't been a professional soldier for nothing. He quickly reviewed his strategic position, redefined his terms of engagement and revised his tactics. In no time at all he had become one of the most effective and efficient teachers on the staff. He was admired by his colleagues because he did the simple things properly: he taught well, he kept good order, he set and marked his work, he turned up for duties on time, he wrote his reports and produced them, together with his mark sheets, on time. In short, he was a 'Pro'.

His pupils quickly learned four simple lessons:

1. Whatever their ability, they should always give of their best, not for George's sake but because, quoting the advertisement, "they deserved it".
2. George always had their welfare and best interests uppermost in his actions.
3. They told the truth and accepted the consequences; lying was definitely out.
4. That George's bark, which could be very loud at times, was considerably worse than his bite. In fact, and he would be embarrassed by me saying this, underneath his stern exterior he was a very kind man and quite a 'softie'.

In the 1980s, Ratcliffe was undergoing significant change. It had started to take girls and had accepted day pupils. But it still needed to expand its customer base, and the only way to do this was to take pupils younger than the traditional starting age of thirteen. George had cut his teeth as a Form Master so he was an obvious choice to be put in charge of this new venture. His leadership and hard work in those early days laid the foundations for the success of what is now the Ratcliffe Junior School.

If George's early months at Ratcliffe had been difficult, they were nothing compared to the time preceding his retirement. George began to suffer from very severe headaches. Of course, he didn't tell Jane or the family - that would have worried them. But often I would see him at lunchtime sitting, sometimes lying, on the staff room settee, grey with pain. One day I dared to ask him what was wrong. He said in his inimitable way, "I wish those b***** doctors would sort out my blood pressure". What he didn't know - in fact what none of us knew - was that he was suffering from a massive brain tumour, the consequences of which affected the rest of his life and eventually led to his death.

As you would expect of him, George had planned his retirement with military precision. By this time, the family had moved to Rearsby from college accommodation and George, being George, had quickly involved himself in village affairs. He was appointed a Foundation Governor of Rearsby C of E Primary School, he started the Neighbourhood Watch in the village and had joined the Parish Council. He intended to expand on all these roles now that he would have more time on his hands.

Sadly this was not to be. Within a few months of retiring, George was operated upon for his tumour, which was quickly followed by a stroke. Nevertheless, he did as much as he could to live a full life. He still went to Rugby, still sang in St Michael's Church Choir and involved himself whenever required in organising church functions. George glossed over his involvement with the Catenian Association when, in fact, he had been a very important member and went to as many functions as he could despite his medical problems.

Another thing George forgot to mention in his pen portrait was his interest in railways and trains. Occasionally he would go on an 'away day' for train rides with his close friends **Fr Les Slack** and **Jim Hibbert** - Ratcliffe's version of The Last of the Summer Wine. If George's dry humour made him Cleggy I leave it to others to work out who was Compo and who was Foggy! Indeed one of George's last outings was a family visit to St Pancras Station to see the renovated building and to enjoy a drink in the Champagne Bar. Incidentally, it wasn't orange juice.

George spent his last few months at Berrystead Nursing Home in Syston and he died there on 8th March 2010. His funeral was held in the Chapel at Ratcliffe. It was packed with family, former colleagues, members of the Rutland and Melton Cancer Support Group, fellow villagers and friends. Inside George's coffin was the crucifix given to him when he was a novice monk and on top was a wreath in the colours of Leicester Tigers. The opening prayer was said by the Vicar of Rearsby, and the reading by George's friend, the Anglican vicar of Syston. The principal celebrant at the Requiem Mass was **Fr Tony Furlong**, a former colleague at Ratcliffe.

One cannot mention George without thinking of Jane. They had met in Dover when George was a serving officer and married there in 1963. George endured his long and debilitating illness

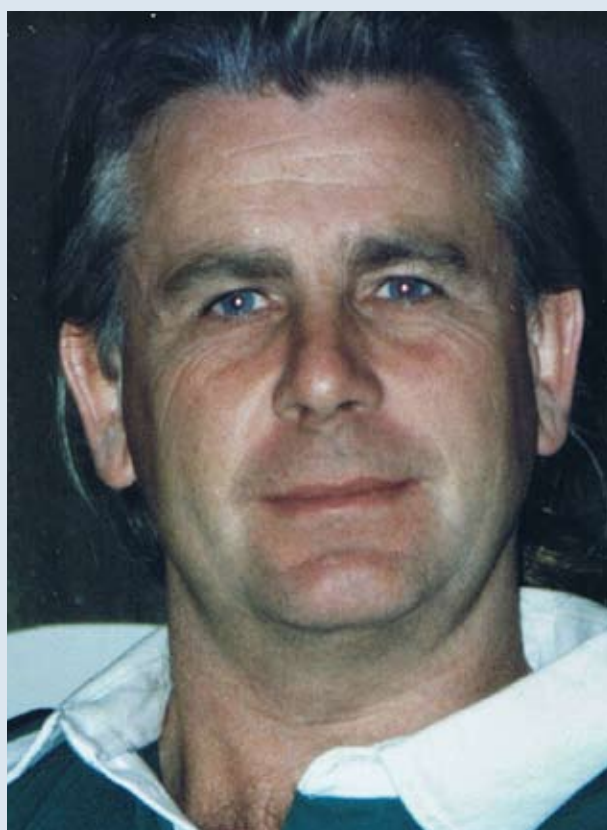
with courage and patience. Jane also endured it with courage, patience and love.

I worked with George throughout the whole of his time at Ratcliffe, so I knew him principally as a fine teacher, a reliable colleague and a friend. He was first and foremost, however, a devoted husband, father and grandfather and a very good Christian gentleman. I liked him a lot.

The last word must be left to Pierre Castille, his friend, who wrote in Catena: 'George had a high sense of duty and honour. He did things properly, he made a difference. The next time you enjoy a fine curry, particularly if it is accompanied by a good pint of bitter (George was particularly partial to Wells' Bombardier), give a thought to George, his family and his friends. They miss him.'

I'm sure he is resting in peace.

Peter Tickle
Former Director of Studies, Ratcliffe



Bernard Heffernan

Old Ratcliffian 1969-1974

Sadly we lost Bernard in April of 2010 after a five year long battle with cancer.

Those who were at Ratcliffe from 1969-1974 will remember him as an affable, easy going person who enjoyed his sport. He was well liked amongst both his peers and staff. He struggled with a form of dyslexia which made his academic progress difficult but he put in many long hours to achieve the best results that he could. Even though his efforts were not translated into high marks, his tutors could see that he was a 'tryer' and warmed to him. In his determined way, he took his English 'O' level three times, keen to succeed. Despite these setbacks he managed, whilst he was battling with cancer, to write a heart-warming book about his experiences and positive thinking surrounding his illness.

Because of his relaxed manner, genuine charm and interest in other people, he made friends easily. This was a trait he carried on throughout his life. He was often drawn to the underdog as he felt he had a genuine empathy with them. I feel that this warm ability that Bernard had was nurtured well by the ethos that was taught by the Rosminians who were at Ratcliffe during his time there.

On leaving Ratcliffe, Bernard had a number of jobs, many in the building trade; he was also a barman, gardener, plasterer, roofer, carpenter and bricklayer. A thousand bricks a day was no problem to Bernard as he was as strong as an ox and physically fit. He was

not afraid of hard, unrelenting graft and he lived in all sorts of places. Indeed his car was often his accommodation! In his late teens and early twenties, over a ten year period, his work and wandering nature took him all over the place. He moved from Leicester to London, to Germany (Auf Wiedersehen Pet!), over to Ireland and back to London.

After breaking many a heart on his travels, he met a girl, Julie, who he fell in love with, and when she went back to her native New Zealand, he followed her back to Auckland. They married and had two children, Briagh and Joseph, and Bernard never returned to the Northern Hemisphere again, except for holidays, weddings and the like. He loved New Zealand with its laid back ways and informal lifestyle. He bought land and built wooden houses, which he then sold.

Bernard was never one for material things and whether his luck was up or down you could always count on him giving you the shirt off his back - that is, if he had one! He was well-loved and he left his mark on all those he met. He never held any

grudges as he wasn't capable of being cross for any period of time. He would drive many people to distraction as good advice, often well given, was put to one side as he did it his way. He was his own man and a man with real presence.

My big loving brother Bernard is sadly missed by his own family in NZ, mentioned above, and in the UK, by his Dad Bill, Mum Margaret, his sisters Maria, Catherine, Odette and Julia. We had a beautiful memorial service for Bernard in Enniscrone, Eire during this summer, where we spent many a happy time in our youth.

May he rest in peace.

Donal Heffernan (75)



Dr. Thomas John Stuart Merrington ('Tom') Black

B.A., M.B., Ch.B., (T.C.D.) 1961, D.Obst R.C.O.G.

Old Ratcliffian 1945-50

30th March 1932 - 19th December 2009

Dr. Thomas John Stuart Merrington ('Tom') Black, former General Practitioner and Hospital Practitioner (Geriatrics), Wokingham, was born on 30th March, 1932 and died on 19th December, 2009 after a long illness.

Tom was born in Leeds, and came to Ratcliffe in 1945, having previously attended Grace Dieu. His education at Ratcliffe was funded by his uncles, **Joe Black (1889)** and **Charlie Black (1890)**, who had been significant benefactors to the college, including providing financial support to the Rose Window in the Old Library. Joe and Charlie stipulated one condition in relation to Tom's education and that was that the name Thomas be added as his first name.

At Ratcliffe, Tom had many friends and remained closely in touch with several including **Roger Carron (51)**, (Roger also died last year) and **Dick Galliano (50)** for the rest of his life. Tom was an able athlete (running a very competitive mile and part of a record-breaking relay team), a keen cricketer, hockey player, and an accomplished chorister, as well as being a regular in school productions.

Tom was mobilised for two years' National Service in 1952, during which time he was commissioned in the Royal Yorks and Lancs, Essex, and Royal Norfolk Regiments, and volunteered for service in the Far East. He was involved in Peace Keeping Operations in Korea, Hong Kong, and Japan. He went on to train as a doctor at Trinity College and the Meath Hospital Dublin in 1955 and graduated in 1961. After two years as a junior hospital doctor in Swindon, he became a GP in Wokingham at the Tudor House Surgery, and Wokingham Community Hospital, and retired from practice in 1994.

Tom's main professional interest was in Family Medicine. He was responsible for the foundation of the Wokingham Youth Counselling Service and the introduction of Marriage Guidance Counsellors to his Surgery.

He represented General Practice on many local and national committees, and was also President of the Reading Pathological Society. He gave his time and support generously to his patients and colleagues and to the profession.

Tom was a keen supporter of the Ecumenical Movement and the first President of the Wokingham Council of Churches. He encouraged close co-operation between local doctors and clergy. He was a Founder member and President of the Rotary Club of Easthampstead and for many years an active member of his club.

Tom became a very keen golfer, and his other hobbies included painting, fine art, photography, music, travel, theatre, singing, playing the piano, gardening, and entertaining. He loved company, was a great story teller and had a wonderful sense of humour.

Tom was a very much loved husband, father and grandfather. He is survived by his wife Joan, his sons John and Andrew and five grandchildren. He was predeceased by his son **Simon (80)**, also an Old Ratcliffian.

Joan Black, **John Black (79)** and **Andrew Black (84)**

John Satterthwaite

I first met John Satterthwaite when he came to teach Art at Grace Dieu in 1964. We were a class of twenty or so, installed in an improvised art room in the cellars somewhere under the present administration offices. Fr Bob Bell, the Headmaster, was keen to develop Art and other rather less obviously 'academic' activities. I seem to remember that his predecessor as Art teacher was a Dutchman, who went by the unlikely name of M. Martin (he doubled up as a French teacher) as his actual name was beyond the abilities of children – and probably the staff!

There we sat in the cellars, the walls painted a pure white to offset the dungeon atmosphere. This young, tall, thin man, with a mass of uncontrolled curly hair, dressed to our eyes somewhat outlandishly, then proceeded to horrify us by painting the word 'contrast' on to these same pristine walls. Soon the art room was moved upstairs, to the old kitchens, where various tools of the trade appeared over the terms – amongst other things a pottery kiln, a horse's skull, a gearbox. John was a tremendously enthusiastic teacher, with varying degrees of patience. His (friendly) terms of abuse further livened up what were already stimulating lessons. In addition to Art he also taught History; this gave opportunities for us to copy his beautifully drawn pictures from the blackboard – I particularly remember a New Model Army foot soldier. To encourage us to greater efforts he tempted us with a lesson on medieval torture methods – alas, something that never happened.



To his Grace Dieu workload John soon added teaching at Ratcliffe. A minor subject when I got there in 1967, he rapidly made it an O Level and then an A Level subject (possibly the A Level came first) and expanded his kingdom. In due course this went on to History of Art and then other associated areas and finally he created a new empire for Art, Design and Technology, spending most of his summer holidays one year in the College, ensuring that all was up and running for the autumn term.

John contributed much outside of the classroom: stage sets and props, understandably, took up much of his time. He was a keen outdoorsman and this was clearly shown to us when, on a Tuesday afternoon, a variety of ropes would appear on and between the Science and Shower Blocks as he took people through the delights of abseiling (Health and Safety would throw a wobbly if such a thing was tried now). He organised and led expeditions to his beloved Lake District and to the Peak District, often accompanying **Fr Michael Waters'** groups to the Western Isles, for example. He led History of Art expeditions, becoming increasingly more adventurous as time went on, with trips to pre (and post) glasnost Moscow and Leningrad being particularly notable.

The activities he engaged in at the College were, in reality, only one small part of John's contribution to Ratcliffe. Amongst the community and staff he shared a wide circle of friends, some very close, along with the respect of all. He was a very loyal man and always willing to help in whatever circumstances. His concern for his pupils was also notable. Pupil relationships, especially with some of his Sixth Form students, could be stormy: he insisted on people producing to their ability, which could provide the odd sticky moment. However, whatever temporary difficulties there might be, his pupils did realise that he was working for them and not against them and that he sought to produce the best results of which they were capable: a tough task master who knew his students' potential.

John embodied action and involvement and living to the full. He was always good company – we in the Order were fortunate to have him come out to Rome on several occasions after his retirement to enjoy our hospitality there. He had had health issues from an early stage in his life but he chose to ignore these and engaged wholeheartedly in those things he truly enjoyed, especially the outdoors. John unfortunately lost his wife, Diane, at the time of his retirement; but at least he was consoled in his last years by his children, Rachel and Ben, both of whom made him immensely proud.

John was buried along with his beloved Diane on a summer's day in the community cemetery at Ratcliffe. There was a good congregation of his family, professional colleagues and past students to see him off. John's great legacy, I think, will be not so much the department he established (which continues to produce students of a high calibre) or in the bricks and mortar that he developed, but rather in the lives that he touched, often in very different ways – those of his fellow members of the staff room and some forty years' worth of students, of whom I feel very fortunate to have been one.

Bro Nigel Cave (72)

A Tribute to John Satterthwaite

As his surname indicates, John hailed from the Lake District, a source of considerable pride to him. He was at school in Coniston and Ulverston before moving on to University at Lancaster and then Leicester, where he remained for the rest of his life. Despite this, he always thought of himself as a 'lad from the Lakes' and returned there often to see family members. (Not often enough though for his niece Helen, who always regarded him as the 'golden boy' – which indeed he was!)

I first met John and Diana at a drinks party in 1965 on the evening before their wedding. It was at a joint party given by the staff of Grace Dieu for the staff at Ratcliffe. I was delighted to meet a fellow northerner, but my main memory of the evening was of a tour of the new art room that John had created, and of the amazing artwork that he had inspired from such young pupils. This led to him starting part time work at Ratcliffe, which ultimately became full time. There he remained for the rest of his working life.

Once he became established at Ratcliffe, he developed Art and History of Art as major subjects in the school curriculum. Not only did his pupils achieve outstanding exam results, but also he became a friend and counsellor to most of those with whom he had contact. He genuinely cared for them

and they responded readily to his advice and wisdom. John was particularly good at relating to recalcitrant pupils (it takes one to know one!). At the other extreme, he inspired many of the 'A' level students to study art-related subjects in higher education, and a great many of them have become successful as architects, artists, restorers and designers, for example.

However, it was not only the pupils at Ratcliffe who gained from his presence. Over time, John also had an influence on developments of the physical fabric of the college. Former classrooms and dormitories were transformed into bright and welcoming places: corridors and public rooms were transformed from the traditional dark green and brown to friendly, bright colours. He brought colour to the school. A fine example of this was the Old Library. Formerly a rather gloomy resting place of books and artefacts for many decades, the 'Satterthwaiteian' imagination turned it into a bright and friendly Functions Room, much used for meetings and gatherings. Thus John clearly made a great impact at Ratcliffe.

However, it was not only in the school that his creative influence was felt. One of finest achievements was the rehabilitation of his own home. The O.E.D. defines a 'thwaite' as 'a piece of wild land made arable.' Satters made his 'thwaite' - a mass of wild, overgrown vegetation surrounding a tumbledown cottage - into a delightful, enviable, landscaped garden surrounding a refurbished, extended cottage. This was

the Satterthwaite family home for many years and it will be a lasting testimony to his great skills and imagination.

Even so, we shall remember him most for his personal qualities. John related well to everyone in the school – from junior pupils and kitchen staff to prefects and the senior management. Indeed, he related well to all people everywhere. He was generous with both his time and his money; always willing to give advice and to buy a drink (unlike some of his colleagues!). Despite this, he would not shirk from voicing his criticism when he felt it was needed. In short, a kind, generous, considerate, talented and good humoured man who we were all honoured to have known.

Sadly, Diana died as she approached her retirement, and this undermined the pleasure of John's imminent retirement. However, family, good friends and holidays kept him active during the remainder of his life.

He is already missed greatly by so many of us and especially by his family, of whom he was so proud. Both his children were educated at Ratcliffe, before going on to university, after which, Rachel became a solicitor and Ben an officer in the Royal Navy. Rachel and Mark's two children, Edward and Hannah both gave John so much joy and he was delighted to be able to spend so much time with them. Both grandchildren are now at Grace Dieu and so the 'Satters' tradition will live on through them.

Mike Batty
Ex Teacher, Ratcliffe College



Wg Cdr Greg Middlebrook Old Ratcliffian 1938-39

Flt. Lt. Peter Middlebrook Old Ratcliffian 1952-1954

Wg Cdr Greg Middlebrook, MBE, Royal Air Force Rtd, aged 83 years, died on 27th December 2009 in Boston, Lincolnshire. He was a long time supporter of the Pattaya Orphanage Trust in Thailand.

His brother, Flt Lt Peter Middlebrook, Royal Air Force Rtd, aged 68 years, died on 24th April 2010 in Brisbane, Australia, after a long and painful illness. He left Ratcliffe in 1954.

These two were the youngest and eldest sons of the Middlebrook family of five, a Boston family. The two other sons, also Ratcliffians, were **Martin** and **John**.

Greg and Peter wanted to do nothing else but fly aircraft from the minute they were born. Greg went to Cranwell. He flew 30 different aircraft, had three tours in the Far and Middle East, and two in Germany. Peter was a navigator in Phantoms and V bombers.

David Middlebrook (72)

Robert Peter Stokes (Robin)

Old Ratcliffian 1947-1954

3rd January 1936 - 21st May 2010

Robin (Bob) was the second of eight children and grew up in a lively, loving home in Llandaff. He went to Grace Dieu aged eight and then on to Ratcliffe with his brothers, Tony (53) and Mike (55).

At Ratcliffe he showed his talent for sport, especially athletics, rugby and boxing. He later represented the army in boxing in his National Service in Malta.

His father bought his three eldest boys Highfields Service Station on the Llantrisant Road - a garage, filling station and car showroom which they all ran together. Even though he loved cars, he soon had other ideas for his career. He decided that he would like to work in television and so secured an apprenticeship as a sound recordist, eventually becoming a director of news and documentaries.

He saw and filmed many things and was very proud to have been there at the beginning of television in Wales. He was lucky enough to have a job which he loved, taking him on fantastic adventures around the world and bringing him face to face with 'the great and the good', from the Hollywood royalty of Taylor and Burton to HRH the Prince of Wales.

His experience was so varied: filming the first ascent of Everest without oxygen in 1978, hot air ballooning across the Sudan and being the fourth member of the crew on the Three Peaks Race yacht.

He played rugby for Llandaff North for a number of years and hockey for Cardiff. He also played rugby and cricket for HTV. Some of his more famous recruits were Rachael Heyhoe-Flint and Lord John Oaksey, who became President of HTV Cricket.

In retirement, Robin enjoyed playing golf and spending time with his children and grandchildren.

Even though he was separated from his wife, they remained close. When he was diagnosed with cancer she moved in with him to nurse him, which meant the world to both of them. He died at home and his final days were filled with love, laughter, good humour and dignity. He had a beer and he went to sleep.

May he rest in peace.

Jonathan Stokes (son)



Tom McNally

Old Ratcliffian 1936-39

August 1922 - February 2009

Tom McNally died on 20th February 2009. His funeral and Requiem Mass were held in the large church of St Joseph, Birkenhead.

Tom was born in Wallasey in August 1922. He was educated at St Alban's Parish School before going on to Ratcliffe College. In his final year at Ratcliffe he kept a motorbike hidden in the grounds and spent many a happy hour riding round the lanes of Leicestershire.

During the war he served in the army in North Africa and Italy.

Tom met his wife, Maura, soon after he was demobbed and they were married a couple of years later. In the years that followed they were blessed with six children and, at the latest count, three grandchildren.

Tom had a wide range of interests, and at one time was a member of sixteen clubs! Tom joined the Catenians in 1961 and was a member of the Wallasey Circle for nearly fifty years. He played rugby for Wallasey Rugby Club and

was made a Vice-President some years ago. Although blessed in many ways, Tom had his share of problems. Most of his working life was spent in the family business, Mousells Removals, Storage and Shipping, which he took over after his father died. Unfortunately, through no fault of Tom's, the business was affected by a variety of factors and finally closed when Liverpool City Council placed a compulsory purchase order on its land. The struggle to keep the business going took its toll. Tom suffered two serious breakdowns and when he finally had to admit defeat, he began drinking heavily. With tremendous support from his beloved Maura, he finally gave up alcohol about seventeen years ago and thereby gave himself a new lease of life.

He threw himself into voluntary work, driving for RNIB, Meals on Wheels and for the local Social Services. He also worked in the local residential care home, only giving this up weeks before his death.

Sadly his wife, Maura, died six years ago. Thereafter, Tom lived with his daughter Kate, Greg and the children.

Tom knew some sadness and adversity in his life, but he faced his problems with cheerful courage and determination and came through them magnificently.

May he rest in peace.



Peter Gould

Old Ratcliffian 1928-36

10th Nov 1917 - 18th Nov 2009

Peter Gould passed away following a period of slowly deteriorating health on 18th November 2009. He was predeceased by his wife, Kay, after nearly 64 years of marriage, in July 2006. Peter remained a stalwart and devoted husband throughout Kay's final years and dealt with her increasing dementia with patience and stoicism. He stayed by her side until the very end, relinquishing their marital home to be with her.

Peter was a successful Chartered Accountant who was a (Sheffield) partner of Grant Thornton and non-Executive Director of the Murphy Chemical Company from 4th April 1963, where he also served as Chairman (1972-87), until his eventual retirement from the board in July 2001.

Peter and Kay raised three children; Josephine (1943); John (1949) and Philip (1953). Both boys attended Ratcliffe: John from 1962 – 1967 and Philip from 1967 – 1972.

Peter started at Ratcliffe in 1928 and, notwithstanding the physical impairment of a mildly deformed chest that was later to preclude him from military service in World War II, he rose to become a formidable opponent in the boxing ring and an energetic participant on the rugby field. He was Head Boy and Captain of Rugby in his final year at Ratcliffe (1935/6) and nominated by Claude Leetham (rugby coach 1933-43) as a member of his 'dream team' that was documented prior to Claude handing over coaching responsibilities to Philip Catcheside in 1943.

In later life, whilst living in Bakewell, Peter served as Treasurer to the local parish church in Hassop, Derbyshire and both Kay and Peter's remains are

laid to rest in the All Saints Church cemetery. Peter will be remembered by all who knew him as the consummate gentleman whose diplomacy and quietness disguised a steely determination. He was generous, always fair, yet never foolish. His family is immensely proud of his achievements and mourns his passing.

May he rest in peace.

Philip Gould (72)

NOSTALGIA

After Sales Service

I was at Ratcliffe from 1939 until the end of the 1944 Summer term. It was perhaps most unfortunate to be at Ratcliffe during the war years simply because we were all affected by air raids, shortages of food, clothing, coke for the central heating, petrol rationing, travel restrictions and shortages of staff as a result of people being called up. Dr W. Ullmann was interned as an alien - in view of his resistance to Hitler - this was very unjust. I don't suppose we boys even gave a thought to such problems, but rather took it all for granted.

In addition to running the Upper School, Fr Leetham became the RC Chaplain to RAF Station Wymeswold near Loughborough, a busy Bomber Command Operational Training Unit (No. 28 OTU) flying clapped out early production Wellingtons that had seen better days. In those years there were plenty of accidents, so a Padre was kept quite busy. Fr Leetham quickly

established himself and became a very popular personality with all ranks. The airmen on the station would do anything for him. As though Wymeswold was not enough for him, Claude also became the Army RC Chaplain at the big Army Depot at Old Dalby near Melton Mowberry. Finally, he looked after the small numbers of Catholics based at Ratcliffe airfield (No. 6 Ferry Pool of Air Transport Auxiliary (ATA)). Occasionally, some of the ATA pilots came and joined us in the gym for our Saturday evening film shows.

Fr Leetham's appointment to Wymeswold had great benefits for me personally. First, he arranged for occasional visits by groups from the Ratcliffe Spotter's Club to the Air Gunners aircraft recognition simulator where we held aircraft recognition competitions with the trainee air gunners. Ratcliffe always did very well in these competitions. The RAF were often surprised by the knowledge and flexibility displayed by our group.



A Young Basil d'Oliveira

A real plus was the RAF always laid on an abundance of good food which was quite something in the days of tight food rationing.

Secondly, at the beginning of the Summer term I had approached both Fr. Leetham and Fr Emery with a view to dropping a couple of normal academic subjects and studying navigation instead. This came about because I had been accepted for training at Southampton University in early August 1944. The only reservation Fr President had was his inability to provide me with a suitable navigation teacher simply because he did not know anyone in the navigation field. After much discussion, my proposal was eventually approved. The compromise was that Southampton University Department of Navigation prepared a one-off special correspondence course for me to follow. If any problems occurred then, Fr Leetham stepped in and tried to arrange for me to meet one of the navigation staff instructors at Wymeswold. He was nearly always able to find one of the staff navigators to help out with my navigation studies. The only problem encountered was a lack of continuity at times because of the rotation of RAF personnel.

I was accepted for a nine month navigation course at the Southampton University Department of Navigation starting in August 1944. The war was still in full swing and very few were being recruited to meet civil aviation requirements. In those days, civil air navigation was based on mariners' requirements. There were only two experienced aviation instructors and four air students in the whole department, plus a number of MN navigation officers upgrading their licences. The rest of the department consisted of merchant naval officers and cadets. Had I delayed my training until 1945, it is unlikely that I would have been able to follow an aviation career at all because hundreds of pilots and navigators, with lots of flying hours and experience behind them, were being demobilized at the end of WWII. Only 36 pilots were accepted for RAF pilot training during 1945 and I was one of the lucky ones to be selected. My navigation training no doubt played a significant role in my selection as none of the other trainee pilots had any navigation experience. A dual qualified pilot/navigator was an attractive commodity in those years.

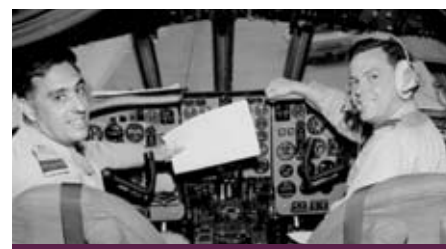
My pilot training took place in Southern Rhodesia starting in 1947 after which I returned to the UK and flew on the Berlin airlift, then converted on to the Dakota aircraft. Later I was posted to a transport squadron in the Middle East in mid 1950. I look back on my Ratcliffe years with appreciation, satisfaction and goodwill. I was a very determined young man who knew precisely what he was going to do after leaving school. For example, it never dawned on me that I might be medically unfit for flying!! It is to Ratcliffe's great

credit that they helped me along the way when at times this must have been difficult. The after sales service was exceptional. Here I must pay tribute to Fr Claude Leetham who supported and advised me over many years – long after I had left Ratcliffe. He was a man of great charm, passion and drive who clearly understood what makes boys tick and how to get the best out of them. To me personally, he always showed considerable understanding, interest, and concern. The advice offered was always very sensible and sound. He was genuinely interested in what I was doing and seemed to have an affinity and feeling for flying matters. Whilst I was in the Middle East, we kept in contact about once or twice a year. After my return to UK, Fr Claude occasionally visited me at home. Such visits were always very enjoyable and happy occasions even if my stocks of whisky became dangerously low!

Unfortunately, we gradually lost contact with each other as I was abroad on trips for an average of 19 days per month, and Fr Leetham became a very busy headmaster before he went to America. On one of my occasional visits to Ratcliffe, I came into contact with the new Headmaster (to me) Fr John Morris who I had never previously met. I found him particularly hospitable and welcoming and was always very interested in what I had been doing. He persuaded me to give some travel talks to senior students. Over the next few years, these talks became very popular and well attended. I was also able to bring a helicopter up for the day and give many boys 'experience flights' around the college. Finally, in February 1968, I was able to offer a place to one of the senior boys on a round the world VIP flight. Unfortunately, I was unable to fly this trip myself due to higher priorities, so **Peter Akehurst**, joined the crew at Lyneham and my deputy took Peter on a one month trip to the Far East, North America, Australia and New Zealand. Peter's aircraft left Lyneham on March 21st 1968 for the trip of a lifetime.

Between 1956 and 1976 I was involved in planning and operating long haul VIP flights. During this period I was privileged to fly many of the world's leaders on their global travels. Passengers carried included Kings, Queens, Presidents, Foreign Royalty, Secretary-General of NATO, Prime Ministers, Cabinet Ministers, Ambassadors, Service chiefs, and fighter escorts to name but some. All in all, I undertook over 700 VIP flights.

The responsibility for long haul VIP flights lay with No. 216 Squadron of Royal Air Force Transport Command who maintained three Comet 4Cs, with executive fits for tasking on a daily basis.



d'Oliveira (left) on board Comet 4

To explain the structure for arranging VIP flights, the Queen's Flight was used for short haul flights. I was never on the Queen's Flight itself but obviously worked very closely with them on Royal Flight matters.

VIP flying can be quite demanding at times and requires accuracy in both the detailed planning and in the actual flying of the aircraft. Just to give you a taster as to what is involved, most flights involve reception committees, guards of honour, red carpets etc. or some other form of arrival ceremonial. Perhaps the most unusual, spectacular, and colourful ceremonial departure I have ever seen occurred at the end of the State Visit to Thailand when flying HM the Queen from Chiang Mai to Utapo. The airfield apron was covered by dozens of colourful elephants, and thousands of people in national dress.

As Captain, my job was to arrive at the spot specified, on time, with the aircraft nose wheel on the spot and with the aircraft pointing in the correct direction. As far as timing is concerned, the aim is to stop the aircraft on the spot position within ± 15 seconds of the specified arrival time. Such accuracy was invariably achieved.

Sadly, the UK no longer maintains a VIP Squadron, or the Queen's Flight, both of which have been disbanded on the altar of false economics. Most countries maintain (even small ones), aircraft for VIP purposes. Instead, the UK now seems to prefer chartering from British Airways. Somebody should check the bills! My experience is that the UK loses international prestige by not having its own dedicated aircraft.

Ratcliffe provided a very good start to life and flying has proved to be an interesting and rewarding career fully up to early expectations. Indeed, I would go further and say that I have never done a day's work in my life but have only indulged in my hobbies and interests! I have not mentioned two other careers which I have been involved with – first, a secondment to DfT as the Senior Aviation Adviser to the Secretary of State for Transport, and second, a freelance yachting journalist (1977-2010) but that's another story.

22 November, 2010
Basil D'Oliveira (44) OBE, FRIN

DIARY DATES 2011

Friday 11th February	The London Dinner - St Etheldreda's, Ely Place
Friday 18th February	The Ratcliffian Association Sports Dinner, Ratcliffe College
Sunday 6th March	11.30 am Council Meeting 2.00 pm Hockey/Netball/Football Old Ratcliffians v Ratcliffe
Friday 29th April – 1st May	Ratcliffian Association Retreat, Ratcliffe College (This year's Retreat will be given by Fr David Tobin, Fr President)
Friday 13th May	The Ratcliffian Association Birmingham Dinner at the Bank Restaurant, Brindley Place, Birmingham
Friday, 15th May	Grafton Morrish Public Schools Golf Qualifier, Leicestershire Golf Club
Friday, 1st July	Reynard Golf Tournament, Leicestershire Golf Club - 5 pm
Saturday 2nd July	Reynard Golf Tournament, Leicestershire Golf Club Ratcliffian Mass to Celebrate the Feast day of the Blessed Antonio Rosmini (time tba) Reunion Dinner, The Refectory, Ratcliffe College
Sunday 3rd July	10.30am Mass for deceased Old Ratcliffians 11.30 am Council Meeting 12.00 pm AGM & Grand Match
Friday 15th July – 22nd July	Ratcliffian Association Pilgrimage to Lourdes
Friday 9th September	Benefactors' Mass
Saturday 10th September	Old Ratcliffians' Autumn Golf Trophy, Rothley Park Golf Club, 12 pm
Sunday 18th September	Mixed Hockey Match ORs v Ratcliffe
Friday 14th October	Past Presidents' Dinner, Ratcliffe College
Sunday 20h November	11.30 am Council Meeting

For details of any of the above, please contact Jackie Bennett at admin@ratcliffianassociation.com or tel: 01509 815445.



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