

RATCLIFFIAN ASSOCIATION



THE OLD RATCLIFFIAN 2011

Edition XIV

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A Message from your President



Bishop John Arnold (71) pictured at his Investiture as a Bishop with the Class of '71

“I must say that I felt very flattered when approached about the possibility of being elected President of the Old Ratcliffian Association for this year. It softened the blow of realising that it is already forty years since my year left the College. I do not really mind being the age that I am, but I am slightly alarmed at the speed with which I have arrived at 58! Where did those decades go?

The reunion at the College in June brought together a great variety of characters from my year – about half of the students of '71 were able to put in an appearance over the weekend. It was wonderful to see them again. Life has treated us differently and our journeys showed a great variety of careers and experiences. Some might have said that their lives had followed something of their ambitions

and expectations as they left Ratcliffe; others had certainly found themselves going in very unexpected directions.

My year as President of the Association coincides with my becoming Chair of Trustees of Cafod. I feel privileged to represent the bishops of England and Wales in Cafod's work which, I must say, I find encouraging and challenging. In recent years, I have been able to meet Cafod's partners in Sri Lanka, East Timor, Uganda and Kenya, but this summer I have travelled with them to Congo, Rwanda and the drought-ridden area of Kenya. In a sense, this recent trip was different from others. Until now, I had seen places where the Cafod partnership had made significant contributions to development and change. In Sri Lanka, we were able to give the keys

to new houses to families who had lost everything in the tsunami. In Uganda, there were new farming communities showing their produce, which not only met their need, but left them with surplus for trading in local markets. In East Timor, there were cooperatives that not only trained people with new skills, but also provided wages for families.

I thank Cafod for its constant reminder to us all that we can make a difference and that our gifts, no matter how small, can change people's lives. Seeing the work of Cafod and meeting with the generosity of people like the Turkana also challenge me about the way I live, and my priorities.

Thinking in terms of Ratcliffe, I hope that the school will continue to challenge each individual to discover the gifts that they have and to use those gifts to make a difference in our world. And my keenest hope will be that those leaving the College will take with them a lively sense of Faith and a realisation that each has the privilege and the challenge of being nothing less than, as St Paul would have it, 'Ambassadors for Christ'. Gifts, Faith and Mission will transform our world.”

Bishop John Arnold (71)
 Auxiliary Bishop of Westminster
 President of the Ratcliffian Association

A Letter from the Headmaster

Dear Old Ratcliffians,

Once again, it has been an honour to meet former students of Ratcliffe College over the past year at various functions, including the London, Birmingham and – for the first time ever – Washington DC Dinners. The Washington Dinner was especially memorable, organised magnificently by **Eugene McCarthy (61)** and his wonderful wife, Mandy. The event was held at the Cosmos Club on a day when temperatures soared to 108 degrees! Whether you have been a recent leaver or one of greater 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.

We have enjoyed an inspired year over the past twelve months. We have witnessed excellent standards of teaching and learning; an extraordinary range of opportunities for children to develop skills, talents and personal qualities outside the classroom; and the outstanding pastoral care within the Boarding House and indeed throughout the School. Be assured that 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.

Much was said last year about the excellence of our School, the students' learning, the variety of teaching methods used to stimulate our children, the beautiful environment, and so on, all contained within the Independent Schools' Inspection Report. Yet truly meaningful education is about much more than academic success alone. As Pope Benedict XVI said in his address last September to the teachers of the United Kingdom: "The task of a teacher is not simply to impart information or to provide training in skills intended to deliver some economic benefit to society; education is not and must never be considered as purely utilitarian. It is about forming the human person, equipping him or her to live life to the full – in short, it is about imparting wisdom. And true wisdom



Mr Gareth P Lloyd with his wife, Katharine & their three children

is inseparable from knowledge of the Creator, for 'both we and our words are in His hands, as are all understanding and skill in crafts'" (a quotation from the Book of Wisdom).

The word 'education' stems from the Latin *educere*. This does not translate as cram in as many facts as possible so that teachers meet Government targets on numeracy and literacy; neither, from the student's point of view, does it translate as keeping one's teachers and parents happy by doing nothing else but study. *Educere* means to draw forth; it places the onus upon all educators, parents and teachers alike, working in close partnership with each other, to give our young people every opportunity possible to explore the world around us, and to enable them to draw their own conclusions, hopefully underpinned by the Gospel values of universal respect and welcome which we consistently emphasise at Ratcliffe. My simple mantra to the students is to work hard – to access opportunities later in life, so that they may exercise both morally informed and materially beneficial choice; to play hard – to develop life-skills such as leadership, teamwork, motivation, self-discipline, integrity and perseverance, through sport, music, drama, the Combined Cadet Force and The Duke of Edinburgh Award,

along with a plethora of other activities that run throughout the week and over the weekends; and to look after each other – to show consistent respect, understanding and support of others, regardless of background. These are the qualities that I believe prepare Ratcliffe students in the most meaningful manner for life after School and once they leave home, to join you within the auspicious ranks of Old Ratcliffians.

In all that we do, as staff and students, we remain deeply committed to upholding our School Motto, Charity is the Fulfilment of the Law. I am immensely proud of my teaching and support Staff and, of course, all our students, and I thank them on your behalf for their unstinting support of me in leading this fine community.

I would especially like to thank you, the Old Ratcliffians, for your continued support of Ratcliffe College. May you and your family be blessed with good health and happiness in the year ahead; I do hope that I shall have the pleasure of meeting you at Old Ratcliffian events.

God bless,
With warmest wishes,
Mr Gareth P. Lloyd
Headmaster

The Editor's Column

Life here at Ratcliffe continues at a pace fuelled by the enormous energy of our headmaster, whose appetite for work is endless. This enthusiasm is infectious and is proving to be an inspiration to all around him.

We have regular meetings to discuss ways in which Old Ratcliffians' expertise and enthusiasm for their alma mater can be transferred to the students. The Culture Club meetings on Wednesday evenings in the Sixth Form Centre are one such platform for this, as are work placements for our students across the various professions and industries. Old Ratcliffian **Louise Marsden (91)** came in to school in May to address the Year 13 Leavers at an event put on by the Association. The purpose of her visit was to talk to the students about the Ratcliffian Association and its ethos and how it can give them the same sense of belonging which being a pupil from Ratcliffe can give, not only whilst at school, but throughout one's life. She spoke about the importance of the friendships made at school which, for the most part,

continue to be a link between them and the school years after they have left. Louise told them how she would never have dreamed that she would be standing in front of a group of 18 year olds telling them how important school had been to her. She admitted to being a rebel whilst at Ratcliffe. Louise is now a parent with children at Grace Dieu and is soon to become a governor at Ratcliffe.

My role as Association Secretary continues to develop, this year more than ever with the appointment of Old Ratcliffian, **Andrew Yell (82)**, as Development Director and his assistant, Old Ratcliffian, **Gemma Rumbold (01)**. Now that the Governors have placed the future development of the College at the top of the agenda, the link between the Association and the College becomes even more crucial. I now form part of their team and, whilst I am still responsible for the same tasks as before, there is without doubt a greater sense of urgency and importance to the role of the alumni in this overall plan.



Jackie Bennett pictured with Fr Simon Giles (60), President of the Association, at the London Dinner

This has been a busy year, with events taking place across the world, from Washington to Birmingham. The Ratcliffian Association's fundraising committee organised a Sports Dinner in February which raised nearly £5000 for the Association. Next year, other dinners are planned in North America, Hong Kong, Yorkshire and Rome as well as the annual London Dinner. Andrew also has plans for various other events which will raise the profile of the College and some well-needed funds for the developments planned in the future. Further details will be available in 2012.

I would also like to take this opportunity of thanking **Bishop John Arnold (71)** for giving up his time to become President of the Association. He has a punishing work schedule which allows him little time for other activities, but he has chosen to put the Association at the top of his agenda, for which we are most grateful.

I would also like to thank **Abe Mee (92)** for agreeing to become his Vice President. Abe is a partner in a Leicester law firm and also has a very young family. Abe has devoted a huge amount of time to the Association as Golf Captain, organising at least three golf events this season. He is also on the Ratcliffian Association Social Committee which has also taken up quite a bit of his valuable time this year. The Association is most fortunate to have engaged the services of these two extremely busy individuals.

It is an exciting time to be involved in Ratcliffe College. I feel very privileged to work alongside such a dedicated and professional team of staff and students. I feel sure that Ratcliffe is well equipped to weather whatever financial and economic storms are blown this way in these uncertain times.

Jackie Bennett
Executive Secretary



Ratcliffian Association Vice President, Abe Mee (92) & Ben Heath (87), having completed the Century Cycle Challenge

NEWS FROM THE COLLEGE

Development Office

In March this year, I took up the post of Development Director here at Ratcliffe. Aply assisted by my colleague and Old Ratcliffian, **Gemma Rumbold (01)**, our role is to generate and sustain support for the School that will aid and encourage its development. We hope that the wider Ratcliffe community, including past pupils and parents, will offer their financial support and help to enrich the Ratcliffe experience for its students, both now and in the future.



Andrew Yell (82), Ratcliffe College's new Development Director

During the first six months of my tenure, it has been a great pleasure to have met so many Old Ratcliffians at various social events and sporting fixtures, as well as several who have

just 'dropped in' to Ratcliffe after about 50 years (as some do!). In July 2011, we had our inaugural Washington DC Dinner, which was a great success and we hope to announce some other new locations for 2012.

However, development is not just about events and hospitality. It's also about making sure that the School can continue to improve and enhance the lives of its students. It would be naïve to say that we have everything we want at Ratcliffe, as we clearly don't. Fee income alone doesn't provide for some of the major capital works that we need to undertake at Ratcliffe. As Development Director, it is incumbent on me to ensure we find the necessary funds to do this work.

In June 2011 we established a new independent body, the **Ratcliffe College Foundation** (Charity No. 1144450), which provides a focus for all our fundraising activity. Whilst the Foundation is newly established, the concept upon which it's based ('caritas' – charity) is as old as the School itself. I have enclosed with the Magazine some more information on the Foundation. I hope that

you will take the time to read it and that some of you will be able to support it. Whilst single gifts are always gratefully received, it is through regular giving that we can make substantial investment back into the College. This magazine goes out to over 1,000 Old Ratcliffians. If we each gave just £2 per week, together we could raise over £100,000 per year, which would make an incredible difference.

Your feedback, as well as your support, is vital to our role. If you have any ideas or comments about Development at Ratcliffe, please do get in touch with me directly at ayell@ratcliffe.leics.sch.uk or at www.ratcliffe-college.co.uk/foundation-giving.

Andrew Yell (82)
Development Director



Gemma Rumbold (01)

Ratcliffian Association Leavers' Presentation

This year's Year 13 Leavers were invited to attend a special Leavers' Mass on Friday 27th May on their last official day of school, to celebrate becoming a part of the Ratcliffian Association. **Fr Simon Giles (60)**, President of the Association, presented each boy with a silk Old Ratcliffian tie and each girl with a silk pashmina in Old Ratcliffian colours embroidered with a Ratcliffian crest. Afternoon tea was served in the Old Library for everyone afterwards.



Year 13 leavers in their Ratcliffe College brightly coloured 'hoodies'

Congratulations To This Year's Leavers

Benjamin Addison	Leeds Metropolitan University	Business and Management
Kazim Bhojani	University of Bradford	Optometry
Sally Bolton	University of Lincoln, Bishop Grosseteste College	Education Studies with Art and Design
Holly Boorn	GAP Year	Further Education and Work Experience
	Application to Universities	Law (2012)
Graham Borrajo	University of Lincoln	Media Production
Adam Brandish	University of Portsmouth	Hospitality Management with Tourism
Laura Brunton	University of Kent	French and Italian
Kate Castell	University of Manchester	History and German
Vivian Cho	Applications to Australian Universities	International Business (2012)
Amy Clayfield	Sheffield Hallam University	Sport, Physical Education and Coaching Science
Rory Finn	University of Warwick	Chemistry
Alice Foulds	University of Aberystwyth	Animal Science
Georgia Gamble	Manchester Metropolitan University	International Business Management
Catherine Gerighty	University of Lancaster	History and Philosophy
Eleanor Greenwell	De Montfort University	Business Studies and Law
Eleanor Hardie	University of Hull	Environmental Science
Elliott Hart	University of Loughborough	Design with Engineering Materials
Toby Howard	University of Sheffield	History
Alexandra Inkley	University of Leeds	English Language and Literature
Lara Jones	GAP Year	Further Education and Work Experience
	Application to Universities	Biomedical Materials Science (2012)
Sophie King	University of Bolton	Film Production for Advertisement and Music Industries
Nakkieran Lawrence	Gonville & Caius College, University of Cambridge	Medicine
Daniella Lock	University of Loughborough	Art Foundation
Ellie March	University of Manchester	Children's Nursing
Jessica Marsden	University of Loughborough	Art Foundation
Lucy Mason	GAP Year	Further Education and Work Experience
	Application to Universities	Events Management (2012)
Alice McKenna	GAP Year	Further Education and Work Experience
	Application to Universities	English and Education (2012)
Sven Moss	University of Portsmouth	European Business: Germany
Thomas Mulligan	Oxford Brookes University	International Relations and Politics
John Musson	Trinity College, University of Oxford	Mathematics
Jennifer Parker	Southampton Solent University	Make Up and Hair Design for Music, Film and Photography
Kharan Patel	University of Nottingham	Finance, Accounting and Management
Michael Phillips	University of Bedfordshire	Sport Science and Coaching
Susan Pollard	University of Loughborough	Art Foundation
Cynthia Pong	University of Hong Kong	Modern Languages
Alexander Rankine	University of Sheffield	Archaeology and History
Thomas Rigby	University of Liverpool	Architecture
Emma-Grace Roberts	Nottingham Trent University	Business Management and Marketing
Paul Scrine	Leeds Metropolitan University	Building Studies
Ciaran Sheehy	University of Portsmouth	Construction Engineering Management
Christopher Siddall	BBC Radio Leicester	Employment and Training
Thomas Smith	University of Loughborough	Sport and Exercise Science
Joseph Spillane	Leeds Metropolitan University	Dietetics
Joshua Taylor	University of Birmingham	Sport and Exercise Sciences
Jack Theobald	University of Loughborough	Art Foundation
Georgia Thorne	University of Liverpool	Modern History and Politics
Christopher Threadgold	University of Staffordshire	Computer Games Programming
Thomas Tolond	GAP Year	Further Education and Work Experience
	Application to Universities	English/Education (2012)
Jason Tse	University of Portsmouth	Economics, Finance and Banking
Hannah Tyler	University of Central Lancashire	Religion, Culture & Society and Philosophy
Joanna Ward	University of Sussex	Philosophy
James Warren	University of Sussex	Theoretical Physics
Olivia Watts	GAP Year	Further Education and Work Experience
	Application to Universities	Speech and Language Therapy (2012)
Oscar Wilkie	Leeds Metropolitan University	Events Management
Laura Yell	University of Bristol	Economics and Accounting



2011 Leavers enjoying their last day of school!

Mike Burns hangs up his Bunsen Burner!

Mike Burns retired this summer after nearly thirty years as a biology teacher at Ratcliffe College.



Dr Mike Burns retires!

THE RATCLIFFIAN ASSOCIATION

Ratcliffian Association Council Members 2011-12

President: Rt Rev Bishop John Arnold (71)

Vice Presidents: Mr Gareth Lloyd – Headmaster & Mr Abe Mee (92)

Honorary Treasurer: Mr Paul Carter (60)

Honorary Secretary: Dr Isobel Sommerville (83)

Membership Officer: Miss Gemma Rumbold (01)

Website Officer: Mr Mark Gamble (71)

Chairman of Bar & Social Committee: Mr Abe Mee (92)

Clerk to the Ratcliffe & Cunningham Trust Fund: Mr Michael Coker (52)

Retreat/Chaplain: Fr David Tobin, Fr President (59)

School Liaison Officer: Mr Graham Sharpe

Council Members:

Mr Peter Casartelli (56)

Mr Peter Astill (71)

Mr Richard Gamble (64)

Mr Ben Heath (87)

Mr Michael Heath (56)

Mr Richard Cunningham (59)

Fr Simon Giles (60)

Mr James Taylor (04)

Mr David Robson (Director of Finance)

Mr John Astill (89)

Mr Andrew Yell (Development Director) (82)



Fr Simon Giles (60) hands over the reins to his successor, Bishop John Arnold (71)

Plans to make all Old Ratcliffians Members of the Association!

One of the main aims of the Ratcliffian Association is to foster a close and supportive relationship, not only between former pupils, but also with the College. With this in mind, the members of the Association's Council are anxious to increase the membership of the Association to advance those purposes.

With the cooperation of the College, a scheme has been proposed which will allow for all former pupils of the School to be adopted as full members without payment of a subscription and will also free existing members from the need to renew their subscription in future.

Furthermore, all current and former parents, staff and others able to

apply for Associate Membership will also be adopted as Associate Members without payment of any further subscription.

The Association will in future be funded by a small increase in the Subscription Scheme paid by current pupils, which is already collected by the College on the Association's behalf.

In order to put this scheme in place it is necessary to alter the Rules of the Association concerning membership and subscriptions and to make a formal agreement with the College. At our Meeting on 20th November 2011, the Council gave its unanimous support to this proposal and it will now go to the AGM in July for final

ratification. Old Ratcliffians are, as always, encouraged to attend.

Paul Carter (60)
Honorary Treasurer
Ratcliffian Association



Association members enjoying the AGM!



THE RATCLIFFIAN ASSOCIATION AND CUNNINGHAM FUND MAY BE 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.

EVENTS

The Ratcliffian Association London Dinner

Friday 11th February 2011, The Crypt, St Etheldreda's, Ely Place, London

75 guests assembled once again in the beautiful crypt of St Etheldreda's Church, at the invitation of the Rector, **Fr Tom Deidun (62)**. They enjoyed a delicious meal and fine wines provided by the renowned French restaurant, The Bleeding Heart, situated next door in the Bleeding Heart Yard.

Paul Rudd (60), a governor at the College and a Past President of the Association, proposed a toast to his dear friend, **Fr Simon Giles (60)**, and kept the guests amused with stories of Fr Simon's ordination and tales of their times together at school. Gareth Lloyd, Ratcliffe's headmaster, gave a short speech giving a brief update of the last year at Ratcliffe.



Andrew Yell (82), Abe (92) & Emma Mee & Dominic Magee (92)



Sir Anthony Holland (56) with Mr & Mrs Carlos Pavesi (92)



Fr Simon Giles (60), President of the Association with RA Golf Capt, Abe Mee (92)



Paul Rudd (60) proposing the toast to his close friend, Fr Simon Giles (60), President

The Ratcliffian Association Sporting Dinner

Friday 18th February 2011, the Refectory, Ratcliffe College



The Refectory decked out in Leicester Tigers colours!



Alex Brucciani (97) enjoying 'Heads & Tails'

The Ratcliffian Association Fundraising Committee comprising of Louise Marsden (91), Abe Mee (92), Alex Gamble (03), Gemma Rumbold (01) and Jackie Bennett organised a Sports Dinner for Old Ratcliffians and friends of Ratcliffe. The evening was a huge success and raised nearly £5000 for the Ratcliffian Association.

Peter Wheeler (England and Leicester Tigers) chaired a question and answer session with a host of sporting celebrities. These comprised of Danny Hipkiss (England and Leicester Tigers), Paul Nixon and Matthew Hoggard (England and Leicestershire County Cricket Club), Stephen Jelley (Moto GP) and Phil Gilchrist (acting Head of Sport at Ratcliffe and ex Leicester City Football Club).

Ed Gamble (95) raised nearly £2000 at the auction of various items of sports memorabilia.



Ed Gamble (95), the 'Persuasive Auctioneer'



Our sporting celebrities!

The Ratcliffian Association Retreat

April 29th - May 1st 2011, led by Fr David Tobin, Fr President



The bell at the Chapel of Blessed Antonia Rosmini designed by Chaz Della Porta (80)

Friday Evening:

Fr David Tobin (59) welcomed a small group of Old Ratcliffians who were familiar with the traditional Retreats. These questions were asked: "Why have you come?" and, "What are your needs?" This started and provoked a profound sharing of many significant issues which were of particular relevance to today's world.

These issues were to be reflected and talked about throughout the weekend.

Saturday Morning:

We started with a morning prayer, which was a PowerPoint presentation highlighting the quotations of Blessed Antonio Rosmini. This was illustrated with evocative and beautiful pictures of nature and people. Fr David made the link between this morning prayer and the first maxim, "to desire only, and without limit, to please God, that is, to be 'just'."

After a time of general personal reflection, we came back together to seek clarification and to share our thoughts and feelings on Rosmini's use of the word 'justice' which, for him, is just as deep as 'charity'. We then had Mass in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel.

Saturday Afternoon:

Fr David gave us another prayer to meditate upon. The purpose of this was to appreciate our own individual relationship with God - and to risk trusting the God whom we personally know. Maybe, it is in praying that we become conscious of the God whom we know.

The formal Retreat was concluded with Benediction in the Chapel of Blessed Antonio Rosmini - the first chapel in Great Britain with that name.

Saturday Evening:

The ever-popular Forum was held after supper and went on into the late hours. The group of Old Ratcliffians included two Presidents - Fr David, Fr President of Ratcliffe College and **Fr Simon Giles (60)**, President of The Ratcliffian Association - and three governors of other schools. A candid dialogue soon developed into the dangers and difficulties of sharing education, and teaching the Faith, within Catholic schools, having a multicultural intake and with particular relevance to other Christian schools.

Sunday:

Old Ratcliffians read the Epistles at the Sunday Mass which was offered by **Fr Michael Hill (49)** for all Old Ratcliffians.

Clifford Della Porta (43)

The Ratcliffian Association Birmingham Dinner

Friday 13th May 2011

The Bank Restaurant, Brindley Place, Birmingham

This was the first time that the Birmingham Dinner had been held at this venue. It was a good choice by the Birmingham Secretary, **Edward Gamble (95)**, as it was right in the city centre and was very lively with a real buzz of people enjoying a Friday night out on the town. Ed was pleased to have the support of his close classmates, **Adrian Farnham (95)**, **John Yates (95)** and **Gianpaolo Mantini (95)**.

The dinner was held in a private dining area off the main bar area and the food was excellent. There were about 40 guests from all over the West Midlands. **Freddie Dyer (54)** and Joy, always regular supporters of this event, (Freddie having been Birmingham Secretary himself for many years) were in attendance once again, as were **Jackie (59)** and **Joe (61) Gallagher** with their respective wives. **Peter Deeley (58)** and Patricia were delighted to meet up with their old friend, **Fr David Tobin (59)**. **Andrew Gamble (68)** made a rare appearance in support of his son, Edward, and brought along his old friend, **Michael Clarke (67)**. **Richard Gamble (64)** and Teresa also attended. Richard has recently been appointed as Chair of Governors at Ratcliffe, taking over from Colin Draycott, who was also present at the dinner. Short informal speeches were made by the President, **Fr Simon Giles (60)**, Gareth Lloyd, Headmaster, and by Edward Gamble.



Andrew Gamble (68), Andrew Yell (82), Jeremy Knight Adams (65) & Colin Draycott



Peter (58) & Patricia Deeley, Joe Gallagher (61) & Richard Gamble (64)

The Ratcliffian Association Reunion Weekend

Friday 1st July – Sunday 3rd July 2011



Andrew Pepper (71), John McGlashan (71) & John Heaps (71)

This year's reunion was all about the **Class of '71**. **Martin Foulds** was determined to gather as many of his year together to celebrate **John Arnold's** Presidency of the Ratcliffian Association and forty years since they all left Ratcliffe. They travelled to Ratcliffe from all parts of the globe. **John McGlashan** came from South Africa, **Stephen Fraser** from Dubai and **Alan Shepherd** from Germany. There were 28 of them in total. Celebrating fifty years since leaving school were the **Class of '61** with **Joe Gallagher**, **Richard Ovington**, **Richard Hopkins**, **Richard Wain** and **Kevin Collins**.



The Class of '71

The sun shone for the second consecutive year which enabled the guests to assemble on the front lawn by the fountain in front of the College for a champagne reception before going into the Refectory for an excellent dinner provided once more by Graham Studd and his professional catering team.

Mass was concelebrated on the Sunday morning by Bishop John Arnold, **Fr David Tobin (59)** and **Fr Simon Giles (60)**.



The Class of '61 with Fr Simon Giles (60) and others

After Mass, the business part of the weekend for the members of the Association started, with a Council meeting for Council members only, followed by the AGM for all members of the Association. The second meeting was a lively one with a lengthy discussion on the recent television programme concerning child abuse in two Rosminian schools, Soni, Tanzania and Grace Dieu.



Bishop John Arnold (71) & Stephen Fraser (71)

After this, the bar was opened and a hog roast was served outside whilst the annual Grand Match took place on the beautiful sunlit cricket pitch.



Retired Teachers Dennis Haines & John Orton

Two very well-known and much-revered ex-teachers made a guest appearance at the cricket – **John Orton** and **Dennis Haines**. Both of these taught sport in the 60s and 70s and were remembered with huge respect and fondness by all those students whom they taught at Ratcliffe.



Pierre Bouvet (71) with Habib Kattan (71)

They both enjoyed their day sitting outside having a pint and watching the match whilst reminiscing with their former pupils about the 'good old days'!

Jackie Bennett
Editor

Lourdes Pilgrimage 2011 - The Ratcliffe Rosmini Group

15th - 22nd July 2011

This was our second year as the Ratcliffe College and Rosminian Parish Family Group. The group has been named as the Ratcliffe Rosmini Group (HCPT Hosanna House Group 512) and was approved by the HCPT Trustees in 2009. The Trustees have encouraged us to continue recruiting pilgrims from Ratcliffe College and Grace Dieu Manor School and to expand to include all the surrounding Rosminian Parishes and wider Ratcliffe Family.

I was delighted that we were a good 59 pilgrims in number and we were able to fill the 'Notre Dame' side of Hosanna House with the use of some rooms in 'St Bernadette's' side too. We were the largest Hosanna House Group to travel with HCPT in 2011.

We travelled as a group to Lourdes during the week of the 15th-22nd July 2011 and we were well represented by students, staff, governors, Old Ratcliffians, and other members of the Rosminian parishes and Rosminian family.

There were nine Old Ratcliffians in the group:

Miss Danielle Fairbrother (02) is now in her tenth year with the group and for the second 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 fifth year as a Secondary School PE teacher.

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



Old Ratcliffian Ian Potts (62) (left) enjoying the sunshine with fellow pilgrims

Miss India Kirkpatrick (10) went for her second year with the group. She looked after the supervision of the Indoor Activity Programme during the week and cared for an elderly lady who needed a wheelchair when out and about in Lourdes.

Fr Anthony Meredith IC (57) was able to join the group and to assist **Fr Philip Sainter (69)** 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 fourth year with the group. James helped to care for a young man with cerebral palsy. He has gained a great deal of confidence in his caring skills and is very much part of the team.

Fr Philip Sainter IC (69) went as the group Chaplain. It was wonderful for him to lead the group spiritually once again and to benefit from his compassionate care for the sick and disabled.

Mr Ian Potts (62) has been visiting Lourdes with the Westminster Diocese every year for many years, so we were very privileged to have him with us for the week.

Mr Crispin Scott (80) came for the first time as a carer. He worked as a night carer to a young man with cerebral palsy and showed great enthusiasm and empathy.

Mr Michael Scott (53) came for the first time as a pilgrim. He was a great member of the team and his cheerful disposition was very much appreciated!

Mr Simon Muldoon (05) and **Mrs Luanne Muldoon (05) (née Fairbrother)** made the whole pilgrimage possible by generously hosting the main fundraising event of the year. Thanks to their help before, during and after the charity event, the group was able to assist all those who asked for financial assistance for the pilgrimage to Lourdes.

I would like to convey my thanks to Simon and Luanne and to Simon's parents for giving over Lynroy's in Loughborough for the night and to all their staff who also worked for free that night. The Charity Night on Friday 20th May 2011 raised an amazing total of £3021 for the annual HCPT (Group 512) Pilgrimage to Lourdes. I would like to thank the Ratcliffian Association for its support over the last 17 years and for their annual

donation of £500 given to assist Old Ratcliffian student helpers. This has been an invaluable support to those at university who wish to offer themselves as carers to the sick and disabled in the group.

Now we have our own group, we have spaces for more Old Ratcliffians to go on our pilgrimage. There are also spaces for Old Ratcliffians who are sick or disabled and spaces for those who would like to go as carers. We are very much in need of a group doctor to work alongside Dr Sheelagh Bolt and learn from her many years of experience before she retires. We are also in need of helpers who are qualified nurses or carers. If you are in the medical profession and able to help in this way, please do not hesitate to contact me at teresa@thegambles.info.

N.B. All new helpers must attend an induction day (this is usually held at Ratcliffe College on a Sunday in May during the year of travel). The Pilgrimage to Lourdes next year will take place for a week in either July or August 2012 and once the date has been confirmed it will be shown on the Ratcliffian Association website. Any Old Ratcliffians wishing to take part next year in the Pilgrimage to Lourdes should contact the Association Office at Ratcliffe College.

Mrs Teresa Gamble



L-R, back to front: Sarah Rankine, Karen Burton, Teresa Gamble, Fr Anthony Meredith (57), Nick Walsh & Carole Gerighy

The Ratcliffian Association Washington Dinner Saturday July 23rd 2011, The Cosmos Club, Washington DC

The first North American Ratcliffian Association Dinner was held on Saturday July 23rd at the Cosmos Club in Washington DC. The event was attended by 14 Old Ratcliffians (plus 5 spouses) covering more than half a century, from John Attley, who left Ratcliffe in 1946 and was named the 'Dean' of the gathering, to Kate Rumbold, who left in 1997 and was spending a summer in Washington DC. Gareth Lloyd, the current headmaster, and his wife, Katharine, also attended as part of a three week visit to the United States with their family. The weather outside was almost 100°F (38°C) in what has been the hottest July ever for Washington.



BACK: L to R: Gareth Lloyd, Ginny and Mike Porter, Peter De Simone, Joe Maskrey, Mark Attley, Peter Daley, Eric Ciambra, Michael Lee, Devon Nugent, Hilary Langer, Eugene & Mandy McCarthy. FRONT: L to R: Katherine Lloyd, Kate Rumbold, John Attley, Clare Nugent, Paul Dyson & Mrs Dyson

The following Old Ratcliffians attended the dinner:

Mike Porter (56), and wife Ginny, as well as **Joe Maskrey (60)** (all from California); **John (46)** and **Mark Attley (76)** (both from Ottawa, Canada); **Peter de Simone (71)** (Rhode Island), **Michael Lee (73)** (Connecticut), **Peter Daley (56)** and **Eric Ciambra (79)** (both from New Jersey), **Hilary Langer (70)** (Philadelphia); **Paul Dyson (52)** and his wife, Mary, **Clare Nugent (91)** and her husband Devon, **Kate Rumbold (97)**; **Eugene McCarthy (61)** and his wife, Mandy (all from Washington DC). Eugene

kindly helped to organise the dinner at the Cosmos Club.

After beginning the dinner with grace, Gareth Lloyd spoke to everybody about the Ratcliffe of today, a college almost unrecognisable for those who attended before 1980. There were many nostalgic stories told - and questions asked - during the dinner, covering all decades of life at Ratcliffe since the end of the Second World War. The dinner closed with a toast to Ratcliffe and a general consensus for a follow up event in 2012, the timing and location of which would be decided before the end of

2011. The comments from some of those attending provided a fitting testimony to its success:

"It was so great to see you all at the Washington Dinner. It is a long time since I have enjoyed an evening so much and I hope that we can make this into an annual event."
Joe Maskrey (60)

"It was wonderful to meet everyone - and, in view of the range of years at Ratcliffe, it was interesting to note the considerable overlap of personalities and stories. My sense is there would be good support for a 2012 event."

Michael Lee (73)

"It is such a testament to the spirit of Ratcliffe that so many years after leaving the school, many ORs were compelled to travel from near and far to attend the inaugural dinner. Thank you all for braving the Washington summer heat and for allowing me to share a piece of my history with my husband. Even though I'd driven Devon out to the school on one of our visits back home, the heart of Ratcliffe isn't in the admittedly impressive facade, it is in the people." **Clare Nugent (91)**

Eugene McCarthy (61)



Eugene (61) McCarthy with Fr Simon Giles (60) & Fr David Tobin (59) on his recent visit

Century Cycle Challenge – Nevill Holt School To Norfolk Saturday 21st May 2011

A group of Old Ratcliffians, parents and staff took part in the annual 102 mile ride to Norfolk from Leicestershire on Saturday 21st May. There were 350 participants this year including 21 with direct connections to Ratcliffe College past or present. The ride managed to raise a staggering £200,000 for various charities.

Ratcliffe Group photo (left to right) are: Ed Wheeler (parent), Walter Yell (Yr 11 pupil), Richard Philpott (parent), **Myles Halley (75)**, Brigg Ferrier (parent), Liz Yell (parent), **Andrew Simpson (81)**, Jon Reddin (Deputy Head), **Andrew Bullock (83)**, **Simon Bullock (86)**, Adrian Walters (parent).



The Blessing of the Rosmini Centre

Friday 23rd September 2011

Although the Rosmini Centre has been in operation for over five years, the official opening of the Centre and the blessing of the Chapel dedicated to Blessed Rosmini took place on Friday 23rd September 2011. Bishop Malcolm was welcomed by beautiful sunshine and a large congregation of over 130 people, representing the many friends of the Centre.



Bishop Malcolm speaking to the invited guests

The chapel had to be extended, but nearly everyone fitted in and could follow the solemn liturgy of Holy Mass with the consecration of the altar and the blessing of the walls of the chapel. At the end of Mass, the Bishop, followed by the congregation and singing the litany of the Saints, proceeded to bless each of the other buildings, going to the start of the Stations of the Cross and the Rosary Walk, among the trees.

The procession ended inside the

hangar, where guest speakers and the congregation found their places. The Bishop commented that the hangar was a "magnificent" building, full of character and very much suited to the double use of storage of books and as a lecture hall. It was the Bishop who opened the series of five speeches, which did not seem to put anyone in the audience to sleep. On the contrary, there was great appreciation for all of them. The Bishop gave a deep talk on prayer, linking it to the name of the place, the Rosmini Centre House of Prayer.

After the speeches, the people were entertained by a small orchestra as refreshments were being served. The College excelled itself both for its presence at the event and for the superb level of cooperation in providing music, food, entertainment, and equipment. The Headmaster's speech won great support as he stressed the huge value of Rosminian spirituality and educational principles for the life of the College. He commented that intellectual charity was at the centre of all that is being done at the College, and that the Rosmini Centre has provided and will provide the necessary guidance and spiritual support.

The Mayor and Mayoress of Charnwood Council were our guests, and the Mayor spoke about the good fortune of Leicestershire to have a place where people can withdraw for quiet meditation to recover their direction in life.

Many had asked about the vision behind the Rosmini Centre, and it was the turn of the director to place into focus its three main purposes: 1- To be a contemplative place, a house of prayer for the religious community and for the many people who came to seek God; 2- To be the spiritual power house of Ratcliffe College, like, for example, the Benedictines in their monastery at Ampleforth; the Rosmini Centre is meant to be a constant source of spirituality, of educational principles, a place where staff, students, parents and Old Ratcliffians can find the unifying thread which is Rosminian Ethos and spirituality; 3- To be a Centre for the diffusion of Rosminian spirituality, philosophy, and theology. Blessed Rosmini was a great saint, one of the greatest Christian philosophers of all times, and a very original theologian. He ought to become better known in Britain.

The last words were spoken by Fr Provincial, who thanked the Bishop in particular, and all who had come for the celebration. He expressed his gratitude that what was perhaps difficult to imagine only a few years ago had now become a beautiful reality, thanks to the Providence of the Almighty God.

Fr Antonio Belsito IC

Director of the Rosmini Centre
For further information go to:
www.rosminicentre.org.co.uk

Past Presidents' Annual Dinner, 14th October 2011

Thanks to the generous hospitality of the Headmaster and College, the annual Past Presidents' Dinner was held once again on Friday 14th October.



Fr Anthony Meredith (57) concelebrates Mass with Frs Tony Baxter (38), Fr Ted Mullen (60) & Fr Simon Giles (60)

A Mass, concelebrated by four priests who are all Past Presidents, made a fitting start to the evening, with piano accompaniment to the hymns provided by the Headmaster, Gareth Lloyd.

A champagne reception in the Old Library was followed by a superb meal which one Past President commented was better than most top London

restaurants. The catering and serving staff were highly commended.

This was the 13th PP Dinner with a record 25 attendees showing their support for Ratcliffe and the Rosminians. The consensus was that this year's event was the best and most enjoyable to date. Gareth Lloyd welcomed the guests before leaving early to represent Wales in the Amsterdam Marathon, requiring a 4.00am start. Toasts to Ratcliffe, the Headmaster and marathon success were well received.

Present were: Mr Gareth Lloyd (Headmaster) and Mrs Katharine Lloyd, Vice President **Abe Mee (92)** and Association Secretary Jackie Bennett.

Past Presidents: **Fr Anthony Baxter (38)**, **Clifford Della Porta (43)**, **Philip Hebbert (44)**, **Leo Simmons (49)**, **Michael Coker (52)**, **Patrick Jolliffe (53)**, **Anthony Jewell (54)**, **Sir Anthony Holland (56)**, **Michael Heath (56)**, **Peter**

Casartelli (56) **Fr Anthony Meredith (1957)**, **Jonty Myles (1957)**, **Dick Cunningham (58)**, **Philip Jones (59)**, **Paul Carter (60)**, **Fr Ted Mullen (60)**, **Paul Rudd (60)**, **Fr Simon Giles (60)**, **David Jolliffe (64)**, **Richard Gamble (64)** and **Peter Astill (71)**

Current President, **Bishop John Arnold (71)**, was required elsewhere and was unable to attend.

Michael Heath (56)

Association Council Member



Michael Coker (52) & Tony Jewell (54) sharing a joke

RATCLIFFIAN ASSOCIATION SPORTS EVENTS

The Ratcliffian Association Golf Year 2011

The Reynard Golf Trophy – Leicestershire Golf Club, Friday 1st July



Bernard Murphy (67) with Paul Carter (60)

This year's edition of the Reynard Trophy was contested at The Leicestershire Golf Club on Friday 1st July by **Abe Mee, Paul Carter, Leigh Wells, John Astill, Ed Gamble, Rob Hull, Sam Bird, Andrew Yell, Chris Merriman, David Brunton, James Gamble, Andrew Espinasse, Michael O'Keefe, Saroj Ekanayake, Dom Howkins, Chris Della Porta, Stephen Jelley, Will Coupland, Will Severn, Oliver Coomber, Nigel Baker, Bernard Murphy** and **Richard Gamble** with George Griffiths, Kasey Newby and George Santanay from the College and **Rob Williams**, Jackie Bennett and **Fr Simon** joining us for the supper, presentation and 2011 Golf photograph afterwards.



Stephen Jelley (00), Leigh Wells (00) & Saroj 'Binks' Ekanayake (00)



Rob Hull (97) receiving his prize from the President Fr Simon (60) & Golf Captain, Abe Mee (92)

The weather was perfect, some very good golf was played and it was encouraging that we had 26 golfers turn out. This is certainly a record in modern times.



Ollie Coomber (00) gets his hands on the famous fox, the Reynard Golf Trophy

After close scrutiny of the cards by ex-Golf Captain **Bernard Murphy (67)**, the animated crowd of Old Rats raucously congratulated the prize winners as follows:

1st Place and Winner of The Reynard Trophy 2011: **Oliver Coomber (00)**

2nd Place: John Astill (89)
(Last year's winner)

3rd Place: George Griffiths (Year 9)

Best Front 9: James Gamble (96)

Best Back 9: Will Severn (00)

Longest Drive: David Brunton (79)

Nearest the Pin: Rob Hull (98)

Once again, thanks to The Leicestershire Golf Club for looking after us so well and proving a first rate venue for our event.

Thanks also to Jackie and Fr Simon for their support at such a busy time.

Grafton Morrish Qualifying 2011 Sunday 15th May at The Leicestershire Golf Club

This is a scratch foursomes stableford competition with 3 foursomes pairs, all scores counting. **John Astill, Matthew Hilton, Chris Merriman, Andrew Yell, Dominic Howkins** and **Abe Mee** represented the Old Boys and scored 61 points. To qualify for the finals at Royal West Norfolk which are held in October we would have needed 66 points, so we weren't far off.

The Ratcliffian Association Autumn Golf Match Saturday 10th September 2011



Back Row (L-R): James Fagence-Browne, Will Severn, Abe Mee, Will Coupland, Andy Yell, Neil Brown, Aruna Fernando Front Row (L-R): Oliver Wright, Gareth Lloyd, Gus Kelly, Sean Kelly

Golf Fixtures 2012

Next year there will be 7 golf fixtures: Match v Old Oakhamians; Match v Old Loughburians; Match v School; Grafton Morrish Qualifying; Public Schools Centenary Salver; The Reynard Trophy (Friday, 6th July at the Leicestershire Golf Club, 5-6pm) and the Autumn Golf Meeting.

Any Old Ratcliffian who wishes to play in future golf events should contact Abe Mee. Abe.mee@harveyingram.com



The Contestants of 2011



Straight down the middle for the headmaster, Gareth Lloyd!

The Thistlethwaite Cup

Sunday 6th March 2011

Old Ratcliffians: 8 Ratcliffe College: 3

A dominant and skilful Old Boys' team turned up to secure a convincing 8-3 win over a resilient school side that was unfortunately missing a number of players. With the sun shining and the chance of rain low, the Old Boys turned up to see some familiar and unfamiliar faces roll back the years. As the game started, the Old Boys quickly settled down into a smooth rhythm where the ball was being moved around at a great pace.



The Old Ratcliffians Team

The Old Boys quickly took the lead after good work down the right led to a simple tap in for **James Taylor (04)** to open the scoring. A simple second followed for the Old Boys and Taylor as the school centre back gifted him the ball on the top of the 'D' to smash it home. One of the best passing

moves of the game led to the third goal after **Bainbridge (08)**, Taylor and **Harrison (08)** linked up before Harrison netted. A fourth before half time was scored by **Tim Starling (00)** as the Old Boys continued to dominate. The half time chat was based around doing the same and keeping the ball moving. With the School chasing the game, gaps were apparent and the Old Boys continued to hit these gaps at speed and created many goal scoring opportunities. An unselfish Taylor laid the ball on a plate for **Saroj Ekanayake (01)** to finally find the back of the net, much to his and the team's delight. **Goodwin (98)** smashed home an unstoppable sixth before Starling picked up his second (the Old Boys seventh), and Taylor wrapped up his hat-trick. In between these goals, the School got on the score sheet three times and showed the type of hockey they could play. Overall, an eventful day with Saroj spending more time on the floor than the goalies and some of the 'older' Old Boys combining well with the younger members of the club!

Old Ratcliffians goal scorers: Taylor (3), Starling (2), Harrison, Ekanayake and Goodwin.

School goal scorers: Yell, Gerighty and Spillane.



Freddie Bainbridge (08) & Dom Howkins (00) showing off the new Old Ratcliffians hockey strip with James Taylor (04)

Squad: Taylor (04), Goodwin (98), Starling (00), Howkins (00), Ekanayake (01), Currie-Clark (02), Bainbridge (08), Harrison (08), Lawton (08), Chawda (10), Keyworth (10) and Charlish (10). James Taylor (Hockey Captain) (04)



Celebrating the Old Boys' win!

The Taylor Mixed Hockey Cup

Sunday 18th September 2011

This was the first outing of the new Taylor Mixed Hockey Cup, kindly donated by Mr and Mrs Nigel Taylor.

The game started in brilliant sunshine (if only we knew what was to follow) with the school setting a ferocious pace that the past students found difficult to cope with. **Andrew Yell (82)** made an appearance for the Old Ratcliffians in what was now starting to look like an all-Yell affair, with three members of his family playing for the Old Ratcliffians against one other member, Walter, who was playing for the school. Sadly, Andrew's time on the pitch was brutally cut short by a hamstring injury!

Charlie Dolan (07) opened the scoring with a well-taken shot from the top of the D but, as the opposition began to enjoy more of the possession, **James Taylor (04)** equalised and Ellie Thomas, guesting for our opponents, finished a flowing move. Several Ratcliffe players were still trying to claim the School's equaliser before the game prematurely came to an end following a torrential storm.

It was agreed that the trophy should pass to the School as, due to injuries and enforced absences, the Ratcliffians relied more and more on current students to supplement their ranks.



The Old Ratcliffians team

The Grand Match

Sunday 3rd July 2011

The Old Ratcliffian team regained the trophy after the school had held it for the last five years, comprehensively beating the 1st XI by 53 runs. The Old Ratcliffians' total of 177 all out owed much to 47 from **Freddie Bainbridge**



Rik Hughes with Scorer Nick Birch

(08) and 50 by **Jamie Hart (97)**. The school team looked favourites to chase down the Old Ratcliffians total before **Warren Birchall (97)** produced figures of 5-31 to seal the victory for his team.

The Old Ratcliffian XI: Martin Foulds, (Capt.), Darrell Abeysondera, Freddie Bainbridge, Warren Birchall, David Cox, Tom Foulds, Alistair Hall, Jamie Hart, James Simpson, Hugh Spillane and Luke Welch.

Ratcliffe College 1st XI: T R Smith, B Shaw, M K Phillips (Capt.), O W James, W A Gent, J D Hesketh, J Breen, J J Taylor, T Howard, M J Howard, F R Notman.

Scorer: Nick Birch

Umpire: Mike Goldsworth



The Ratcliffian Association XI

The Ratcliffian Association would like to take this opportunity to thank **Martin Foulds (71)**, the Association Cricket Captain, for over 30 years as Captain. He has taken on this role with diligence and determination and has never failed to produce a team for the Grand Match.

Old Ratcliffians' Girls Netball

Sunday 6th March 2010

Old Ratcliffians: 12 Ratcliffe College: 34

It was good to see the usual familiar faces returning to play against the School's 1st team, coupled with two who returned to play for the first time. Most of them had not lost their skills, but fitness told in the latter stages of the game. A fun and friendly game with the Old Ratcliffians saw them swap positions on a regular basis to try and outwit the School team. The 1st team dominated play throughout the game and it was the circle play and shooting accuracy that won the game for them, 34-12.



L-R: Hollie Houghton, Katie Ryan, Emily Harrison, Alice Pulford, Charlotte Dolan, Hollie Stone, Lorna Rowley

The Halley Football Cup Sunday 6th March, 2011

Ratcliffe College 1st XI: 1 Old Ratcliffians XI: 5

Old Boys' football was more like 'Young Boys plus one Old Boy!' After last year's thrashing, all but one of the old guard decided their bodies were not up to the challenge.

Bad backs, swollen knees and poor fitness levels were all factors which meant that an SOS call to **Joe Coupland (09)** to bring in some fresh blood was needed.

Joe's older brother **Will's (00)** excuse was a dodgy hip, something you wouldn't expect for a 28 year old, but in the end it worked out for the Old Boys' team.

The last bit of help came from the Ratcliffe team as they were kind enough to loan the Old Boys' their reserve goalkeeper -

although after his performance he must have put himself into contention for a starting spot in the Ratcliffe team.

With the new blood, the Ratcliffe 1st team were no longer able to run rings around a huffing and puffing Old Boys XI. The only real 'Old Boy', **Scott Piecha (00)** may have taken up a centre forward role (just sitting on the last man) but his younger, fitter Old Boy teammates more than made up for his lack of movement.

However, an increased work rate and good finishing were the factors which saw the Old Boys reclaim their winning ways.

Two goals from Scott Piecha and good strikes from Joe Coupland, **Dan Jelley (09)** and

James Driver (09) gave the Old Boys the win.

The score line might suggest a complete mismatch of talent. However, the real difference was that the Old Boys took their chances whilst the Ratcliffe XI will be rueing their missed opportunities.

All in all it was good to see new blood turn out for an Old Boys' football match which has been going now for over 10 years.

New blood is always needed but this year, more than any before, it was essential for victory!

NOTE TO JOE COUPLAND:

Start doing a ring around now to make sure the guys are ready for next year's battle!



Team photo names:

Top Row L to R: Remi White, Tom Slaughter, James Driver, Goalkeeper was from Ratcliffe, **Simon Jordan, Scott Piecha, Joe Coupland.**

Bottom Row L to R: Charlie Barre, Joe Madden, Dan Jelley, Matt Adron.

OLD RATCLIFFIAN NEWS

George Hamlyn Williams (01):

"Having graduated as a Dietitian in 2008, I am now working in the private sector heading up the Dietetic Department for a weight loss surgery provider. Needless to say, managing sixteen staff and being in charge of the care of five thousand patients keeps me busy, but it is extremely rewarding; I feel I am helping to make a small dent in what is now an obesity epidemic. I enjoy running in my spare time, as well as my age-old love of cooking and eating out! Feeling somewhat old now that leaving Ratcliffe was over a decade ago!"



George Hamlyn Williams (01)

Tony Gallagher (70) said that he is still working as hard as ever! He has now moved to Oxfordshire, where he plays some tennis and relaxes with his wife, Rita. Tony has three daughters, one of whom, Carly, is married and has a baby daughter, Molly May. Tony is in touch with **Jerry Cahill (70)**, who is a barrister working on planning appeals in Birmingham and London and remarried in 2010.



Tony Gallagher (70)

David Gallagher (94), son of **David Gallagher (65)**, is engaged to Jane and is hoping to get married in the summer of 2012. **Christian Gallagher (92)**, David's other son, and his wife, **Lucy (née MacDonald-Pearce) (92)** are expecting their fifth child this year.

Clare Nugent (91) wrote: "I am an Old Ratcliffian living in the Washington DC area, and I can't tell you how thrilled I was to see that an event was being held on this side of the 'pond' in July! I have such fond memories of Ratcliffe. I left in 1991 and have lived in America for the past thirteen years. My husband was in the US Navy until recently, so we've moved around quite a bit, living in Maine, San Diego and Monterey, but we've been in Virginia for the past six years. I'm enjoying the area, but not the current climate!"

Ewan Simmonds (59) wrote: "I was at Brownsea Island off Poole in Dorset this summer watching *Julius Caesar* with Gill and **Jonathan Myles (57)**. I was at Ratcliffe with Jonathan in the 50s and we meet regularly at Old Ratcliffian weekends. I also see them through another connection: my sister, Anne, knew them through the Catenian Association while living in Towcester in Northamptonshire. Anne's son, **Mark Simmonds (95)** is a former pupil and has been back with me on one occasion to an Old Ratcliffian weekend. There is a kind of symmetry in all this, with perhaps a bit of 'what goes around comes around' added in for good measure."

JJ Myles (57): "This photo was taken at Ascot and Sunningdale Catenian Circle's 20th Birthday Dinner, at which **Alasdair Macmillan (58)** was enrolled as a member. **Peter Casartelli (56)** and I were his sponsors and **Micheal Heath (56)**, now Vice President of Hinkley Circle, joined us in support of Alasdair. The membership officer is used to seeing on the application forms in answer to the question 'How long have you known the applicant?' the answer two or three years. Peter and I filled in 57 years!"



JJ Myles (57) with Alasdair MacMillan (58), Peter Casartelli (56) & Micheal Heath (56)

Michael 'Baz' Basoah (84): "I am living in California (San Francisco) and have been here for about ten

years now. I am married - no kids yet. I have my own business these days, offering marketing services to companies in Silicon Valley. I have run it for about three and a half years now and have some good clients. Prior to that, I worked for several I.T. companies, such as Oracle, Ingres and Saba.

I am in touch with a few old Ratcliffians, mainly back in England, such as **Mike Rafferty (84)** and **Emma Rafferty (née Sampson) (84)**, who are married, **Martin Rickman (82)**, **Michael Durante (84)** and **Dawn Bayley (née Grundy) (84)**. In the US, the only person I occasionally hear from is **Francesca Morris (84)**, who is in New York. There was an Old Ratcliffian reunion in Washington DC in July, but unfortunately I couldn't make it. I have also recently connected with **Freddie Coombes (80)** and **Julien Porisse (81)** on Facebook."



L to R: Michael Rafferty (84), Michael Basoah (84) & Martin Rickman (82)

George Wells (46) wrote: "Having been retired from paid work for sixteen years now, I am still living and enjoying life in England's smallest county. Three years ago, Catherine and I celebrated our Golden Wedding Anniversary with our six children and ten grandchildren, enjoying a slap-up meal at the Haycock Hotel near Peterborough. Our eldest daughter, Ruth, and her family had travelled from New Zealand, and our youngest son, David, travelled from Switzerland. Earlier this year I celebrated my eightieth birthday, with our family providing a meal and cake at my younger daughter's home in Princethorpe, the college there overlooking her garden.

It is remarkable to think that our family has six generations of connections to Ratcliffe. My great grandfather became a Catholic through one of the early Ratcliffe priests, my grandfather was a pupil

there, my father attended Mass there, I boarded there, I occasionally took my family there, and my eldest New Zealand grandson was baptised by **Fr Dennis Hare (46)** there!"

Bill Tierney (63) wrote: "I'm still alive and now building a house in Cape Breton, Nova Scotia. Going to live with the bears and the moose!"

Freddie Bainbridge (08): "Having graduated from Loughborough University with a degree in Sport and Exercise Science, I have secured a place to read Medicine at Dundee University."

Jim West (77): "A few months ago, via Facebook, **Pat O'Brien (78)** and I made contact again after a period of at least nineteen years. Because both of us had been in contact with **Mark Thistlethwaite (78)** over that period, we decided to try and arrange a meet up in London for lunch. The long and short of it was that, in May, Rules restaurant saw the backs of three quite inebriated Old Ratcliffians, aged fifty-plus, who certainly put the world to rights! I can only thank our rail system that the train terminated at Kings Lynn because I could have easily ended up hours from South Lincolnshire!



Mark Thistlethwaite (78), Jim West (77) & Pat O'Brien (78)

Pat and Mark left Ratcliffe in, I think, 1978, but I left a year earlier (in Lower Sixth) after realising that I could go to Agricultural College without A Levels and thus save my father a year's fees! I went into farm management in Cambridgeshire for a few years and then went home to farm with my brother when my father died. We sold the farm in 2000 and I have since worked for an onion seed breeding company in South Lincolnshire which gives me the opportunity to travel around mainland Europe. I have been married to Sally for twenty-five years and we have two girls. The oldest, who is Mark's goddaughter, is studying German at Chester University, while my youngest is at Spalding High School having just entered her GCSE year.

My last visit to Ratcliffe was when Mark's father roped Mark and me in to play in an Old Boys' hockey match, which must have been all of fifteen years ago, when I was able to run without the use of a zimmer! Hockey has now fallen foul of age and the far more genteel sport of golf is played by a group of ageing geriatrics at Spalding Golf Club most Sunday mornings.

Mark, Pat and I are meeting up again around Christmas, but since the date was mentioned midway through yet another bottle of fine, expensive London red wine, I have no idea when it is, so will rely on the two sensible souls to remind me nearer the time!"



Antonio Gravilli (87) & José Manuel Barroso, President of the European Commission

Antonio Gravilli (87): "Even the most interesting job in the world has a 'sell by' date. So, after six years as the speechwriter of European Commission President José Manuel Barroso - an incredible (and exhausting!) privilege that allowed me to meet movers and shakers from around the world - I've finally moved on to fresh challenges. In March this year, I became an official spokesman of the Commission, working for the Slovak Vice-President, Maros Sefcovic. Not exactly the calmer job I promised myself after the intense atmosphere of the President's Cabinet. But as a former journalist, it's nice to mix with hacks and hackettes again!"



Chris Maisey (01)

Chris Maisey (01) wrote: "I am in the RAF and have worked as an avionic engineer on Chinook helicopters for six years now down at RAF Odiham in Hampshire. During my time, I have achieved eight tours of duty in

Afghanistan, a couple of detachments to Morocco and Jordan and numerous trips around Europe and to Cyprus. I love my job and my friends. I still come home to Leicester to visit family, so if anyone ever fancies a drink or two, get in touch - I'd love to hear from you."

Kelvin Chan (94): "After I left Ratcliffe, I went to Bath University to study Chemistry and graduated in 1997. I am now living in Hong Kong, and am married to Vicci Lau. Our son, Gavin, was born in 2008 and our daughter, Nicole, was born in 2010. I have been working as Derivatives Trader at Goldman Sachs since 2009. Prior to that, I worked at Morgan Stanley for eight years and Societé Générale for three years."

Chris Daly (76) wrote: "I left Ratcliffe in 1976. My father is **Tony Daly (47)**, my brother is **Steve Daly (74)** and my cousins are the **Brucciani** and **Della-Porta** families. I have two sons, Joshua (18) and Angus (16) and we all share a passion for racing hovercraft. I am the current Chairman of the Hovercraft Club of Great Britain and MD of High Cross Hovercraft Ltd at Sharnford in Leicestershire. We brought two training Hovercraft to the Long Wood in April to help Amalia raise funds."



Oliver Brierley (05) (third from the right)

Oliver Brierley (05): "I am currently living in Leeds and working as a salesman for people suffering with food allergies. I'm in control of contracts with companies such as De Vere Hotels, 3663, the NHS, the National Trust and universities all over the country. I also play for our local pub's Sunday League football team. I also DJ at a couple of clubs in Leeds, as well as some guest spots around the country, and I have recently taken up acting at the Carriageworks Theatre in Leeds City Centre."

John Ward (00): "It's been twelve months since I left the UK and it doesn't feel that long at all! Time flies when you're having fun! Since I arrived, I have been working at NAB as

an Associate Director in the corporate banking sector in Sydney CBD. Commuting to work on the ferry sure beats fighting the M6! Away from work, life is great. Cint and I have settled into a little nook of Manly, right next to a small beach. True to form, most of our friends are other 'poms' who have relocated (including someone I knew from back home) but, to my knowledge, none of the other '00 vintage have taken or are considering taking the plunge, despite my best efforts. I haven't learnt to surf yet, but it's on the cards, and I've just got my boat licence, so the Harbour better watch out! I'm also about to complete a 400km bike ride across New South Wales in aid of charity, so I'm keeping fit as well. Best wishes from Down Under."



John Ward (00)

Paul Morris (54): "After my first wife, Celia, died I married again and this September we are renewing our vows after ten years. Between us we have five children and 3.75 grandchildren! My wife, Bliss, and I helped to raise £1800 for a special needs children's charity this August at our little village fete."

Lewis Goodger (10): "I have just spent the last six months volunteering in the south of China with a non-profit charity called Latitude Global Volunteering. I was a volunteer English teacher and spent most days teaching classes of up to 65 students, meaning I taught over 1200 students per week! It was the most challenging yet rewarding time of my life and allowed me to travel to the borders of Cambodia, Laos and Thailand. Asia really changed my life and I now feel more than ready for the challenges that university will present!"

Joe Astill (94): "I moved to New York six years ago, and I run US equities for a global executive search firm. I'm not married."

Thomas Chu (97) wrote: "I was in hospital practice for a few years after I graduated before moving to an academic career. I am currently in

the final year of my PhD and trying to write up my thesis at the moment! If my grant application is successful, I will probably be moving to the Queen's Medical Centre in Nottingham to continue my work in investigating causes of delayed diagnosis of brain tumours in children. See <http://www.headsmart.org.uk> for details."



Edward Taylor's children, Evie Rose & Harriet May

Edward Taylor (00) wrote: "What has happened over the past eleven years since the good old days of Ratcliffe? Well, to be honest, a hell of a lot! I have now been married for nearly three years to the lovely (I have to say this – it's part of the vows) Helen and we have two beautiful little girls, Evie Rose Taylor, who is two years old, and Harriet May Taylor, who is nearly six months old. To say they are a handful is an understatement but they are also the most rewarding thing in my life. As for my career, I am currently Sales and Marketing Manager at automedia.co.uk, our family printing and marketing firm. I have also launched my new business venture which is donkeydigs.com, a property portal for student properties in Loughborough, and hopefully in the early part of next year, the rest of the UK. So, as you can see, it's all systems go, but as they say, you have to do it while you're young!"

Elyssa Fagan (05) wrote: "I have worked in public relations for almost two years now at Champions (UK) Plc, which is a PR, marketing, events, after-dinner speaking and celebrity management agency situated near Loughborough. I also write features for a regional luxury lifestyle publication, *Aspirational Magazine*."

John Hearson (57): "Formerly, my career was in electrical and mechanical engineering, both in contracting and consultancy. I retired about three years ago, having spent the latter years of my working life in technical consultancy associated with the MOD and based at Cavalry Barracks, Hounslow, later RAF Northolt and finally at Northwood

JHQ. I still live in Pinner, where I was born. I have three adult children, two of which live with their respective spouses and my grandchildren in Dubai. The eldest lives near Tring in Hertfordshire. I keep in touch with **Philip Jones (59)** and **Brian Coe (60)**, both of whom I started at Grace Dieu with in 1950."

Tom Berry (99): "Since leaving Ratcliffe, I've been living in Manchester enjoying a successful career in property. I gained permanent residency to Australia in August and am heading 'down under' at the end of the year via a family gathering in Hong Kong with my sister and brother-in-law, **Charlotte Hull (née Berry) (98)** and **Robert Hull (97)**, to visit our younger sister. I've planned a well-earned career break for the next twelve months to ease into life in the sun, and I'm looking forward to the new challenges that lie ahead."

Louis Massarella (92): "I am married with one child, who is also called Louis! He is currently attending Ratcliffe in Year 6. I am still running a development company with my father in Leicestershire in what can only be described as difficult times. I also run a small farm in Cropston with some livestock. I am also on the Board of Governors at Ratcliffe, which continues to be a great honour and experience."



Louis Massarella (92) & son, Louis Jnr

Peter Fraser (71) is currently Head of Antennas at EADS Astrium in Stevenage, responsible for the design and manufacture of satellite antennas for military and commercial spacecraft. This includes the Astra and Hotbird satellites, which provide commercial television across Europe. He was previously Engineering Director at BAE Systems in Rochester and, prior to that, Technical Director of Raytheon Systems Ltd in Harlow. Peter lives in Bishops Stortford with his wife, Leslie. He has three daughters: Holly (26), who also works at Astrium, Lucy (23) and Suzy (20).

Peter came to Ratcliffe in 1966 while

his family were still in a young, post-colonial Kenya. His first few weeks at Ratcliffe were spent with an African Brown House snake in a cage under his bed in Our Lady's Dormitory and Jackson's chameleons kept in the Biology lab! He never shook off his colonial roots and seven years ago bred over two hundred Madagascan Panther chameleons.

Adrian Fidler (98): "I'm in the Merchant Navy training to be a Navigation Officer. I'm currently training on a cargo ship on the English Channel. I should be off this ship before Christmas and onto another after Christmas. All being well, I'll finish training and hopefully qualify next December. Training is enjoyable, although I still struggle with the maths and studying - old habits die hard! I'd trained for two years before this as a yacht rigger, tuning race boats amongst other things, but I find this much more enjoyable."



Jesús Echevarría and family in Javea, Spain

Jesús Echevarría, ex teacher (04): "After five years at The Blessed Robert Johnson Catholic College in Telford as Deputy Head, I was lucky enough to be appointed Head Teacher of St Augustine's Catholic High School, Scarborough, where I am now in my third year. The school is an outstanding co-educational Catholic state school for 11 to 16 year olds serving the coastal area from Whitby down to Bridlington. My wife, Laura, also continues to teach and is in the English Department at Headlands School in Bridlington.

We live by the sea and enjoy a great live music scene where I am a regular performer, together with my youngest son and former Ratcliffe student **David Echevarría (04)**, who is now in Year 10. In fact, we opened at this year's Acoustic Gathering Festival in Peasholm Park in Scarborough. David is interested in drama and music and has already performed in productions of *Billy Elliott*, *Little Shop of Horrors*, *Treasure Island* and *Midsummer Night's Dream*. He is

also a keen guitarist and saxophonist, playing in the school's celebrated Jazz Orchestra. **Samuel Echevarría (04)**, who also attended Ratcliffe until the end of Year 6, is now at Liverpool Hope University. He is studying Philosophy and Ethics and Theology and Religious Studies, which is quite a mouthful, but then he is looking to follow his dad into teaching RE. He also sings and performs regularly and was lead guitarist in his band, The Radioholics, before going solo when we moved to Scarborough."

Sebako Siame (91) has been living in Bangalore, India for the past two and a half years, where she is working for Goldman Sachs managing their Margin, Valuations and Pricing Operations Team. She spends a lot of her spare time travelling across India and broader Asia. After leaving Ratcliffe, Sebako qualified as a barrister and was called to the Bar at Middle Temple after completing her Jurisprudence degree at St Anne's College, Oxford. She then spent some time working in Zambia before returning to the UK and beginning her Operations career at JPMorgan Chase. Sebako has kept close ties with Ratcliffe and with Leicestershire in general, particularly due to her godchildren who live in the county and to her longstanding friendships with others in the area.

Ciaran Grant (10) has just started his second year of university studying Media Production and will soon be going into the recording studio to record his band's debut album.



Simon Tyas (71)

Simon Tyas (71): "After leaving Ratcliffe, I joined the Rosminian Order as a Postulant, then Novice. Realising that the calling was not as strong as I first thought, I soon left the Order and joined Harrods to sell fruit and vegetables! 1974 saw me join the Metropolitan Police. I served at Bethnal Green in the East End for two years, then became a DC in Special Branch, before (like Dr Who) regenerating as an Royal Air

Force Officer in 1978. I started in the Security Branch organising security for VIP flights on the RAF VC10s. I travelled with Margaret Thatcher to Moscow, Tokyo and Canberra, with Her Majesty to Lusaka for the Commonwealth Conference, and I also recovered British subjects from Iran immediately after the revolution. I then transferred to pilot training and got as far as the Jaguar OCU at RAF Lossiemouth before crashing and having to transfer to Air Traffic Control. I was a controller for the majority of my 33 years, finishing my service at the Scottish Air Traffic Control Centre at Prestwick. I was very lucky in 2002 to be awarded the MBE, in 2006 the Chief of the Air Staff's Commendation, and in 2007 the LG Groves Memorial Award for Flight Safety. I retired from the Service in 2009 and am now employed in Customer Services for Vodafone. I live in Dundonald in South Ayrshire with my wife Mhairi and 18 year old daughter Caitlin."

Andrew Mason (96): "I am still working at the family sheet metal business, now with **Alison Court (née Mason) (98)** alongside me. Alison recently got married at Ratcliffe to Ben Court. I have mainly been planning our house move to Thrusington, which should hopefully be any day soon. Business is very busy, which is great, but it's keeping me there for too many hours each week. Tomas is in the Cygnet's senior class now, starting his first full year. Lucie is 18 months old, creeping closer to joining Ratcliffe. **John Yates (95)** was at Ali's wedding and in good form, enjoying full-on fatherhood since his second child arrived, and still a mad man dashing all over the place with work. **Mike Mahiga (95)** is finally engaged and doing well in Geneva. **Nadia (91)** and **Mal Hawes (93)** also have a second child the same age as Lucie. They are all well down in Windsor, where Mal works for IBM and Nadia is a High Court barrister in London."

Sylvester Cheung (95) wrote: "I am still living and working in the county. I qualified as an architect in 2004 and, in 2007, I was made a partner of Parkinson, Dodson and Cheung."

Ian Warrington (80): "I worked for the MOD for the last 25 years at St Georges Road, Harrogate, in Washington DC (1990-93), RAF Wyton and the British Embassy, Kuwait (1997-99). I'm currently working at

RAF Mildenhall in Suffolk. I'm now living a contented life with my partner and our four dogs in deepest, darkest rural Norfolk near Kings Lynn."

Benjamin Connell (05): "For the past three years I have been studying Sport and Exercise Science at Coventry University. In May this year, I completed my degree and have gone on to become a Learning Support Assistant at a school in Hinckley. I am now aiming to complete my PGCE, starting in September next year, before hopefully going on to become a PE teacher."



Benjamin Connell (05)

Laura Fidler (02): "I'm currently working for Next in their Head Office buying childrenswear, and I'm also busy organising my wedding, which is next August. **Adrian Fidler (98)** is training to become an officer in the Merchant Navy, currently at sea around Europe. **Rachel Dodson (née Fidler) (96)** is working as nurse in the Lincoln Intensive Care Unit and running around after her kids, Jack and Emma, now 4."



Laura Fidler (02)

Kelvin Wu (10): "When I left Ratcliffe, I joined the University of Herefordshire, studying Environmental Management. I have been on a number of field trips related to my subject, visiting places like the Lake District and, more recently, Switzerland. In my own free time, I enjoy travelling to Europe to explore new places, as I come from Hong Kong. These kinds of visits help me to open my eyes and improve my personal knowledge."

Dave Clifford (00): "I have lived in

Manchester for the last ten years. I will be celebrating my second wedding anniversary in October and I currently run my own pub in Worsley just outside Manchester."

Oliver Patterson (08): "Since leaving Ratcliffe, I have been working for a Leicestershire-based design agency called Mynt. We work all over the world on big retail design projects, including European showrooms for lifestyle brand Vans, concession designs for Beyonce's 'House of Dereon' Collection and a new childrenswear brand called 'Mom & Me' (which we created from a blank piece of paper), opening seventeen stores in Dubai and other parts of the Middle East. I'm currently in the process of creating my own lifestyle brand with another Old Ratcliffian, **Declan Carroll (08)**. We haven't launched the business yet, but when we do, we'll let you know more about it!"

Vivek Saundh (08): "After graduating, I worked full time until about February 2008, then I went travelling around North America, including Vancouver, Pittsburgh, New York and California. In 2009, I started studying Economics at the University of Sheffield, and I've been here since then."

Sharmila Malla (10) is at Bangor University studying Criminology and Sociology. She has just moved into a new house and has recently joined a lacrosse team. She still keeps in touch with several Old Ratcliffians.

Katy Campbell (10): "I've been studying Maths and Philosophy at Warwick University - it's been fantastic, and I'm just going into my second year. I'm involved in the publicity for student cinema and, of course, doing lots of work!"

Philip Remedios (81): "Having lived in the Los Angeles area for almost two decades after my return from Germany, my family and I decided to relocate to beautiful Tampa Bay, Florida in 2002. We live on the Gulf of Mexico waterfront and love the laid-back, boating lifestyle here! I co-own an industrial design consultancy called Black Hagen Design and we specialise in medical device research and development. We have two daughters in university and high school."

Luanne Muldoon (née Fairbrother) (05): "After leaving Ratcliffe, I went straight on to study Beauty Therapy at Loughborough College. I trained for

three years, and after being awarded 'Beauty Therapist of the Year', I had a job waiting for me at the end of it at a prestigious salon in Ashby De La Zouch. In 2009, I married Simon Muldoon at St James the Greater Church in Oaks in Charnwood. Simon is a restaurant owner, and throughout my college training and to date, I have helped out in his Loughborough-based restaurant. I am currently also working towards building up my own clientele and starting my own beauty business. There is a group of us from Ratcliffe that still meet regularly to catch up and there have been a few Old Ratcliffian weddings in the last couple of years!"



Luanne Muldoon (née Fairbrother) (05)

Charlie Clapham (08): "After leaving Ratcliffe, I moved to London in pursuit of a career in acting. Three years on, I have featured in *The Bill*, *Choose a Different Ending* (an internationally screened short film for MTV), several short films and a couple of features. I have also ventured to the Edinburgh Fringe Festival with the play *The Penelopiad* and also enjoyed success on the London Fringe scene as an actor and director with *The Bubble and Squeak Collective*. I'm currently with Felix De Wolfe, one of the industry's leading agents, having recently finished working on the film *Community* and due to start filming a new feature entitled *Passengers*."



Charlie Clapham (08)

Libby Gray (10): "I've just started as an undergraduate student at King's College London, reading Philosophy; previously I was on my GAP year taking a full English A Level. During that time I had a taste of the big wide

world, with a job at a supermarket and one at Ratcliffe College as a Newman prep time supervisor!"

Jeanette Steinkat (née Reilly) (86):

"I work at the Red Bull Media House in Austria (the Red Bull headquarters). I am responsible for Red Bull TV and its distribution on all channels. In my free time I particularly enjoy climbing. I have two teenage daughters who both live in Berlin and I spend about 50% of my time travelling."

Jennie Mary Coomber (98): "I got married in Madrid in 2006 to David. My first son, Hugo, is two and a half years old, and at the end of November, I will have my second baby boy. I'm currently studying a PGCE to become a primary school teacher."



Jenny Coomber (98)

After leaving Ratcliffe, **Emily Sowdon (09)** went on to do a Foundation Diploma in Art and Design at New College Nottingham, specialising in Fashion Design. Emily was then awarded a scholarship to study a BA in Fashion Design at the University of Westminster, one of the leading fashion design Universities. She is now going into her second year and has recently been working with up-and-coming singer, Queen of Hearts, as a result of having one of her garments worn at London Fashion Week. Apart from her studies, Emily still regularly plays the flute and maintains good contact with her friends from Ratcliffe.



Sophie Harding (09)

Sophie Harding (09): "Since Ratcliffe, I've been at Bath University studying Coach Education and Sports Development, and I'm now going

into my final year. I'm hoping to graduate in June and then start a Personal Training Diploma, as well as specialising in sports nutrition and injury rehab."

Lizzi Hewitt (08): "Having recently graduated from Birmingham City University, I am pursuing a career in the media. I was recently awarded a scholarship at BSkyB and I am particularly looking forward to the opportunities that will arise next year during the 2012 Olympics. Until then I am working hard as a trustee for the Richard Engelhardt Trust Fund."

Jim Eccleshare (00): "It has been some years since I last wrote for the Old Ratcliffian Magazine and even more years since I left! I started off as a money-driven young businessman before doing a full U-turn and arriving at university somewhat late at the age of 25. Since then, having gained coaching experience, teaching qualifications, HNDs and putting in a lot of hard work on the way, this summer I graduated with a First Class Honours Degree (BSc in Sports Coaching) at UWIC. I continue to coach the university cricket teams, whilst also completing my Masters (MSc in Sports Coaching). I consider myself one of the lucky ones in life to find myself consumed by my hobby and passion. I am a performance analyst for the England Cricket Board ACO, a part-time lecturer in two universities here in South Wales and coach to a successful university cricket squad. Who knows what the future holds from here, but one thing's for sure: it will be a rollercoaster! The best of luck and happiness to all you past and current students and staff! Who knows - I might see you soon at one of the reunions."

Dave Ricks (07): "After leaving Ratcliffe, I went to Loughborough University to study Mechanical Engineering. I was sponsored by Brush Electrical Machines during my time at university and worked for them during the holiday periods in three different departments. In 2009, the economic climate forced Brush to drop the sponsorship and six months later I left university to set up my own business, 'Dave Ricks Website and Image Design', with help and funding from the Prince's Trust. Later that year, I was able to set up a fully functioning business. In the past two years, I have created and uploaded four large e-commerce sites, multiple business start-up websites and have

helped companies develop and upload their websites. I have also produced a lot of publicity material including brochures, newsletters, bulletins and programmes. Also, in the past four years, I have been contracted into Ratcliffe to work backstage with lighting, sound and special effects for theatre productions, as well as teaching three students about lighting techniques as part of their Drama GCSE."



Dave Ricks (07)

Dave Forry (10): "I was studying Accountancy at Dundee last year but realised it wasn't for me and decided to take a year out. I ended up working for a year and saving up for the next year. I'm back at Dundee studying Psychology now and so far, I'm really enjoying it."

Pete Batty (08): "I have just graduated from Newcastle University with a degree in Civil Engineering and am returning to complete an MSc in Environmental Engineering this year."



Pete Batty (08)

Beth Charles (03): "Since Ratcliffe, I have gone on to complete a BTEC National Diploma in Music Practice.



Beth Charles (03)

I am currently studying Childcare and hoping to get a degree in it one day. I am also standing on my own two feet, living out of home with my partner."

Amy Clear (98): "After graduating from Leeds Metropolitan University with a degree in Events Management, I went travelling for two years with **Ginny Gamble (98)** (during which time we lived in Sydney for about a year). I have been living in London now for seven years and I work for the Boarding Schools Association organising conferences and events."



Amy Clear (98)

Jenny Pepper (06): "It has been six years since I left Ratcliffe and started university in Liverpool. Since then, I have been travelling in South East Asia and working in a community hospital in Africa. I also climbed Mount Kilimanjaro and the Three Peaks, raising money for Rushere Community Hospital in Uganda. I am due to graduate from university with a degree in Medicine this year and am hoping to reside in Merseyside for my first and second Foundation years."



Jenny Pepper (06)

Pintu Patel (89): "I'm living in Bombay, India, where I run my own business. My company is called Thompson Impex and we are merchant exporters of construction equipment and materials. I have kept in touch with **Pete Sutton (87)**, **Michael Meredith (89)** and a few friends from Hong Kong."

Gus Kelly (10): "After leaving Ratcliffe with pretty good marks, I went to Bath University. I love it, but I really should turn up to more lectures! Also at Bath



Pintu Patel (89)

is my girlfriend, **Sophie Yell (10)**, who I'm still head over heels for. Over the last couple of summers, I have been travelling in Spain and Croatia, and at the moment I'm saving up to go to Australia to see some of the old gappies! Later this year, I have organised for all my school mates and me to do the Bath Half Marathon."



Gus Kelly (10) with girlfriend, Sophie Yell (10)

Eric Ka Leung Ma (98): "I have been working in London for the last five years as a personal assistant to the managing director of a textile agency. I got married to my lovely wife, Eva, in 2006. Married life has been very enjoyable, travelling all over Europe with my wife. Going skiing has become one of our regular trips



Eric Ka Leung Ma (98)

in the winter, and occasionally we visit **Filippo Gerundini (98)** in Courmayeur, Italy. It's always good to catch up with old friends. In June 2010, we decided it was time to move back to Hong Kong after over twenty years in the UK, and I worked for The North Face's sourcing office for a year. Recently I started up my own company selling textiles to Europe, the USA and China. On September 4th, our little baby boy

was born. 2011 is proving to be a very exciting year to our little family and hope there will be many more to come!"

Simone Alessandri (08): "After leaving Ratcliffe, I returned to Munich and made the Abitur (the general qualification for university entrance in Germany) in 2009. I then went to the International School of Management in Munich to study International Tourism and Event Management. At the moment I am in Dublin for my semester abroad, studying Tourism and Event Operations at Dublin Business School. I finish university in January 2013."



Simone Alessandri (08)

Victoria Jordan (07): "I am no longer at university, having left my Event Management course in July this year, so I am now looking for work. Recently I worked as a waitress at the Hyatt Regency Birmingham Hotel for a Liberal Democrat Conference. I really enjoyed it and am hoping to get a job there."



Victoria Jordan (07)

Ben Cheung (04): "I took Business Studies at Birmingham City University and have had the chance to travel to



Ben Cheung (04)

great places like Hong Kong, China, Macau, Portugal, France, Ireland and Spain. I also played a few concerts here and there in college bands. I am currently working as a trainee manager at Tesco Express."

Ed Thompson (98): "I've recently moved to Thames Ditton where I live with my wife, Vicky, and son, Oliver, who's seventeen months old. I continue to work at Nokia, where I've been for just over three years, and have recently moved to a new role as Channel Manager for the UK and Ireland. I continue to follow rugby and cricket, but as a spectator rather than participant these days, although I still manage to get the occasional game of golf in."



Ed Thompson (98)

James Charnock (09): "For the past two years, I have been studying Natural Science at UCL. I am thoroughly enjoying my time at university and am considering going on to do postgraduate Medicine. I still play hockey whenever I can and I'm a keen golfer, despite London not being the best location for this. I get back to Ratcliffe whenever possible, normally for Old Ratcliffian sporting events and love meeting up with everyone. For those who know me, I still live in Las Vegas with my family and I visit the UK whenever possible, although we shall be moving back to England late next year."

Sameer Pattni (99): "I qualified as a pharmacist in 2004, got married to Chandni in 2005 in Dubai and we now have a baby boy of fifteen months."



Sameer Pattni (99)

Jordan Boon (05): "Since leaving university in 2010 with a BA in Mathematics for Finance and Management with Fashion and Business, I have been running a T-shirt printing company (TheTShirtMan.co.uk). I also purchased a 27-foot Dufour sailing yacht as a project to renovate over the weekends. I stayed in Portsmouth until January 2011, when I moved back to Leicestershire for a while. I wanted to find someone to run the business over the summer whilst I went sailing, with the idea of getting the boat to Turkey. Complications with the boat made this impossible, but I did manage to retire for the summer. I have recently taken on a new house in Southsea and am living back by the seaside. The business is doing well and all is good."



Jordan Boon (05)

Tom Castell (03): "I am now in Australia working as an IT security consultant for an English company called Sophos. I manage all the corporate business within Victoria and Tasmania. I live in Melbourne and am a keen scuba diver - I am now working towards becoming an instructor."



Tom Castell (03)

Zack George (08): "After leaving Ratcliffe, I studied for a Personal Training qualification at Loughborough College. After that, I worked in the Nuffield Health Gym in Leicester as a spinning instructor and personal trainer. I then set up a personal training studio at my house called Fitness Box, where I train some of my clients. For the past year, I have been trading under my new company name,

Be Fitter, and I have several kettle bell fitness classes around Leicester with different instructors teaching for me."



Zack George (08)

Anthony Fung (89): "During the past few years, I have managed to turn a hobby into a career. My first experience of scuba diving was back at university. Now, being in Hong Kong with the inviting and vibrant tropical waters of South East Asia such as the Philippines, Thailand, Malaysia and Indonesia on my doorstep, I have taken the opportunity to dive as much as I can. I am now a scuba diving instructor and am lucky to be one of few people who really enjoy their work."



Anthony Fung (89)

Alex Pickles (09): "I've been at Leeds Metropolitan University for two years now studying Contemporary Art Practices and am about to go into my third year. I've been keeping myself busy building my portfolio



Alex Pickles (09)

with graphic design and website design work. With a co-designer, I have started to build a small freelance design business and we have already completed a number of successful projects. I have also started designing

prints for an online-based T-shirt company funded by a work colleague, but it is only in its early stages at the moment. I look forward to completing my third year of university and then I plan to travel."

Beth Savage (06) wrote: "I've just graduated from Oxford Brookes with a 2:1 in Early Childcare, Education and Human Development. I am now going to Australia until next September, when I will start a PGCE to become a primary school teacher. I lived with **Trudie Underwood (07)** at university and I'm still in touch with a lot of Ratcliffe friends."



Beth Savage (06)

James Marvin (10): "After I left Ratcliffe, I went to Australia to teach at St Kevin's College in Melbourne, which was the most amazing experience. While I was out there, I got the chance to visit lots of different countries, including Fiji, New Zealand and Canada. The experience also gave me an insight into teaching, which I am now pursuing. I am currently studying an Access to Teaching course at South Leicestershire College, which will lead me on to university in September 2012."



James Marvin (10)

Elisabeth Barker-Carley (10): "Since I left Ratcliffe, I've been studying Marketing with Events Management at University College Birmingham. I've been trying to figure out what direction I want to take in life, and I believe now that it is the music industry that I want to be a part of. I joined 'Kids Can't Fly' for part of their tour to learn the ins and outs of band life, as well as attending other

gigs to see how they are run. Working at Sonisphere Music Festival also shed some light on gigs at a larger level. Now I just can't wait to get out into the real world and be involved in music 24/7!"



Elisabeth Barker-Carley (10)

Will Bentley (06): "I am now a fully-certified ski and snowboard instructor working in Zermatt, Switzerland this year. I was in Australia last year ski instructing, as well as Portugal the year before doing surf instructing. Unfortunately, I was diagnosed with Type 1 diabetes two weeks before my 21st birthday, but apart from that, life has been good since I left Ratcliffe. I have been all around the world teaching and I'm looking at opportunities to start my own ski school in the next few years!"



Will Bentley (06)

Justin Needham (87) got his pilot's license shortly after leaving Ratcliffe, and now enjoys his hobby of flying in air shows. The 1988-89 recession meant that he didn't have the opportunity to fly commercially, so instead he went into business with his brother, **Martin Needham (86)** in January 1991. Twenty years later, they're still there – they now employ



Justin Needham (87)

thirty-two people for their business, Kiowa Ltd. Both the brothers still farm like they did in their Ratcliffe days. Many of you may remember Justin being picked up from school in a plane, which usually landed on the rugby pitches...and once on the cricket square! He got married in 2004 to Rachael, who is Head of Maths in a local grammar school, and they live together with their four year old son, Sam.

Richard Jee (10): "Since leaving Ratcliffe, I have been on a gap year. I spent ten months at St Kevin's, our sister school in Australia and then I moved on to travelling 'the wrong way back', seeing many different countries and cultures on the way."



Richard Jee (10)

Nicole Richardson (01): "It only seems like yesterday that I was at Ratcliffe, although a lot has happened since leaving and life has definitely been busy! More recently, I took some time out and went travelling through Asia, Australia, New Zealand and America, staying with a few Old



Nicole Richardson (01) with Sven Goran Eriksson

Ratcliffians en route and catching up with my brother, **Alistair Richardson (00)**, who now lives and works in New Zealand. Since my return, I have been working at The Star Inn 1744 in Thruxington assisting with the project management of its refit. I'm sure a few of you have memories of the old place! It has now been lovingly updated and has a great new restaurant, remodelled bar and seven bedrooms. We have just hosted a successful charity evening with Sven Goran Eriksson and Alan Birchenall

for Leicester City Football Club raising over £2000. So, all in all, life has been good."

Keir Creighton (00): "I studied at Sheffield Hallam and got a Film and Media degree. Once I'd graduated, I packed my bags for Singapore and got a job as a production assistant for ESPN. I stayed there for two and a half years and left as a TV producer! Since then, I have worked on a number of different things including reality shows like *The Amazing Race Asia* and *The Biggest Loser Asia*. Other jobs have included producing documentaries for CNBC, the Asian Golf Tour Channel and the World of Sport Channel. I'm currently a TV producer at the Asian Food Channel working on a reality show called *The Search for Asia's Next Celebrity Chef*. Basically, it's Asia's *Masterchef*, with food challenges, eliminations, and so on. We shot it in six different countries around Asia and I haven't had a day off in eight weeks!"



Keir Creighton (00)

Kelly Walne (née Landsdowne) (01): "I am now working for Derbyshire County Council as an Occupational Therapist. Steve, my husband, and I now have two beautiful daughters, Harriett and Emily, who both keep us on our toes! My brother, **Stuart Landsdowne (01)** is still playing cricket; he currently plays for Ashby Hastings, and he and his wife Catherine have a beautiful son called Edward."



Kelly Walne (née Landsdowne) (01)

Craig Harrison (98): "I currently work for Toyota. The loss of my dad five years ago encouraged me to do a little travelling to places like the USA

and Australia, as it made me realise that life is too short! I recently moved into my own place with my girlfriend. I'm an active member of the Air Training Corps as an adult volunteer, which is extremely rewarding but also very time consuming! Life is going extremely well at present."



Craig Harrison (98)

Matt Rowlett (92): "I left Ratcliffe and joined the Territorial Army (Royal Anglian Regiment) full time where I obtained the rank of Full Corporal and commanded a section of ten soldiers. I left in 1995 and joined Leicestershire Constabulary as a Police Officer in the Highfields area. Over the last sixteen years I have worked in various departments - CID, Vehicle Squad, Robbery Squad, Drugs Units and Surveillance. I am currently working as a Police Offender Manager, seconded to the Criminal Justice Drugs Team, managing offenders subject to drug and alcohol treatment throughout the county. I live in Syston and I have been married to Donna for seven years. We have two children - Amber (4) and Charlie (2)."



Matt Rowlett (92)

Sarah Hau (09): "I recently spent an exchange year in China at the University of Nottingham Ningbo China (UNNC). It was amazing – it felt like a whole year of holiday (even though I was taking my second year there). I hosted Nottingham's fifth Business Plan Competition, as well as the university's Art Festival. I also participated in the Tri-Campus Games as part of the girls' football team, winning silver against the UK and Malaysia. This year I am also PR and

Events Manager for the Nottingham Entrepreneurs. It's difficult to sum it all up – let's just say a lot has happened!"



Sarah Hau (09)

Alison Mason (98): "As well as getting married and moving house, I have also found some time for golf. My playing partner and I have secured a place in the pro-am of the 2012 Womens' British Open at Royal Liverpool (Hoylelake) next year after winning the 2011 Peugeot Coronation foursomes final at St Andrews on 19th September."

Richard Ashton (84): "Helen and I, along with our four daughters, Ella, Emelia, Katie and Lily welcomed Jamie Rowan into the world on 20th May 2011. Jamie was born prematurely and had to spend a week in hospital, but is now doing very well. A boy at last! I have been a keen triathlete for several years representing Great Britain (veterans!) at both the 2010 European Championships (where I finished fifth) and the World Championships (where I finished eleventh). In 2011, I decided to take things a little further by completing an Ironman Triathlon in order to raise funds for the Teenage Cancer Trust. After six months of training, I finished the race in twentieth place overall and first in the veterans category, raising £8000. Not sure I ever want to do another one!"

Jan Chudzynski (62): "Having left Ratcliffe in 1962, fifty years of business life are slowly coming to end. I qualified as a chartered surveyor and, having initially worked in London, I then moved to Poland where I was a partner at both Gerald Eve and Jones Lang. I am now involved in acquiring commercial assets across Poland and am living in Warsaw and Wimbledon."

I'm still in contact with a few Old Boys, and I'm looking forward to our fiftieth anniversary of leaving Ratcliffe. I have three sons; one is following in my footsteps (but in retail), another is a teacher at Dulwich Prep and the third is a solicitor in Kazakhstan."

Tom Case (91): "I'm now happily married to my lovely wife, Kelly. We have one daughter, Olivia, who is nearly three and a half. We live in Leicestershire with our German Shepherd puppy, Sasha. When I'm not at work, I can be found near to home and my family, and have been known to enjoy the odd beer in the pub! I recently met up with **Grant Walrond (92)** and am pleased to see so many old friends from Ratcliffe on Facebook. Take care, all."



Tom Case (91)

Anup Prashant Raja (04): "After I left Ratcliffe, I went to Beauchamp College for four years of studying. I then took a gap year, went travelling around Europe and worked in New Look. Now I'm in my final year at the University of Birmingham studying Economics."



Anup Prashant Raja (04)

Dharan Hunter (82): "I am soldiering on in the Army and currently find myself as a Lieutenant Colonel commanding a desk in the Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear Delivery Team in the Defence Equipment and Support organisation in Bristol. It is a world away from commanding Royal Anglian soldiers, but staff appointments come to us all. **Mike Plumb (82), Bernard Guina (82), Paul Hirst (82), Colin White (82), Mark Loynton (79), Simon Burns (83)** and I continue to meet up annually

during September in Snowdonia for a weekend of hillwalking and scrambling. As the years progress, the mountains seem to be getting higher, or we are getting slower (much slower!). It may take more walking to figure out which."

Paul Rudd (60) writes: "**Adam Rudd (88)** has now moved to Los Angeles and is working with Final Cut as a film editor. He also works out of their New York office and on location in Europe. He and Candida had a second son, Alfie Silver Rudd, on 5th June 2011 - a brother for Noah. **James Rudd (87)** is still publishing medical papers (eleven last year alone), based at Addenbrooke's Hospital, and he also lectures in Europe and North America. He gave the keynote address at the recent Atherosclerosis Symposium in Sweden. He and Emma have one daughter, Sophie. **Jacob Rudd (90)** has just qualified as a teacher at the Institute of Education, London, having left VSO after a number of years and worked in Kenya, Vietnam and extensively in South America. I regularly see **John McVeigh (59)** and **John Lavin (55)** when, not surprisingly, more than one bottle of pretty adequate wine is consumed."

François Grosjean (64) is now Professor Emeritus, having had to retire from his position at the University of Neuchâtel, Switzerland, for health reasons. However, he remains very active writing books in his domains of expertise (psycholinguistics and bilingualism) as well as maintaining a blog on bilingualism for the US magazine *Psychology Today*.

Anthony Holland (56): "This year I have been appointed to be a lay member of the Speaker's Committee for the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority, and a couple of years ago I was made a member of the Investigatory Powers Tribunal."

Darrell Abeyesundera (96): "I'm still living in sunny Leicester. I'm married and have a wonderful little daughter, Holly, who is my number one fan and runs on all the cricket pitches that I play on, home and away! I work for the NHS in Orthopaedics. Well done, Old Boys, for winning the 2011 Grand Match!"

Steve Clark (79): "This photo shows some of us from the Class of '79 during our little 'retreat' to the lovely village of Croyde on the North Devon coast in September 2011. Although

not annual, we have managed to gather here several times over the last ten years for various activities, such as golf, boules and biking, but primarily surfing, with the odd 'après surf' or two as well! The usual suspects are



Steve Clark (79) in Devon with Nick Wright (79), Dave Brunton (79), Chris Della Porta (79) & Simon Noble (79)

Nick Wright (79), Dave Brunton (79), Chris Della Porta (79), Simon Noble (79) and myself, plus a couple of other friends.

As anyone who remembers me at Ratcliffe will attest to, I was always aircraft mad and, of course, was a keen member of the CCF RAF section under (Flt Lt) **Fr 'Ted' Mullen (60)**. Following an HND in Aero Engineering at Bristol Polytechnic, I joined the RAF as an Engineer Officer. After completing an eight year commission, I changed from an engineer to become a pilot in the airline world, where I now fly for Virgin Atlantic. My engineering background has remained with me, however, as I am also a partner in an aircraft maintenance business based at Coventry airport. It was this love of aviation that drew me to research the history of Ratcliffe Aerodrome, where I arranged for the plaque commemorating its aeronautical heritage to be put up in the school, along with some details of its past, in the Old Boys' Bar. I only hope this information encourages current pupils to consider a career in an aeronautical field, which I, along with many other former Old Ratcliffians, have always enjoyed so fully. One of my remaining aviation ambitions is to land myself back at Ratcliffe on an Old Boys Weekend; I have been pacing out an appropriate landing area and assume I only need to assure the headmaster that I will be using my own specialist shortfield aircraft and not an Airbus A340 from work!"

Martin Cresswell (34): "I left Ratcliffe in 1934 after six happy years, so you can guess my age. I can just hobble with two sticks and am rather deaf and no longer drive so you can also guess how I would love to attend a Reunion again if my school friends

were there, but hardly any are left. I was a contemporary of **Brother Tony Primavesi (36)** who has recently died. We kept in touch by phone and went on holidays sometimes and I miss him. God bless him and all of us."

Mary-Anne Pilkington-Oates (79): "I left university and completed the Graduate Management Scheme in Harrods, then went into advertising planning with McCann Erickson. After that, I ran a business, completed my MSc and then moved into my field of Psychology and registered with the HPC. I now have permanent employment as a registered Occupational (Business) Psychologist. I have two kids, Garth and Imogen. My brother, **Mike Pilkington (79)**, has his own group of boutique hotels in Eastern Europe under the brand 'Uniquestay' - they are quite spectacular.

I met up with **Eric Ciambra (79)** and **Noel Sloan (79)** in New York in September. We hadn't seen one another for 32 years! Eric and Noel both looked very well (so young for their age!) and are both doing very well. Eric's wife, Susan, joined us - she is a delightful lady. Sadly, their two sons did not come, but they sound like adorable kids. A good evening was had by all, with so much to catch up on."



Mary-Anne Pilkington-Oates (79) with Eric Ciambra (79) & Noel Sloan (79) in New York

Georgette Oni (96): "I'm currently in Dallas, Texas. Since graduating from medical school, I've been undertaking training in plastic surgery and I am currently a research fellow in the plastic surgery department at UT Southwestern Medical Center. My younger brother, **Jide (97)** also graduated from medical school and is now training to be an orthopaedic surgeon. He is currently working at Addenbrooke's Hospital in Cambridge. My younger sister, **Julia (02)**, also graduated from medical school and is currently in Newcastle training to be a urologist after spending a year in New Zealand. My older sister, **Tola (94)**, graduated from Cambridge and

is a veterinarian, currently finishing her PhD at UCL in London. She got married in July. I was at Ratcliffe in the summer for **Catherine Campbell's (née Burns) (96)** wedding and it was nice to be back. Lots of new changes, but also a lot still the same, which was reassuring!"

Tony Ryan (41): "The biggest change in my life this year has been the death (at age 84) of my wife. Moira and I were married for a few months more than sixty years. She was still at home, in my care, at the time of our Sixtieth Wedding Anniversary and was able to enjoy it with the family, but it was not a great time later that she had to go into a rest home. She died on January 22nd, greatly mourned, not only by family and local friends, but also by friends and admirers around the world who had listened for years to her wise and extremely knowledgeable advice on gardening matters. Since my wife's death, I have become involved with the local hospital's 'Meals on Wheels' service, and I carry out a regular 'run' delivering these meals. I am also a volunteer subject in a long-term, multinational study of 'older drivers' (i.e. over 75), which is being carried out in the hopes of discovering objective criteria by which the competence (mental and physical) of older drivers can be assessed."

Felicity Bainbridge (06): "I graduated from Durham University last summer with a 2:1 in French and Philosophy. I'm now on a Management Consultancy graduate scheme and live and work in London. My current project is working for BAA at Heathrow Airport. My role is concerned with managing the cost and handling of the additional luggage that Olympic athletes will carry. Every day brings fresh challenges, but being involved in the preparation for the Olympic Games is extremely exciting! My younger brother, **Freddie (08)**, has just graduated from Loughborough University with a 2:1 in Sports Science. He is going to follow his dream of being a doctor and will be starting a degree in Medicine in September."

James Jelley (03): "Since leaving school, I have got a degree in Construction and am now running one of the housing sites for the family business. In terms of social activities, we completed a bike ride to Land's End which featured in this magazine last year, and my brother **Nick (01)**

and I are planning on running the London Marathon in April for charity."



James Jelley (03)

Damian Walsh (79): "I have been working for the last eight years as an independent leadership and management development consultant."



Damian Walsh (79) & family

This year Fiona and I celebrated our 50th birthdays, and also our Silver Wedding Anniversary in May, with a super holiday to Thailand and Laos, which we loved. We also decided to have a small ceremony in June to renew our wedding vows to mark the occasion, with just our three children, Phoebe (20), Tristram (16) and Clementine (12) present. The service was conducted by our parish priest, Fr John Timmins, in our local church in Great Bardfield. Early in September we held a garden party for family and friends to celebrate not only our birthdays and Silver Wedding Anniversary, but also the first vintage of our wine, made from home-grown grapes that were picked in our own self-planted vineyard. It is a small vineyard of 550 vines within our four-acre smallholding on the borders of Essex, Suffolk and Cambridgeshire. It's not a commercial enterprise as such, but a little bit more than a light weekend hobby!"

James DeVille (79): "I am still in the fast food business managing for McDonald's after many years in catering at Alton Towers. Michael, my oldest son, has just started Sixth Form and Katie is in Year 10. Ruth, my wife, is busy running her plant and

nursery business. I suppose it would be nice to get to fifty and stand back and take time to enjoy life more, but not just at present."

Jonathan Wightman (93): "After leaving Ratcliffe, I started an apprenticeship with the Ministry of Defence as a Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineer based at Old Dalby. Unfortunately, due to government cutbacks, the base closed down in 1996 and, instead of relocating to the Telford base, I decided to leave and start work in our family-owned construction firm. In 2000, I moved to Lincolnshire and started a small plumbing and heating company. After a holiday to the Canadian Rockies in 2005, I decided I would like to relocate to Canada and did so in 2008. I'm currently living in Calgary, Alberta, and I work as a project manager for a property management company. I have enjoyed living abroad for the last few years, although I am now contemplating returning to the UK."

Basil d'Oliveira (44): "Since I last communicated with you, and having reached the ripe old age of 83, I decided to call it a day and retire on July 1st 2011. I am currently preparing to present a special paper on *The Comet in Transport Command (1956-1976)*. This paper is for the Royal Air Force Historical Society at the RAF Museum, Hendon. The idea behind this was to put on record some of the events that occurred in the 1950s. Sadly, most of those involved have now died."

Hollie Haines (10): "After Ratcliffe, I took a gap year to spend working and applied to the University of Nottingham, where I have now started. Can I just say that Ratcliffe absolutely turned my life around. I hold the school very, very close to my heart as it gave me the two best years of my life. I can't thank all the staff there enough."



Hollie Haines (10)

Nicholas Shields (62): "I retired as

a Chartered Surveyor in 2005. Since 1996 I have been a Deacon in the Diocese of Leeds."

Chris Merriman (83): "I started a new company, Merriman Property Ltd, specialising in property development and property management. I continue to see **Andrew Yell (82)** (although why, I don't know), **Greg O' Connor (83)** and **Richard Palmer (83)**. I see **Suzanne Buckland (née Armstrong) (81)** regularly, who is married and living in Nottinghamshire."

Mike Ogilvie (72): "I'm still in Eastbourne with my firm, OBC The Accountants. I have recently been holidaying at La Manga Club in Spain with **Andrew Marshall (72)** and his new fiancé, Chrissy. I have recently got engaged myself to a local solicitor, Nadine Ashford. In my other role as a conference speaker, I have been hired to speak in November at the Third World Advertising Forum in Tehran, Iran."

Max Noss (10): "After leaving Ratcliffe, I took a gap year. During this time I travelled across Australia and New Zealand, working on farms and in hostels. I am currently studying for an Economics and Marketing degree in Sheffield."



Max Noss (10)

Tony Gibbons (53): "I am now a Research Fellow in the School of Humanities at Flinders University, South Australia. This provides a good environment in which to do my research and to write. Another granddaughter has now raised the total to five – Naomi was born to my son, Michael and his wife, Angelina, in Jakarta. We spent a couple of weeks with them recently. It is exceedingly soothing to be old and ancient and be received into a Chinese family - I like Confucius more and more! Given the state of my knees after decades of hockey, rugby, squash and marathons, the only possibility is cycling and I shall be part of the public satellite event in the next South Australian Tour 'Down Under'. Cadel Evans has no

reason to fear!"

John Budding (06): "Not quite content with four years of further education, I will be starting a Masters in Ethnomusicology at Goldsmiths this October. The masters will further my knowledge in cultural and social studies of music. I balance my studies with a part-time job at the British Academy of Songwriters, Composers and Authors, and with my work as a session musician. I currently do freelance work for numerous bands, including Amy MacDonald, Conor Deasy of The Thrills, and I have even managed some TV work, including backing One Direction on 2011's *X Factor* (the highlight of which was, naturally, seeing Wagner in a pair of gold sequinned trousers). It may come as a surprise to many of my old classmates and teachers (who can probably recount the amount of PE lessons I attended on one hand) that I have become interested in fitness! I will be running the Royal Parks Half Marathon in October, and I am hoping to gain a place in either the London or Paris Marathon in April 2012."

Frank Finnegan (72): "Recently my wife, Chris, and I celebrated our 25th Wedding Anniversary at home in Sheffield. **Bob Forstner (72)** and **Matthew Lindley (72)** were amongst the friends who attended."

Peter Finn (70): "I first ran the London Marathon in 2007. It was my first ever marathon and I ran it to raise funds for Mencap. Having run one, I thought I might as well stay fit and run a few more, and I did the New York Marathon for Mencap later that year. But my greatest pleasure was when my son, **James (08)**, began running with me. We both did the Great North Run in 2007 and followed that with the London Marathon in 2008, where we started and finished together in a time of 3 hours and 48 minutes. James and I ran The Atlantic Coast Challenge in 2010, which is from Padstow to Land's End, and entails running three marathons in three days. In September, Rory (now into his final year at Ratcliffe) joined us at Nottingham, where he ran his first ever half-marathon. So, since that first London Marathon in 2007, I have run 25 marathons and James has run 13. So far, we have raised over £25,000 for Mencap, and James has pledged to run with me on my 100th Marathon when I join the '100 Club'! At my present progress, that should

be sometime in 2020 at the tender age of 68!”

Anthony Dewhirst (48): “I left Ratcliffe in 1948, having been a pupil at Grace Dieu for four years and Ratcliffe for six. **Anthony Blackham (48)** was a direct contemporary and we were in the same classes at Ratcliffe throughout our six years there. I was ordained at Ratcliffe on July 9th 1961, a week after the Chapel opened. After that, I was Fr Emery’s Secretary for three years, after which I went to New Zealand (in 1964) to teach at the Rosmini College. (I also had two spells of teaching at Ratcliffe, for two and a half years in the 50s and for six months in 1974). Another twenty years in New Zealand followed when I returned there in 1977 and taught at St Peter’s Gore for four years, then spent sixteen years on the Catholic Marriage Tribunal in Auckland before returning to the UK in 1998. Since then, I have spent my time translating and writing on the works of Antonio Rosmini.”



Golden Jubilee Mass for Fr Anthony Dewhirst (48)

Kate Rumbold (97): “While on a three-month research trip to New York this summer, I was able to join in with the first ever USA Old Ratcliffians’ Dinner in Washington DC. It was great to meet so many generations of Old Ratcliffians and **Clare Nugent (91)** kindly gave me a tour of the beautiful Shenandoah National Park afterwards.”

Ronald Ward (54): “I see **Terry O’Neill (62)** and **Michael Waldron (58)** from time to time. Terry has recently retired as a senior partner in a top city law firm. Michael’s two sons, James and Paul, are students and his daughter, Rebecca, is doing her GCSEs. All the family are accomplished musicians.”

Brian Mahon (48): “I retired from work fifteen years ago. I am very happily retired and have good health. I frequently meet **Fr Barry Farmer (48)**, who now lives in Slaithwaite near Huddersfield.”

Chris Faulkner (87): “To all those people who said I wouldn’t go far - you were right! I am still living in Leicester. I’m married with four children (three step-children), yet still surprisingly happy most of the time. I would love to hear from any chums from the Class of ‘87.”

Michael Bower (05): “I graduated with a Masters in Aeronautical Engineering from Loughborough University this year and will soon be starting work as an engineering consultant.”

Chris Cuming (51): “I now have four children: Louise, Paul, Richard and James. I have two and a half grandchildren by Richard: Joe and Tom (and one unknown!). I retired from Nottingham Trent University in 1997. I still sing in the Nottingham Harmonic Society Choir. I would be glad of any Ratcliffian contact.”

Robert Leaper (40): “I celebrated my ninetieth birthday to coincide with my daughter’s twentieth wedding anniversary. I still stay in touch with **Canon Peter Phillips (40)**, my Ratcliffian contemporary. I have retired (at last!) from chairmanship of Age Concern.”

Victoria Meynell (née Illingworth) (00): “On March 1st this year, I gave birth to our beautiful baby girl, Isabelle, making our family complete with two boys, Austin (4) and Tobias (2). I’m currently on maternity leave but will return to work as a research nurse in January.”

William Spowage (52): “I’ve been married for 51 years and am now retired and decaying slowly! I have five children and eleven grandchildren. I regularly keep in touch with **Paul Dyson (52)** in Washington and **Bill Myers (57)** in Leicester.”

Alex Gamble (03): “I have started working for the LOROS Hospice in Leicestershire as a corporate



Alex Gamble (03) at a LOROS event with Jason Leonard, Ed Stafford & Lawrence Dallaglio

fundraiser. We have to raise a minimum of four million pounds

every year which is a hard task in itself with the economy at its worst. I get to do some great events, though, like the Rampant Run. A group of celebrities and special guests ran 200 miles from Devon to Twickenham Stadium in 24 hours. They were greeted by HRH Prince Harry on the pitch during half time at the France vs England Six Nations game – it was a fantastic end to the event. I have only been at LOROS for ten months but I thoroughly enjoy it, and knowing that I am helping people in the community is great. I also run my own business with the Global Network Marketing Company in the Health and Wellness Industry that I fit in around LOROS. It’s booming and I am always looking for people to join my business. Last but not least, I’m getting married to Tim Slack on Saturday 17th December.”

William Powell (50): “We have become great-grandparents in the past two years, to George and Aimie. We visit **David Thistlethwaite (50)** at his home in Somerset when we are en route to Devon, and I see two of my brothers, **David (55)** and **Peter (67)**, often.”

Chris Davies (04): “I’ve just left Cheadle Hulme School Sixth Form and am now completing an apprenticeship at the advertising and marketing company McCann Manchester.”

Liz Mapletoft’s (née Bramwell) (00) husband Mark Mapletoft is now one of the back coaches for the Harlequins Rugby Team. Liz had her second baby, Gracie, in March - a sister for Jack.

James Winkless (07): “After graduating from Sheffield University in 2010 with a 2:1 in Business Management, I quickly got offered a job in London to work for one of the



James Winkless (07)

world’s largest IT service companies. I am currently working in new business sales, whilst also holding the position of Account Manager for a £500m aviation company.”

Jane Laurie (01): "I work as Campaign Director for a social media agency in London, creating campaigns for Bacardi, P&G and Barclays. I live near Tower Bridge in London with my fiancé, Stephen, and we're actually getting married at Ratcliffe next June."



Jane Laurie (01)

Myles Jackson (09): "During the last two years, whilst studying Business Management at Leeds Metropolitan, I decided to learn Chinese. Eventually I want to move to China to further study business in the Chinese market place. I'm about to embark on the biggest adventure of my life and I can't wait."



Myles Jackson (09)

Andrew Finan (82): "I sold a sports business to IMG in 2008 and was MD there for a while, but then invented a new foreign language game called KLOO and have been busy building that up as a business. The idea is that, as you play the game, you learn a language. It has won a host of awards in the last year. It's rather ironic, since languages were not my best subjects at Ratcliffe! Now I am trying to learn Italian whilst being married to one! My wife, Rita, and I have two daughters, Lucia (15) and Sasha (12)."



Andrew Finan (82)

Alex Keyworth (10): "I've spent most of the last year training to become a ski instructor, ending in a two-week course in Val d'Isere. I'm now a fully qualified BASI Level Two Instructor. The rest of the time I have been playing rugby for Syston Rugby Club and working at the Stretton 2000 Kart Track."



Alex Keyworth (10)

Sophie Yell (10): "I'm still really enjoying my Sports degree at Bath University and I recently took part in the Bath Half Marathon, which I plan to do again with some Old Ratcliffian friends."

Laura White (06): "I've just returned from a year studying abroad, having spent the first half in Lyon and the second half in Shanghai. I am now starting my final year of French and Mandarin in Liverpool."

Gerald O'Coffey (46): "My wife, Audrey, passed away peacefully on April 22nd 2011 (Good Friday) after ill health stoically borne for ten years. Sadly, we just missed being able to celebrate our Diamond Wedding by eighteen months. May God rest her soul."

Jamie Anderson (02): "My hobbies have changed - I have been competing in a British Rally Competition and I was one of fifty top upcoming competitors in 2010. I am currently leading the BTRDA Group N category in a Mitsubishi Evolution 9."

Calum Houston (10) left for America this August. He has a place at Thomas University, Georgia. He is fulfilling his dream of playing 'soccer' along with studying on a four year degree course.

James Fagence-Browne (07): "After I left Ratcliffe, I took a gap year and then started university at Sheffield Hallam. I am now in my final year of Building Surveying. Since leaving Ratcliffe I have still kept very close to the friends I made in my school days. This past summer, six Ratcliffe friends

- **Mathew Pike (05), Hollie Stone**



James Fagence-Browne on holiday with Matthew Pike, Hollie Stone, Alice Pulford, Charlotte Dolan, Joseph Charles & Luke George

(07), Alice Pulford (07), Charlotte Dolan (07), Joseph Charles (07), Luke George (07) - and I went to the Algarve and had one of the best weeks exchanging stories about our Ratcliffe times and wishing that we could be back there again."

Andrew Frisby (82): "I'm living in Hampshire and working for a finance company. I've been married to Amanda for twenty years and have two boys, Alex (6) and Harry (4)."

Miles Walton (73): "Last year, I retired as a tax partner in Allen and Overy LLP. My wife, younger son and I then spent a year in the south-west of France (the Bear) and we have just moved to the north-east of England (Whitley Bay). Currently, I work part time for Investec Bank. Two or three times a year, I meet up in London with **Tom Redfern (73), Simon Fox (72)** and various others who left during '71-'73. Tom and I are planning to arrange a reunion for our year in 2013."

Tony Prichard (68): "I'm now retired, having been a partner at Weightmans Solicitors for thirty years and, latterly, a council member of the National Law Society for five years."

Oliver Bayley (98) has worked overseas since leaving Edinburgh University. He lives with his wife, Lisa, in Sydney and his work as an exploration geologist takes him to different parts of the country.

Guy Moser (51): "I married Olga fifty years ago last February. My son, **Jonathan (80)**, married Sarah twenty-five years ago this September. I see **Harry Ovington (52)** every Sunday at Mass at St Teresa's."

Nick Dunford (91): "I'm currently working for the University of Sheffield in their English Language Teaching Centre. Our children, Hannah, Clare and Joshua were all born in Japan and are now at St Marie's Catholic Primary School, whose headmaster is himself an Old Ratcliffian - **Alan Dewhurst (73).**"

David Sandeman (77): "I dropped in

recently to see **Fr Ted Mullen (60)**. It was good to see him and talk about school days and more. I'm happily married with two great kids: Max (12) and Georgina (10). I'm currently running a property auction news service."

David Urwin (86): "This is my first update since leaving school. I am married to Sarah with a daughter, Hannah, now fifteen. Wow! Where did that go?! I regularly see **Jim (86)** and **Rob Tyler (86)** and **Graham Fowlds (86)**, as we are all still in the Loughborough area. My youngest brother, **Robert (91)** is in Australia. He is married to Liz and has three kids, Harrison, Stella and Taylan."

Peter Rowan (68): "I got an LLM (Master of Laws) from De Montfort University this year (with merit) and, when attending the lectures, I stayed with **Andrew Gamble (68)**. Apart from the fact that we watch rugby now rather than play it, not a lot has changed between us from the 1960s. I still do slightly more studying than him!"

Sam Mould (01): "I qualified as a Chartered Certified Accountant in March this year and I am now working in London with KPMG."

Ben Jackson (98): "It has been a fun year this year mostly dominated by getting to know Ratcliffe all over again. I mean that I have visited the old place a few times in the twenty odd



Ben Jackson (98) on the Triumph motorbike before the Leicester Lizard Challenge

years since I left, but in the last twelve months I've been travelling backwards and forwards to the College to pick up my eldest son, who has started in the Junior School. They say you should never go back – well, sometimes they're wrong. I am not sure who has enjoyed it more, Kit or me! I know that he is having a fantastic time.

Going back to Ratcliffe usually means meeting the odd Gamble! In this case, I was persuaded by **Alex Gamble (03)** to jump on a motorbike and ride to the Lizard in Cornwall to raise money

for LOROS, which became known as the Leicester Lizard Challenge."

Patrick O'Donnell (55): "I retired from General Practice in 2010, forty-nine years after qualifying at St Mary's Hospital, Paddington. I became a grandparent for the first time in February 2011. I recently met up with **Ted Hugo (55)**, who lives in Germany, and I have several Old Ratcliffian cousins who I meet occasionally."

Nikesh Pancholi (01): "I'm currently living in Ealing, London. I'm a consultant optometrist at Moorfields



Nikesh Pancholi (01)

Eye Hospital. Three years ago I went travelling around Asia, Australia, New Zealand and India for a year – it was amazing. I visit Leicester every three or four weeks to see the family. I still play football, cricket and rugby."

Andrew Crossley (81): "After twenty-five years in fund management, the last twenty with Invesco Perpetual, this 'gamekeeper turned poacher' became a partner at Peel Hunt. My son, Joe, is following in his father's footsteps; he is now reading Economics at Loughborough University."

Alexandra Kyte (née Cullen) (85): "I'm a BDM for an international hotel watersports provider. I have two beautiful daughters, Miranda (16) and Felicity (12)."

Brian Trotman (49): "Sadly, my wife died suddenly last December whilst we were on holiday. We shared fifty-two wonderful years. Both my grandsons are progressing well in sport - watch out for the Trotman name in years to come!"

Neil Swift (82): "I am now an airline captain with Easyjet. I am married to Lisa and we have four children; Taylor is at Winchester University, Jamie is in the Sixth Form in Oundle, and Olivia and Gemma are both at secondary school."

Patrick Farrelly (68): "I am now fully retired but keeping very busy. I am

Vice Chairman of the North Devon Group of the Catenian Association, Vice President of the local Rotary Club and am playing golf, walking and driving a pony and trap. Catenians visiting North Devon are always welcome to attend our meetings on the fourth Thursday of the month."

Michael Reynolds (67): "I am still working in the Lloyds and Insurance Company Market. I was last at Ratcliffe in June 2009 for the Reunion Dinner. I met up with **David Gallagher (65)**, **Andres Sardi (65)**, **Richard Nieuwenhuys (64)** and **Jeremy Knight-Adams (65)** during 2009-10. My daughter is getting married in 2011."

Francesca Sheppard (née Gilby) (83): "I'm now living in Bedfordshire and am married with two children - Ruaridh (6) and Eleanor (4). I see a lot of **Sophie Coker (83)**, **Mary Dunn (83)**, **Andrew Cullen (83)** and, more recently, **Anna Devine (83)**."

Sarah Humrich (05): I moved from Leicester to Slough in June 2011 due to my partner's relocation. I've since found a job in Maidenhead working for a leading open-source software company."

Gerard McSweeney (44): "I am indebted to Ratcliffe's staff in the '40s, especially the incomparable **Fr Murray**, **Fr Leetham** and **Br Roche**, all of whose subjects have served me well since then. However, I owe my career to **Bros** (as they were) **Baxter** and **McGough**, whose science teaching led eventually to a post-graduate degree at Birmingham University and fifty years at the then Malaysian Rubber Producers Research Association, latterly as an analytical chemist. Retirement is occupied with a St Albans local history interest initiated by the remarkable and fascinating approach to history of **Br 'Jimmy' Connolly**. Five additional members of the family appeared during the earlier part of the period under discussion!"

Sanjeev Dhiman (98): "I've been living and working in London since graduating from university in 2003. I married Isher Dhiman in 2005. I am now working in the credit derivatives market. I was part of a successful start-up which was sold in 2008 to the Chicago Mercantile Exchange. I am now working for a boutique consultancy specialising in IT and advisory work for investment banks. We had our first child, Aviya Dhiman, on April 5th 2011. I keep in

touch with Old Ratcliffians along the way, especially when I come back to Leicester."



Sanjeev Dhiman (98)

Stan Collins (03): "I have always been inspired by being on stage and performing, and after leaving, I joined an entertainment troupe doing fire eating, stilt walking and snake charming, to name but a few!"

Andrew Cullen (83): "I'm married to Sally and have a daughter, Lucy. I run my own business and regularly meet up with **Francesca Shepherd (née Gilby) (83)**, who used to live near us in London, but now lives in Bedfordshire. My brother, **Stephen (84)** lives in Sevenoaks with his wife, Sam, and two boys, Leo and Daniel."

Chris Hession (99): "I've set up my own promotions company, Hesso Media Ltd, in London, promoting artists new and old to national radio stations. I love it!"

Adrian While (67): "After twenty-five years as a consultant ophthalmologist in Hereford, I retired in 2009 and am enjoying life and spending time with my four grandchildren."

Oliver Thompson (01) completed an MA in Property Investment and Finance at Nottingham Trent University and is now working for a firm of commercial property agents in Northampton. He has recently announced his engagement to Frances Bacon and is due to be married in 2012. His sister, **Georgia (03)**, is moving to Australia in 2012 to join her boyfriend in Sydney. She has travelled extensively since university, and for the last year she has been working as an account manager for a fashion accessory company. **Harriet (05)** has just returned from travelling and working in Australia and New Zealand, and is now back temporarily and working in Leicester.

Richard Draycott (90): "I am now based in Abu Dhabi where I manage an investment boutique called Stonehaven. I got engaged this year and we plan to get married in

2012. My best man is my old school roommate, **Dom Magee (92)**. He has a property investment joint venture with my other old roommate, **Christian Gallagher (92)**. I am also godfather to Alex, son of **Abe Mee (92)**."

Christopher Parker (74): "I will soon be deploying to Afghanistan for a year to be the senior medical commander for the whole of the International Security Assistance Force."

Keith Shepherd (73): "I am Principal Soil Scientist at the World Agroforestry Centre (ICRAF) in Nairobi, Kenya, and lead one of their global research programmes. I am married to Gemma and have four children aged 27, 24, 22 and 14. We have lived in Kenya for the past twenty years and, before that, in the Sudan, Philippines and Syria. My A Level Biology project with Brother Primavesi on plant adaptation to soil pH seems to have had a profound effect!"

James Gillick (88): "It seems that neither a long while nor a short while has passed since leaving Ratcliffe. The college was a landmark of such scale in my young life that it remains visible and close however far away I move from it. Every time I zoom past on the A46, I give a little salute and say 'hello'."



James Gillick (88) at work in his studio

Ratcliffe gave me and my twin brother, **Theo (88)**, a great deal; rescuing us from a particularly troublesome period in our lives. Our mother, Victoria, was a very prominent public figure at the time and we were bullied hugely at our first secondary school as a consequence. We were expelled within the first term (if I recall correctly) for endless fist fights and dragging the entire school into a near state of chaos on a couple of occasions - impossible as that sounds. No other schools would take us on so we were taught at home for a year and a half with the help of paid tutors.

It was **Fr Hurdidge (40)** who saved us. He came to visit and offered us

a place at Ratcliffe. I recall having a conversation with Theo fairly early on in which we agreed that we would tell no one at Ratcliffe our surname or where we came from or who we were. Above all else, I recall boarding school fondly as a safe-haven, an inward-looking gaggle of students living in a bubble. I suppose no-one really knows just how many families the Rosminians help in this way, God bless them.

Ratcliffe in my day had many fine teachers (and a couple of very pretty ones), but one of them means more than all the others: **Mr Satterthwaite**, the art teacher. Simply put, he was the finest teacher I have ever had in any discipline. With my parents he has been the single greatest spur to my artistic life, and much of what I have now comes from him. Whenever I look back Mr Satterthwaite's love of art, his real skill and his delight in others enjoying what he adored make him the glittering pinnacle of that landmark of my youth, Ratcliffe. Purple prose, I know, but he deserves it.

I am A Levels, a degree in Landscape Architecture, a marriage and five (soon to be six) children down the road from that time. My degree was a 'failsafe' option in case the painting pictures gig failed. But, since my graduation, I have been a full time artist. I have had my share of troubles, but things are going well; I run a successful studio, I still enjoy my work hugely, my faith is still intact, my wife loves me and my children are a joy (to my wife and I at least). I'll keep you posted."

Richard Hopkins (61): "Ever tried cycling eight miles up over 5000 feet around thirty-six hairpin bends, all cruelly numbered so you know exactly how many more to go before you reach the end of your ride to hell? Nor had I until, earlier this year, I signed up for a two week cycling trip in Kerala in south west India. The climb in question was to Ooty, high in the Nilgiri mountains. The next day was my version of biker's paradise, down 6600 feet over forty-five miles through the Western Ghats to the plains of Kerala. It was worth every moment of the previous day's toil.

Kerala is a delight. For the next week or so, we cycled the back roads through villages, open fields, forests and game reserves to the palm groves alongside the golden beaches of the Arabian Sea. We were welcomed

everywhere we went, sometimes with curiosity (where on earth did these strange creatures come from with their funny hats and smart bikes... and why?). Along the way, we thrived on our rides in the searing heat and indulged in Abhyangam massages to restore our weary limbs. We visited Cochin Fort, meticulously restored to capture the diverse European architectural influences of the trading nations who once made Cochin the

spice capital of the world. We stayed overnight in houseboats, enjoying the peace and calm of the Quilon backwaters to end our trip in Varkala – a smaller, more laid-back version of Goa ten years ago.

Kerala means ‘the land of coconuts’. It’s not surprising that the soft sweetness of coconut milk, mixed with a variety of local spices such as ginger, cardamom, tumeric and cinnamon dominate so many Keralan

dishes. Somehow, though, the spices don’t seem combine in quite the same way at home. How can you recapture the sensuous pleasure of eating freshly caught local fish, cooked to perfection in banana leaves, in the warmth of a moonlit evening on top of the Varkala’s cliffs whilst sipping a bottle of cold local beer? Try as you might, it just doesn’t work in Streatham.”

Tilinanu in 2011



The girls enjoying their new playground

It is now four years since I started to write about Tilinanu, the orphanage in Malawi which was founded by Alice Pulford at the tender age of 18. Every year the improvements made seem to get better and better. Alice, with the aid of an army of helpers and a huge amount of drive, has managed to maintain the support, both financial and otherwise, required to keep the orphanage up and running.

Each year, approximately £15,000 is required just to support the girls in the orphanage, not to mention the capital required to carry out improvements to the buildings and the grounds. There are currently thirty-four girls in residence. The difference between this charity and many others is that, as it is so small, all the monies go directly to the orphanage. It costs £16.50 per month to sponsor a child and £10 per month to become a ‘Friend of Tilinanu’; this money goes towards the maintenance of the orphanage and to augment the ‘Porridge Fund’, a government scheme which feeds children with a bowl of porridge per day. At the moment the orphanage feeds 176 children a day through this scheme.

This year, Alice set her Old Ratcliffian friends a challenge before they set off to volunteer in the summer. Each volunteer was asked to raise £1000 for a project of their own design.

Katie Gerighty (11) raised enough to build a playground and play area. “My summer at Tilinanu was one of the best experiences of my life and I enjoyed every bit of it. With the money that I had raised at home, I was able to buy each girl a pair of knitting needles, buy proper netball posts and build a playground within the walls of the orphanage to encourage the girls to play

more. It was amazing to see it finished and the girls playing on it the day that I left.

However, I was also given the opportunity to teach the girls and other children from the village and also to practise physiotherapy on babies with cerebral palsy. I was able to really experience the Malawian culture as, for part of my stay, I lived with a family in the local village.

My favourite part of being at Tilinanu was watching the girls pray every night before supper; it is amazing to hear everything that they are thankful for even though they have so much less than us. Also to listen to the girls sing and see the joy on their faces is unbelievable. One other very special part of my experience at Tilinanu was my 18th birthday; we had a big kid’s birthday party



Katie Gerighty (11)

with a bouncy castle, face paint and party food; it was one of the best days of my life. This summer and the memory of all the girls is going to stay with me forever and I already miss them every day.”

Sophie Mulligan and Laura Birtwhistle (11) raised enough money to build a bore hole so that the water bills, which were previously costly, could now be considerably reduced.

Sophie Mulligan wrote: “Laura and I went to Lilongwe in Malawi over the summer as volunteers for Tilinanu orphanage. On our flight over, I was a bit apprehensive and nervous about the trip as we were travelling alone and going somewhere completely different and far away from England. However, after arriving and being greeted with nothing but love and kindness (and song and dance!) from the Tilinanu angels, I knew that I was going to love my time there. I wanted to go to Africa to help the people however I could, and to make a difference

with the advantages I have been given in my life so far.

The girls took me by surprise as they were so eager to learn, and they also taught us some of their native language, Chichewa, in return. With the money that Laura and I raised, we managed to build a bore hole, new washing stations to do their washing on and some chickens, which they loved!

Also, whilst I was in Malawi, I worked as a student nurse. I was able to work in the Government Hospital and in one of the clinics in the local area. This was an incredible opportunity for me to experience and I’m so grateful to Alice for arranging this for me.

So many memories have been created and I can’t say that there was one thing in particular that I enjoyed the most as the whole experience was amazing. I just want to thank everyone who has ever made a donation to the orphanage or to anyone who has sponsored a girl, as I have personally seen first-hand the difference you are making to their lives and it’s truly amazing.”

Old Ratcliffians, **Ross McDonald (06)** and **Lawrence Pulford (06)** also gave their time to volunteer at the orphanage this summer.

Ratcliffe College kindly hosted another Garden Party in July which raised over £20,000 for the fund.

If you would like to volunteer in Tilinanu, contact Alice Pulford alice_pulford@hotmail.co.uk or visit www.lovetilinanu.org.uk

Jackie Bennett
Editor



Sophie Mulligan (11)

BIRTHS

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



Sarah Harley (03) with partner, Alessandro Robbo & Xavier Emilio

Sarah Harley (03): "On July 26th 2011 I gave birth to a little boy, Xavier Emilio Robba, weighing 8lbs 2oz. My fiancé's name is Alessandro Robba. He was born in Genova Italy, which is where I now live with my fiancé. I met him whilst working on the Princess Cruise ships as a facialist.

We are planning on having a Christening in November and Old Ratcliffian, **Laura Betts (05)** is to be his godmother."



Tom & Jessica Jordan (96) with baby Arnold

Jess Jordan (née Gamble) (96) and husband, Tom, welcomed baby Arnold into the world in January. Little Arnie is very privileged to have Auntie **Ginny O'Keefe (née Gamble) (98)** as his godmother! Jess is currently living in Knowle, Solihull and is looking forward to a well-earned break when she returns to work early next year!



Graeme (96) with his son Espen & brother Paul (91) with his two boys, Ned & James

Graeme Ferguson (96): "Kat and I had a baby boy on December 27th. Espen Haakon John Ferguson was born the night England were well on the way to retaining the Ashes, which must be a sign of great things to come. He was baptised in May this year by **Fr Simon Giles (60)** at Our Lady Immaculate and St Edmund's Church in Withermarsh Green."



Sam & Guiliana (née De Rienzo) Bird (98) with Francesca & her two brothers, Harry & Benjamin

Francesca Lucia Emilia Bird was born on 18th May 2011, weighing 7lb 5oz, third child of **Sam Bird (98)** and **Guiliana Bird (98) (née De Rienzo)**.



Ben (96) & Claire with stepdaughter, Remy, and their son, Ronnie

Ben Stephens (96): "This has been a busy year. My partner, Claribelle Walshe, and I had a son, Ronnie, on 6th March 2011 and we are expecting our next child, a daughter, on 26th January next year."



Mark Attley (76) with grandson Noah

Mark Attley (76): "Our first grandson, Noah, was born on the 20th September, weighing in at a healthy 8lbs 10oz to our daughter, Stephanie and her husband, Brad."

MARRIAGES

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



India Hobbs (05) and Charlie Mauger (03): "As you may or may not know, Charlie Mauger and I got married in Le Marche, Italy this summer on 27th July. It was just the most perfect day and so great to catch up with old friends. Old Ratcliffians who were there were:

Olivia French-Gray (bridesmaid) (05), **Katie Coltman** (bridesmaid) (05), **Camilla Hobbs** (Maid of Honour) (05), **Sebastian Hobbs** (Best Man) (07), **Tom Hobbs** (02), **Lucie Mauger** (02), **Alex Levy** (00), **Laura Betts** (05), **James Grant** (05), **Michael Coady** (05), **William Moore** (03), **Peter Madden** (87) and **Michael French-Gray** (06).

Photo, L-R: **Katie Coltman, Olivia French Gray, Camilla Hobbs, India Hobbs-Mauger, Charles Mauger, Don Primo, Sebastian Hobbs, George Mauger and Adam Manchester.**



Michelle Hall (00) & Luke Gurney (00)

Michelle Hall (00) and Luke Gurney (00) were married on September 3rd 2011 at St Mary's Church, Nanpantan Road in Loughborough. The reception was held in a marquee at Luke's parents' house, also on Nanpantan Road. They were joined by **Karen Grace (00), Liz Mapletoft (00), Dom Howkins (00), Saroj Ekanayake (00), Scott Piecha (00)** and their partners.



Natasha Bilinski (91) & Adama Sow



Gabrielle Needham (04) & Harry Beeby

Gabrielle Needham (04): Gabrielle Needham married Harry Beeby on 17th June 2011 at St Paul's Church, Woodhouse Eaves followed by a reception at Friarswell Estate, Wartnaby.

"It has been a very busy year. Harry Beeby, my boyfriend, proposed to me after six years of being together in Paris in 2010. It was a complete surprise! The last year has been spent organising our wedding. The day was absolutely perfect (although I know every bride says that!). It was everything we could have hoped for it to be; even the rain stayed away long enough for us to have had dinner and no longer care! We were surrounded by our closest friends and family (including some Old Ratcliffians). We are now living near Newmarket in Suffolk."



Rachel O'Connor (94) & Robert Houghton

Rachel O'Connor (94): "I left Ratcliffe in 1994 (Head Girl) and got married at Ratcliffe College on 16th April this year to Robert Houghton. We had a lovely ceremony and it was great to get married somewhere with lots of happy memories. I asked **Fr Sainter (68)** to come back to marry us because he used to teach me and it was lovely to see him again. We now live in Warwickshire.

I have three siblings who also went to Ratcliffe. My younger brother, **Ben O'Connor (98)** also got married this year to Kimberlie Garde on 16th July at Grace Dieu Manor; in the last two years they have both graduated in Medicine. My eldest brother, **Dominic (90)** is now a Consultant Anaesthetist and lives in Cheshire with his wife, Emily and daughter, Evie. My older sister **Joanne (91)** is married to **Toby Linnett (90)**; they are both teachers and live in Leicestershire with their four children."

Natasha Bilinski (91) married Adama Sow on 3rd September 2011. Melanie and Paul, some of her school friends from Ratcliffe twenty-five years ago, came all the way from the UK to the wedding which took place in a small village in France 70kms away from Paris. The dancing and partying continued into the small hours.



The Taylor Family

Gemma Taylor (01), daughter of Nigel and Anne Taylor, and Andrew Southwell were married at Birtsmorton Court, Malvern on Friday 5th August. **Kate Hudson (2001)** was the chief bridesmaid with Gemma's brother, **James (04)** as usher.



Alison Mason (98) & Ben Court

Alison Mason (98) was married to Ben Court by **Fr Joe Mullen** at Ratcliffe College on 27th August 2011. “We had a brilliant day, surrounded by all our family and friends, including lots of Old Ratcliffians. My Maid of Honour was **Charlotte Hull (née Berry) (98)**, **Maxine Creighton (98)** was a bridesmaid, **Dom Brucciani (98)** was one of Ben’s ushers (as they are old school friends from primary school) and he also provided some kind words during his ‘Master of Ceremonies’ role. We also had Annabelle Hull, Eimear Murphy (Michael and Sarah Murphy’s eldest daughter) and Tomas and Lucie Mason as our flower girls and page boy. **Sam Bird (98)** kindly loaned us his vintage Rolls Royce and drove us to and from the church. Old Ratcliffian guests included: Sam and **Giuliana Bird (98)**, **Charlotte** and **Rob Hull (both 98)**, **Ginny (née Gamble) (98)** and Mike O’Keeffe, **Emily Pring (98)** and Chris Thursfield (joined us from Australia), **Andrew Espinasse (98)**, **Maxine Creighton (98)** (joined us from Ireland), **Dom Brucciani** (joined us from Italy) **Alex** and **Kyla Brucciani**, **Laura (née Watson)** and **Matt Ruiz** (joined us from Spain), **Georgina (née Brittain)** and **Dan Spencer** (helping to provide us with some wheels of steel to dance to, AKA DJ-ing on the decks!), **John** and **Laura Yates (95)**, **Maria (95)** and **Roberto De Rienzo (00)** and their respective partners **Carl** and **Jenny**, as well as my brother **Andrew (95)** and **Aimee Mason**, and cousin, **Michael Murphy (95)** and **Sarah Murphy**. **Amy Clear (98)** and **Jordan (98)** and **Michelle Price** also joined us in the evening. We were also thrilled to have **Neal** and **Catherine Murphy** with us from Australia too!



L-R: Charlotte Hull, Ginny O’Keefe, the bride, Lucy Bird & Emily Pring (all 98)



Catherine Burns (95) & Don Campbell

Catherine Burns (95) was married to Don Campbell at Ratcliffe College on the 16th July 2011. Sisters, **Charlotte (99)** and **Maria (02)** were bridesmaids, along with **Nuala Barrett’s (née Espinasse) (95)**, daughter **Caitlyn**, who was a flower girl. **Nuala** and her husband, **Paul** had interrupted their round-the-world trip to be there. **Georgette Oni (95)** was also over from the States. **Maria De Rienzo (95)** (**Maria** got engaged this year and is planning to feature in this column next year!) and **Emma Tracey (née Scott) (96)** also attended.

“It was such a brilliant day - we loved every second of it, and it felt really special to be back at school. **Shaun Walker** was especially amazing – he went above and beyond helping us to sort everything out.”



Vern Hill (97) & Pollyanna Lucy Willis-Croft

Vern (Elliott) Hill (97) married **Pollyanna Lucy Willis-Croft** on 30th July 2011 at St Cross Church in Winchester. “It was truly an amazing day. **Polly** and I had been engaged for just over a year and as I write this we are currently in **Drakes Bay** on the southern tip of **Costa Rica** enjoying our honeymoon.

Old Ratcliffian guests at the wedding included: **Warren Birchall**, **Greame Ferguson** (who both acted as my ushers), **Mark Snutch** and his wife, **Emma**, **Lee Buckley** and his partner, **Gemma**, and **James Bramwell (all 97)**.

Will Ventham (97) and his wife **Alice** were sadly unable to attend due to the happy arrival in mid-July of their third child, **Lydia Marie Ventham**, weighing **7lb 2oz**.”



Yana Groves-Ford (88) marries in Norway

Yana Groves-Ford (88): “We got married on July 4th 2009 in my husband’s home town of **Breim** in **West Norway**. We had our celebration at the family hotel.

When I left Ratcliffe and finished my **Drama/Media** degree in **Liverpool**, I worked for the **BBC**, travelled the world, worked on some infamous **TV** and **radio** shows and then hit **London**. I pranced ‘around the **Big Smoke**’ for a few years until I made a life-changing move ‘down under’. After two years of missing good cheese and cosy **Christmases**, we moved back to **Europe** to sunny **Brussels**, but my husband (**‘The Viking’**) and I soon craved the **Aussie** heat and moved back for a second time five months ago. We are now living in wedded bliss at the beach! Yes, we’ve thrown another shrimp on the ‘barbie’ and plunged into a pretty awesome life! Still, today, my very best memories and some of my best friends were made at **Ratcliffe**. It truly has played a massive part in who I am today.”



Hannah Derbyshire (03) & Owen Stokes

Hannah Derbyshire (03): “On 29th January 2011, I married **Owen Stokes** at **Our Lady and St Nicholas Church**, **Wanlip**, **Leicester**. We were fortunate that one of our bridesmaids was able to attend as she lives in **Tokyo, Japan**. **Lisa Yamashita (03)** (bridesmaid), **Rika** and their mother joined us in our celebrations. Both bridesmaids are Old Ratcliffians; **Lisa Yamashita** and **Robyn Derbyshire (04)**.

Owen and I have just purchased our own house and currently I am **Head of Humanities** at a local school.”

OBITUARIES

Bro Anthony Leo Primavesi

Old Ratcliffian 1927-36

Anthony Primavesi came to Ratcliffe in the year 1927 at the early age of 10. His older brother, **Guilio**, had previously joined the school in 1926. The Primavesis were a most lively and intelligent family and their life at home had always been a very happy and adventurous one. Although young, Anthony settled quickly at school and made several deep friendships which lasted throughout his life. He often produced diversions which enlivened the rather boring pattern of school life. Typical was the forming of a Cinema Club. Every Saturday evening the members gathered in the old 'Band Room' and, on payment of sixpence into an old school cap, were ushered into their seats to watch the film on an ancient 16mm projector.

On leaving Ratcliffe in 1936, he joined the Rosminian order at Wadhurst near Tunbridge Wells. After completing his novitiate, he went on to the Rosminian House of Studies in St Marie's, Rugby, where he studied Chemistry to degree level. He continued to show a lively interest in the natural world, from the microscopic to the astronomical, supported by his wide reading and inventive flair. During these years, he somehow acquired a working knowledge of Greek, German and Esperanto, a modern language that intrigued him. He is remembered for his many activities during his period of studies – especially for his annual pantomimes, written by himself in appalling doggerel verse, punctuated by old music hall ditties with words by A. L. Primavesi and by scenes which challenged his inventive genius. (One memorable scene occurred in his 'Jack and the Beanstalk' in which the old Widow Twankie had to descend gracefully from the high branches of the beanstalk supported by a parachute in the form of an umbrella. Unfortunately, on the night, the nerve of the good widow – none other than the producer himself – failed her and, amid loud stage whispers, a stage hand had to produce a ladder to help the old lady down!)

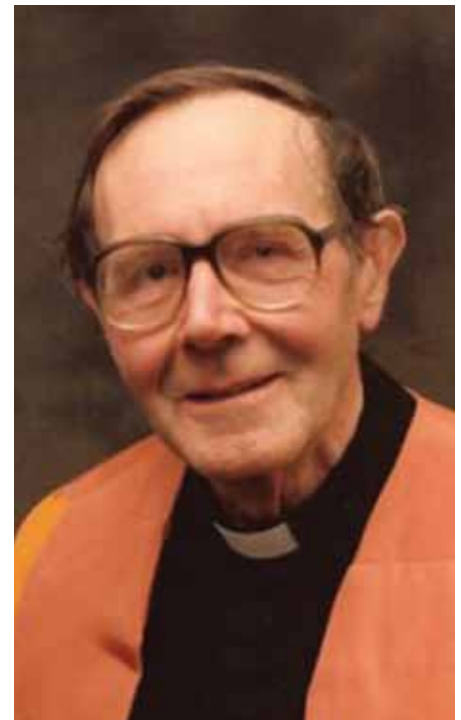
On leaving Rugby, Anthony joined the community and teaching staff at Ratcliffe, where initially, he taught English, French and Chemistry and then introduced Biology which, due to his initiative, soon became a department in its own right. His 'laboratory' was the first room on the first floor of the North corridor (now overlooking the church).

Being allowed to share the laboratory for Mathematics lessons sometimes led to exciting distractions as one or other of the Biology Department rabbits escaped from its hutch and decided to explore! (This would be one of the poor creatures awaiting the ultimate dispatch to become a 'specimen' for dissection.) Anthony loved animals and the fate of these rabbits must have been a torment for him, though he made sure that they passed away peacefully.

Thanks to the generosity of Mr Primavesi, a building was erected and fully equipped as an engineering workshop which became the home for the Metalwork department run, initially, by 'Brother Prim'. He proved to be an excellent engineer – one of his pieces of equipment was a precision tool, a microtome for producing microscopically thin sections of plants with which he produced first class microscopic botanical slides which have been constantly in demand from educational firms. He also built a clock system which was connected to all the school clocks and sounded the beginning and end of various activities of each hour and day of the week. In addition he built and installed a filter system for the old open air swimming pool. And with his great interest in astronomy, he ground a 16 inch concave mirror and built a Newtonian reflecting telescope. Another weekly service to the school and community was Anthony's vote as the projectionist for the weekly film, which involved a couple of hours on Friday preparing the film, and then a similar stretch of time every Saturday evening. He did this faithfully for several years.

Alongside all of this, and increasingly as his teaching years drew to an end, Anthony gave much of his time and research to his main interest - botany. He became a renowned expert on British wild roses and meticulously plotted the location and types of wild roses in Leicestershire, which led to his production of an authoritative book on this subject. He assisted in many counties' field studies as well. In recognition of his research in this area he was made an honorary member of the Royal Botanical Society, an award he greatly treasured.

In the last decade of his life, his frailty and the gradual impairment of his



hearing and sight led to an increasing isolation, aggravated by the steady diminution of the Rosminian community at Ratcliffe. But in his retirement he became a very familiar figure in his daily walks, accompanied by his faithful dog. However his mental powers, keen interest in the wonders of the universe and his sense of humour seemed as strong as ever. He will be remembered for his extraordinary gifts, exercised with unconscious humility and in the service of others. Ratcliffe, in particular, owes much to him.

In 2004 he moved to the Rosminian house of St Marie's, Rugby, to join the small community there. Three years later it became clear that he was in need of more physical care than his brethren could give and so he moved to a care home where he received sensitive help from a kindly staff. Almost to the end of his life, he could entertain visitors with his lively reminiscences and with his favourite jokes, which were many, punctuated by outbursts of uncontrollable laughter which almost prevented him from sharing and enjoying his favourite, often repeated, stories.

Brother Primavesi had a very deep faith in God and His Divine Providence. His piety was undemonstrative but in his last years, became increasingly obvious. His devotions were traditional and his Rosary and, above all, his Holy Communion, which he was able to receive almost daily, were dear to him until the hour of his quiet passing to God.

May he rest in peace.

Fr Anthony Baxter (38)

'Blessed are the Gentle'

I never realised how privileged I was to get to know and love Tony whilst teaching at Ratcliffe in the late fifties. There would be many of us from that time who would have felt the same as me about Tony.

Perhaps our close friendship began when I started teaching Biology. We both agreed that really we hardly knew the difference between a dandelion and a daisy and so, from that time onwards, we started collecting, pressing and cataloguing the plants of the district and the British Isles. Tony was the organiser of everything. He was the one who carefully recorded all the finds. He was the one who first grasped all the technical language involved and who became the expert at identifying all the difficult species of grass with his

small x10 pocket magnifying glass. Very quickly, he became an expert in many fields of botany. He was also an expert in metalwork. His family had contributed towards setting up the workshop and Tony used it brilliantly for his own purposes. He constructed a microtome (basically an instrument for cutting very thin slices of plants, especially root tips, and animal plants which could be viewed under the microscope.) To do this, he had to make the tools to make the machine. My function all the time was to be with him and to talk to him in order to keep his nose to the grindstone. He thought out and constructed a system for ringing the bells which would start and end classes then and which continue to do so in the Ratcliffe College of today.

Tony was as gifted with his hands as with his brain. I remember him building a cathode-ray oscilloscope (whatever that may be) for the Physics lab. All these achievements and many others were made in the almost pre-communications and pre-world travel era.

The above were not the reasons I respected Tony. He was such a gentle, humble man. He used to love to drive the old brown van at Ratcliffe in those days. When we had free time together we would go and search for 'new' species in places we thought might be interesting, such as the Barnack Hills. We would take care not to dig up rare species. We would return in the evening, take out our finds from the vasculum, press them all between big green sheets of blotting paper held together in an iron grill frame. We used

to have great discussions about everything that had happened in the day, discuss possible future outings and talk and laugh with great contentment.

As far as Tony's spirituality is concerned, I am sure that he will be very high up on the 'Heavenly Ladder.' Once I remember him giving a talk on the union of body and soul and on faith and reason, which has had a permanent effect on my own thinking on the subject.

His ideas were not as set as some of my other mentors. Tony was characterised by this gentleness, humility and complete genuineness. I never heard him blame anyone or speak ill of others.

May he rest in contentment before God.

Fr Tim Maloney I.C. (48)



**David Arthur Fagan MBE
Old Ratcliffian 1956-62**

He was educated at Grace Dieu and Ratcliffe, before working briefly as an articled clerk with Hull solicitors, Rollitt, Farrell and Bladon. He then joined Rowntrees of York in 1966, where he worked in sales administration until he retired in 2000.

Before moving to Selby, he lived in Bolton Percy, near Tadcaster where, having always been interested in politics, he became involved with the Conservative Party in the Barkston Ash constituency, which later became Selby, under Boundary Commission changes.

When he moved to Selby, he threw himself into work with the party, becoming at various times Treasurer, Chairman and President of the constituency. After he retired, he was Area and then Regional Chairman of the party in North East Yorkshire, and was involved in the Yorkshire and Humber Region European constituency.

In 1995, he was awarded an MBE for his work. In 2007, he took on a new challenge when he was elected to Selby Council, representing the authority

on Selby Citizens' Advice Bureau and Selby Area Learning Partnership.

David, a committed Roman Catholic, was for many years a member, then Chairman, of the Board of Governors of Holy Family Catholic High School in Carlton, near Selby.

In retirement, he and his wife Mary, whom he met in York at the church they both attended, also spent a lot of time travelling.

He was a keen racegoer, being a member at both York and Wetherby and had only recently returned from the racing at the Curragh in Ireland last September when he suffered a severe stroke.

He is survived by his wife Mary. He was a Lifetime Member of the Ratcliffian Association and regularly attended Association functions and, in particular, the Yorkshire Dinner. Pierre **Bouvet (71)**, Yorkshire Secretary, said: "David rarely missed a dinner and his company will be greatly missed by us all."



Gregory Richard Cripps

Old Ratcliffian 1987-88

10th February 1971 - 7th April 2009

Gregory Richard Cripps died on 7th April 2009 from bladder cancer aged 38 at his home in Uttoxeter. His father, Tony Wright, described him as 'a remarkable and brilliant man'. Despite having undergone chemotherapy, he worked right up until the Christmas before he died.

Gregory was born in Hanover, Germany on 10th February 1971. He went to St John's Preparatory School in Alton, Cotton College and finally to Ratcliffe College. He went on to study Business and Economics at Manchester University, where he met his wife, Joy.

He joined the family firm, Frank Wright Ltd, in Ashbourne, and a promotion to Production Director enabled him to travel the world.

Greg was a keen rugby player, having played for Uttoxeter Rugby Club, an all-round sportsman, and a passionate supporter of Manchester City. He leaves a wife, Joy, and a daughter Nina.

May he rest in peace.

Jackie Bennett



Peter Burke Hildreth

Old Ratcliffian 1945-46

8th July 1928 - 25th February 2011

something which was not without its setbacks – who also had the touch of an English eccentric.

When, two years ago, Peter appeared in the Daily Mail after being 'banned' from a Guildford Department store for running up the down escalator (seeking to repeat a training feat of his youth as he approached his eightieth birthday), his friends and colleagues allowed themselves a quiet chuckle and muttered, "That is so Peter!"

Peter was one of the last links back to the Chariots of Fire era of British athletics, his father having competed in the 1924 Paris Olympics alongside Harold Abrahams and Eric Liddell.

He was born in Bedford on 8th July 1928. As his father worked in India, Peter spent his formative years there.

He was sent back to England to complete his education at Ratcliffe, where he began his hurdling career. One of **Michael Mower's (48)** many memories of him was his outstanding determination to succeed at the high hurdles. Michael remembers his enigmatic smile with the corners of his mouth upturned. Whilst at Ratcliffe, he was also a highly skilled hockey player,

which was down in no small part to the coaching skills of **Br John Tedesco**.

From Ratcliffe, Peter went to Downing College, Cambridge and, following that, National Service in the RAF in the immediate post-war years.

His internal athletics breakthrough came in Brussels' Heysel Stadium sixty-one years ago when, on a sodden cinder track, he doggedly battled through the puddles for a Bronze medal.

Appearances in the 1952, 1956 and 1960 Olympics all followed and, though he was a 110 metres hurdles semi-finalist in Melbourne and was placed in the 1958 European Championships, he never surpassed that 1950 Bronze medal.

Peter always kept himself fit, long into retirement, never weighing more than 10 stone despite his 6 foot height – his 'fighting' weight from his racing days.

Peter is survived by two children from his first marriage, five grandchildren and his second wife, Carole.

Adapted from the Sports Journalists' Association

Peter Burke Hildreth died peacefully in his sleep on 25th February 2011, aged 82. Peter, a former Olympic hurdler, went on to be an athletics correspondent for the Daily Telegraph for more than thirty years.

He had lived a full and successful life in various areas. He was a Cambridge history graduate and a three-time member of Britain's Olympic teams as a high hurdler who won the Bronze medal at the 1950 championships. He also worked in hospital administration and, later, estate agency, as well as writing for the Daily Telegraph from its launch in 1961 until 1994. He was a dogged anti-doping campaigner –

Rev Fr Eugene E Monaghan I.C.

Old Ratcliffian 1948-1953

27th July 1936-17th January 2011

Gene arrived at Ratcliffe in September 1948 and, like many of us of that era, spent his formative years in an atmosphere of 'Caritas', a loving kindness, a quality which subsequently pervaded his approach to all whom he taught and to whom he ministered. Like most of us, he did not excel at games or what were considered to be manly activities of physical prowess. His absorbing passion was music, a medium through which he gave rein to his compulsion to create.

In 1953, he entered the Rosminian novitiate and, during the following nine years, pursued his priestly and musical studies, graduating in Music and being ordained a priest at Dollis Hill, London in 1962 – thence joining the staff at Grace Dieu for one year before moving to Ratcliffe. His priestly life and musical talent complemented and drove each other to outstanding effect, completing a remarkable character.

During his time at Ratcliffe, he was for ten years Director of Music, under which mantle he composed several attractive works for chorus and orchestra, notable among which were a *Festiva Te Deum*, a *Gloria* and *Vivat Elizabeth*. For the latter he convened and conducted a choir from Our Lady's Convent, Grace Dieu and Ratcliffe which was recorded and published in 1977 to mark the Silver Jubilee of Her Majesty. Incidental scores for plays, wind ensembles and big bands were among his many achievements and

served to illustrate his wide talents. He did great work in establishing a choir with a weekly commitment to the liturgy alongside his teaching of the piano, organ and Religious Education. To give members of the choir a corporate identity, he bought a bolt of blue cloth and commissioned his sister, Elizabeth, to make twenty 'cassocks'. His talents filtered out to DIY and together, we provided the Music Hall with new lights and a stage.

Health dictated his move from Ratcliffe in 1985. From then on, he worked in parish ministry at Bexhill-on-Sea and the parishes in South Wales, where his 'Caritas' touched all. With his broad understanding of pastoral needs, he continued to create musical arrangements and scores for the liturgy and catechetics which are all published under the title of *With Heart and Voice*, a publishing arm of the Rosminians specifically established to promote and make his compositions available to the wider Church.

Sadly, he was diagnosed with colonic cancer in 2010 and in July of that year moved into the Ursuline convent in Swansea under the heroic care in his last few months of Sister Josephine and her team. On Sunday 16th January 2011, Monseigneur Tom Burns, bishop of Menevia, concelebrated an impromptu Mass with Gene who, although aware, was unable to speak, and he was released from a long and painful illness in the early hours of Monday 17th January.



Such is the chronology of his life, but this does not really reflect his all-engaging personality and the impressions he made on all whom he taught and to whom he ministered. I include here some of the comments made by some of those who knew him.

Patrick Curran (66) writes: "He was an outstanding teacher of music who was always ready to discuss topics, both theological and musical, with due respect for, and interest in, the person. Although endowed with extraordinary talents himself, he was self-effacing and undemonstrative – a delightful companion."

Bishop John Arnold (71) comments: "His Sixth Form Religious Studies were informal discussions in which he treated us all with the deference due to emergent adults. I was most impressed by his quiet holiness in a gentle manner and example of prayer."

Fr Monaghan Memorial – Chapel Organ Restoration Fund

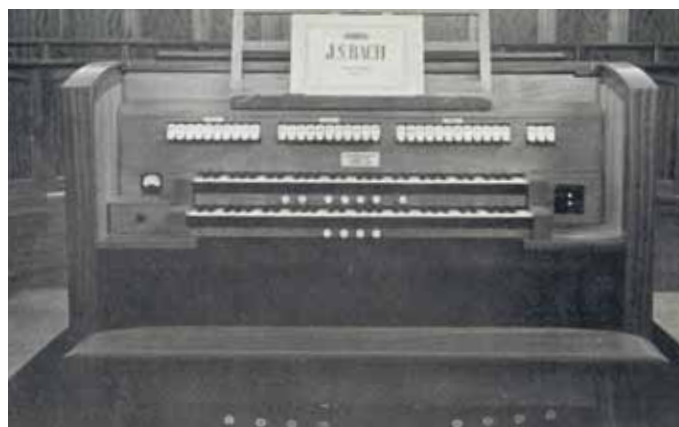
A chapel organ like our Willis organ usually needs a major rebuild every 30 to 40 years. Originally installed in Mount St Bernard's Abbey in 1937, our organ is now 74 years old and, without any major attention, it has left this magnificent instrument and its 1140 pipes in a diminished state. We need to act now to save this beautiful organ for the enjoyment of students and the wider Ratcliffe community. To restore this instrument to its former glory we need to raise £75,000, thus ensuring it remains at the centre of worship in the College Chapel.

If you would like to make a donation in memory of Fr Monaghan to the Chapel Organ Restoration Fund, you can do so in a number of ways:

By cheque - payable to the 'Ratcliffe College Foundation – Organ Fund' and posted to Ratcliffe College Foundation, Fosse Way, Ratcliffe on the Wreake, Leicester, LE7 4SG.

Online - at www.ratcliffe-college.co.uk/foundation-giving.

For further information, please contact Andrew Yell at Ratcliffe College on **01509 817000** or ayell@ratcliffe.leics.sch.uk.



He was a great man.”

One of his visitors said: “His patience, his peace, his courage and sense of humour, with that well-known smile, while sitting in the departure lounge, were overwhelming.”

Mgr Tom Burns, Bishop of Menevia: “A truly wonderful man and an exceptionally gifted priest.”

Anita Gore, a parishioner: “You were wonderful with all the children, your patience and kindness were endless. Thank you.”

Fr Ambrose: “His breadth of knowledge he wore lightly and used it to encourage and enlarge the understanding of the faithful. He bequeathed us rhythm, melody and harmony. Ecce Sacerdos Magnus.”

Michael Carrol: “Priest, teacher, musician apart, he was a cherished member of his family.”

I have many glowing comments to include here but space must prevail!

He was my friend who hailed from Yorkshire, I thought, with no frills, airs

and graces and a direct, unequivocal approach to life. We shared an interest in practical projects. I am singularly impressed by his creative ability which was given impetus by his priestly ministry. I rank him among the great religious (salt of the earth) I have known.

Amen.

Bernard Sherratt (52)

Michael Weston

Old Ratcliffian 1961-1966

Michael Weston died earlier this year. He was the son of the late Old Ratcliffian, **Alan Weston (24)** and his wife, Monica. He was married to Francesca and had three children, Andrew, Simon and Susannah and lived near Guildford, Surrey, where he was much involved in community life. His abiding love was cricket; he was a member of MCC and rarely missed a test match at Lords. He is much mourned by all his family and friends.

Angela Tams (Sister)

Mike was a solicitor and he worked in Leicester before moving to London in 1974. He married in 1977 and had two sons and a daughter. Cricket was his great love and he was very proud to have been a member of the MCC since 1982 – he had been a ‘playing member’, which was quite a rare event, even then. When he lived at home in Leicester, he played for the Ivanhoe CC and then, later on, for the Law Society and The Jesters. He was also a founding member of a touring side made up of fellow solicitors and their friends - the Southwell Ramblers, 1973 - now being continued by their children and friends.

He was instrumental in getting mains drainage installed in his local area. He spent 23 years battling with local



government, water boards and even the Westminster government to get the law changed to enable this to happen. It was no mean achievement, and there are boxes of files to prove it!

Francesca Weston (Wife)



Brendan Corrigan

Old Ratcliffian 1954-60

1942-2011

Brendan was at Grace Dieu from 1952 and came to Ratcliffe in 1954, when I first met him. He was a gifted sportsman. He will be well remembered, especially for his boxing ability from a very young age. Later, he became captain of the boxing team as well as playing in first team rugby, hockey and cricket.

He was the youngest of his family and had an elder brother who became a priest in the Leeds

Diocese and National Chaplain to the Scouting movement, Fr Terence Corrigan. Fr Terence died of the same cancer when he was forty that was to claim Brendan in his 70th year. Brendan is survived by an older brother, Brian and a sister, Bridget, who is a Medical Missionary of Mary and spent all her working life in Tanzania.

Brendan met Christine at the Wolverhampton Rugby Club (where

he played as fullback in the 1st XV) at a time when he was working for Goodyear as an engineer. They married and lived in Cannock, where their three children, Claudine, Rachel and Tom were born. Goodyear moved Brendan to Northern Ireland and finally to Limerick where, on retiring from running Microtherm, he enjoyed the rural pursuits of the countryside.

On being diagnosed with terminal cancer, he and Christine came over to say goodbye to friends and family. We were especially happy that he was able to include Ratcliffe and the Old Ratcliffians' weekend in their travels. **Fr David Tobin (59)** and I were able to visit Brendan in January 2011 and he passed away not long afterwards. To Christine and the family – Claudine and Tom, Rachel and Tom, Robert and Anne-Marie, and grandchildren, Helena and Sarah – we offer our heartfelt prayers.

Fr Simon Giles (60)

The sporting world will be the poorer with the untimely passing of Brendan Corrigan at his home in Knocklong, County Limerick. He bore his illness with good humour and nonchalance.

His funeral was a poignant occasion for the large gathering of friends and family. Pall bearers drawn from the ranks of the Scarteen Hunt carried his coffin into the Knocklong

graveyard, while Chris Ryan, MFH, sounded *Going Home* on the hunting horn.

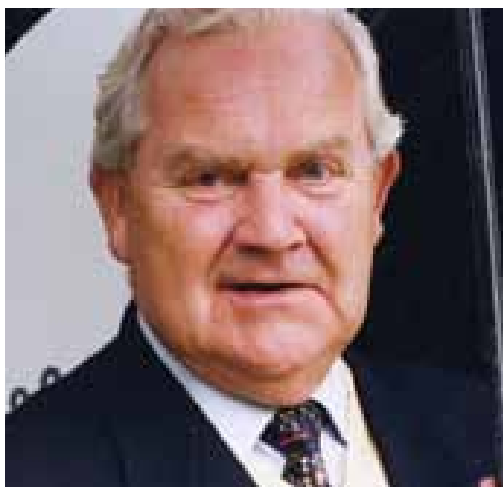
Born in the north of England and raised in Loughborough in Leicestershire, Brendan and family moved to Ireland over thirty years ago. They first lived in County Clare, where he became Honourable Secretary of the County Clare Hunt. Moving to Bridge House in Knocklong, he joined the Scarsteens, where he rarely missed a day on his good grey horse.

In the meantime, he became Treasurer and Vice Chairman of Limerick Show, as well as filling many other roles within the society. He was very much part of the hunt chase and acted as a steward and occasionally judge at the Royal Dublin Horse Show for over twenty years. He will be sadly missed at Ballsbridge.

As a profession, he ran Microtherm in Bruff, which gave employment to many families. In addition, he managed the Derk Estate, which was associated with the business.

But it was in the hunting field that Brendan was happiest, riding his grey horse, Bruno. He crossed the country as if he was out for a gentle hack, but always managed to be in the first flight when it mattered.

Dickie Power
(Brendan's closest friend in Limerick.)



Gerard Lutz

Old Ratcliffian 1939-42

14th November 1925-14th August 2010

Gerard Lutz, from Sutton Coldfield, failed to recover from a stroke and died on August 14th 2010.

The father of two was well-known on the professional circuit for his services to the game of golf after a long-standing career in the industry.

He worked for the original Dunlop Sports Company as a starter at high-profile professional events, and was also the longest serving member to date at Walmley Golf Club.

He joined the Wylde Green-based club in 1933, aged just eight years old, and continued to visit right up until his death.

Playing partner, John Whitworth, spoke with sadness about his friend's death.

"Gerry was a true friend whom I have known since I was a little boy," said the 89-year-old, who himself has been a member for 73 years.

"He was an athletic man – a really good sportsman. But, in recent

years, he became more frail, which was sad. He was a great man, who I've shared a lot of wonderful experiences with."

"We were doubles partners in the past and we've won a few competitions between us. He'll be greatly missed."

Gerard was born in Sutton Coldfield in 1925 and attended Bishop Vesey School. After spending a short time in the army, he worked for a manufacturing company before moving into the golf world.

His first role was with Penfold Golf Company before he transferred to Dunlop, where he spent his 'best days', according to Mr Whitworth.

Mr Lutz, who played off a four handicap at his peak, was well known for his help in organising events like the Dunlop Masters.

Golf commentator Peter Allis, who was another friend, sent his condolences to Mr Lutz's children, Bob, and Jo.





Damian Greiff

Old Ratcliffian 1975-78

24th January 1962-13th August 2011

fourteenth birthday, after a long illness. At this point, Damian moved to Ratcliffe to complete his education. With a few interruptions for impromptu 'gap months or years', this continued until he gained his London University degree in History and English. Cunningly, he chose to specialise in early medieval history because, he said, there were fewer documents and therefore less to study!

Meanwhile, having heard his father talk so often about the Army, Damian had applied and been accepted for a place at Sandhurst, thinking to make that his career. Though he entered the Academy, after a few months he found it was not the place for him and took the option to leave.

A deciding factor may well have been the discovery that he would not be allowed to marry for four years, for during a university term that had been spent in Michigan, USA, he had met Mari Lynn. This was an encounter that blossomed into their marriage in 1986 and the birth of Nicholas in 1987 and James in 1993.

It was at this point that he turned to marketing as a promising outlet for his capabilities and, after post-graduate training, steadily worked his way up in the profession to be Head of Marketing with an English language training organisation, Director of Marketing and Communications with an international examinations board, Head of

Business Development with a law firm specialising in insurance, and Director of a Client-Relationship Programme with a US law firm that unfortunately fell with the Lehman Brothers debacle. He enjoyed writing for professional journals and was an inveterate sender of letters to the Telegraph – many of which he was proud to see published. Finally, he was appointed early in 2011 to the position of Senior Proposals Manager, Asia, with Clifford Chance; something he called his dream job.

But there was always time for other interests. First came sport, as his passionate involvement with the Luddesdowne Cricket Club and Sevenoaks Rugby and his support for the Leicester Tigers attest. A more sedentary – and all-weather – hobby of some thirty years' duration was genealogy, pursuing the family's history in Europe (hence a difficult to spell and pronounce German surname), India, Burma and the US.

On starting work in Hong Kong, business cards in English and Chinese were printed for him. He was delighted to find that the two Chinese characters for Damian read, when translated: 'open-minded' and 'gentle'. "Better than 'gray old man'" he quipped.

Damian died suddenly in Hong Kong, aged 49, on 13th August 2011. He leaves two sons, Nicholas and James, and his mother Margaret.

May he rest in peace.

Damian was born to John Bernard Greiff and Margaret on 24th January 1962 in Kingston, Surrey. His parents had met at London University, where John had resumed his studies after being de-mobbed from the Second World War with the rank of Major.

The family settled in Kew and Damian's schooling began at Ealing Abbey, which his father had attended in the 1930s. The ease with which he made friends was evident at an early age and compensated for being an only child.

Coached by his father, rugby and cricket became a big part of his life from this period (somewhat to the detriment of homework and handwriting!) and he was an enthusiastic member of one of the London Welsh Junior Rugby teams that was coached by JPR Williams. A proud moment was seeing his name in Wisden in 1980, playing for Middlesex County Juniors.

Sadly his father died just before his

Fr Tony (Anthony Leo) Davies IC

Old Ratcliffian 1941-1949

Fr Tony Davies died suddenly during the night of 13th March 2011 and his funeral took place at Holy Name Church, North Dunedin, New Zealand on 17th March. He was buried at Anderson's Bay Cemetery alongside the priests of the Dunedin diocese.

After graduating in Maths from Cambridge, as a brother and then as a priest, Tony taught Maths at Ratcliffe in the '60s and '70s. He published a number of articles over the years in maths magazines and in periodicals for teachers.

In the years that he was the Sixth

Form Master, he led groups of the boys in spiritual direction and in the charismatic movement, so much so that, in his time, Ratcliffe College became a centre for prayer groups in the Midlands and the North, and he was frequently called upon for guidance. **Marcus Shaw (79)** in Hong Kong was one of Fr Tony's pupils who remembers him well as his Maths teacher, friend and counsellor and corresponded with him over the years.

Tony had been a rower for Downing College whilst at Cambridge and became a leading light for the Ratcliffe

Boat Club, relishing the journeys by bike down to the river and encouraging the crews on the water. During the winters here in Dunedin he still wrapped himself in his magenta Downing Boat Club scarf when he went out walking.

In his years at Ratcliffe, Tony became a very competent bassoonist in the school orchestra and also in the Leicester Philharmonic, where he made some long-lasting friends.

He was the first Rosminian priest to undertake a renewal course at Hawkstone Hall in the late '70s and

in later years, on a sabbatical from New Zealand, a course at the Tantar Ecumenical Institute, Jerusalem, where his scriptural knowledge was honed and developed.

Reflection

‘How happy are the gentle: they shall have the earth for their heritage’ (Matthew 5:5)

“When you were listening to the list of the Beatitudes of Jesus, I wonder which one you applied to Fr Tony. I would have no difficulty in applying ‘Happy are the gentle’ and perhaps it is no coincidence that the same word was also often used to describe Antonio Rosmini. Tony was a gentle priest. He was a gentle human being.

My first memory of him was as a stocky twelve year old in corduroy short pants. I have a glimpse of him sitting, absorbed in thought, playing chess with the august and somewhat remote **Fr Cuthbert Emery**, who was our headmaster. They were both excellent chess players and I have no doubt that it was not always Fr Cuthbert who was the winner. Tony and I were also together at university and in our first years of teaching. He was an excellent mathematician and this competence reflected the ability of his mind to penetrate to the essence of things.

We started studies for the priesthood together. Tony enjoyed Rosminian philosophy, but when it came to looking at the scholastic verbiage in which much of our priestly training was clothed, Tony was a non-starter. It made no sense to him and, largely, he trained himself for ordination by his reading. This was successful as he finished with an STL.

Tony never found change easy, and initially he hated being in Rome. He struggled with Italian. He thought he would need a full grasp of the subjunctive before he could ask for a cup of tea. Eventually, however, he came to speak it well.

But then he discovered the catacombs and the treasures of early Christian history. He was a friend of Ward Perkins, the Director of the British School; he became a catacomb guide, and organised expeditions for which we were beneficiaries. I recall once going down a very beautiful and rarely visited catacomb, decorated with wonderful early Christian frescoes. It was so rarely visited that the bones of the early Christians were still in place.

Tony’s old Cambridge tutor, Frank Wild, was with us and his wife, a somewhat flighty lady, surreptitiously took a piece of bone as a souvenir. A few moments later she tripped and grazed her knee. Tony chided her: ‘See what happens when you pinch bones out of the catacombs’. It was the nearest I ever heard him come to making an ungentle comment.

One area which Tony embraced with all his mathematical skill was computing. He knew not just how to use them, but how the insides worked. He was of great help to me in producing the *Tui Motu* magazine, not merely as a reviewer of books, but as trouble shooter with our machines, since I and my assistant Frances were both computer morons. He was always happy to assist.

But, of course, it was as a parish priest that most of you will best remember Fr Tony. He came to Dunedin in 1981, after a year teaching at Rosmini College in Auckland, and worked for Bishop Kavanagh as his Vicar for Religious, before becoming parish priest in Waverley and then in North East Valley parish in 1993, spending some ten years in each.

I think there were three things which made him so successful in that role and which endeared him to people. Firstly, he was a wonderful listener. He sought professional training in counselling, and that made him a competent spiritual guide and confessor. He was not one for rushing around visiting people, but he was always available for people who came to the door or sought his advice.

He was also a great supporter of the initiatives of his parishioners. North East Valley was well endowed with people with ideas, and Tony was there encouraging them and guiding them. That is why it was such a lively parish. Tony did not see it as his job to control or to initiate everything.

He was also a wonderful preacher. He spent a lot of time preparing his homilies. They were simple, ardent and opened up the Word of God for his people. They loved what he had to say.

In recent years, Fr Tony was burdened with indifferent health, and sadly the circle of his life experience diminished. However, he continued to minister as much as he could, and even last Saturday he came and heard confessions at Holy Name. It was a great blessing for him that his sister,

Margaret, had come to visit him and she was the last person to speak with him.

It was almost as if her visit was his Nunc Dimittis. ‘Now you can let your servant depart in peace’, as Simeon said when he held the child Jesus in the Temple and blessed him (Luke 2:28-29). Tony identified himself completely with the priests of this diocese and the bishops, and he will surely be most happy to be laid to rest in their company this afternoon at Anderson’s Bay.”

Fr Michael Hill IC (49)

An Anonymous Obituary

Fr Tony was a truly kind and decent man. With his boyish enthusiasm for everything he taught, he was an inspirational teacher whose pastoral care for his pupils was exceptional. He always made time for people and listened to their problems. I am sure that it must have been hard work and quite tedious at times, though you would never know it from his response. I fondly remember him being teased for wearing shorts to the boat house for rowing, something he took in his stride. He did not mind pupils ‘taking the mickey’ and gave as good as he got. His sense of humour and laugh were infectious and on many occasions he would be reduced to tears by a good story. Despite his rather saintly demeanour he was not averse to a ribald joke.

He found great spiritual fulfilment in the Charismatic Renewal movement and started a prayer group at school which included both pupils and the local community. He was deeply affected by the movement’s openness and lack of formality. I remember him coming back from a meeting at Church House in Westminster totally alight with the spirit and wanting to share his joy with everyone.

His is a great loss, but his kindness and friendship will always be remembered by the many people whose lives he touched.

Victor ('Vic') Casartelli

Old Ratcliffian 1941-46

7th January 1929-9th June 2011

My father, Vic, died peacefully in The James Cook University Hospital, Middlesbrough on Thursday 9th June 2011 surrounded by his family and following a short illness.

When we were preparing for his funeral, we were surprised to hear that he had left precise instructions with his parish priest as to the format of the service. He specified that his body should be received into St Joseph's Parish Church, Stokesley, the night before the service. He requested a Requiem Mass, the hymns to be sung, the readers at the service and that his body should be cremated afterwards. However, his most explicit instruction, written in bold and underlined, was that there was to be NO EULOGY!

Whilst that may have got me off the hook, what I had intended to say, should I have had to speak, was that Dad was an ordinary man. Rather than seeming to damn him with faint praise, he would wholeheartedly agree with that description. He was a God-fearing, ordinary man who hated fuss and nonsense and being the centre of attention. He would get particularly frustrated by the 'canonisation' of the departed by family members at funerals, thus triggering his last request. Honouring that wish, I will therefore attempt to stick to the facts.

Dad was born in Romily, Cheshire on 7th January 1929. He joined Ratcliffe from Grace Dieu in the summer term of 1941, leaving five years later in 1946. In doing so, he followed his father **Joseph Daniel (15)** and uncles **Harry (18)** and **Tony (21)**.

Following Ratcliffe and a spell of National Service, Dad qualified as a dentist from Newcastle University (Dunelm) where he met my mother, Pat. They were married in 1957 and settled down to domestic life in Middlesborough, where both my sister Susan and I were born.

In the early eighties, Mum and Dad moved out to the small village of Kirkby-in-Cleveland, nestled at the bottom of the Cleveland Hills, just outside Stokesley. At this point, his life was complete and replete. He could indulge his love of the countryside and wildfowling by game keeping for and running the local shoot. His faith led him also to be very involved with the local parish church of St Joseph's in Stokesley, where he was a Special Minister for many years until his death.

He often spoke fondly of his time at Ratcliffe and the friends he made there. His belief in the Catholic faith, nurtured at Ratcliffe and at home, remained with him for the rest of his life. He was a member of the



Association and, although his attendance at reunions was scarce, he digested with zest his annual copy of the Ratcliffian.

He also maintained links with his alma mater indirectly throughout his life. His elder sister, Joyce, married one of his contemporaries, **Philip Hebbert (44)**. His younger brother, **Paul (45)** eventually became parish priest at Sileby and is buried in the graveyard at Ratcliffe, and I attended both Grace Dieu and Ratcliffe.

His last visit to the College was in September 2010, when we both attended the funeral of **Fr Dennis Hare**. Dad was very pleased on this visit to run into his old friend **Fr Tony Baxter**.

He was a wonderful father and friend and will be missed.

Mike Casartelli (82)



Terence Keogh

Old Ratcliffian 1950-54

3rd March 1938-2nd May 2011

required of him without excelling in any sphere (but see below), and duly came into the family tyre distribution business after completing his two years of National Service in the army, as was then customary. There he displayed an unsuspected talent for cross-country running, even representing the Army in inter-service competition.

He had the inestimable good fortune to meet and marry Christine Hagggett, a nursing sister from Solihull. They reared three fine sons and he left the old firm to become Terry Tyres of Redditch at a time of great flux in that trade.

It was in 1969 that Chris' professional

eye identified the symptoms of multiple sclerosis, that awful degenerative condition with which he was to wage a lifelong battle; she nursed him with love and devotion until his death. A venture into the garage trade was less successful and, as his condition worsened, he was obliged to concentrate on survival.

In this he was remarkably successful, refusing to submit to the MS or any of the manifold medical troubles attending his weakened state, and regularly astounding the medics. In all that time, he was never heard to mutter a word of complaint or self-pity as his condition steadily deteriorated. He became an object of wonder and

My younger brother was born on 3rd March 1938. He was the third son and seventh child of parents generous with Christian names who titled him Terence Gerald Anthony, but was always known as Terry and is so remembered.

After preparatory study at Grace Dieu, he followed his brothers to Ratcliffe College, where he did what was

admiration to me and all who knew him and a formidable bridge player, to the extent of taking sea cruises to practise that black art, and his acerbic sense of humour never flagged. He both supported and received support, spiritual and practical, from the Catenian Association and the Royal British Legion and, only last year, visited us in Norfolk for a week: truly,

he was indomitable and a standing reproach to one who bewails his lot. I once suggested that God had treated him less than gently. He replied with quiet confidence: "He knows what He's doing" – and once told me, in the nearest he ever came to a grumble: "I sometimes get tired of being an inspiration to people", which he most certainly was.

He died, quite worn out, on 2nd May 2011, and the huge turnout at his funeral bore witness to his great gift for friendship and universal popularity. I was proud as well as happy to be blessed with such a brother.

Michael Keogh (46)



Michael Anthony Radford

Old Ratcliffian 1936-41

18th March 1924-30th August 2011

My father, Michael Anthony, who died on 30th August in his 88th year was the third child of **Jack (1907)** and Dorothy Radford whose ties with Ratcliffe College were long and deep and dated from beyond the turn of the nineteenth century. Dorothy's brothers, **Will, Godfrey** and **Austin (Baxter)** were educated at the College and her marriage to John (Jack) Radford assured that Ratcliffe became the family seat of learning in the Radford-Baxter clan (or the male members anyway) for a generation or more. Michael's brothers, **John** and **David**, were also educated at Ratcliffe along with nephews **Tim** and **Peter Hutton** and **John Simmons**. His father, **Major Jack Radford** (MC and Croix de Guerre), is famously known for forming the first Cadet Force at the College and was the contingent's first Commanding Officer from 1953 to 1956.

Michael shared an idyllic childhood with elder sister, Mary, brother, John, and his younger brother, David, in Salisbury and was later sent to Grace Dieu Manor. Writing to his mother from there in 1934 (aged ten), he described how great it was to see other boys making their first Holy Communion and The Feast of the Purification, the blessing of candles with the procession of light, the Mass, and afterwards his

visit to the Cistercian Abbey of Mount St Bernard, where he heard the monks singing offices. Singing in a choir and the collective joy of it was something that stayed with him always, and he sang bass for many years in his local church choir of John The Baptist, Brighton, where he practised from 1977. In his letters home he also wrote of the grounds of these hallowed school halls and how, with the help of the fathers, they enjoyed building forts, charging other boys, attacking each other and taking prisoners. Michael was very influenced, too, by his father, who had served in the trenches throughout the First World War. It was inevitable, then, that a military career was soon to beckon. Before this, however, he followed his forbears to Ratcliffe College (1936-1941) during the headship of **Fr Cuthbert Emery** to continue his Catholic education. He was deemed a bright and gifted pupil and was thus exempted from Matriculation.

After Ratcliffe, Michael joined the BBC for a while in Salisbury, as a clerk to the Engineer in Charge for whom he typed, a skill not widely practised by men in those days. This experience was to hold him in good stead later for his own literary endeavours, both in writing of *The Alvis 1250* (a technical treatise for renovating vintage motor cars) and also *The Way of Light* (2006), (his well-known technical manual for guiding souls and people in strife, through prayer and contemplation).

In 1940, his elder brother, John, was killed in action in France aged twenty. My father volunteered for the Royal Armoured Corps, seduced, as he said himself, by the idea of riding into battle behind armour plate in tanks. Due to his technical aptitude, he then received officer training at the Military Academy

of Sandhurst. Thus, driven by his faith, Alvis vintage motor cars and tanks, in that order, he rode forth to conquer!

Michael served King and country in the 3rd Carbiniers in World War II on the north west frontier in India between 1944 and 1947. During this time, he was also involved in ferocious jungle warfare in The Burma Campaign. This entire Far Eastern adventure, during the last days of the British Raj, culminated in him riding his tank gloriously through Lutyen's famous India Gate in New Delhi in the Victory Parade of March 1946 under the watchful eye of Mountbatten, the last Viceroy of India.

Then, as a young man, he became impressed by the poverty he witnessed in India, which later led to his interest in Mother Teresa and her labours in the slums of Calcutta. Subsequently, he became a co-worker of her great mission for over forty years. At a more local level, he also worked tirelessly as Treasurer for the charity, St Anne's Day Trust, helping towards the plight of our own homeless in Brighton. He strongly believed that Divine Providence would provide 'Pennies From Heaven' – his unswerving belief was invariably rewarded, as the cheques rolled in!

In 1950, he reported for duty with the 8th Hussars for The Korean War to command a tank troop in Siberian conditions. There he was 'Mentioned in Dispatches' for his own gallantry in the bitterly cold but decisive Battle of The Imjin River. Further tours of duty in Malaysia, Sarawak and Germany followed in the 1960s.

After his army career, Michael settled in Kent and latterly in Brighton; he provided a beautiful home, cultivated a rose garden, became a teacher of woodwork and metalwork and concentrated on his young family.

During this period and beyond, he proved how eminently talented and creative he was with his hands. He was ambi dextrous and could draw competently with right and left hands alike. A brilliant skill for a technical drawing teacher. He could design and create almost anything.

As an adult, he had a unique ability as he knew how to get into a child's world, into which he descended with child-like gusto and enthusiasm.

He was a real true 'dad' to Annette, Madeline and Peter, the most loving father and, latterly, grandfather anyone could wish for, and he graced us with his presence well into our own middle age. As a 'bon viveur' he would have advised anyone to 'suck the orange dry' which was the creed for his own long life right until the end.

He was a dear and familiar sight around and about Kemp Town in Brighton and regularly described himself as an Ancient Briton. He took a great and curious interest in people at large, whom he loved, and he equally endeared himself to them. He congratulated himself that he had escaped what he called, 'GSD' (Galloping Senile Dementia), although one of his last valiant battles was to care with absolute devotion for his wife with this very condition, which he did well into his eighties.

Following a massive stroke rather aptly in church, Michael died on the 30th August, on the same date as his beloved sister Mary, who died three years ago, and he departs on a vast wave of love and affection.

Winston Spencer Churchill was a great hero for our father. He once met him at a mess dinner as a young officer and, as someone said at this great statesman's funeral: "The last petals have fallen of one of the beautiful roses of Old England."

That is true of my father and of many of his wartime generation, the likes of which we really shall not see again. On the other hand, in the words of Churchill, Michael might also have said of himself: "I am ready to meet my maker, but whether my maker is prepared to meet me is another matter".

Annette Radford
Eldest daughter



Rimas Anelauskas was born to Vytautas and Mikase Anelauskas on 28th September 1944 in Seeburg, Germany. Faced with the imminent threat of Soviet occupation during World War II, the Anelauskas family was forced to flee their native Lithuania only two weeks prior to Rimas' birth.

After living in DP camps in Germany for several years, Rimas and his family eventually settled in Leicester in 1948. Rimas began his early education in a

Rimas Anelauskas

Old Ratcliffian 1956-61

28th September 1944-30th September 2011

local Catholic school. In 1955, Rimas joined his brother, **Vincas**, at Ratcliffe. An active student and an athlete, Rimas played rugby and cricket and was a member of the school's Combined Cadet Force. In addition to activities at Ratcliffe, Rimas was very active in the Lithuanian Scouts, achieving a scouting rank of 'Vytis'. He attended many summer scouting camps at the Lithuanian 'Sodyba' in Headly Park.

In 1961, Rimas and his family emigrated from England to America. After briefly living in Worcester, Massachusetts, the family relocated to Los Angeles. Graduating in 1966 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Electrical Engineering at the age of 21, Rimas immediately began his career at the Southern California Gas Company, as a commercial and industrial sale engineer. He worked in a leadership capacity on numerous high-profile projects within the company, representing his profession with great pride and enthusiasm.

In 1977, Rimas married Ruta Mockus, his wife of 32 years. Their eldest son, Marius, was born in 1980. In 1983, they were blessed with a second son, Audrius, who tragically passed away from illness that same year. Whilst this experience weighed heavily on their hearts, Rimas and Ruta were overjoyed when their third son, Danius, was born in 1984. Over the next number of

years, Rimas worked hard at his career, enabling Ruta to focus on being a full-time mother. Rimas also maintained a balance between work and family, taking an active role in his children's activities, including scouting, sport and education.

After a successful career of 33 years at the Gas Company, Rimas took early retirement in 1998. While staying active in his field as a consultant, he and Ruta took time to enjoy the benefits of retirement. They vacationed around the world, visiting countries such as Lithuania, England, Greece, Turkey, Egypt, Mexico and other nations across the globe.

In 2002, Rimas was deeply saddened to learn that Ruta had developed pancreatic cancer, and was given only months to live. Rimas did all that he could to help Ruta succeed in beating her illness. With Rimas at her side, she survived for over six years.

After Ruta's death in 2008, Rimas, although heartbroken, continued to inspire his family and friends through his energetic spirit, sense of humour and many gestures of kindness.

May he rest in the peace of the Lord.

Marius Anelauskas
Son

Roger Paulson

Old Ratcliffian 1949-1955

12th March 1937-14th May 2011

Roger was born on 12th March 1937 and died on 14th May 2011. At Ratcliffe, Roger was a fine sportsman and will be remembered for attaining the school mile record. He achieved this with the help of a group of athletes brought to Ratcliffe by **Peter Hildreth** (Chris Braisher, amongst others) to act as pacemakers. At the end of his time at Ratcliffe, he was received into the Catholic Church together with his brother, **Robin (53)**.

Robin joined the Rosminians and was ordained a priest in 1970, whilst Roger did his National Service and joined the TA after training as an engineer with Raleigh. It was while he was on his way to the annual TA camp in June 1964 when the accident happened. He lay unconscious in hospital for four months, and when he awoke, he was seriously disabled, both physically and mentally. The love and care of his parents in their Woodborough home in Nottingham helped him gain strength and plan what to do with the rest of his life. He was then in his mid-20s.

It took fifteen years for him to realise

that although he was unable to rejoin 'my old world' (his words), he could encourage others to overcome their problems. So he spent the rest of his life involved with four major organisations working for the disabled.

He was very persuasive in getting people involved in the various organisations; he supported Headway, REMAP and NAVO. Roger never gave up and right to the end was able to be clear in his mind what he wanted. It was just that it took time for him to put his point across.

He will be remembered as an active member of the Ratcliffian Association and especially as a regular attendee at the annual retreats.

His brother, Robin, was able to be with him at the end. **Fr David Tobin (59)** and I visited him just a few days before he died and remember him being very calm about his life, despite the many difficulties he had had to overcome. His funeral took place at his parish church of St Anthony, Calverton. The parish priest, Mons Brian Dazeley, was



the main celebrant assisted by Fr Robin and about ten other Rosminians:

Fr Charles Sormany, Fr Philip Scanlan, Fr David Tobin, Fr Simon Giles, Fr Tony Baxter.

Several Old Ratcliffians were present too – among them were **Nicholas Tomlinson (56)** and **Martin Foulds (71)**.

We send our prayers at this time to the Paulson family, Fr Robin, his twin sisters, Susan and Jill, and their families.

Fr Simon Giles (60)

Thomasina Mackey

School Nurse

I started at Ratcliffe in 1976; Thomasina was already well established in post by that time, though I don't know what year she took up employment at the College. She came to Ratcliffe from Ampleforth College, and indeed had worked her way up through nursing positions at a number of top catholic public schools before becoming 'Matron' (or 'Sister') at Ratcliffe. She remained at Ratcliffe through to her retirement in the summer of 1981 ... easy for me to remember, because I left at the same time.

Thomasina, nicknamed 'Tam' after her initials, was a very popular character around Ratcliffe. I only ever heard negative comments about her on the one day per year when she would track everybody down with her tray of flu-jabs! Otherwise it was all good, and her quiet Irish humour was an ever-present feature of Ratcliffe life.

Thomasina retired to a cottage in Sibley

where she lived for many years after Ratcliffe; I believe she was required to live on the college site during her working career as she was the first point of call for first aid. I think most of her Saturday afternoons were spent patching up rugby injuries! On one day each week she would use her afternoon off to go shopping in Leicester. During these trips, she would pick up a copy of *Flight International* magazine for me (only available at WHSmith in the city back then). This was typical of her; she was always happy to help out the pupils when she could. I ultimately ended up with a career in aviation, and those magazines helped to make that possible.

After a number of years living in Sibley, Thomasina was persuaded by family (her niece) to move to a cottage in Callan, County Kilkenny, Ireland. She became a stalwart of the church community there, helping out routinely. Latterly, she began to suffer from

limited mobility and had to move into a nearby care-home, though her mind remained very sharp until relatively recently. Finally, Thomasina moved into a new-build care-home (also in Callan) where she passed away peacefully on Thursday September 29th.

I kept in touch with Thomasina from first knowing her at Ratcliffe. I managed to visit her annually until very recently. With having relatives in Ireland myself, I was able to travel down to Kilkenny for a day to see Thomasina whenever I was over there. It was always a pleasure to reminisce with her about Ratcliffe life; her memory was amazing until the last year or so of her life. The banter and the humour never left her.

I am sure she will be fondly remembered by all who knew her.

Liam McManus (81)

All For The Love Of Henry 'Opera by Candlelight'

Mary Goldstraw sadly lost her son, Old Ratcliffian **Henry Goldstraw (89)** in a car accident on 26th April 1996.

Henry was the son of Mary and Colin Goldstraw; Mary is a governor at Ratcliffe and this is the story of how she became so involved in the College and why she has given so much of her time to the School.

"On 26th April 1996, my family's life was devastated by the tragic loss of our dear son, Henry. The news of his death is something which every parent dreads. Whilst at Mass that evening, in the midst of my despair,

organised as part of the 150th Anniversary Appeal had been such a resounding success that this could become an annual event.

After many conversations and much guidance from **Fr Philip Sainter (69)**, we created a scholarship entitled 'The Henry Goldstraw and Gerald Yell Scholarship Fund'.

Within a few years, we had raised enough money for two scholarships. This annual event has raised many thousands of pounds, and it is performed on or near Henry and Gerry's anniversaries. This year was our fourteenth year and we



The Refectory by Candlelight

best you will ever see.

We have had four headmasters since starting the Opera and they have all been very supportive. However this year, we had a wonderful surprise when our headmaster, Gareth Lloyd and his wife, Katharine, sang with their gifted friends. We raised over £4000.

This year, one of my wishes was fulfilled when Old Ratcliffian **James Wilson (90)**, a close friend of Henry's, donated a Friendship Cup and set up a trust fund in Henry's name to benefit other students. Other Old Ratcliffians in

Henry's year have also donated to this trust in memory of their friend. Many thanks to all of them."

Mary Goldstraw Governor

If you would like to attend next year's event on March 31st 2012, please contact the Ratcliffian Association Office.



Marlene Yell & Mary Goldstraw

I felt that I had to do something to ensure that my son's name would carry on in our beloved Ratcliffe.

One of our dearest friends, Gerry Yell, grandfather of several Old Ratcliffians although not an Old Ratcliffian himself, had also tragically lost his life in a car accident around the same date, but some ten years earlier. I asked his widow, Marlene, if she would like to join forces with us and do something in their joint names. The more I thought about it, the more I realised that the 'Opera by Candlelight', which I had

have booked March 31st for next year's event. Over the last fourteen years, twenty-six students have benefited from the Scholarship fund.

I am very grateful to all those wonderful friends who have contributed to make this into such a great success. I am also grateful for all the help and support from the Ratcliffe staff and caterers. Thanks must also go to Gay Pepper, mother of

Jenny Pepper (06) for her help with all the decorations, and to Mrs Warwick for creating the programmes



Performing in the Old Library

DIARY DATES 2012

Friday 24th February	The Ratcliffian Association London Dinner, The Crypt, Ely Place, London Mass in St Etheldreda's Chapel at 6.45pm Dinner in the Crypt at 7.30pm for 8pm
Sunday 4th March	OR Mens' Hockey, Girls' Netball and Mens' Football Fixtures 2pm, Ratcliffe College
Sunday 11th March	Council Meeting, 11.30am, Conference Room
Friday 16th March	The Yorkshire Dinner, Monk Fryston Hall, Yorkshire
Friday 13th - 15th April	Ratcliffian Association Retreat, led by Bishop John Arnold, Ratcliffe College. <i>"Finding Calm in the Storm"</i>
Friday 6th July	Reynard Golf Tournament, Leicestershire Golf Club
Saturday 7th July	Ratcliffian Association Reunion Dinner
Sunday 8th July	10.30am Mass for deceased Old Ratcliffians 11.30am Ratcliffian Association Council Meeting 12pm Ratcliffian Association AGM Grand Match and Family Fun Day
Friday 31st August	Ratcliffian Association Rome Dinner
Sunday 9th September	Ratcliffian Association Mixed Hockey
Friday 19th October	Past Presidents' Dinner, Ratcliffe College
Sunday 18th November	Ratcliffian Association Council Meeting, 11.30am, Conference Room

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



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